



あづみ圭  
Azumi Kai

# **Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu**

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

**- Volume 6 -**

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**[ Reigokai: Isekai Translations ]**



## 主な 登場人物

Sif

ロツガルド学園の生徒。  
大商人レンブランの娘。  
ユーノの姉。

Jin

ロツガルド学園の生徒。  
真の講義を受講する  
熱心な男の子。

Yuno

ロツガルド学園の生徒。  
大商人レンブランの娘。  
シフの妹。

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。  
日本文化をこよなく愛する。

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。

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。  
異世界ライフ満喫中。

Mio

元は巨大な蜘蛛。  
真と契約して、人の姿を得た。  
真に心酔している。

# Chapter 101

## Imperfect combustion

Normally, Lime would have returned before the store's opening to clean, but he has yet to come back.

Not only that, last night in the area where he was supposed to be, I found traces of a fight.

Even though Akua and Eris came back as if nothing happened. Could it be he was the only one that went to that dangerous place? But I didn't receive such a report.

I confirmed Rona-san's movements with Shiki, but it seems that last night there was no movements from her.

"Lime-san said that he would visit the merchant guild later and after that return here though" (Eris)

"There were no orders of killing enemies and the fight looks unnatural. That person would first run. And then tail it" (Akua)

I have never given such an order before, Akua. Also, I don't have any intent to retort to your words anymore. It would be another story if they are thinking about doing war, but the Forest Onis are basically moving as an investigation corp. The site of the fight where Lime seems to have disappeared, is certainly on the way to the merchant guild where Lime and the two had separated. Even if he were suddenly attacked, he isn't so weak as to be defeated so easily. He would clash blades while trying to run away, then tail the enemy and report to me. That person is capable of that.

In that case, it is hard to believe it but, there's the possibility that it was an opponent that didn't let him escape. Was there someone so capable that recently entered this land? If it's the pattern where a merchant employed them exclusively, then it wouldn't be strange that adventurers enter this town.

Leaving the store to the dwarfs, we were at the second floor gathered up. We can only stay like this when we have urgent business. We can't have the dwarfs attending the

store by themselves after all. I will have Akua and Eris return soon. In any case, if Lime was captured or defeated, then with the ability of these two, the chances of them being defeated as well is high.

I think it is better for Shiki and me to be the ones mobilizing.

That I can still stay calm even when Lime is in danger is, not because he is a hyuman and I don't care, but because after seeing the remains of the battle site, Shiki said that he is probably alive. Of course, I don't intend to just blindly believe that and search carefree. I intend to save him as fast as possible. Even if he didn't die in the battle, it doesn't mean that he is still okay. Just that, since he was kidnapped, it must mean that person has some sort of objective, so we should have time.

"Raidou-sama, it seems that we have probably been had" (Shiki)

"...There were no movements from Rona-san right?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. But this situation matches with the story I heard before about the thought transmission jamming and the ring that suppresses blessings. A strange flow of power. It seems like he wasn't allowed to establish contact. This kind of technique, I think only demons can use it" (Shiki)

"Ah, that. So there are remains of it being used. There are a number of people who have infiltrated this lands aside from Rona-san and she used those hidden cards to pick a fight with us?" (Makoto)

"I think there's that possibility. If it's her, she would be able to do things like that while having a handshake" (Shiki)

"...Is there anything else that can tell us his location?" (Makoto)

"I have found the magic power of a person of interest. The Academy's librarian, Eva. For some reason, the magic power of her was in the scene" (Shiki)

Eva-san. It is certainly a person I didn't expect. That isn't a place a librarian like her would be walking in the middle of the night.

We are somewhat acquainted. But since the time I met her, she has only shown me her front as a librarian and Ruria's sister. In times it even feels unnatural. It looked like she was fond of rumors though.

I didn't really feel any doubts of her. If there were any doubts, it would be when I first met her...

"Eva-san huh. I don't think she would be able to catch Lime off guard, but if she was unrelated to the case and was killed because of her curiosity, then it would be pitiful" (Makoto)

In the first place, that girl who likes to silently read books, has a strange attachment to rumors. But those kind of girls were in my high school as well. The type that has her antenna up the whole time. The type that would definitely get dragged into something in time.

In the current state where we haven't shown a single one of our cards, I honestly don't feel like Rona-san would make a move though...

"As expected, it isn't a situation where we can come to a conclusion yet. I also can't help but think that this is the work of demons. Let's have Akua and Eris return to the store while Raidou-sama and I try returning to the scene" (Shiki)

"...You are right. Let's try going to the Academy's abandoned section" (Makoto)

When Shiki proposed that idea, the phrase "scene hundred times" surfaced in my mind. Looking for traces of the culprit.

The place where Lime disappeared, is in a street that extended from the Academy grounds to the Merchant Guild. The section was originally unused and it was a street with almost no uses, so the popularity of it was practically nil.

But he was investigating the inside of the Academy grounds. The popular abandoned building that is no longer used. Correctly speaking, an area that has been scheduled for redevelopment and is prohibited the entry. If we are going to be investigating, that is the place to go to.

"For now, let's begin from the actual spot. We might be able to find something new" (Makoto)

"Understood. In that case, Akua and Eris return to the store. We will probably be late, so if there's any visitor, hear their business and tell them we will contact them at a later time" (Shiki)

“Have a safe trip”

Send off by the two employees, Shiki and I left to search for our disappeared comrade.



“...Are you okay, Ne-chan?”

“I don’t want to hear that from someone who just woke up. I am okay for now though”

“I am glad to hear that. And, can you please tell me the current situation?”

“I was planning on releasing you who was defeated by that person. But a different group came after and I was treated as a comrade of yours. And, that’s how it turned out like this. It is probably already morning. Unreported absence. Please give me a break”

“Ah, you were a librarian right? If I remember correctly, you said your name was Eva-san? Well, don’t get so worried about being absent from work once or twice”

“...”

“I-I messed up huh. To have been defeated, how pathetic. I don’t have my katana either. I can’t face Sis and Boss now”

“...Wait” (Eva)

“An?”

“Why do you know my name? And even my job” (Eva)

“Ah. I am Lime Latte. An employee of Kuzunoha Company. You are an acquaintance of Raidou-sama right? In that case, I know at least your face. As an employee” (Lime)

While making a light self-introduction, my eyes finished grasping the surroundings. A prison. And judging from the confined air, this is underground. There’s a sour smell and I can feel the presence of small beings all around the place. There’s probably bugs crawling around. The persons in here are me and the librarian woman. This is the woman that Boss asked to investigate just in case. For now, I don’t have any definitive proofs, but based on my intuition, this woman is planning something. I also don’t know

the reason why she was in such a place yesterday. It is at least not a route where people walk at night. She is trying to hide her uneasiness by maintaining a calm face, but she isn't that composed. It seems like this woman is weak to bugs. And yet, she is just clearing her ears and even when she feels their presence, she isn't distracted. I can't see disgust either. I can tell that she is quite uneasy on the inside.

I check my whole body. The katana that was more important than my life and most of my equipment has been confiscated. Deciding that I should get them back at all cost, I confirm the equipment that is still fine. It seems like a number of items that the dwarf bros made for me are okay.

So they didn't see it as dangerous huh. Or maybe they just considered them ornaments. But I can't call the ones who took my equipment as ill-prepared. Even I wouldn't find them dangerous in the past after all. The magic power is being concealed to the very limit and it isn't like I was hiding them or anything.

The bangle in my right wrist. This is actually a weapon the dwarfs made. I voiced the small phrase that serves as a key.

A faint and inconspicuous light wraps around the bangle and my right arm. In an instant, weight is felt in my hand. A sword materialized in my right hand.

“?! That is?!” (Eva)

“Shh... Don’t talk so loud” (Lime)

I can understand her surprise. But I want her to at least think about the current situation. Right now, our interests should match. The interest of escaping from here that is.

“You, it is a lie that you are an employee right?” (Eva)

She must have felt something from my swinging gesture. The librarian looks at me with eyes of doubt. Yareyare, compared to that wicked man who captured Ne-san, I don't amount to much though. My winning ratio against Mondo has begun looking better recently. After this incident is over, I must train myself again.

“Employees of my level are all around in Kuzunoha Company. Let me ask just in case but, Eva-san, you want to escape right?” (Lime)

N? Weird. She is wavering? What does that mean? Is it possible that this woman is related to the people that incarcerated me here? If it is an internal fight, then the story would be different but...

“...This place is the Academy’s abandoned section. The bunch that are making this as their base... are quite the organization” (Eva)

“Heh~, those words hold more strength than mere speculation. You, what are you trying to say?” (Lime)

“I mean that there are people inside the Academy cooperating as well. Even if I escape from here, I am just a mere librarian. The situation wouldn’t really change” (Eva)

Even though your life is most likely in danger, you really say quite the composed things. Well, it is certainly true that there are suspicious people roaming around inside the Rotsgard Academy. Internal cooperation is probably necessary after all. Well, from now on we will be making clear which ones are in that side. I will do that while I get my katana back.

“What you say is true. In just a few days later, they may catch you again” (Lime)

“Also, you were defeated by that person. And it was completely one sided even from my untrained eyes. Not only could you not defeat that person, you couldn’t even escape. Right?” (Eva)

You poke where it hurts. Certainly. I noticed that I couldn’t escape, so I clenched my teeth and fought, and was defeated. It wasn’t a half-baked strength that would let me say that I could beat that person if I fight next time. Just like when I was defeated by Sis and Boss, I felt despair.

That brat was a bit older than Boss. Probably the same age as Shiki-san? But having so much power, that person should be famous, and yet, I haven’t heard anything about this.

“Just like you say, if that thing is there, it is over. But relax. That person is not here. I have also played some cards of my own. My actions stem from a possibility of success” (Lime)

I am not someone that just gets defeated and lets it go. If there’s something I can currently do, I will struggle. That’s something the present me has decided. Currently,

that bastard is not around this area. To get into action, this situation is convenient.

"Even if I believe in that, it doesn't mean the danger I carry will change. If you are telling me you will save me from here, I wish you could take the trouble of sweeping out the guys that are making the Academy their nest as well" (Eva)

She makes quite the unlikable eyes. Eyes as if appraising you. I can't help but think that this librarian Eva has too many discrepancies. Is this her real self? In that case, to be in a place where so many people gather... She at least doesn't give me the impression of a librarian. This woman, is she hiding her position as a noble, or is she a fallen noble? Somewhere around these two options maybe?

In that case, her name is probably fake as well. Boss really has a troublesome acquaintance. This kind of things are what Tomoe-nesan likes, so taking care of it immediately might be a bad idea. She is also an acquaintance of Boss, so it makes it even more complicated.

"Take the trouble huh. Well, I do plan on showing them my gratitude. What merits are there to go to such lengths?" (Lime)

Even if I have quit being an adventurer, I don't like doing things for free. Right now I am someone that's working under a company. If I am going to do work, I should get a reward or in the future it will become troublesome.

"...If your background is truly that of a personnel of Kuzunoha Company, I can provide beneficial information for your master. And if you really crush the organization that is extending its hand to the Academy..." (Eva)

This organization huh. This woman, she definitely knows something about this bunch. Boss would get angry, so I will probably have to ask Shiki-san to peek inside her head a bit in secret. I don't know her connection, but I can see that she knows enough to fear them.

This is definitely the bunch Boss asked to investigate. There's no way a simple librarian would know about such an inhyuman bunch. Eva huh. At this rate, it feels like I will have to investigate in detail her little sister Ruria as well.

But in this situation, I can't just carelessly refuse and create enemies that might get me from the back.

“...Extending its hand to the Academy, and?” (Lime)

“I promise you an enormous reward” (Eva)

How fishy. Seriously. In my times as adventurer, those words are what I doubted the most.

“Understood. Let’s talk about the merits at a later time. I guarantee your safety. I will have you come with me to Boss’s place. But before that, you will probably be seeing displeasing things, so you are obviously prepared right?” (Lime)

“No problem” (Eva)

Then, let’s finish this in one beat and return to report to Boss. Geez, having that brat seal thought transmission is so inconvenient.

Okay. I can still use spells, and I also have a weapon. To defeat the bunch that is here, this is good enough.

Boss told me to put the report as top priority, and depending on what I see from now on, I might not be able to restrain myself. No, saying it clearly, I probably can’t. Thinking that way, it might have been good that I can’t use thought transmission.

First, the katana. How dare they take away my comrade which I received from Sis. I already have a grasp of the location. This is a weapon that I had them endow with an ability, so I can also accomplish such feat. Weapons with abilities endowed to them are incredibly expensive depending on the quality. Maybe there was some convincing from Sis and Boss with the dwarf bros, but they replicated my request practically exactly. How dare they put their dirty hands on my partner.

That’s why, I wonder what kind of equipment is the one they are creating for Boss, that even those guys are having trouble making.

A brand new grid metal door that doesn’t match the old atmosphere this place gives, stands in our way. I use the sword in my hand and cut it to pieces. It wasn’t difficult. It is just that the weapon is so good that I can even do things like this.

With one other person accompanying me, I began the counter-attack.



What... happened here?

Shiki and I were perplexed in the place that's supposed to be the place of the incident.

Because there was a blatant trace that was not there when we investigated before.

Also, this feeling, it is the same as what I felt with Tomoe and Lancer.

"Raidou-sama. This trace continues to where the abandoned section is" (Shiki)

"This wasn't here before, right?" (Makoto)

"Yes. Also, this trace, I can feel the presence of a dragon" (Shiki)

So it really was that. When talking about dragons, Tomoe and Lancer do come to mind.

It isn't like Tomoe can't contact me so, is it Lancer? If it is him, it wouldn't be strange for Lime to lose.

A rematch with Sofia? Don't joke around. I still don't want to fight her. I don't want to meet her either. Anyways, those two don't even listen to words.

There's Shiki here so since I already know some of the cards they can play, I think I can provide a decent fight compared to before. But if we are going to fight, I want the prospects to be in our favor. I want to avoid fights that I don't know the result of.

"This looks like it has been concealed at least, but it's like that person didn't even try that hard" (Makoto)

"It's most likely a trap. It's just that if it's a dragon, the connection with the demons might have thinned a bit. There's should be no dragon close to Rona" (Shiki)

"There's the chance it is Lancer. They seem to be in the demons side" (Makoto)

"That Lancer who was accompanying the Dragon Killer huh. Fumu. Then there's no need to hesitate. Raidou-sama, let's go" (Shiki)

"Hah?!" (Makoto)

No no, hesitate! If even Shiki becomes a battle junky, my stomach won't hold out from the stress you know?!

"If this path leads to Lancer and the Dragon Killer, isn't that a nice chance? I will have them repent while dying, for spilling my master's blood" (Shiki)

"S-Shiki..." (Makoto)

"Fukukuku that Lime. He really does do a good job. Normally, it is custom to call Tomoe-dono and Mio-dono, but in this emergency situation, we can make the excuse that we had no choice. I don't care about Dragon Killer or Sword Saint, whatever. To think that the chance would come for me... Nice, how nice. Excellent" (Shiki)



I thought that Shiki was the most composed one when listening to that story, but it seems that he was just silently holding it in. S-Scary.

His eyes were like those he had when I first met him. In those red eyes I felt more madness than before. That he is laughing weakly makes the image even more intense.

“Oi, those guys are really strong. Are you listening Shiki?” (Makoto)

“...Of course. That means I can make them suffer as much as I want right? Don’t worry, I don’t intend to hold back, not even one bit. If by any chance I am not enough, at that time it is fine to just call those two. I will show them that despair isn’t such a shallow thing, those fools” (Shiki)

He is totally gone. In the rematch with Sofia, I might not have a chance to participate. It is sad to leave it with my defeat, but Shiki is like this. My will to hold down my followers is already gone. No, honestly speaking, seeing them being angry because of me, I just don’t feel like holding them back.

Shiki is this motivated. I will also be going, so unless something big happens, we can deal with it. I have enough confidence to say that it won’t go the same as last time.

A trap huh.

Interesting. Since becoming my follower, I haven’t seen Shiki’s 100%. When training with me, it is mostly counter-spell training after all. After doing a pact with me and learned several things, I haven’t actually seen him fight. In the Forest Onis’ training, Shiki doesn’t participate either.

No. If we are purely talking about fighting against an enemy, it is not only Shiki, I haven’t seen any of my followers fighting seriously.

I don’t know what is waiting for us, but Shiki and I head to the abandoned area.

Shiki was already wrapped with a fiendish aura while he mumbles. He is already in a state that’s impossible to talk to.

(Boss, I am sorry for messing up. This is Lime. I am together with the Academy’s librarian Eva-san too. Right now I am in the abandoned section and have confirmed the existence of the facility. While putting Eva-san’s safety as top priority, I have finished stopping the facility’s functionality and wiped out the enemies) (Lime)

Eh?

L-Lime?!

Seriously. I received a contact from Lime who I thought was cut off. Good thing I left the communication open from our side. That's good but...

(Lime, are you okay?! Also, you are with Eva-san too?! Etto, eh, there was no dragon there?) (Makoto)

(Dragon? No, there was no dragon. I just had a talk with the facility... The two of us are completely fine. I will give the detailed report at a later time. Just that, it seems like Eva-san wants to talk with Boss about something. We will now be heading to where you are. You are around the place where I was attacked right?) (Lime)

(Y-Yeah...) (Makoto)

He has impressive location grasping. He is already like a professional scout.

(Well then) (Lime)

Well then?!

Meaning he is heading directly here?!

This is bad Shiki! We have to turn Shiki back! It would be bad if Eva-san sees him right now! Tte, my mind is a complete mess?!

“Shiki, Lime is coming back! It seems like he has already finished dealing with things! Oi, return Shiki! Switch off! Stoooppp! Put away that fiendish magic power already! Smile! Smile!” (Makoto)

“...Lime. That guy, that guuuy!” (Shiki)

“Are you listening?! Switch!!” (Makoto)

“Having me psyched up so much and suddenly saying “I am back”! Just who does he think he is! Why can’t he just wait obediently, that guy?!” (Shiki)

“No no no no! There was no dragon! A mistake! It was a mistake!” (Makoto)

Before Lime returns, I try to soothe Shiki into returning to his Academy mode. It's been a while since I have had such a high difficulty mission.



(Raidou huh. I won't take his words about being a merchant to heart. But it is certainly true that I didn't feel a single bit of hate towards demons. I didn't even feel like he had an objective like the Dragon Killer who joined hands with us. Normal, it was truly normal. Are you telling me that boy interacts with demons as if he were talking to a foreign hyuman?)

Rona was lying silently on the bed at the room addressed for Karen Frost. Her eyes were also closed. But inside her head, she was trying to put in order the vast amount of unexpected information.

Her main job as a demon general is to gather information and bring it to practical use. At times she also proposes plans and tactics. In terms of battle power, between the 4 demon generals, she is third place. But she doesn't really mind it that much. Because she considers that as long as she can be of use to her master in her specialty, then that's good. That's why, even if she ends up being hated or despised because of how she uses her specialty, Rona will not falter. For her that's actually a representation of her loyalty to her mission, so she is proud of it.

(His ability as a teacher in a hyuman academy is too deviated. Even in the academies that have several high leveled teachers, his quality is a bit different. And also, if the hyumans that he is guiding will be appearing from now on, that would be a bit inconvenient. That kind of thinking is something that's similar to ours. Against an opponent that has more numbers, there's the need of a drawback. Meaning that he is a target that one should take care stealthily. The problem is that amount of information and that person's thinking in itself. He knows my name that only a set number of people know. That kind of information gathering ability, I have to crush it somehow. I am surprised by the way of thinking of Raidou, but in reality it is a really beneficial one. I felt like he was pretty easy to handle and I think that he can become a useful pawn. A person that knows my name and can't lower my guard from. The best method would be to eliminate Shiki and entice Raidou. It should become a big benefit to us demons)

Right now, Rona has ordered the people that have stealthily infiltrated to investigate about the Kuzunoha Company and Raidou. As it wasn't a place with much danger level,

the people that Rona brought weren't that excelling in ability. Even though they are currently short of capable people, she will regret this decision.

Because it would not only be pointless if they are sniffed out, but will actually backfire as well, Rona ordered them to make sure not to be detected. It would affect the speed of information gathering as well as the efficiency, but right now there's a need to know the other party if even a bit. For that sake, she judged that it would be okay to force themselves.

(In the Academy there's no visible movements from Kuzunoha Company. I will confirm their merchandise at a later time but... since it is a miscellaneous store, I don't know if there will be anything that will stand out. In the guild's information, the company's entry was filled as an "all do" store. Taking into account the time when he registered in the guild and his decision of the type of industry, it looks like his business ability isn't that good. The person itself doesn't have excelling ability, and yet, in his surroundings there's only capably people. How strange. He probably has some sort of talent. Let's see, his fighting ability was quite high. To the point that I almost thought of fighting him seriously. But his assistant Shiki seems to be pretty strong as well though... Is it sufficient to just call it an ability to gather capable people?)

Staying in a vague area without being able to reach a conclusion, Rona gets irritated by her thoughts that don't show any signs of organizing. At least, as long as they don't do anything, she won't be able to put anything together. In that case, she must put up a plan, but in this state where she can't clearly see the other party and doesn't know how much information they possess, just how far would she be able to step into? She can't bring herself to decide.

(For now, let's have them show me their mobilization ability and fighting power in "that matter". I have already finished the original objective I came here for, so there's no need for me to cross a dangerous bridge. As long as there aren't any people related to the temple, there's no way he would have a good impression of hyumans in "that matter". Injustice to the demi-humans can be shifted into blame for the hyumans. If we take into account that I am here, it might even connect into a better impression of the demons. No matter where it rolls, it won't be bad for me. If he asks for my cooperation, even if I decide to help myself, it won't be an impediment. It can even turn into a foundation for future plans. That situation, you might say, it is a good chance)

Rona opens her eyes. In the current state, she can cope with accidents and she has

already thought about the prospects. Her thought arranging must have finished.

And she notices that the curtains of night were beginning to fall. Noticing that she used quite the amount of time, she makes a wry smile.

The chances a war between hyumans and demons beginning in the near future are high. She has already anticipated that she will be participating in that war herself and she still has a lot of work left to do. It's just that, the existence of Raidou has scrambled her schedule a bit.

(Anyways, as long as Io is in Stella, most unexpected scenarios can be handled. In terms of commanding in the battlefield and battle power, it is hard to find people I can believe to this extent. Even when I think about the current scale of the battle, we have the hyuman Sofia who is the number one in the list of strongest, so as long as we have her in our hands, the attacks from that side will be less without doubt. Also, it would be perfect if we could just learn the identity and gauge the power of the Devil. The stage is moving exactly as our lord has written. If the Devil is Raidou then things would turn easier, but as expected, there's no way it would go so smoothly. The battle ability and magic scale; the information is not that reliable but we also gathered information about its appearance. If we put aside the gender of Raidou, it would be that coat only. A red and blue vestment. If we take into account the parts that look the same, that's the only part that matches. Hah~. If I just suspect of him because of that blue coat, my intuition is growing dull. Even though I intended to not be infected by that stupidly peaceful atmosphere at the Academy... Geez, let's just rest for today)

The time she learns that Raidou and the Devil are the same person, seems to be in a later future.

# Chapter 102

## Lime's report

~ Report of the Rotsgard Academy's sector redevelopment plan ~

While in the said investigation, I encountered an unknown person. Its height was about 1.70m, thin build. Silver hair and black eyes. With an unsettlingly orderly face, it smiled. Probably a man. His features were hyuman, but he is most likely not. What should be pointed out is his overwhelming battle power.

I failed to escape, so I decided to escape in the middle of the fight. He activated a ring-looking tool and the thought transmission was sealed. Unknown if there were any other effects. Not even able to see the boy's true ability, I was defeated. I was somehow able to hit him once and was successful in marking him.

P.S – In the middle of the fight, there was a scream of a woman. I later confirmed that she was the Academy's librarian, Eva.

Lost my consciousness and woke up restraint in an underground ward at the area I was investigating in, popularly known as the abandoned sector. Confirmed that the librarian Eva was also restraint like me. After confirming the situation, I decided to escape. I confirm the will of the librarian, guard her and have her accompany me. There's the chance that Eva is a noble. This is a speculation based on her speech and behavior.

Being in the facility of the investigation target, I have confirmed that the organization is medium-large scale. Confirmed about the reality of the "experiments" in my investigation. The various experiments, also known as research, were inhyuman just as predicted. I was unable to find a single test subject capable of recovering. There were mostly demi-humans, but I was also able to find few hyumans as well.

There was no reaction from my marking and have judged that the aforementioned boy's location is unknown. Determined to continue my mission. Taking into consideration the target's danger level as well as its immediate battle power, I decided to promptly dispose them. Because I was in a state where thought transmission was impossible, I followed my own decision.

In the midst of disposing, I didn't find the aforementioned boy and there were no signs of reinforcements either. I completed the disposal in a prompt and quiet manner. Setting up traps and surveillance, I escaped the concerned facility along with the librarian.

For now there's no movements from the remnants and was unable to pinpoint the ones cooperating from within the Academy. I intend to pinpoint them in my future investigations and will report. That's all.

P.S. I wrote something I am not used to in haste, so please do forgive me for its imperfections. Lime.

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What's up with that last part Lime. Also, your sign is pretty. I also have to learn to write my own sign. In things like contracts and statement of delivery it is necessary after all.

Moreover, it feels like you jumped a lot of things when writing this. Also, if Lime was able to wipe out the enemy, he should have been able to easily escape from there. It's just unnatural to shift into force just because the thought transmission was sealed. You had Eva-san accompanying you after all.

But, who is the boy in the beginning that Lime is treating as a kid? Lancer can be easily identified because he would summon swords out. That boy should have some sort of specific trait as well. That he didn't appear afterwards worries me. Isn't he in the organization as well? Also the fact that Lime was completely fine when captured. Just what was the reason that boy fought Lime?

Hmph. Even if he kidnapped Eva-san while at it, if I were the assailant, I would first take away the equipment of the people I captured. I would do a body check and restraint them in a way that they can't offer resistance, I think. In that case, Lime had his katana stolen? If his katana that he declared to be more important than his life was stolen, then he would definitely want to get it back. But would it end with just getting it back? That Lime who got pretty angry just because I told him about Rona-san's distrust?

There's no description of the techniques of the person that stole his katana in the report. The experiments as well, there's no detailed content in the report. Just that, he said they were in a state where they can't be saved, meaning they are most likely dead.

Just like what he wrote in the end, it is quite the sloppy report. Let's call Lime at a later time and have him tell me the report again in person. I don't intend on having him write another one.

"Raidou-sama, Eva-san says she wants to talk to you"

Eva-san huh.

I, who was reading the report silently, raise my head at Shiki's words. I had Eva-san wait at the room next door. Well, I plan on having her stay here until Lime cleans up the related party from the Academy. If she dies, it wouldn't be good for my health.

Also, I have to ask her the reason why she was in such a place. After she was restrained, it seems like she acted together with Lime, but for someone who has seen how Lime dealt with things, her attitude is way too calm. For a librarian that is surrounded by books, this is too strange.

If the other party has resolved herself to talk, then let's proceed. I don't like being in this room too much either.

Ah right. Having Shiki idle would be a waste. This is an unexpected outcome, but the situation has progressed. From now on, let's have Rona-san's cooperation and resolve this in an early stage.

"Shiki, I will hear what Eva-san has to say. I am sorry but, could you go to Rona-san's place and get her to help with the cleaning of the Academy's related party along with Lime and the others? It is fine to tell her what Shiki thinks is safe to disclose" (Makoto)

"Understood. Well then, I will go stir up Rona" (Shiki)

...It feels like Rona-san and Shiki get along well. I wonder what kind of relationship they had in the past.

While seeing off Shiki, I knock the neighboring room's door. Soon after, a "go ahead" came as answer. Eva-san seems to have prepared herself already.

When I enter the room, there was a slightly exhausted librarian I am used to seeing. It's just, the eyes she is using to look at me right now were a bit different from usual. Those weren't the eyes of someone looking at an acquaintance. That's right, those looked like the eyes of someone probing your worth. It isn't as blunt as appraising, but

it does make me a bit nervous.

“Thanks to Lime-san I was able to escape with my life. Thank you very much Raidou-sensei. It seems that he is an employee in this company but, he is pretty strong huh?”  
(Eva)

[He was an adventurer before coming to work at my place after all. I was surprised when I received the report. I am glad you are safe]

“Shiki-san, and that man as well. Is there a rule that says you have to be strong in order to enter this company?” (Eva)

[By no means. It’s just that you get to meet the strong ones by chance. And so, I heard that you had something to talk with me?]

“Yes. You have probably heard the story from Lime-san but... it is about information and a reward” (Eva)

[Wait, from Lime? He is currently pretty tired and has gone to bed already. Information and reward huh]

This is a lie. It wasn’t in the report, but I have certainly heard about the information and reward directly from Lime. About the reward, well, if she is giving it to me, I will gladly receive it, but I am more interested in the beneficial information she has.

“Yes. I promised Lime-san when he was going to rescue me. The reward will be when the threat lurking in the Academy is wiped out, but I can tell you the information now”  
(Eva)

[Let’s hear it]

“Yes. It’s about the portrait of the two persons you showed me before” (Eva)

“?!!!”

“Sorry, I lied. The portrait you showed me and asked me if I knew anything about them, I actually have an idea” (Eva)

“...”

The portrait of my parents. It's the one I had Rinon draw for me. I have been asking the people I am acquainted in the Academy if they know about them. Of course, there were absolutely none who knew them.

I have asked a number of people before Eva, but I didn't even get an "I think I have seen them before". It's certainly very beneficial information for me. I can learn about the parents I wanted to know about after all. It is also one of the reasons I came to this academy.

"If my memories are correct, those two, one worked in an important post at a certain country for a noble and the other, I think was a high ranked priest in the temple" (Eva)

Noble and priest? My father and mother?

I totally thought they were adventurers. This is pretty unexpected. Especially about my mother having a sacred profession. The image I have of her doesn't match at all.

[...Noble and priest. In what country?]

"I don't think Raidou-sensei will tell me what kind of connection you have with those two, but is it okay to hear it?" (Eva)

[Benefactors. Well, I am not sure if I can ever repay that favor though]

The ones that gave birth to me, the greatest benefactors of all. If they ask me if I can pledge filial piety, I would only be able to respond with an "I don't know" though. They didn't match the word "parents". It's also discrepant from the setting I created of Waka-sama in this world.

"I... see. The last news of their whereabouts were from an adventurer, so this might be some kind of fate" (Eva)

[Please tell me what you know about them]

"It was a promise after all. Those two were in a satellite country in the already ruined Elysion. A small country called Kaleneon. The pair of noble and priest were supposed to marry there" (Eva)

[Were supposed to?]

"Yeah. They were unable to actually marry and were driven out of the country. There's talk that they became adventurers, but before anyone knew, news of them were cut off" (Eva)

[Why were they driven out of the country?]

"That's... there's no detailed record of that matter. To begin with, Kaleneon received an attack by the demon race that was even harsher than in Elysion, and there's barely anything left of the king's genealogy. On top of that, the world is trying to completely forget the name of the country itself" (Eva)

Big invasion. The event where 10 years ago, the demon race ran out of patience and with the Goddess' whereabouts unknown, they marched south. I read in books that the result was a complete victory for the demon race. Even in a hyuman academy it was written as a complete victory. I think that war was more close to trampling.

Kaleneon's noble and priest. That's mom and dad's past. And that place is already a ruined country.

If there's not even records of it, then trying to follow their tracks might be harder.

Wait. That's right, in a country whose name has even been forgotten, a country where even the king's genealogy barely survived...

Why is it that this librarian knows about this small country and noble? Was it written in the Academy's library?

[Why is it that you know about the noble and priest of a ruined country like that?]

Could it be that there's something like a poem that's being spread like a story regarding my parents? There's the possibility that they really did do something incredible before transferring worlds, just like I first thought.

"There a number of books that have information regarding Kaleneon" (Eva)

A number of books she says. In that place that holds so many books which you wouldn't be able to finish reading in your whole life, and that's all she has to say? Well, I did know that Elysion was one of the five major powers that were destroyed by the demon race, but if it comes to every single one of the small countries surrounding it, I don't even know their names. And in truth, this is my first time hearing about

Kaleneon.

[A number of books huh. As expected of Eva-san. You really do know the library well]

"No. It is certainly true that there were a number of books regarding Kaleneon, but there was not a single bit of information regarding those two. There's a different reason as to why I know those two" (Eva)

[A different reason huh. Is it okay to ask?]

"You already know that Ruria and I are sisters, but you don't know our family name right?" (Eva)

[Yeah. There are many who don't have family names, so I didn't think it was strange to not mention it]

"We... did have. Now, no, for the time that is to come, we are in a position where we are not allowed to say that name" (Eva)

[That doesn't sound peaceful]

"In the fight against the demon race, our parents decided to escape instead of fighting. In the end, the only ones who managed to escape were Ruria and I. Moreover, even when we were nobles, to be alive after our own country was burned down. We were pushed with the brand of cowards..." (Eva)

Eva-san was a noble huh. No, with how she speaks, there's the chance that she still thinks of herself as a noble.

The nobles of this world have the duty of protecting their land. In peaceful times, they can just get tax from the populace, spread their name in society and possess a decent amount of land, and there wouldn't be any complains. No, rather, they are considered wise rulers. They would be called famous people.

But when their land is facing danger, they have to lead their troops and fight to protect it. And they must repel them no matter what. If the land burns down, the nobles must go down along manly. That's how the nobles in this world work.

If the feudal lords don't do anything unreasonable and they protect them on top of that, then the nobles are doing their duty.

Even the stupid nobles of Limia who have high bad reputation, declared that they would protect their lands. Those guys who exploit the taxes and their main scenario is socializing. Of course, their lands have not been exposed to the fires of war, so how far they would really go when that happens, I don't know.

That's why, the nobles that show their back and escape are treated in a pretty harsh way in this world. I think that escaping an unwinnable fight is an option, but my way of thinking comes from the peaceful Japan, so I can't say much.

[So you two were nobles]

"Who shamelessly survived though. Even now, the people that hear about our circumstances, look at us with eyes of disgust and we have also been pestered. Of course, I did ask why they didn't just fight uprightly and died. No matter how many times I asked my late parents, there was no answer. There were many times when we thought about suicide. But that's no good, that way won't work" (Eva)

[No good?]

"Even if we suicide, the brand pushed on ourselves won't disappear. The people who died, as well as the burned down land won't return" (Eva)

Well, that's certainly true. When the stigma has been pushed, just killing yourselves won't make it disappear. However, what does this have to do with my parents? Isn't the talk straying?

"That's why I decided on getting it back before dying. The country of Kaleneon, no, even if it's only the lost Ansland territory" (Eva)

Kaleneon.

Eva-san and Ruria are from the same country as my parents. Ansland must be her hometown. But this is absurd. They have no allies. With just the two of them, what is it that they can do?

No matter how I think about it, I can only picture them dying in vain.

?! Dangerous! That voice, if that was really Eva-san's voice, was I going to be used by her for the sake of that plot?! No well, this is such a reckless objective and there's no way I would go along with it. Yeah, probably not gonna happen.

[What a grand thinking you have there. I see, Kaleneon was Eva-san's native country huh. I understand now. Thank you very much for the important information]

“...No, I still have more information. Please listen” (Eva)

What an unpleasant pause. Could it be, she hasn't given up on having me cooperate?

If she is going to continue giving me information, well, there's no loss in that.

The talk with the fallen noble Eva continues.

# Chapter 103

## Full guest night

In the silent night, I was alone in my room.

What Eva-san told me, the report of Lime, the information request of the demon general called Rona-san...

It has become quite complicated. Because of the information increase, the situation has progressed, but the things I have to think about increased at once and it is just a mess in my mind right now.

From my experience, even if I try to think about them in order, this kind of situations can't be solved. I am not a detective and moreover, I am the type that tries to avoid deductions and complicated situations.

I am okay when dealing with them one by one, but if they all come at once, my reasoning ability gets frozen or more like, I want to throw them away. This is one of my weak points I want to fix.

I wanted to try writing it down and see how it goes, but it's just not going well. How troublesome.

If things are like this, maybe it would have been better if I heard Eva-san's talk and deal with it at that time? But she is someone that's not related to the company nor Rona-san. Also, there's no prove that all she said was true. I really think that returning to my room to rest was the correct decision.

Yeah, let's stop. Thinking about this by myself will not solve anything. Instead of thinking by myself and ending up making a wrong decision, it would be better to just wait for Shiki to return and have the two of us think about it, even if I have to sacrifice my sleeping time.

In that case, let's arrange what Eva-san told me at least, while waiting for Shiki's return.

She is a hyuman that came from a small country which was destroyed by the advance of the demon race. To my surprise, it was the same country as my parents, Kaleneon. Dad was a noble in an important post, while my mother was a priestess in a temple of the Goddess. I don't know how important a priestess is, but hearing about having an important post, I think they were from a pretty well off family. If things played differently, I might have been born as a noble's son. Oops, right now's not the time to think about that. And so, Eva-san was a survivor who abandoned her land, even when she was a noble. It seems like she is recklessly wishing for the revival of her household, but since she didn't have anyone to help her, she was in a despairing state, is what she told me. It seems like she didn't know my parents personally.

There's a reason why Eva-san didn't choose suicide and decided to chase after a reckless dream. That was what she told me after. Being exposed to humiliation and contemplating suicide, there was a time when she was temporarily in an unstable emotional state. I think that's only natural. While protecting her little sister Ruria, they without doubt passed bitter days. As a result, Eva Ansland and her little sister enclosed themselves in their own world, and doubted and rejected everything that came from the outside world.

I can't even imagine how serious the situation was, but anyways, when Eva-san began to doubt even the Goddess, that organization made contact with her. They told her that there were many who were from satellite countries of Elysion and those who were believers of the Goddess from Kaleneon, so I could understand that Eva-san throwing away her beliefs is something quite considerable. That Goddess, she is even hopeless with the hyumans that believe in her. If I remember correctly, she said that the invasion of the demon race happened while she was taking a nap.

Organization. That's something that made my mind worry. It seems to be a group that holds enmity towards the Goddess, but their scale is unknown. Only thing I know is that it seems their rules are pretty strict and if there's even a sign of betrayal, they would sever connections and dispose you. It is a system structured of secrecy, and there are many inside members that don't even know the faces of the others. It seems that it just goes as far as having means of contact, and only a limited number of members know as much as their background. It is probably something like a secret association? But to be erased just by showing signs of betrayal, things like false accusations won't occur? Oops, my train of thought got derailed again. Keep in track, keep in track.

The surprising thing is that their members are composed of hyumans, demi-humans

and demons. The race didn't matter. There's varied types of information flowing and shared, and it seems like the influence it has as an organization is pretty high. What I have clear is that it hasn't showed its face in public and it doesn't have connections with any power, or maybe it has connections with all powers; it is uncertain. In the war of hyumans and demons, there might be a chance that this organization will intrude as a third power.

I see, if you have connections with such an organization, it wouldn't be strange to have one or two dreams. Eva-san didn't tell me, but she probably witnessed the power of that organization in some way. She at least witnessed something that made her think it would be possible to restore her land that has been ruled over by the demons. I can tell that they have power, but since there's no concrete show of it, it feels more troublesome than a country.

...In my previous world the politics were pretty muddy on the inside, but in this parallel world, the essence of people doesn't change huh. Thinking about it in this world's common sense, having hyumans and demons, who have a history of strifes, join hands is just impossible; unless I think of it as "the enemy of my enemy is my ally". In this case, the enemy would be the Goddess. Because it seems to be an organization that hates the Goddess after all. No matter if they accomplish their objective or if they break down, later, I think it would return to a relationship where they hate each other again. To borrow the strength of such a dangerous organization; Eva-san, even when you look composed, maybe you have actually been engulfed by madness.

And so this time, seeing Eva-san together with Lime, she was about to be disposed. Since she felt her life was in danger, she requested protection from us.

In this current matter, Rona-san told me that since there were victims from the demi-humans and the demons because of the hyumans' inhyuman researches, she wants to investigate and save the ones that can be saved. This is just an assumption, but she probably showed me that inhyuman scenery to make my emotions turn into the demon's side and control me that way. Because if I am shown only the good side of one of the camps in the war, it wouldn't be strange to hold a prejudiced view. Afterwards, they might come saying that for the sake of stopping this inhyuman acts the demon lord dispatched a general, and have me think that they are sincere people who possess good will. From what Shiki said, Rona-san is a person that uses artifices after all.

?!!

Someone is getting closer. I, who was trying to put in order what Eva-san told me, feel a strong response.

In the past, from my experience when I was thrown into the battlefield and had to fight the Dragon Killer and was even seriously injured, I was able to learn how to gauge the ability of someone from the [Sakai] I expand. The standard right now is Shiki. By reducing the targets, I am able to expand it to a certain extent and now I am able to activate it practically unconsciously. In a place like the wasteland where there aren't many people, I can reduce the conditions even more and use it more conveniently, but this place is the Academy town. There are a lot of people here. The weakening [Sakai] I use in my lectures, there's no other people around, so it is easy to use. It is prove that I haven't mastered this skill yet, so I do feel bad about it as well.

“Boss, it’s him. The brat that treated me as a beanbag is approaching!”

Without knocking, Lime opens the room's door and urges me to be cautious in one breath. For now, that boy seems to have some sort of connection with that organization. Since his looks are similar in age as mine, it should be fine to call him boy. To be 1.7m, so jealous. No no. Anyways, his power seems to be at least Shiki-class.

“Lime, you can step back. No, can you please call Shiki here?” (Makoto)

“...No. I may not amount to much, but please let me participa-” (Lime)

“Waka!”

“Waka-sama!”

“Uwa?!!”

Suddenly, two women enter the room. Two women I know. My followers, Tomoe and Mio. W-Why are these two in Academy town so suddenly? And they are also strangely hurried.

Isn’t their timing way too good? Could it be, I am under surveillance?

“Tomoe, and even Mio?! What happened?” (Makoto)

“...So you are alright. In that case, it is a relief for now” (Tomoe)

“...Hoh”

And now they are showing faces of relief. Could it be that the boy approaching is the reason? He is pretty close now. But it doesn't look like he is going to attack. There's not even signs of him using magic power.

“Is the reason of all this, the one that's approaching here?” (Makoto)

“Yeah. I don't know of his reason of contact, but he is a bit of a troublesome one” (Tomoe)

For Tomoe to use the word troublesome. That... would be harsh for Lime to handle. Or more like, does she know about the other party?

“Lime, retire” (Mio)

“Mio-nesan that's a bit too much” (Lime)

“Lime, people have their respective roles. Even if you are here, you would only be a hindrance. If you are vexed by that, you should go train yourself more-ja na. This time just step back” (Tomoe)

“Sis...” (Lime)

“These two are here Lime. Be relieved. And it isn't like it is set that we will be fighting anyways” (Makoto)

“Boss... Understood. Please be careful. I will be excusing myself now” (Lime)

He was biting his lips. Even though he is a person that doesn't usually show his emotions on his face. Maybe he was quite mortified by the fact that Tomoe told him to step back. He is a person that has a lot more talent and sense than me, so he is most likely going to get stronger again.

The person in question is... standing at the entrance of the store. Why?

After a while of stopping, he once again moves.

The sound of \*pinpon rings inside the store. Even when the store is closed, there is a button set in case of urgent matters. It is the sound of that.

Of course, when it is used for pranks, I have made it so that they receive a fit punishment.

...

Uhm. I was pretty sure he would enter suddenly but, just what in the world...

What should I do? I don't think he just came to buy medicine. I even thought the store's glass would go boom. This is not what I expected.

"Waka, don't let your guard down" (Tomoe)

Tomoe is still looking pretty cautious. Just what big deal is coming?

Well, no choice but to see.

"Tomoe, Mio. Come together with me" (Makoto)

The two nod silently. Heading down from the second floor to the first, I open the door.

A silver haired boy, just like Lime's report, was standing there. He looks the same age as me. He is around 1.7m, just like the report as well. In this world, 1.8m is the average. If his age is just as his looks tell, he still has room to grow.

His attire is a white shirt and what looks like denim pants. He is wearing his shirt in a rough way and has quite a few buttons unfastened. Skin white enough that it looks slightly unhealthy, was being shown by his exposed chest.

[Do you have some business this late at night?]

I decided to ask his reason normally.

"Yeah, nice to meet you. I am... the master of the adventurer guild. Since I ended up being rude to Lime Latte who is working with you, I came here to apologize. Can I please come in?"

"Hah?"

Curiously, Tomoe, Mio and my voice overlap. The Guild Master(?) narrows his black eyes and shows a full smile with his arms crossed on his back. There's not a single

shred of hostility.

In a situation where I am already filled with information, here comes one more. It looks like I am heartlessly being given more information to arrange.

# Chapter 104

## Dangerous, dangerous

"That was actually just a front. But that guy was incredibly strong. I was so surprised, look, I got a bit cut here see? Also, that katana had an amazing endowment. I still haven't been able to release the carved seal it gave me you know? Well, at first, I was planning on just patting him lightly. But there were other guys coming, so I was troubled. I unintentionally defeated him. It may not serve as an apology, but I did leave some traces that were easy to follow and I gave him a protection spell, so his safety was assured"

With a strangely amiable smile, the so called Guild Master entered the visitors' reception room. It was late at night, so I had Mio pour tea and now the three of us are facing him in our seats. Shiki has not returned yet. The talk with Rona-san must have prolonged.

This was an apology to Lime, so I was thinking about calling him, but he soon said that was only a front and turns over his sleeve, showing the faint remains of a wound in his elbow as he happily talks about it. Also, he really talks a lot. He is a person I just can't understand what he is thinking. I get a feeling he is trying to explain that the fight with Lime was kind of an accident. He is fast-talking with a smile on his face, so just trying to hear him out is a chore.

"And well, about the real reason I came here. Ah, that's right. Hey, the kimono Nesan there, this place has a peculiar fruit right? Can you bring those too along with the tea? I haven't tried them yet you see"

The topic also changes so often. He looks the same age as me, but looking at his way of talking and behavior, I feel female-like characteristics. But, how to say it, he is a person that just engulfs you in his pace. I don't know if this is part of his plan or what, but he is blurting out a lot of information. For example, the words katana and kimono.

Moving the corner of her eyes in a displeased manner, Mio doesn't get up from her seat and just glares at him. But he doesn't show a single trace of being agitated by her intimidation.

I exhale once.

[Mio, please prepare them for him]

“...Understood. Please wait for a bit” (Mio)

“Iyaa, I am looking forward to those. While you are at that, please bring more tea. Do you have a different flavor? If there is, please bring a different one, Oneesan”

Nonchalantly. At the other side of the closed door, I could feel the blood thirst around the place where Mio is. She is totally angered. I understand her feelings. Tomoe also has a protruded vein that pulsates every time he says something, and looks like she is displeased as she maintains her silence. I also don't want to go along with this pace forever. Let's quickly move the conversation.

[Now then, Guild Master-dono, could you tell us your business?]

“Aw Raidou-kun. No, should I call you Makoto-kun? Calling me Guild Master-dono, don't treat me like a stranger please. Ah, there's also no need to use written communication. I am not a hyuman after all”

?!  
Hey hey.

[Sadly, I don't understand what you are trying to say]

“Ahahaha, so cute Makoto-kun. Your writing is crumbling a bit you know? You are unexpectedly the panicky type huh. Just talk to me normally. You can, right?”

I tried my best to answer normally, but it seems I still showed my agitation. I still have a long way to go.

But, this guy, just what in the world is he?! Even if it is true that he is the Guild Master of the Adventurer Guild, there's no way there's someone that can know so much about me.

Also, the guilds are a system that has been in this world since long. Even in the books I read at the library, there were descriptions of the Adventurer Guild that was born in Elysion. In short, it is clearly sided with the Goddess. In that case, I have already been

found out by the Goddess?!

“Fufufu, that face. Could it be, you are thinking that your existence and information has been exposed to the Goddess?”

“?!”

He can even read my mind?!

“Bull’s eye huh. You can be at ease. The Goddess has not grasped your present condition. Well, she is guilty of a lot of things after all. She is currently in a situation where she can’t move much. At that rate, it is probably going to take a while to make the groundwork”

“...You, what are you?” (Makoto)

“Heh~! Makoto-kun, that’s how your voice sounds! Nice. The voice of a man that has a bit of youth left. I like it. That’s right, if I remember correctly, Makoto-kun was a high school student. Still being a student, it must have been hard on you after coming to this world right?”

What’s up... with this guy? Seriously, what’s up with him?!

He knows all my details. Not only that, he certainly has information of my previous world as well!

I began to feel uncomfortable at the boy that has been talking to me since the beginning with a smile on his face. My field of vision narrows. This is bad. I can tell that I am being swallowed by the other party. Every time I talk, I can tell from his smile that he is feeling happiness about it. I feel nauseated by that.

“Don’t mess around and just answer. What are you?” (Makoto)

My voice trembles. Damn it, I’m scared. I can tell that my words are losing their composure.

“Calling me “you”, that makes me sad. I am the Guild Master. I have not lied to you”

“...I can only call you with “you”. I don’t even know your name after all” (Makoto)

And yet, he knows me in detail. Is he an acquaintance of the Goddess? He at least seems to be acquainted with her. He certainly doesn't seem to be hyuman. My words work on him after all. In that case, the one that works as the head of the Guild that controls the adventurers is not hyuman. In this world of hyuman supremacy, is that even possible?!

"Ah, sorry! That's right. I didn't tell you my name. Makoto-kun, please forgive me for my rudeness. Then, I will introduce~"

"Stop with the farce" (Tomoe)

"...Cutting in as one's talking and saying it's a farce, that's not peaceful, blue haired samurai-dono"

"Hmph! You know my name and still play the fool. What was that about not lying to Waka-ja. Even though from the beginning you were lying about being a Guild Master" (Tomoe)

"Yareyare. Did you sleep so much in the wasteland that you even forgot how to talk properly, Shen?"

"You too, there's no trace of your previous self. "Myriad Colors" Dragon, Root" (Tomoe)

Eh?



"Root? Myriad Colors? Uhm, this guy... is a dragon?" (Makoto)

Is how it is right? It came from Tomoe's mouth, so there's probably no mistake. But I practically, no, I can't feel a dragon presence from him at all.

"Yes, Waka. This guy is a full-fledged superior dragon. And a prime superior at that. Said to have gained wisdom and polished his skills, and hasn't lost in his lifetime. Myriad colors means he has ten thousands of colors and it's Root's pseudonym" (Tomoe)

"Aah, not only did you intrude in my introduction, but you also exposed my name when I am here. What a boring thing you have done. You samurai junkie" (Root)

Prime superior dragon. An undefeated dragon. This guy is?

"Say whatever you want. You who tries to deceive Waka with a cool face, has no right to say anything to me" (Tomoe)

"Yareyare, I don't want you who only slept the whole time and had no interest in the world, to say things like deceive, that would bring about misunderstandings" (Root)

Guild Master, no, the supreme dragon Root is talking to Tomoe with a stricter mood than with me.

A superior dragon, an existence that most hyumans and demi-humans would live their whole life without being able to see them. In the time that I was learning things in the library, I understood just how rare are the existences called superior dragons.

The peak of dragons. They are not affected by the passage of time, and when they grow old, they can give birth to themselves again and continue existing.

If I remember correctly, the names that were written in the library were: "Mitsurugi", "Bakufu (Waterfall)", "Sazanami (Sand Wave)", "Akari (Crimson Light)", "Yomatoi (Night Clad)"; those five. Myriad colors is the first time I have heard of it. I couldn't find anything about the invincible Shen either.

They practically never get involved with hyumans, but there have been individual dragons that live close to hyuman territory. In rare cases, there are times when they lend their strength. When lending that power indirectly, people call it the dragon's blessing.

Currently, the monarch guard knights of Gritonia have the blessing of Sazanami.

To have already encountered three of those super rare dragons, just what kind of luck do I have? The Invincible, the Sword Saint and the Myriad Colors. Tomoe, Lancer and Root! If approached unskillfully, this type of encounters could have killed me. A game where you encounter a boss class enemy while hiding inside a town, is definitely going to make people flame the creator. It reminds me that reality is not as kind as games.

"Did you abandon your dwelling? It was already in ruins when I saw it" (Tomoe)

"Yeah, a long time ago. It's probably been like that since a thousand years ago. Are you done now? I want to talk with Makoto-kun. Because of Shen, there's been

misunderstandings, so I want to clear them out" (Root)

...The scales are way too different. One thousand years he says. Also, he was smiling that much at me, and yet, he barely raises the corners of his mouth at Tomoe and his eyes were not smiling at all. His attitude is too different.

"What do you mean by misunderstanding? There's still several things I want to ask you. And also, I have already thrown away the name Shen. Its Tomoe now, remember that" (Tomoe)

"So noisy. Just because Makoto-kun is here, you are playing the strong one huh. Yes yes, Tomo-e right?" (Root)

"TO.MO.E!! Next time you get that wrong, I will cut your head off!" (Tomoe)

"Sorry Makoto-kun. This chick, she is a dragon but an eccentric one. She is definitely causing you troubles all the time right?" (Root)

"Listen, Root!" (Tomoe)

No well, aren't you pretty weird yourself? I just, feel pretty sure about that.

Or more like, ignoring Tomoe and nonchalantly talking with me, he is quite the free dragon. If he is the peak of dragons, that means he is like the boss of Tomoe?

"I haven't lied to Makoto-kun. I want you to please believe in me, Makoto-kun" (Root)

"H-Hah~" (Makoto)

"Something like deceiving you, that's an outrageous misunderstanding. My feelings are more pure" (Root)

Right after hearing that dangerous speech, a sharp edge was pushed out in between my face and the face of Root that had gotten closer to mine. The sharp edge of the single edged sword was facing at Root's side. Tomoe, that's a short sword. Don't draw that out so easily. If you are going to draw out, draw out a long sword instead.

"...You bastard, you have really changed a lot. There's no trace of your old self that went shouting around about rules and discipline" (Tomoe)

Rules? Discipline? Both of those words didn't fit that guy called Root, no, it doesn't fit dragons.

"Tomoe, you also changed. You showed no interest in anything and had zero trajectory, a dragon that only slept. But instead of being inelegant, you should have learned something before that, don't you think?" (Root)

"I am no match for your wildness. This is something that's been in my mind for a while... tell me that first. You, since when did you "become a man"?" (Tomoe)

???

"300 years ago maybe. I was tired of being a woman all the time. And so, I tried being a man. And it was comfortable. The first time I embraced a woman, I was deeply moved" (Root)

Tired? Of your gender? Eh?

I don't understand anything anymore. To begin with, you are a superior dragon, so things like kids have no meaning at all. Of course, embracing and being embraced should be pointless as well, right?

"Tried becoming... you say? You shouldn't be able to become one just by wanting it. And in the first place, I haven't heard of a superior dragon making children" (Tomoe)

Indeed Tomoe. Even if you say it as if changing toys, there's no way we can understand it.

"I was able to, so accept it. Also, I stopped rebirthing. I slowed my aging to the very limits and am thinking of enjoying this world. But you know, the ecstasy you get as a woman is actually bigger. That's why I got tired of being a man pretty fast, however, my world changed in that fateful day!" (Root)

Why are you still talking about ecstasy? Or more like, is that true? So women feel it better than men huh. I have learned something... useless. When I think about it, I end up going "and so what?" Seriously, even if you talk about it as if you were talking about your favorite sport, it's still troublesome.

"I don't really want to know about your change of standards in that perspective though..." (Tomoe)

Same, Tomoe. It is so overwhelming I can't bring this feelings into words, but I completely agree with you.

"One time, I had the chance to have a relationship with a man you see. How should I say it? Fulfillment of heart, drug to the body, maybe? Well anyways, I tasted a happiness from inside me that I never felt before! No well, I later returned to being a woman and tried it out between women, but as expected, it didn't compare to the shock of that time" (Root)

...Root continues to talk excitedly words that I don't understand one bit about. Talking about men this and women that, I just don't get what's happening anymore. Someone please tell me.

"The ultimate sensation a person of the same sex provides, that love! I trembled in excitement! When connecting bodies, there's nothing compared to the one between men!" (Root)

Can you... please stop your speech already? My ears are rotting. My brain is also in danger.

"From what I see, Makoto-kun is inexperienced right? Don't worry, I also love those as well. If you want your first time to be with a woman, I am fine with becoming a woman you know? No matter which body, I have the confidence of captivating you in a single day!!" (Root)

What are you saying?! Don't blush your pure white skin! I don't get you! Don't be so insistent, it just makes me feel sick! I'm not inexperienced! I-Inexperienced? Uhm, not having experience right? Ah, he is certainly right.

"I refuse!" (Makoto)

I stand up from the sofa and put my distance from him. Luckily, he isn't chasing. Instead, he retracts his body and sinks his body deeply into the sofa. He intertwines both hands in front of his abdomen.

"Being prejudiced is not good, Makoto-kun. My heart is that of a man and a woman you know? Just try it at least once, and if it doesn't work, I will just give up" (Root)

You can still say that after your speech about captivating me in a single day?! Your sparkling eyes, just stop them...

I don't intend to repudiate homosexuality. I don't but, to coerce someone that's not interested in it, I reject that! I don't have any interest in that aspect!

"...You, what are you saying-desu no?"

Oh.

You didn't need to return now, you know.

Mio, your timing is good, or more like, bad?

"Ah, the black Onee-san. Thanks for the tea and fruits" (Root)

Root is being Root and just getting happy looking at the contents of the tray Mio has.

"...What were you intending to do with Waka-sama?" (Mio)

"N? I was just seducing him a bit though?" (Root)

"Lovers' tiff?!" (Mio)

"Because he is free. There should be no problems in me putting myself as a candidate right?" (Root)

"..."

Mio silently places the tray to the side. There was tea for the number of people here and cut fruit in a plate on that tray.

"Eh? If you leave them there, I can't reach them though" (Root)

"Tomoe-san, this thing seems to be a dragon. Is there a problem if I do him in?" (Mio)

Pretty impressed that she could tell he is a dragon. After being told and concentrating on it, I can certainly feel it a bit though. But to see through him immediately, as expected of Mio's instincts, terrifying.

"Well let's see, this has to do with Waka's chastity. We can't let that happen. Mio, of course we do it" (Tomoe)

“Ara ra? Tte, even Makoto-kun?!” (Root)

I can tell that those two are going into combat stance. And I also do the same. This is one guy I have to repel. 100% for my sake.

“Root, I will at least hear your last will. There won’t even be bones left, so I will engrave it in your grave” (Tomoe)

“The meat of a superior dragon might be tasty. I will at least let you be of some use” (Mio)

“This is a threat like no other. I am sorry but, I will be bringing my all to eliminate you” (Makoto)

“W-Wait one second! Three at once is impossible. In the first place, today I didn’t come here to fight! Come on, calm down you three. Sorry, I messed around too much. Please let me fix the misunderstanding seriously. I beg of you, please” (Root)



Root lifts both hands and signals his surrender.

Just how serious is he really?

It's the first time I have met someone of his type after all. It's hard to infer his true intentions. Moreover, it is hard to believe in that serious face as well.

"If it's about your out of order inclinations, we have already heard enough of it. There's no need to explain it" (Tomoe)

"To try teaching Waka-sama such a dubious preference, there's already no need to clear the misunderstanding. I don't care. Your extermination is already set-desu" (Mio)

"No well, it was just a bit of skinship you know. Just touching has filled me already, so I won't say it anymore. I want to talk regarding the topic of Adventurer Guild master and things like that, with the otherworlder Makoto-kun" (Root)

"...About the guild?" (Makoto)

Ah, the joke about being the Guild Master huh. There's no way a pervert like this is the top of an organization. It may be a lie, but there's still more?

Tomoe, Mio, and I have registered just in case. And Toa-san and the others are also members of that organization. If he wants to say something, I will just hear him out.

"That's right, about the guild" (Root)

"Understood. If you are not going to mess around anymore, I will hear you out" (Makoto)

"Waka!" (Tomoe)

"Waka-sama..." (Mio)

"Mio, I don't mind if it's already cold, so bring the tea. Let's hear what you have to say" (Makoto)

We once again sit in the reception 3 to 1.

Root also maintained his serious face and began talking about the Adventurer Guild.

# Chapter 105

## Thus, the Adventurer Guild was born

“First of all, I am the true Adventurer Guild master. Or more like, I was the one who founded it. A thousand years ago that is” (Root)

“Eh?!” (Makoto)

“What...” (Tomoe)

Root reveals the founding of the Adventurer Guild with a serious look. Tomoe and I show our surprise in our voice, but Mio seems to not be that interested, she doesn't show much reaction at all.

“I was taught the concept by an otherworldler just like Makoto-kun you see. Well, I had some plans of my own in it too, but I proposed the idea to the Goddess and became the one in charge. She thought of the guild as a system that would make hyumans stronger, a really simple way of thinking. She didn't reject the idea” (Root)

Plans of his own. Those are words that interest me. Also, otherworldler. As expected, the heroes and I are not the first victims of that Goddess.

If he says one thousand years ago, does that mean when Japan was in the Heian era? Could it be in the era of Fujiwara Michinaga? N? Something bothers me. What could it be?

“In those days, I thought of the structure of the guild diligently. And the otherworldler that taught me the general concept, well, he was my first husband. I heard a lot of stories from him, and while having fun, we structured the system. Right, if we were to compare my mental state at that time, it would be like the one Tomoe is in currently. Anyways, learning about his concept, studying, and reproducing it, was so fun” (Root)

Yeah, I agree. The case comes from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, so I can strangely understand him.

In short, just like how Tomoe was hooked into period drama, Root was hooked into creating the Adventurer Guild. And so his world widened, and in a sense, created a

dangerous organization that's not affected by the influence of the country. When there's the Goddess and a superior dragon backing it up, the hyumans against it must have been minimal. After all, it's a Goddess.

"The otherworldler who became my husband, in those days was a swordsman that was sung as a hero in Elysion. And I was his wife and companion. I was also able to get the Goddess' cooperation, so after creating the system, it permeated in the hyuman society incredibly fast. After that, by changing my appearance, I was able to become the Guild Master successively for several generations" (Root)

The founder, and the current master huh. That's quite impressive.

"The 1<sup>st</sup> generation master wasn't Root's husband?" (Makoto)

Even though his husband sounds like he should be the one holding the leadership there. He didn't want to become the master?

"Instead of those things, he was more into women and alcohol. After achieving the name of hero, he didn't do anything resembling work. Well, being a hero itself has meaning as an idol, so in a society where the warring time passed, it is probably more convenient for him to not be doing anything" (Root)

'In peaceful times, there's no need for heroes' is what he is trying to say, maybe. Certainly, even in the history that I learned in my world, there's not much written of the heroes after their achievements in war. There should be information if you search for it, but there's some of those heroes that just pass it leisurely. Probably because heroes, who gather people's attention, would pose as hindrance for the powers that want to gain influence postwar.

And it seems that Root had a pretty wild sexual drive since olden times. Looks like he doesn't think much of his husband having relationships with other women. N, maybe in those times they already had polygamy?

I feel like he will be give me an out of tangent answer, so I refrain from questioning. Let's just hear what he has to say quietly.

"The Adventurer Guild exists in the whole world and it serves as a place to solve people's problems. And it also provides the card that shows the level of the members and has several other functions, as well as many other benefits. And well, didn't you find it strange?" (Root)

“Hm?” (Makoto)

“The guild card that surpasses the effectiveness of some magic tools, and the word level. These are concepts that come out from games in your world, aren’t they? Then why is it that you were easily able to accept the existence of such an organization?” (Root)

“T-That is...” (Makoto)

I certainly thought that this was a game-like world. But I experienced magic before that, and I heard the terminology level and class. I thought that was the preamble of this world. Now that I think about it, I accepted it because of a strange reason.

“‘Because it’s a parallel world’, isn’t that what you thought? That’s why you were able to accept things that were totally out of norm, like multistoried wooden constructions. And that’s why you accepted the word Adventurer Guild just by hearing it” (Root)

“...Yeah” (Makoto)

“Well it is true that for some reason, Makoto-kun and the other people that come from parallel worlds are able to accept the existence of an Adventurer Guild pretty easily. Even though in your world, it is obviously an organization that doesn’t exist. I think that’s pretty interesting” (Root)

‘Yup yup’, Root nods several times in an interested manner.

“I just can’t understand it. From what I have heard, it seems that you used the otherworlders information as a standard to create the guild, but you didn’t show much interest in managing the guild, and it doesn’t seem like you wanted to be an adventurer either. To create an organization like the Adventurer Guild just to kill time, I feel like it is a bit too intricate for that” (Tomoe)

Tomoe cuts in. I see, now that she mentions it, Root didn’t mention that he wanted the guild to be made this way, or that he wanted to become an adventurer. It is natural to think that the scale of things is a bit too far for a time killer.

“No well, it was mostly for fun. A time killer. I’m a monomaniac after all. Thinking about how to make the guild and trying each thing one by one, was truly worthwhile” (Root)

His specs are uselessly high. A monomaniac that did it only to kill time, that's pretty impressive. I am jealous.

"But, you did say you had your own plans right? What was that-ja?" (Tomoe)

"Your ears are sharp. I feel like Makoto-kun might hate me for it, so I don't really want to say it though" (Root)

He was probably thinking about something pungent. In the first place, for a person that says he doesn't want to talk, your face is telling me that you are brimming with motivation to talk about it. He probably wants to see my reaction.

"If you want to talk about it anyways, just say it at once. Also, don't look at Waka. You will dirty him" (Tomoe)

Tomoe, isn't Root an ex-colleague of yours? No, a boss-like existence? And you are already treating him like dirt. That's nice, please continue doing so.

"Yes yes. Well, it isn't a complicated story. Since a long time ago, the Goddess held the hyumans in favor. However, I valued the world. That's all there's to it" (Root)

"Don't understand. Talk concisely. You have always liked talking in enigmatic ways. There's no need for that now-ja" (Tomoe)

"...It is an effective way that helps the other party get interested and urges their understanding though. Oh well, got it. Meaning, the Goddess' favor was so excessive that the hyumans would increase in numbers and grow prouder, and it was easy to predict that this would in time destroy the balance of the world. And that's why, to restrain this, this was one of the things I did. I said this before but, more than half of the reason was because of my hobby" (Root)

"A restrain for the increase of hyumans? But the guild urges the growth of hyumans right? Isn't it actually fostering it then?" (Tomoe)

"That's what's called 'looking at the tree but missing the forest'. Listen, you receive a card when you register at the guild. This card shows you your own level and rank, but it is essentially only a numerical value to denote your current situation. When you are indicated with a rank and numerical value, hyumans tend to aim for higher heights. As expected of people that have been based of humans, they are a race with strong greed" (Root)

“ ”

Well, sorry for having strong greed.

“If your level increases, you will get stronger. Of course, even without knowing that number, by defeating mamonos and doing war, you will not see the number, but it will certainly show the changes. But just by making it a simple to understand number, their enthusiasm increases. And so I, for the sake of speeding up that enthusiasm, intervened in this world’s system. Well, I only made it so that the power absorption they gain from others is increased though. In words that Makoto-kun would understand better, it is like increasing the experience gain” (Root)

Seeing the numbers will make them more enthusiastic. I think that’s true. I can’t deny it. There are times when people don’t continue to put in work because it is hard to see the improvement and that affects their spirit. But what Root did is like cheering for their growth. So where in that does it show any restrain effect?

“I see, so that’s how it is. What a devious thing to do” (Tomoe)

But it seems that Tomoe understood what Root was trying to say. Is it the difference between humans and dragons, maybe?

“In that case, there would be hyumans that get adhered to their level and rank. Levels show their own strength, and ranks would increase their benefits in the guild after all. And obviously, there would be adventurers that would spread their name by having a high level, and younglings that admire them and register in the guild. There were some that have become knights or kings and have thrived” (Root)

That’s a nice story. Work hard and succeed. I have also thought about increasing my rank aiming to get more functions from the card after all. My level doesn’t show any signs of increasing, and after becoming a merchant, my heat has cooled down a bit though.

“...You are honest huh, Makoto-kun. It makes me feel ashamed of my own shrewdness. You have the face of someone that says: hard work leading to success is a good thing” (Root)

“Is that bad? Isn’t that something anyone would think?” (Makoto)

“Fufu, let’s continue. Having their enthusiasm for achievements overflowing, wishing

for promotion, a stage where money is not completely necessary and you just need physical strength and magical power to begin; the amount of adventurers aiming for that dream-like situation increased. Become stronger, famous, richer. If there were no Adventurer Guild, kindly speaking, those kind of people would work as freelancers or become ruffians. Badly speaking, spare troops for rebels. They originally don't have much capital, so their existence was at the end of the ropes, that's why they interpreted the guild way too favorably" (Root)

"But by enclosing a portion of the ruffians in the guild as adventurers, the ruffians that persevere in their bad doings won't be able to act as easily. That means it would be serving as a way to better public order, isn't it?" (Makoto)

That's something good. I can't see the conclusion of this.

"There's was probably that kind effect as well. There's nobles in the guild too after all. But what's important is that the hyumans that only look at the future, automatically thin out" (Root)

Thin out? What does he mean? It sounds pretty dangerous though.

"Excess will destroy one's body. Ruffians, freelancers, dreaming younglings as well. Aiming for success, they become strong, and somewhere along the way, they miss their footing at a step. Levels, ranks, rewards; there are truly a lot of adventurers that have lost their lives in the requests of the guild. Even after a thousand years, there's not much of a difference. In those, there were some that had good luck or were uncommonly wise and were able to rise. Those are the successful ones. Their existence works as advertisement and calls more people in. For successful ones to be more than the failures is impossible in current society, so there's uncountable amount of corpses beneath the successful ones. Nicely speaking, the ruins of dreams" (Root)

"Well, there are people who have excessive spirit and fail, but after some time people learn to balance that out. So is there really an effect like thinning them out? Cause well, the country is currently filled with hyumans, isn't it?" (Makoto)

"And, the number of adventurers in that equation is extremely low. There are many times when just one mistake leads to death. Taking into account the demons that have held hostility since beginning of times, there are now also demi-humans who are showing opposition. Its proof that the thinning out is showing its effect. After all, no matter how you put it, numbers are power. If there were no Adventurer Guild, the

current world would probably be more peaceful. In exchange of everything else disappearing except the hyumans and the subordinated demi-humans though" (Root)

"But to say that everyone goes mad with greed. Even they should know when to pull back" (Makoto)

"The ones that are able to act in that way are the successful ones, Makoto-kun. Even if they are unable to become kings. Using the guild system in an efficient way and obtaining a reasonable income, that is already a good enough success. You are free to believe me or not, but misjudging by a little step is how hyumans are. In fact, there are many people registering as adventurers every day, and yet, the amount of adventurers in itself hasn't increased that much. If we take into account the time when the Goddess disappeared, it actually decreased. People that keep dreaming about the wasteland, labyrinths and quick cash, die in amusing ways" (Root)

No way. To think that the Adventurer Guild that serves as support for the adventurers is actually a system that fans them in order to thin them out...

"Just, I don't want you to misunderstand. If everyone was as you said, knowing their own limits and modestly growing for the sake of their future, the guild would have contributed in that, and in a different sense, it might have served as a catalyst for a peaceful world. But in reality it didn't happen that way, moreover, not only hyumans, but also other races began joining as well. There were several things I didn't expect. Frankly speaking, the Adventurer Guild is an organization that supports the greed of people, for good or for bad. Fortunately, the problems of the hyuman society don't disappear and the requests never run out. The people that don't become adventurers and decide on going for a different path, when they see that there's danger in the objective they are trying to accomplish, there are times when they buy the result with money. And the Adventurer Guild accepts those requests. It is truly well made right? That they are thinning out just as planned was because the adventurers mistook the way of using the guild" (Root)

It may be a bit different, but maybe it is because power is just power, it depends on the person itself to know how to use it. As a result, for the long time of one thousand years, adventurers were caught in the trap of Root and were drawn in just to burn.

"...I see. Interfering with the system of the world. Using the increase of adventurers as a whole to make a simple and irregular pact with the world huh. In short, the increase of growth begins to work after a while of becoming an adventurer" (Tomoe)

"Tomoe, your head has gotten better. That's right. I am versed in pacts after all. I tampered with it a bit. By the time they get used to it, their growth will probably accelerate as well. It also makes it easier for them to die, so that makes it even more amusing" (Root)

"In short, increasing levels makes your base power rise right? Ability and experience, as well as talent, are not values that are taken into account in levels, is what you are trying to say. Tch, it feels vexing that I am losing to Mio, but if that's the truth of it, there's no real need to go through the trouble of raising it huh" (Tomoe)

"Well, that's how it is. It varies depending on the race as well, so it doesn't mean you can't beat them. It is only like a reward for the strong ones by the world after all. No matter if you are a saint or a villain, as long you are able to kill someone of your same capacity, you will be able to obtain strength equal to that. It is like the complete opposite of the Goddess' blessing, so it is better to not believe in it blindly. There's no merit in despairing with the words talent and instinct, so I introduced the levels and even brought in the job system, as well as the function limit of the card depending on rank. I really worked hard you know. Well, right now there's no one that has reached the highest level though. And so they are still dancing in my palms. By the way, the peak level is 65,535. My husband made a fervent speech about it being a man's romance or something like that, so I decided to put it that way" (Root)

Leaving aside if I actually believe everything, I have understood most of what Root is trying to do and say. Right now Tomoe seems to be using special terminologies and words of unknown meaning as she does arguments with him, but regarding that, I practically don't understand anything.

If you are an adventurer that has self-control, that place will support you normally.

If you go there filled with greed, as long as you don't have incredible luck or talent, it will be a trip straight to your grave.

Or so it seems. Now that I think about it, the wasteland was exactly that kind of place. Just by arriving there, you are without a doubt the latter type of people though.

But well, now that he points that out, it is truly that way. This world gives the feeling that the Adventurer Guild already fits in, and in truth, it has continued existing for a thousand years. It is older than some countries. I don't think there are mediation offices or enterprises that exist in Japan since the Heian Era, so I can imagine just how

powerful is the Adventurer Guild. A multistory building in a wooden construction huh. It really is strange.

For example, the Merchant Guild's information relay is being improved daily, but it doesn't reach the level of the Adventurer Guild at all. I remember I read about a merchant that saw the Adventurer Guild and thought of making a cooperating organization and that's how the Merchant Guild was created. It certainly does feel that the Merchant Guild which has been influenced by the country, towns and powers, actually "feels like" it's an organization created by humans.

The Adventurer's Guild abnormal speed in information relay is enough to make me doubt if there actually existed mailing system in this world. If it weren't for the fact that the wasteland's Adventurer Guild is a sub-branch, the existence of Tomoe and Mio could have spread through the world in a matter of days. In Tsige, Rembrandt-san helped by moving some strings in the shadow. His wife and daughters were in a precarious situation at that time, and yet he did all that. I really can't find words to express my gratitude. After that, even the Adventurer Guild saw the achievements of Tomoe and Mio who accomplished the requests of the wasteland with no problems, and how important those two were, so they have helped in order for the information to not leak to the outside. Well, the dragon in front of us probably knows clearly about Tomoe and Mio as well as my level though. Seriously, he talks nonchalantly about information of my world. Just how many otherworldlers has he met?

...N?

AAAAhhh!!

This is it!! This is what has been bothering!!

"Root!" (Makoto)

"N, what is it Makoto-kun? Feel like making a pact with me? I'm so happy" (Root)

"Wrong! About your first husband! You said it was a thousand years ago right?" (Makoto)

"Yeah, I did say so. And what about it?" (Root)

"Why did a human from so long ago know about Adventurer Guilds?! Not only games, there weren't even stories written with such settings!" (Makoto)

I was even thinking about Heian Era and Fujiwara Michinaga, and yet, why is it that I wasn't able to notice that point?!

"Fumu, so you were bothered by that huh. It is fine to explain to you, but thinking about it in an Urashima Tarou-like way would be easier" (Root)

"Like what? It is a pretty important matter for me, so please give me the details!" (Makoto)

"Root, Waka is asking you. If it is fine to explain, then do so from the beginning" (Tomoe)

Maybe, just maybe, one of the probabilities that I have been thinking of will disappear. This is a critical moment. Telling me to think in an Urashima-like way and be happy with such an explanation, there's no way I can accept it!

"Okay. If you go so far as to say that... Tomoe, you also asked me, so please bring out something like a blackboard. You know right, a blackboard" (Root)

"Don't take me for a fool. The point is you need something like a board for explaining and writing tools right? Wait for a bit" (Tomoe)

"Counting on you. Doesn't matter who, at least one of you please listen to me till the end okay? If both of you drop out, I will attack Makoto-kun (in a sexual meaning) got it? It's a promise okay?" (Root)

What a scary thing to say. But to belittle those two... In our side we have the instinct type genius Mio-san...

She fricking went to sleep. No wonder she didn't say anything. Looking at Mio pleasantly sleeping, I sigh.

One person has already dropped out huh.

This is the worst. There shouldn't be a problem with Tomoe who was talking complicated stuff. Shiki might also come back anytime soon.

While waiting for Tomoe, Root praised the tea and fruits as we exchanged idle talk. I waited for what he has to say about the time inconsistency.

# Chapter 106

## The spider's thread. Tomoe grieves.

I regretted it.

After only 5 minutes in, I already began regretting it a lot.

About the contents Root was talking and the explanation drawn out.

Because it was practically at an incomprehensible level already. Right now he is smoothly writing down a mathematical formula I can't understand at all.

"That's why, when people fall to this world, it is normally done in this manner..." (Root)

Root draws a circle on a part of what he wrote while continuing to explain on and on. Tomoe is p-probably still able to follow this. I want to believe that.

"And in the case when it synchronizes from A to D, the phenomenon called transfer happens between the worlds. In the cases where a God orchestrates this, there will first be a time division joint..." (Root)

Forever, it is truly continuing on for eternity. Now even the words I can understand are starting to become fuzzy. In the several parts like people, gods, and transfer; they probably still hold the same meaning that I know of.

"...And so, a discrepancy in the world's times will be created and it will become extremely difficult. I think you already understand this part, but the time paradox created from the flow of time will originate an outbreak of energy, which is an incredibly important problem, but at the same time, the chances of this happening is low..." (Root)

I... What was I asking to begin with?

Uhm...

"And because of the stated reasons, the time passage of this world and the time

passage of the original world of Makoto-kun are managed in a totally different manner. This is the reason why my first husband and Makoto-kun know about games and RPGs that have been recently introduced to your world, but..." (Root)

Root looks at me. I didn't understand most of what he said, but I was able to stay conscious. Mission clear.

"So, in the case that I want to return to my original world, is there a chance of success?" (Makoto)

"...You, didn't understand my explanation right?" (Root)

"The moment science and magic began mixing up, I wanted you to understand that there's no way I could get it" (Makoto)

"Eh? Isn't all this science talk? Ah, that's right. Your original world doesn't have the concept of magic in your science" (Root)

Concept of magic in science? It is such a contrary statement that I can't even put my finger on it.

"Are there worlds where science is combined with magic?" (Makoto)

"Of course. Broadly speaking, this world also has magic and science mixed you know. But it has already been forgotten. In Makoto-kun's world, just by being able to put out magic power from your body, you would be considered a psychic. In that case, things like warp, time streams, and also world dimensional navigation would be pretty difficult" (Root)

Instead of saying it is difficult, it is in the sci-fi reign already. I remember my physics teacher saying that warp needs an incredible amount of energy so it is impossible. Root also knows that kind of techniques? With magic you can move with teleport formations, so it is probably a part of his everyday life already. When I think about it calmly, it is pretty impressive stuff.

"Leaving aside magic and science for now... Tomoe probably understands, so I will have her resume it and explain it to me later" (Makoto)

"Waka, I honestly didn't understand all" (Tomoe)

What?! Then there's no way I can understand it. In the middle of it, I even though he was playing around with me.

"Should I explain it one more time, in an easier to understand way?" (Root)

"No, it will probably be the same. \*I think the line I don't understand is just several minutes late\*. I can understand that it was incredibly advanced talk, so I would be happy if you were to answer my questions concisely" (Makoto)

Well, he did say to listen to him till the end, but didn't say I had to understand it, so there should be no danger of him attacking me, probably.

"...No helping it huh. Well, there's only been two otherworldlers that have understood this talk after all. Okay. The question was if Makoto-kun can succeed in transferring to your previous world, right? The answer is: close to impossible" (Root)

So there were two. Even though it would probably take me an eternity to just understand 15 minutes or more of what he said.

"..."

Tomoe isn't saying anything. So the answer to my question is: close to impossible, huh. That means, there's a way.

"You are saying, there's a method right?" (Makoto)

"N, it is a bit different. With Makoto-kun's current magic power aggregate amount, transfer itself will practically succeed without doubt. The technique is child's play, so just by studying it there's no mistake. That I can guarantee" (Root)

Eh, isn't he talking in a pretty positive way here? I have been doing archery frequently after all. I think my magic power has increased quite a bit. I still have problems with the amount I can use. I have been studying a decent amount in that aspect since I arrived at the academy though.

"Then why is it close to impossible?" (Makoto)

"To pinpoint the destination is crazy hard, moreover, there's the high rate of randomness. Well, if you repeat the transfer a thousand times, you will probably be able to arrive at your original world. Just, there's no way of knowing which time your

original world will be in. The chances of returning to the Japan of your current era, optimistically thinking, is close to 1 in a billion" (Root)

"..."

"Is what I have been explaining to you since a while ago though. Well, if you go about increasing the number of times you can transfer in a single day while thoroughly putting in order the conditions, I think the success rate will be higher than what I mentioned. Regarding how much time it would take to get to that point, even I don't know though" (Root)

The chances are not zero, but it is close to impossible. Is what he is trying to say huh.

"I see. In short, it is incredibly difficult. I have understood that it is not an objective I can pursue yet in my current state" (Makoto)

"Yeah. Wouldn't it be a good idea to look around a bit more? I will make it so you can contact me anytime you want, so call me anytime you want a talking partner. If possible, when you are alone" (Root)

Today I learned that you can be both a genius and a pervert. I don't think I will ever contact him(?) when I am alone.

Honestly, it would have been better to just think in an Urashima-way and ask him questions on my own. This tired me like crazy.

After Root's words, a curtain of silence descends. Then in less than a few minutes, Root suddenly stood up.

"Well then, since I have already finished my greetings, I will be excusing myself tonight" (Root)

Tomoe sees Root out and leaves together with him from the room.

Ah, that's right. If Shiki were here, it would have probably gotten through him. He is attached to the talks of world travelling after all.

It will be at a later time, but let's have Tomoe tell Shiki what she understood of Root's talk.

I cover the sleeping Mio with a blanket and silently leave the reception room.

Let's think a bit in my room. About what I want to do.

Ah.

AAAAAHHH?!

"Ring. That's right, I didn't ask about the thought transmission jamming! I was pretty surprised about the Guild talk after all. Hah..." (Makoto)

Did he give me the slip, or is it that I just didn't ask him.

Damn it...

I still have a long way to go.



On the way back from the Kuzunoha Company to the Adventurer Guild, Root and Tomoe were walking in line.

"You guys are pretty interesting. It may be because it is a relationship between someone that hasn't stood in a high position before and people that have never stood below anyone though. It is quite the amusing master and servant relationship. A master that even when exchanging a ruling pact, he still thinks of them as family. A servant that acts as an elder of sorts, trying to guide her master; a servant that blindly obeys her master; and one that had to go through the trouble of putting a pile below and stand on tiptoes to barely reach the condition of ruling. Fufufu, not a single one of those have been in a slave relationship before. It is truly strange... and interesting" (Root)

Root's mouth continues to talk. But the warmth in his voice when talking to Makoto is not there and it is more of an indifferent tone.

While saying it is amusing, there was no fun mixed in his tone. It was just like telling his results of an investigation, cold words of an observer.

"..."

Tomoe doesn't show any special reaction and just followed on Root's steps.

"What? If you want to ask something, go ahead" (Root)

"...So you noticed" (Tomoe)

"Of course. I was even thinking about talking with Makoto-kun the whole night you know. But your gaze was so annoying that I left didn't I? In the first place, what was that about not understanding anything? Tomoe, you understood all. If that weren't the case, I wouldn't have explained till the end" (Root)

"Right. There are a number of things that... I want to ask no matter what" (Tomoe)

Tomoe's tone was heavy and hard.

"You said that people are liars and deceivers, and yet, you were lying to your master as well didn't you? Well, we are both dragon acquaintances, go ahead and ask me" (Root)

"Otherworldlers, humans that have come from the world of origin. As expected, they die in a hundred years or so?" (Tomoe)

"...Yeah, they do. Actually, it is unusual that they live till the hundreds. They seem to get longevity from magic, but even with that, the most they can live normally is somewhere around two hundred years, maybe. More than that... I don't recommend it" (Root)

The last words of Root had the color of anguish in it.

"I see. So short. Really... short" (Tomoe)

Tomoe whispers the word short several times. It looked like she was trying to permeate herself with the reality she can't accept.

"There's nothing we can do about that. I have met with more than 10 humans in my life and have parted with them, but there's no choice but to get used to it. Every single one of them is charming in their own way, and when I have to part with them, it is truly painful though" (Root)

Root's eyes look at the distance. Most likely reminiscing.

"Root, you are a very old acquaintance of mine so I will endure the embarrassment and ask this-ja... Is it hard to bear? When Makoto-sama dies, will the world I see return to the dull colored one?" (Tomoe)

"Yeah, no doubt. When I lost my first partner, I was engulfed with an overwhelming sense of loss. To the point that, for a while, I couldn't see the value of the world I held so important" (Root)

"For the current me, Makoto-sama is my everything-ja. To lose the time I have with him, I just can't picture it" (Tomoe)

"Right, I understand you. I also think he is splendid. I didn't think you would make a pact with a person, but honestly, I am jealous" (Root)

"You, don't understand it. Makoto-sama's gonna get scared" (Tomoe)

"How awful. Even though I was agreeing with you. And in truth, Makoto-kun is nice. It may be a rude way of saying it but, he is a jackpot. It is the first time that three humans come at the same time here, so the world will change greatly" (Root)

Root's voice turns slightly lively. It looked like he couldn't contain his happiness at having the world change because of the humans' arrival. From his wry smile, he did a complete change into a cheerful expression.

"Change huh. Root, how did you know of Makoto-sama? If you said jackpot, does that mean you checked the other heroes as well?" (Tomoe)

Each word of Tomoe was emitted as if confirming Root. She probably doesn't know if the change of the world will be positive for her or if she should carefully take counter-measures for it. This is the first time she has lived along a human, and this is the most time she has been in society. She didn't know if she could be like Root, who has experienced many turning points in his life and has just accepted them, living his life with enjoyment.

"I learned of him, or more like, about you guys when you registered in Tsige. The 4 digit level you both had that has never happened before. I soon discovered the existence of a third otherworldler. I confirmed the information and sealed it. That's why, when the names of Tomoe and Mio leave Tsige, they remain anonymous. I am truly grateful for you two. Because thanks to that, I was able to learn of Makoto-kun's existence. It is okay to consider the information sealing as my gratitude. Not a human

and yet, human; doesn't have talent, and yet, surpasses talent; doesn't worry when killing someone, and yet, when his family is hurt, his heart will suffer. Terribly opaque, vague, his thought patterns and decision making is that of a commoner; and yet, he is walking a completely different path from a commoner. There's no otherworldler who I have felt so much interest in watching his progress at his side. It really... arouses me" (Root)

"Root, why are you so into Makoto-sama? I don't think it is just because he is an otherworldler though..." (Tomoe)

"It may be a repeat of what you said but, otherworldlers die in about a hundred years. But you see, listen closely okay? We are unable to make babies with hyumans, however, if it is a human, we can" (Root)

"?!"

"True, they do die. But they are able to leave the crystallization of their emotions in our bodies" (Root)

"No way. We live as individuals. In other words, we are separated from the world. No matter if you say they are humans, to be able to make children is just..." (Tomoe)

Tomoe's words tremble in confusion.

"We can actually do it. I haven't had a woman bear my child, but having a child with a male, I have. That's why, I want to be loved by Makoto-kun as a male and female, and I want to love him in return. I want to live beside a human that is so interesting. It is to the point I even want a pact. Well, I do have the public image of a guild master, so I can't stick to him all the time though" (Root)

"I... met the Empire's hero. That thing also possessed excelling power you know?" (Tomoe)

"Ah, him huh. He is not bad either. In terms of how interesting they are, it would be: Makoto-kun, Empire, and Kingdom; in that order. In terms of danger it would be the same. The eyes of the Goddess to find heroes is as one would expect. Kingdom, Empire, Makoto-kun. She isn't a god for nothing. Well, the empire's hero probably won't live long. He is completely entranced to his own position of being a hero, or more like, drunk at his own position as a special being. For the sake of protecting that, he would easily sacrifice anything. Counting himself. In reverse, the Kingdom's hero has

everything hidden inside her. To the point that it is not even interesting. That... will probably rule over the hyumans in a future. Naturally gathering people around her, naturally utilizing people; in that sense, she surpasses the millions. Truly a history engraving hero. I can predict the movements of those two to a certain extent you see. And regarding that, I don't know what Makoto-kun will get into next, so it is pretty appealing" (Root)

Root gives a brief review of the two heroes. He indifferently talked about them, and there was no passion like the time he was talking with Makoto. What Root looks for in an otherworldler is unexpectedness and amusement, this attitude is proof of that. That he didn't show himself to the one with properties of a ruler and the one that doesn't flinch to sacrifice someone, but to Makoto-kun, supports that truth more.

"About the other kids, I have no other choice but to believe you, however, I see, because you can't predict what will happen next huh... Hey, those two wish to return to their previous world? Just like how Makoto-sama wishes in a part of his heart. Do otherworldlers really... want to return?" (Tomoe)

"So next is that huh. As expected, everyone thinks the same way. The answer is no. From the otherworldlers I have met, only 3 actually tried to do it. 1 in every 3, is how I would divide it" (Root)

"1 in 3 huh. Not everyone right?" (Tomoe)

"By the way, the current two heroes don't wish to return. The Limia hero has been in low spirits recently, but it seems that she got over it already. Seems like she has disposed of the few articles she had of her previous world. She has probably prepared herself to leave her mark in this world. The otherworldlers that think about returning in the beginning, by the time they get more deeply connected to this side, they normally continue their lives here. It is probably the ability to adapt that humans possess by nature. Ah, from the 3 that wanted to return, I don't know if any of them was actually able to return. Just like I told Makoto-kun, in that group there were 2 that were able to understand what I said, so parting with them was regrettable" (Root)

"What do you think Makoto-sama will do? Being told about the possibility by you, do you think he will begin moving in order to return?" (Tomoe)

"If what I predict is correct, he... will probably not return. Just that, I still don't much about him yet. Bluntly speaking, I don't understand him. But instead of an adventure

that follows a spider's thread, I prefer the soft people like you guys" (Root)

"I also think that way. That softness is his strength and also his weak point. But, I don't want him to lose that. It is not because I don't want to resign myself to a ruling relationship, but simply because I want Makoto-sama to remain as he is" (Tomoe)

"What, so you do understand. Then you should be a bit kinder to Makoto-kun. Always showing your back that can do all things, isn't that harsh for the current him? He has his own pace. Within the otherworldlers I have seen until now, he is quite the abnormal one. Especially that mind. At this rate, he will probably bring that magic power which surpasses Gods to his grave, but with just one trigger, it can flip everything" (Root)

Just a bit before reaching the Adventurer Guild. At that place, Root stops his feet and looks straight at Tomoe. In there, there was hope, grief and fear. A deep and complex light that mixed all those.

"Trigger?" (Tomoe)

"That's right. Right now he is bound. Counting the softness that you pointed out not too long ago as well. But on top of that, he is still in his self who lived in the original world. The other two heroes have already separated the original world and their current world and have begun determining their own path. Well, it is not restricted to differentiating. With some sort of trigger, there's the chance he will understand the importance of his own power. That magic power, that strength. Depending on the trigger, he might hold the key for a third choice. A choice that differs from if he will return or not that you are worrying about" (Root)

"Are you saying there's a possibility other than return or not returning?" (Tomoe)

"Come and go. Being able to actually travel between worlds, in other words, a superhuman type of existence. The current Makoto-kun has enough magic power even for creation. And I wonder what kind of "trigger" will awaken it. I am looking forward to it. Just, it is better to not hurry his growth. I don't know what method you used to stimulate it but, that amount of magic power increase is abnormal. Even from my eyes. If he pushes himself at that pace, there's the chance that he might break. If that happens, I will be stepping in got it? The way to increase magic power capacity is information that hyumans would go crazy for, but I won't forgive anyone that uses him as an experimental subject, uses him in such a boring way. Well then, see you again in

a near future" (Root)

"...Trigger, huh. If I can avoid a future where Waka simply returns to his world, I..."  
(Tomoe)

Tomoe realizes that she has totally gotten dependent on the time together with Makoto. Strictly speaking, it wasn't only to him. It was to Makoto, Mio, Shiki, the world of Asora, and their residents. Since the time she made a pact with him, Tomoe has left behind her body. It is a dependence to this comfortable time.

No matter what she does, it is fun. She is able to engross herself into a single thing. Everything was as Root said. The density of every single day is totally different. Tomoe didn't want to think that this present will finish in just a hundred years like a festival. No, if it were a festival it would be better. If you wait, it would return again. But the time she passed with Makoto will never return. A once in a lifetime happening.

The more fun it gets, the more she fears of losing it. She never shows it outside, but that's Tomoe's anxiety. That one in a lifetime supreme bliss, if she were to make a child with Makoto, there's a chance of prolonging it. Root seemed to be wishing it, but Tomoe's wish seemed to be a bit different. Root has his own way of thinking, and she decided to not think too deeply on his words.

In truth, if Makoto truly desires to return and asks for Tomoe's help, no matter if it is a ruling pact, she would still try to grant it for him. Her feelings of wanting to be of use for him are also her true feelings after all.

Now, the supreme dragon Root has pointed out a new choice. That is... a way for Makoto to stay as Makoto, and while granting his wish it will also grant Tomoe's wish.

Trigger.

That one word resounds countless times in Tomoe's heart as she returns.

"...Tomoe-san"

In the late night's street, in the street where not a single resident can be seen, Tomoe reacts to that voice that came from herself and stops her feet.

"?!"

“Did you see off that pervert-desu no?”

“...Yeah, that’s right-ja. Mio, what’s with that appearance? Having a blanket wrapped around you. Don’t tell me you really walked all the way here looking like that” (Tomoe)

“Yeah. Something wrong with that?” (Mio)

“Even if it’s night, I can’t say I admire that. We won’t be staying in this town long so I don’t care, but there will be strange rumors flowing about Waka you know?” (Tomoe)

“...It is fine to just promptly make the people that have seen it to forget-desu wa” (Mio)

For a bit, Mio considered the words of Tomoe about troubling Makoto, but in the end, she decided to stay wrapped and somehow deal with the witnesses. In the depressed face of Tomoe, a small smile returns.

“What a troubling fellow you are-ja no, fufu” (Tomoe)

“The same goes for you-desu wa” (Mio)

“N?” (Tomoe)

“Tomoe-san, even if it is you, if you lose your mind and try to do something to Waka-sama, I...” (Mio)

From the two footsteps, one stops. The feet of Mio that have been following Tomoe from a few ways back, have stopped.

“There’s no way that will happen. But maybe, if I truly were to lose my mind, please smack me and try to return me to my senses. I don’t mind if you are rough” (Tomoe)

“I will not hold back” (Mio)

“Got it. Hey, Mio... thanks” (Tomoe)

“...”

Without turning back, words of gratitude come out from her mouth. And then, an answer of silence. But the will of the two probably transmitted in some sort of way.

Until Tomoe and Mio returned, there were no more words exchanged between the two.

# Chapter 107

## Before summer vacation

Demon general Rona. Secret information and magic expert.

There was no error in that reputation.

Lime, Akua, Eris, Shiki, and Rona. These five people swiftly investigated the Academy's inside and outside. There's no knowing how much of her real skills in information gathering she showed, but it seems that she still showed pretty high skills, mostly in the bad side.

Except for Shiki, everyone else didn't hold any animosity towards their first meeting with Rona, but at their last reports, the three of them were all hostile, no, it was more of disgust. I felt like I wanted to know, and at the same time didn't.

Rona likes nabe as well, so it would be better if Shiki and her were to become nabe friends or something. The only one who treats her as a disease is Shiki.

"Fast doesn't mean better"

"I learned that I prefer a useless one over scum"

"This discomfort... I will cleanse it with a banana"

"It was as usual. She was efficient, but truly coercive"

There wasn't a single good evaluation. If one banana is enough to forgive all the intense emotions they have, I will happily give it to them.

Tricking, seducing, and also killing. It seems like it was literally a whatever-goes overbearing investigation. It was as if she didn't care if it would be discovered.

Since the time Lime was in Tsige, he has been fitting into the town and obtaining information, listening to the talks of the information sellers who he is friends with. That's most likely why he didn't like the way Rona acts.

Akua and Eris who were taught the ways of information gathering by Lime, were also unable to sympathize with Rona and seemed like they were now respecting their current way of doing things.

It looks like Shiki used a reasonable amount of hypnosis, but he did use it in a considerate manner. Rona ignored after-effects and stealth, so it looks like it was no good with her. For her, after-effects on hyumans are not of her business after all. A complicated topic there. Her method is one that prioritizes efficiency, so it is correct in a sense.

That they were able to narrow the related party in just a few days certainly proves that she is efficient and capable. I can't ignore that in my evaluation. We can't have Eva-san living in the company for so long, so resolving this fast is honestly a big help. I also placed some caution in her little sister and had Shiki stick with her, but this also can't stay like that forever.

However, from the related parties that were narrowed, one was arbitrarily killed. Just as the word says, so arbitrary and conspicuous. Thanks to that, the other one is also beginning to act weird. We haven't confirmed any external contact yet, but we definitely must move fast.

To think that instead of a business rival, it would be a coworker sensei that I would be introducing my company's behind the scenes attraction, the underground torture room. Really, out of my expectations.

Moreover, it is someone that I know and have related to. The one who has built up high trust in the staff room, Brait-sensei.

In the end, he went further than the limit time and continued to introduce students to my class. That's why, even I who thought of him as dubious, began to think that he might actually be a good person. And yet, hearing this kind of report, I am scared of turning into a distrustful person. No, more like hyuman distrust.

A full-time teacher in an elite academy with lots of students. He doesn't give the impression of being involved in an organization though.

In 2 weeks, the academy will enter summer vacation.

'Isn't this an academy that trains elites?' is what I wanted to retort, but having heard of the existence of several otherworldlers in the past from Root, I am not really that

surprised about the existence of a long time holiday.

Just that, there is knowledge that came from the otherworldlers in this world and yet there's no guns. That must mean magic really does surpass gunfire. Well, it isn't like I know everything about the otherworldlers that came to this world, so this is only mere speculation. It is true that I still don't know the intentions of the empire.

Besides, even when there were several predecessors, it is surprising that there is no clear information of their existence. We three were the first ones that the Goddess summoned, so the others were just results of accidents and was not made public in this world. Instead of revealing that they are otherworldlers, they all decided that it would be better to just blend into this world and live like that, maybe? I think there is no few amount of people that faced the same kind of hardships I have because of their outward appearance. Also, it seems that the earthlings have a physical strength superior to those of hyumans, so maybe there were also people that were persecuted because of that. The several people that Root didn't divulge their details were probably in the same situation as me.

People that became heroes, ones that became knights under a king, became absorbed in magic and tried to peek into its possibilities, ones that spread their names as adventurers, ones that were called crazy warriors and perished, and even people that passed their life researching baths (probably Japanese).

Everyone lived their life in their own way. But it seems that not a single one of them was able to return.

The talk of the world and so on of Root was mostly undecipherable for me. And even when I asked Tomoe, she didn't understand it either. However, I did understand that the difficulty of the trip is high and that I will need to resolve myself before trying. I also have to keep in mind Asora, as well as Tomoe, Mio and Shiki, before testing it out.

No matter how capable my subordinates are, doesn't mean that the master can do whatever he wants. Just like when one person in a family does whatever he wants, and somewhere along the way, discontent gathers and the family begins to warp. That's why I have to compensate little by little for the parts of myself that are still lacking.

I have the objective of landing a hit on the Goddess, but in the meantime I have other things like the expansion of the Kuzunoha store, increasing the residents of Asora, and in the future, investigate the movements of the Empire. Now that I know of it, I want

to stop their development of gunfire.

The first and foremost task is the forced summoning of the Goddess. This one comes first. It seems that Shiki is also pitching in to help on this subject, so I think this will be solved in time. Doesn't seem like I will need to directly take part in it.

In the future, what's most important is to get surplus. I just can't help but feel like I am falling behind the others after all.

To be surrounded by outstanding people is a good thing. The current me feels like Liu Bei from the Three Kingdoms, not in a positive way. Liu Bei possesses power like that of a rook, however, he doesn't have a sharp brain like Zhuge Liang. But it isn't like Liu Bei used all the ability of his subordinates for himself. I don't have as much virtue as him, but it is fine to just do my best in my own way to get stronger.

The first thing I have to learn is already decided. I am in a standpoint where I administrate Asora and the company. That's why I have to learn the decision making and cautiousness in order to protect them. Fortunately, I don't need to be adventurous, I just have to act steadily and the Kuzunoha Company will definitely grow. The intuition that a merchant should normally have when one obtains a store, I still haven't gotten it yet. Because I have practically never had any problem related with the company after all. I shouldn't be thinking about gaining more than what I have, but about how to crush the problems before it causes damages.

For example; this time's case, if it were Tomoe, she would probably have Brait-sensei swim around for a while and bait a bigger fish. But we will be capturing him as soon as summer vacation begins, and have him spill out what he knows. Eva-san and Ruria's safety are at stake here after all.

Judgment and cautiousness, in those points, at the negotiation I had with Rona I think I got a passing mark.

In the current case, after the report, Rona left the academy as if natural because she seems to have finished her business. And so the person called Karen Frost disappeared from the academy. My class will now have seven people, but well, that part is not important. She told me to handle the paperwork in the summer vacation and make it as if she dropped out. Rona intended to just write it as if she died, but thinking about the remaining students, I asked her to erase the part of her death. Rona didn't seem to really care about it, and told me that she would follow what I write in

the academy's documents.

"There's really no problem if it's just that. In the Fusk kingdom I will have it treated as death though. If I don't do that, there would be people that would grow suspicious after all. But since we have the chance, can you please give me a bit of your time?" (Rona)

With a way of speaking as if saying she doesn't want any reward, she firmly places out an exchange condition. There are no demerits in just hearing her out, and things like seduction and half-assed drugs don't work on me, so I nod at her proposal.

"In these few days I have been working together with your intelligence members, but you see, well, they are quite the pure people. They are capable, but they are not utilizing their skills to their best. I do think it is normally a necessary emotion and way of thinking, but in the intelligence world where your objective is to gather information in the deepest of waters, ethics and morals are just in the way. If you think about what's best for your company, you should put underhanded methods as an option as well" (Rona)

"Thanks for the advice" (Makoto)

"Also, it seems it is true that you don't make distinctions with demi-humans. Your clerks, intelligence members; there really was no person who was concerned about races. From the ones I have seen, you are the strongest of hyumans so far. If you so wish, I can even make it so you can directly meet with the demon lord-sama" (Rona)

"The demon lord-sama that makes the hearts of people tremble? I am happy to hear that offer. In a future, I definitely would want to" (Makoto)

"However, those two brown skinned demi-humans and your follower Shiki, they are existences that will bring you harm. This is a pure warning from me since I have taken a liking to you. Cut your ties as soon as you can" (Rona)

"Akua and Eris, and also Shiki? The three of them are being a big help to me though?" (Makoto)

What pure warning is she talking about? Does Rona want me to doubt my own friends?

"You may not know, but those two are Forest Onis, atrocious demi-humans. Because of their combat power, there were people that suggested inviting them to the demon

army, but they are a race that hates working under someone. They splendidly cut us off. They probably slipped into Tsige and made contact with Kuzunoha Company, but they will someday definitely betray you. Also, Shiki. Just by being a male, Shiki must be a follower that you can trust, but he is being possessed. Seeing him together with the Forest Onis, I finally noticed it" (Rona)

"Forest Onis. And Shiki is being possessed?" (Makoto)

Ah, I see. It seems that she has noticed Shiki's true identity and is having a weird misunderstanding.

"I don't know his name, but he is a Lich that doesn't follow hyumans nor demons. A Lich normally can't possess someone, but he can do it. He is someone that can kidnap someone at whim and practice inhyuman experiments on them or impersonate them. The demons call him Larva. No matter if it's the information network of Kuzunoha Company, I thought that it was just too strange to know so much information about me, but if it's a person that has been possessed by Larva, the story changes. I have met him several times in the past, and there have been times where we have been enemies or allies. What I can say for certain is that he is someone that you can never believe in. Seeing that you are so accepting of the demi-humans is something extremely fantastic in the eyes of us demons. That's why, Raidou, be careful of them. If there's a time when you need the help of us demons, contact us. If you use the aria that is written in this paper, you will be able to contact me directly. I will assist you" (Rona)

Saying that, Rona gives me a single paper. It is conscientiously decoded in a language easy for hyumans to read, and there was a peculiar thought transmission aria composed in it.

The moment I saw it, I was about to let out a voice of surprise, but I was somehow able to hold it in and receive it silently. When Rona saw me putting the paper in my pocket, she smiled satisfied and left the room. I probably won't meet her at Academy Town anymore.

This thought transmission aria... might be the one Tomoe was searching for. If I have Tomoe, Mio and Shiki check it out, they might discover something.

I think Rona tried to make me have doubts of the Forest Onis and Shiki, and put the demon race in a favorable position. If that's really the case, she is a scary individual I can't lower my guard from. This time, because she misunderstood Shiki's situation,

there was no fear of me being led by her words. But depending on the situation, Rona's words sound incredibly convincing in my ears. About the Forest Onis and Shiki, she mixed some real traits and truths, and warped the conversation in a direction that she wished. I need to stay cautious when talking to her if there's a chance in the future.

In any case, my situation differs from that of full-time teachers, so I am not tied to the academy. That's why, while thinking about how to pass my summer vacation, I checked the inventory of the store.



In the time soon to be summer vacation.

The academy was suddenly wrapped in a merry atmosphere. There will obviously be a lot of students that return home, but the students that have no classes now, will have free time.

Summer vacation. What should I do?

Those kind of conversations can be seen all over the place. It was the same for the modern Japan and in parallel world schools. Hanging out with friends, going on a trip, helping out the family, training their own skills. The way of passing the long time holidays for the students is important and it isn't that different.

The nobles and merchants return to their households and participate in social gatherings. There are many occasions where they have already prepared a special event beforehand, and many return home. Of course, in this period, the noble's dormitory and the advanced class dormitories get pretty busy.

However, there were two that were walking in the halls in a really calm manner. The other students and staff members are running around, and yet they were continuing their pace onto the library.

"At this time there are a lot of people returning so it is pretty hectic huh. This year we are fine though"

"Papa was crying right. 'Why are you not returning immediately?!" he said"

The ones exchanging words were the Rembrandt sisters that had just returned to

school. They didn't have any plans of returning to their homes in this summer vacation, and were able to take things calmly.

The girls were walking while doing a pretty normal conversation, but most of the students that were walking in the corridor like them, shrank their shoulders when they saw them. Their expressions were those of a scared small animal, as if waiting for an incredibly scary thing to pass through.

There's a reason why the Rembrandt sisters are beautiful and were yet feared in this way.

Before returning from school, those sisters were the worst kind of students. In the required classes they attend when they wanted, and in the practical skills one, they crush anyone that they don't like; on top of that, they flung their influence as an economic power. They possessed the same skills as scholarship students, so their bad nature stood out even more. If they have their eyes on you, you wouldn't know what they would do. That's how those two were. After all, there's even rumors that said their father obtained the first-class noble's dormitory admission by buying in gold a peerage from the Aion Kingdom, and in truth, they are in the noble's dormitory. It can't be helped that they think common sense won't work.

After their return, it was as if completely different people were naming themselves in the same way. The girls showed sincere attitude at the classes, were welcomed by the teachers, and the students were bewildered. That is the current situation of the sisters. Well, there are many students that think they are people who have taken their shape, and many maintained their distance from them.

Those same girls were always thinking about how to repay their lifesaver and sensei Raidou, and actually, they have already repaid him in a time he didn't know of.

It was something that happened a few days ago.

The student mob that came to confess to Raidou also shrunk back at the appearance of those two. But if Raidou didn't dislike it and actually felt happy about being confessed by girls of age they would just be getting in the way, that's why the sisters didn't want to make a mistake and endured it. They have occasionally taken meals with Raidou and learned that he was troubled by their annoyance, and after knowing of his feelings about it, the two of them nodded and began moving.

Several of the students that confessed and got rejected, Sif and Yuno whispered this:

"If you are thinking of marrying him, it will be troublesome if you don't get along with us as well. You have the resolve to do that right? Of course, we won't forgive a single trace infidelity"

"If you want to marry Raidou-sama, you should be careful. If it's a boring household, papa might crush it and make you servants. We should at least get our families know each other, right?"

The results were immense. The ones who said these words were not the graceful Sif or the cheerful Yuno, but the two who were clad by the same air as their reputation. That must have influenced the action of the students a lot.

That rumor didn't spread to the public, but between the female students that were thinking about confessing to Raidou, it spread incredibly fast. Until now there had been no risks in confessing to Raidou, but now it had become dangerous in an instant.

The number of confessions to him decreased at a fast rate. Seeing the relieved face of Raidou, the sisters were simple mindedly happy about it. He himself thinks that this is because of people's rumors, and hasn't noticed that it is the work of the sisters.

And so now, Sif and Yuno were heading to the library exactly regarding Raidou.

Without getting lost in their promised destination, they continued on to the grand library and find a desk where a mass is gathered.

"So we were the last ones huh. Even though we are newcomers, sorry" (Sif)

"Next time we will come faster okay, senpais" (Yuno)

The two of them already knew that they would be gathered here and apologize. This is also something that one wouldn't expect from their previous reputation, but for the members that have been together with the sisters in the same class, they have already gotten used to it and stood up from their seats to receive the two of them.

"Don't worry, everyone just got here. Sorry for calling you out here"

The one who voiced out was Jin. The people here were seven in total. The students that are in Raidou's class. Aside from Sif and Yuno, the others are scholarship students

and this year they don't have plans of going back home.

Today the seven of them were gathered like this, obviously because of Raidou's class which they all share in common.

"I don't mind. We are also worried after hearing of the next class after all" (Sif)

Yuno nods at Sif's words. The lessons of Raidou were unexpectedly intense and if there's a chance to prepare for them, it is not bad to take it, is how they think.

"In the next class, the chances are high that Sif and Yuno will be participating in the enjoyment lecture. The two of you are strong even when you have just recovered after all. You trained in Tsige to get back in form right? As expected"

While suggesting their seats, Amelia begins the talk. She proposed this gathering because of Raidou and Shiki's hinting, and everyone agreed to it.

"Enjoyment lecture..."

Sif and Yuno make a wry smile. In those expressions, there was expectation and within it, undisguisable fear.

"A torture that goes by that name. Here, take this. This is the report we presented to Sensei. We didn't even get half out of it. Because you know, that lizardman called blue lizard-kun wasn't serious at all. It can be said that this was the obvious result"

"It must have been incredibly strong. To think that five together didn't even measure up"

"Those lizards are all high level. In terms of physical strength we can't even compare, and the magic arias are also short to a crazy extent. He avoids the arrows as if he could see the future"

The boy that uses a dagger to fight in close combat and inflict abnormal status spells, Daena, lifts both hands as he continues saying he has given up hope. In the gathered students here, he is the only married one.

"On top of that, he even uses his tail to fight in a characteristic way, and his weapon skills are top notch too. There's practically no moment where our attacks landed properly. In present, we don't have a choice but to do a combination attack with me,

Jin and Daena, but..."

Calmly analyzing the situation is Misura who has a one handed sword just like Jin. He excels in support magic, and specializes in sword arts that uses self-defense as its core. Just like Jin, he is also a swordsman but his aimed style is quite different. If we place Jin's sword as sharp and accurate, Misura's one would be like a spiked shield.

"His elements are a combination of water and wind. I have never heard of such a lizardman though. And in fact, he has used both water and wind attack magic. There's no signs of him using healing and support magic yet. There's also the chance that it is because we haven't cornered him up to that point"

The one who pointed his elements is the only person here who pursues magic, Izumo. He is a magician specialized in wind, but after taking Raidou's class, he has been able to use several elements and has begun understanding the importance of it.

In essence, Raidou's class' objective is aimed for magicians, but the spells can be considered as a sub. This act is heavily different from the other magic teachers and the common sense that they have known of, but the number one reason is probably because even though Raidou himself is a magician, he has the body strength that surpasses by leaps and bounds that of a warrior. Izumo has taken several classes in other schools, but this is the first time he was told to form an aria while being attacked. Normally, one would put up a barrier and block the attacks while they complete the spell. Raidou also uses barriers. But he said that even though he is a magician, there are times when one uses shields and his body movements to nullify the attacks while forming his arias. He told Izumo to think of such a situation when training. The difficulty is high, but Raidou is actually able to do it. Moreover, he lowers the level to one that even Izumo can catch and shows them how to do it. Izumo had his pride hurt, and is currently desperately clinging onto the lectures.

Jin, Amelia, Daena, Misura, and Izumo.

The reason why they called the Rembrandt sisters was because they thought the sisters would also have to participate in the rematch against the blue lizard. For the sake of preparing a counter-measure, and also another objective.

"Water and wind. In that case, I can probably participate in the fight as firepower" (Sif)

"In a situation where there are three at the frontline, the bow might be best" (Yuno)

"Yeah, that's what we first thought. But in that case, the rear guard would have to individually evade the attacks of the lizard-kun right? That's why I thought that we should have Daena or Misura to the back and have them follow up on the magicians..."

The plan making of the seven continued earnestly. In the middle of their heated discussion, there were several teachers who stopped their feet and looked at that scene pleasantly. And while thinking 'as expected of scholarship students, their motivation is on a different level', they left the library.

That scenario played who knows how many times. Finally, the discussion of the seven turns silent.

"...Well, this much should be fine for now. Listen, at any rate, just don't let the team be wiped out. Find out patterns where we can make direct hits with both weapons and magic. We will do it as if our life depends on it" (Jin)

"Understood"

Jin wraps it up and the six others agree. They must have made enough counter-measures for Raidou. Their faces were all satisfied.

"And so, it took time but, today we have another topic. Please listen well. It's about the summer vacation..."

Close to evening, the meeting of the seven continued.

# Chapter 108

## Academy's summer vacation

Academy Town is now in summer vacation.

In this time, the students that make up most of the people in this town decrease a lot, so the business activity is curtailed as well, is what one would normally think, but that's not actually the case.

It is especially noticeable in Rotsgard which is in the center. Things like the towns in the area, sightseeing, and teachers that autonomously hold lectures in summer, actually gather students.

Of course, the students that attend the schools of the towns in the area most can't compare to the students here. The teachers take that into consideration and put up their lectures with that thinking in mind. By the way, the only ones doing this kind of lectures are part-time teachers. For them this is a good chance to make pocket money. Maybe the fulltime teachers have work in summer vacation as well, or maybe they glorify the long break; they don't do lectures at summer vacation. There really is not a single one. It has probably become a custom of sorts.

"Even if the extracurricular classes are cheaper than the regular ones... to come to school in summer vacation, that's pretty impressive. I, aside from club activities, didn't attend to any of those"

"That most likely means there's a good amount of people that wish to decrease the distance between others, to reach them. From our perspective, this is a happy moment as it increases the customers"

"And it seems the Rembrandt sisters didn't return home. Just before entering summer vacation, there was an unreasonable letter from Rembrandt-san asking to bring his daughters to Tsige"

"And for some reason, there was a letter from his wife in the same day as well. Telling us to ignore the letter of her husband. She revoked his request immediately"

A slight space of silence after.

“Aaah, its summer huh~”

“It’s indeed summer~”

Shiki and I were in the academy's library investigating. At morning we read books here, check the situation of the store in the afternoon, and from evening to night I hear the reports of Asora and do training. There was a time where I temporarily felt disgust at my useless self, but it was also the time where I decided to move forward in my own way. I think this is most likely because I have been influenced by Jin, Amelia and the other students' frantic attitude. They and I are different existences, but seeing people trying their hardest to move forward even if a bit, it also encourages me to do my best as well.

“Ah, now that I think about it, at the previous class, Jin seemed like he wanted to say something. Do you know anything about that Shiki?” (Makoto)

“No. He looked pretty cornered, so he probably didn't have the leeway of saying it out loud. I certainly did feel as if he was perplexed” (Shiki)

---

At the last lecture before summer vacation, I had them do a mock battle as an enjoyment lecture in the latter half, but for some reason the seven of them were looking at me as if trembling in fear and after, they fell on their knees.

[Sif and Yuno also, try to confirm all that you have learned until now in real combat]

Saying that, I incorporated the sisters in the enjoyment lecture that has been done by the five until now. Maybe they were already expecting this, the students made a formation smoothly.

That's why I didn't say anything and nod. I summoned blue lizard-kun, a mist lizard... Since there were more people now, I called for two.

[Let me introduce you. Blue lizard-kun Zwei]



Not presenting themselves and beginning battle would be unrefined, so even though it was a short, I introduced Zwei-kun. However, it was at that instant, everyone stiffened.

It seems that there were even some that were shaking. They have already bettered their foundations and their battle tactics have widened a good amount, and yet they expected to fight 7 against 1? How hyuman-like thinking.

They thought they would be fighting only one as usual, so Jin was the first one to shout out.

“T-There’s more!!”

[Why are you stating the obvious? 7 against 1 wouldn’t be training at all. But well, you certainly do have a point there. You couldn’t even defeat one right? Fumu, I will give you the option of going all 7 against 2 or divide in 4 vs 1 and 3 vs 1]

‘You, what’s the point of even doing that?’

The students’ eyes were clearly saying that.

What’s the point? These guys are pros at group fights you know. 7 against 2 is obviously going to be more difficult. Well, it would be good for them to learn how to coordinate, so it wouldn’t be a bad idea.

“U... Uhm, Raidou-sensei? This is only for reference but, this new one is as strong?”

[Of course. Blue lizard-kun excels in technique, but Zwei-kun excels in strength. Both are excellent warriors. By the way, they specialize in group fights]

Amelia. Isn’t that obvious? Why would I bring two with difference in ability?

“W-well I was wondering if summoning those two isn’t putting a burden in your body or something like that”

[No problem]

It is actually not even a summon. I just open a gate, so it can be one or everyone and it wouldn’t change the burden.

Maybe they still had space to think properly, they decided on dividing. The team distribution was mostly as expected.

Jin, Yuno, Amelia, Izumo.

Daena, Misura, Sif.

Well, in the end, both teams were unable to win. But they were able to fight a whole lot better than last time, and just like that, the class finished.

Jin said he wanted to get advice after the lesson, so I was going to listen to what he wanted but...

“I-I will leave it for a later time” (Jin)

Is what he said with a feeble voice lacking of air and left. And so we are now at present. Since we are already at summer vacation time, it was probably not that important of a talk. Maybe he wanted me to treat him lunch?

If that's what he wanted, then it certainly would be hard to say after moving so much. It would all go back to the top after all.

---

“At that time only Sif wasn't collapsed on the floor huh. However, depending on how they handle it, their skills should allow them to enter a further step. Why is it that they are overwhelmed to such a point?” (Shiki)

While voicing out his question, Shiki doesn't stop reading his book. It seems that he can concentrate his thoughts on two things at the same time.

“Maybe because they are accustomed? Seeing them like that, I think they will properly make a countermeasure by next time and do one step forward. And well you see, everyone is a good child, so they are most likely more cautious than necessary” (Makoto)

“The second phase huh. If they know that the strength and speed increased, they will certainly complain again” (Shiki)

“I can picture it already. If they handle it the same way as in the first phase, leaving

aside blue lizard-kun, Zwei-kun would blow anyone away in a single hit and take them out of the fight" (Makoto)

In the library where there's only a few presences of people, Shiki and I were talking about the students. The mist lizards also seem to be having fun with it, and it would also help as training for holding back. Well, no idea if it would be of any use in the future though.

If their growth is too slow, it would stress the lizards, so I wish Jin and the others good luck.

"...Raidou-sama" (Shiki)

[Yeah, someone has come. Speaking of the devil huh]

Grasping the presence that is approaching, I change into written communication. A presence I know of.

Putting on a posture where both of us are reading, we wait for them to arrive.

"Excuse me for the intrusion. Raidou-sensei, can I have a bit of your time?"

[Jin huh. What do you need?]

The ones who approached were the students that Shiki and I were talking about. As expected, they were still at the academy, and I see Sif and Yuno here too. Rembrandt-san must be crying. Even if I take into account his wife's letter, I certainly understand that he wants them to at least return home once.

"I have something I want to consult you about" (Jin)

Hearing Jin talking in a courteous manner, I had an uncomfortable feeling. At the same time, I am surprised that he is able to speak this way.

[Let's hear it]

"Actually, about this summer vacation, I don't mind if it is in times where sensei is able to, can you please train us?" (Jin)

[In the middle of summer vacation?]

"Yes. I heard that you are not doing extracurricular lessons. Of course, we will properly pay for the number of times we receive lessons, so please" (Jin)

...

Even though it is a long period holiday, they surely are motivated. I was thinking about using this vacation to concentrate mostly on work and training though.

Moreover, they came and said they would properly pay for the lessons. Impressive. If there were high school students who pay with their own money for summer lessons, it would be pretty out of norms in modern times.

[Is this a consensus from everyone? Is there someone who wants to return home? Especially Sif and Yuno. You should have received a notice from your household to return]

Also, I find it hard to tell Rembrandt-san that I am teaching lessons to the two of them so I can't have them return. I can't tell him. My dad also threw a tantrum saying that he wouldn't let my sisters live alone, even though he is an adult. I think that the affection a dad shows towards his daughters is just on a whole new dimension.

In our household we have the stupidly doting father at full throttle and my mother always had to intervene, so maybe in Rembrandt-san's place is mostly the same.

"From our side as well, please. For the sake of the future, I don't think we are currently strong enough to get a pass in Tsige. There should be no problems in not returning for only half a year" (Sif)

No no, even if your strength doesn't get a passing mark, the Rembrandt household is a merchant one so as long as there's economic power, that should still give you a pass. And Yuno is nodding.

Urgh. How resolved.

If I don't make them return for at least a short term, I feel like Rembrandt-san will send me a cursing letter again. He is lending me a place to work, so I really want to have an amiable relationship. I feel like I shouldn't take this offer.

[Shiki, how is it? Our schedule is already filled right?]

“No. If it’s once a week, we might be able to do it” (Shiki)

Hey.

I was trying to use you as a follow up to refuse them you know?

Now the seven of them are looking at me with eyes filled with expectation. To deal with the students once a week is just...

...

[Understood. Only one a week, got it? Also, Sif and Yuno will return home at the latter half. This is a definite condition okay?]

“Eeh~ Onee-chan and I are the only ones who will be absent!?” (Yuno)

“Raidou-sensei! Please treat us just like the other students!” (Sif)

[No. Your father has asked me. You just recovered, so go home and relief your parents]

I could see that two had eyes filled with resentment, but most of the students were thankful.

Aaah. Well, it should be fine to just do foundation training and summon lizard-kun.

At the appointed day, I leave it to Shiki and I once again return to the books. I have to take advantage of this vacation to the fullest.



In the time when Raidou was being pestered by his students to do classes in the middle of vacation...

There was one woman in a space of the library where general public cannot enter.

It's the librarian Eva.

When she was told that the danger in the academy was gone, she soon returned to his duties as a librarian. Even if it's a long period holiday, the scholars and researchers, and also the teachers that use the library still don't die out. Since she was absent for a

while and there was someone filling her place, Eva-san had to take the place of the librarian while she is in vacation. That's why in this summer vacation she practically doesn't have a vacation at all, but since she feels slightly fulfilled when doing work and she still had something she had to do no matter what in this summer vacation, she didn't feel dissatisfied.

Eva was right now searching for a certain article.

That is something she wanted Raidou to read. Eva was a noble in the past, and yet she excels in her duties as a librarian. Since the time she marked Raidou, she has been remembering all the books he has been reading and tracing the tendencies of them, she predicts the things he wants to know, the things he must want to know. The books Raidou read were pretty diverse in range, but Eva was still able to make out a number of tendencies. Truly an exemplar librarian.

"Uhm, I don't need this kind of research instruction. And I don't need anything prior to that either..."

Researches and essays that are deemed important are normally gathered in an area of the library. Of course, there were essays that were composed at the academy in the past and most of them weren't publicized and there were research contents that were the same, so they are gathered and the numbers are massive. And in truth, even the specialist Eva is having troubles finding the article she is looking for. She is in a state where she is looking for it covered in dust. There's no doubt it wasn't a well-known article.

"Raidou-san has saved my life after all. And he said 'there is no need for money, so recommend me books' in a considerate manner, so there's no way I won't do that. I will definitely show Raidou-sensei content that he will jump at!" (Eva)

The enormous reward that Eva proposed to Lime was the assets of Anslad. That's something which lies in the land that has been stolen. Raidou heard that talk with a complicated face, and asked Eva for knowledge instead of money. For him, instead of assets of doubtful existence, he preferred a more realistic reward.

"He looked like he was reading anything, but the topic he was most interested in was the magic aspect. And it was on the magic power application and summoning. After that, he held interest in Kaleneon as well. And he seemed like he wanted to know about geography too. But first, that article" (Eva)

What Eva is searching for is a thesis that a certain professor took his whole lifetime to research and after reaching to a conclusion he was discouraged, a content that didn't gather much attention, a common essay. However, Eva had a strong inference that this might be one of the things Raidou is looking for. She also has listed up a number of books he might want. Searching for those isn't that hard. Rather, what she found difficult was that there were so many mediocre essays from no name researchers while she was looking.

"I will return the favor, and from hereafter I have to maintain a good relationship with him. I already have no other to rely on but him and the Kuzunoha Company" (Eva)

The ability of the Kuzunoha Company's employees, and also Raidou and Shiki. And the other capable people that seem to also exist.

In Eva's eyes, the Kuzunoha Company is incredibly appealing. A free company with abnormal ability. Just as promised, they crushed the organization powers that were nesting inside the academy. That the gentle Brait-sensei was one of them was something that surprised her in not a small amount. Also, not a single danger befell Ruria. Those were plenty enough results to recognize their abilities.

Right now the scale of their company is small, but it may be because they can't do anything big. But what about the future?

The reckless librarian that wishes for the revival of her territory, she has still not abandoned it.

That's why she wants to be close with Raidou. He has power and his personality is not bad. His company management is going well and he is blessed with capable people. His face is certainly not good, but something like appearance, one gets used to it after seeing it many times, is what Eva thinks. Even if her first impression when seeing him was somewhat bad, so what? It is foolish to judge what's inside by looking at someone's appearance. If the power of the Goddess serves for nothing, then what's the worth of appearance? That is the current sense of value of Eva and Ruria.

Not relying on the Goddess. Her faith that had wavered and disappeared. This kind of people probably have a tendency of losing their attachment to appearance and race.

This is a situation that was brought by the silence of the Goddess. This present condition might serve – a bit – as a tailwind for Raidou, for Misumi Makoto.

Later, the Rotsgard school festival will be coming, and also, the sparks of war that will rise greatly.

The Academy's summer vacation continued peacefully. Just like the calm before the storm.

For the three otherworldlers, their second autumn was approaching.

# Chapter 109

## Summer vacation part 1

### ~ student ~

This is hell.

Jin wasn't able to accept the reality in front of his eyes.

It is certainly true that they were the ones who asked the temporary teacher Raidou to train them in summer vacation. It is also the last training before the school festival. He also felt sure that there was no better choice than this one for summer vacation.

And so at the second class, at the time close to evening, they surprisingly defeated their arch-enemy Blue Lizard-kun. They got wiped out four times like in the first time and at the fourth time two dropped out, a really narrow victory. But it was without a doubt a victory.

It is the result of moving more offensively and aggressively as the damage increased.

With this they would be able to enter the next stage, is what they thought as they pleasantly accepted the fatigue in their whole body.

The assistant of Raidou, Shiki, gets up, goes to where the Lizardman is and applies recovery magic. And so Jin, Yuno, Amelia and Izumo; healing was also done to the four of them. After that, they are given medicine to recover their magic power and were now in full condition. Truly a scary healing ability. Leaving aside the mental fatigue, the consumed physical strength and magic power returned to a state close to that of when they began.

"Well then, the remaining time is short, but please have a bout with Blue Lizard-kun in the second phase before the sun goes down. I will be checking out the state on the other side" (Shiki)

Without even a single congratulations, indifferent instructions for the next step come out from Shiki's mouth.

It didn't seem like he did any strengthening. 'So then what is the second phase about?' the moment Jin thought that and putted himself in combat stance...

Jin gets shocked by the Blue Lizard-kun that's already right in front of him. Moreover, he was already doing the motion of swinging down with the arm that's holding the sword.

With an unfinished stance, Jin takes on the diagonal slash. Fast. And it was heavier than before, a lot heavier. In a perfect state it would be different, but this isn't an attack that he can take on when caught by surprise. At the same time as he is shocked, the sensation of the ground disappears from his feet.

"Oi, you are kidding right? Gu... AAAAaaaa!!"

With his body afloat, Jin looks at Blue Lizard-kun with eyes of disbelief. Jin's body was send flying to the back without mercy. This power was clearly incomparable to the previous ones. He was grandly blown off to the direction where Amelia and Izumo are.

The strength and speed... are complete different. The technique is the same, but when the strength put in it and the initial speed change, the sharpness is completely different. When the basic countermeasures can't even keep up, the plan itself crumbles.

"Wai-, Jin get out of the way! An ice lance is coming! Izumo, barrier. Yuno come over here!" (Amelia)

"Understood!" (Izumo)

"Got it!" (Yuno)

Amelia too gets surprised that Jin got blown away. But if her mind stops working, she understands that it would just be checkmate. Looking at the hand of the Blue Lizard-kun that has a shield equipped, she predicts the next attack and gives out directions. The chain of command that changes depending on Jin's state was properly formed beforehand, but...

"T-This is strange. Wasn't it an arrow type?! Influences in the magic power of the area... Could this be Karen's-?!"

"Tte, Karen?! An ice element you say? That?!"

“Wait, fall-“

Yuno's words were in vain.

The four of them were all enclosed in an ice cluster. If it were smashed like that, their life would be over right there, but Blue Lizard-kun didn't move. Because he understands that this isn't real combat but training after all. Slightly sticking out his red tongue, he stabs the large one handed sword into the ground, and with his blue scales basking in the evening sun, he sits down at a nearby boulder and waits for Makoto or Shiki to return. That appearance was overflowing with composure. And the warped expression in his face seemed as if he was slightly happy at the growth of the students.

On the other hand.

Misura who has sword skills comparable to those of Jin, repeats a hit and away against the enemy while Daena grabs his attention. And also Sif who is matching the position of the two at the front and moving to make sure she is not the target of the Mist Lizard's attacks, attacks mainly with fire element magic. These three were slowly but surely cornering the tough enemy Blue Lizard-kun Zwei. The second lizardman that launches strong attacks fortunately had a better affinity for Misura and Daena than the first one.

It may not be perfect, but they are able to evade. The variety of the attacks is lower than the first and it's easy to avoid. Because of that, they were able to hold the frontline. Of course, Sif has to avoid more powerful magic than the first lizard while attacking with her spells, but the stable battle gave her a calm mind. By the time Jin and the others were doing a victory shout, they were also about to obtain victory.

“Yosh, we got the first victory! Sif, finish the rascal!” (Daena)

But... the words of Daena were a mistake.

The attack that Misura was about to take, stops perfectly in place. In just an instant, before the aria of Sif was finished, another attack came to Misura.

(What...? Something feels different from before...)

The chills that Misura felt were a result from his splendid instincts.

“Gu?!!”

A pain that numbs the sensation of both arms. An attack with incomparable strength. Misura reflexively releases his favorite sword from his hands. At that moment a second attack from the lizard comes. Of course, Misura had no means to defend.

“You... wait there!”

Daena was going to obstruct the attack that the lizard was doing. If he didn't block this attack, Misura would drop out. He understood that he wouldn't be able to hold the frontline alone, so he was correct in his decision. It was correct but...

Throwing a spare dagger to make him use his shield and after that attack with his sword. The attack pattern was not bad.

But the thrown dagger was repelled with the lizardman's tail and didn't even use his shield.

The attack of his dagger didn't reach him. Because the arm that he was unable to restrain was in his way. The shield that the lizard has was blocking him.

“Ge fuu?!”

That's right. Daena who uses his speed as weapon, was stricken by the shield like a mosquito. An attack resembling a shield bash. Even from an outsider's perspective it was clear it hurt.

“Goh~~!”

Misura who received a swipe to his chest, was sent flying several meters and was unable to move properly. If he were in full shape, he would have done a roll and soon react.

In an instant, the frontline was pulverized.

“...You gotta be kidding me!”

Even so, Sif estimated that as long as her fired spell hits the mark they would somehow win, but that wish-filled spell was easily avoided and her eyes moisten as she sees the lizard coming at her. It can't be helped. Assisting those two in that instant would be

way too much of a feat, and it wasn't like she could just abandon her attack or it would make everything up until now a waste. Sif's decision of finishing her aria even in an unexpected situation and trying to obtain victory is a splendid thing and yet...

(P-Please, at least not in the face...)

While putting up her staff against the merciless sword, Sif silently prays. She is a girl after all. Fortunately, that wish was fulfilled and she felt a strong impact from her chest. She lost consciousness there.

Wiped out.

“Fuh~~”

Because Zwei turned ferocious, regrettably, the other party was unable to obtain victory.



[Fumu, this time Jin and the others were able to defeat Blue Lizard-kun huh. Congratulations. You did well]

“Thank you very much!!”

“...”

Jin and the others give their gratitude towards Raidou's blessing, and in the midst, the remaining three were clearly depressed as their head faces down. They were mortified by the fact that Jin and the others got ahead of them. By their selves who are unable to stand in the same height as them. With no words said, they could only look at the situation.

[The remaining time, use it to discuss and do foundation training. Shiki, look after them]

“Understood. Well then, you four continue over here” (Shiki)

Led by Shiki, the victorious party separates. Raidou (Makoto) looks at that scene for a while, and then looks back at the depressed group of three.

[Now then, sorry for this side. You must have been bewildered by your enemy suddenly getting stronger right? That was my mistake. I apologize]

Raidou lowers his head. That seemed to have shocked the students quite a lot, the three of them slightly open their depressed eyes and are at a loss for words.

“Uhm, you don’t need to apologize. But why did he suddenly become stronger? Can you please tell us?” (Sif)

Because of the sudden strengthening, they were all wounded. Those were substantial wounds. Even if they were recovered completely by Shiki and told it was an accident, she still wanted to know the reason.

“I also want to know. Why was he not using that strength from the beginning?”

“Could it be, we were just being played around?”

Misura and Daena seem to hold the same opinion as well. Raidou was wondering what all this was about, but he makes a big sigh and with a face as if he decided something, he looks at the three and begins to explain.

[I intended to keep this a secret, but let’s count this as an apology from me. I will leave it to each one of you to decide if you want to tell Jin and the others. The Blue Lizard that you have been fighting has strength higher than that of a low dragon]

“?!”

[To match your skills, I was piling up weakening over weakening, have them equipped with crappy equipment, and had them come here. The two that you fought today haven’t shown even 1% of their ability]

“O-One percent?!”

“T-Then in that last one he was serious?!”

Along with the students’ shock, Raidou’s explanation continues. Shiki is probably in the middle of doing a light explanation of the second phase. But there’s no doubt that the three of them have received a bigger shock from the revelation that they have been fighting an opponent that was practically only using his pinky finger.

[The last part huh. You guys would probably be able to defeat the first phase today, so that's the second phase I have prepared]

"Was that not serious? Even with that much power? But why, we still didn't defeat him and yet..."

[That part was my miss. Really sorry. Zwei, come here]

With Raidou's beckoning, from the two lizardmen that were doing the mock battle, the smaller one approaches jogging. And when he arrives close to Raidou, he gets on his knees and lowers his head. In that gesture one could even feel elegance. The three hyumans were fascinated by the lizardman's attitude.

[Actually...]

With a meek face, Raidou looks back at the three students.

[It was my bad for introducing Zwei as Blue Lizard-kun Zwei. Zwei-kun, no, Zwei-san is a woman]

"Wa?"

[That's why calling her rascal must have hit a nerve. Please call her Zwei-san or Miss Zwei. No well, my delicacy was insufficient]

"..."

An unexplainable silence falls.

[Well, I want you to fight her with that in mind]

"Raidou-sensei" (Sif)

It is unusual for her to interrupt Raidou's words.

[What is it Sif?]

"We still have time, so please let us have a rematch with Miss Zwei" (Sif)

[No but, if you begin now, it will get pretty late...]

“Please!!”

For some reason, Raidou receives an appeal overflowing with intensity. He reflexively looks at the lizardman<woman?>. She nods back. Now that he mentioned it, when he looked at her, he could see a gentle female-looking smile.

(Today we had plans of going to Gotetsu with the students, but at this rate the three of them will be late. In that case, they would have to enter a place with a sugary smell and that would be hard on them. But this time was because I mistakenly introduced this lady as a male, and that brought the confusion so... no helping it. I will keep them company) (Makoto)

It was already a time where it would be late to call evening. At the time when the darkness of the night was taking the leading role...

Raidou makes contact with his follower Shiki and gives him instructions of going first with the four students to Gotetsu.



“Sensei, thanks for the meal! We may intrude in the library again, so please take care of us in the upcoming lectures!”

“Thanks for the meal!”

[Take care when returning]

“Everyone, don’t go sidetracking and just head straight back” (Shiki)

When Gotetsu was already arranging things to close, there were students there lowering their heads. In this town where the students have a higher standing, this is a strange scene. It’s Raidou and his students.

The seven seem to be returning to their dorms, all of them disappear into the night street. From Gotetsu to the dorms there’s no difference in direction and all go the same way. As long as they enter the Academy’s terrain, there’s no need to worry. At the very least, Raidou makes it so he can detect any unusual events and takes a breath. The reason he presses excessive care towards them might be because he sees the shadows of his past club juniors in them.

“Now then, let’s return as well Shiki” (Makoto)

“Yes. Lime and the others are attending a dinner party with the staff members of the merchant guild and employees of nearby stores, so it seems that the time they return is still unknown. How about we return to Asora?” (Shiki)

Hearing Shiki’s proposal, Raidou doesn’t respond immediately and ponders. Thanks to one article Eva brought to him, he has been able to move forward in his training with a clear goal in mind. He was able to feel more fun and fulfillment. The usual him would have immediately decided to go to Asora and move his body. Shiki also based his decision off that fact, and seeing his master pondering was out of expectations.

“Let’s see. No, today let’s return to the company. Shiki, you... did you put something in the head of Jin and the others before I grouped up with you?” (Makoto)

“?!! What do you mean by... something?” (Shiki)

Shiki makes an easy to understand reaction towards the question of his master. There’s no need to hear his answer. Raidou points out one of the possibilities he predicted to Shiki.

“From what I saw, they were pretty motivated you see. Specially Jin. He said he might be intruding in the library, but he looked more like he was ready to go somewhere. Jin normally says things that one would normally not say, and he was especially merry in that one. And so, what did you tell them?” (Makoto)

“...They were so dispirited after facing the Mist Lizard’s second phase, so I unintentionally meddled. They seem to have enough capital to use teleport formations, so I recommended them to raise their level. The Rotsgard students are actually encouraged to increase their own level anyways. Since the time they entered Raidou-sama’s class, they have barely increased their level after all” (Shiki)

“Well, I haven’t put maze exploration and field work in the lecture menu. And to obtain the experience points to increase their level they have to kill something. I see, because they were so desperate about my class, they got delayed in their level increase huh” (Makoto)

Raidou does a bitter smile. Increasing their skills without relying on their level, now that he thinks about it, this method differs from the academy’s normal route. The Rotsgard students are all registered in the Adventurer Guild. Of course, they are not

forced to do it. It's because it is convenient, so they make sure to finish the registration beforehand. Because of various reasons, there's no guild sub-branch reception desk in the town where the main academy is in, but all the students have a guild card. You can obtain it for free and it has an interface with high communication functionality, and it seems to be used a lot in the academy. Makoto learned of this recently. Leaving aside the information of teachers, he hasn't placed much attention in the information regarding students.

"There's also the experiment results of the effects of Asora's fruits, so their abilities have increased considerably, but increasing their levels can prove as a good addition" (Shiki)

"Addition huh. Shiki, what you really want to teach them is not power, but self-confidence right? If they went out and fought some random mamono in the outskirts at their current state, they will probably get quite surprised" (Makoto)

"...So you saw right through me huh. As expected" (Shiki)

"No well, it's just that I can understand stuff like this. This is a path I have taken with my sensei after all" (Makoto)

"This is a prediction from me, it may be a bit overoptimistic, but if they try hard for three days, everyone will without doubt be able to pass over level 70" (Shiki)

"Well, isn't that an acceptable pace? Around this place there's a limit in the places one can fight and the enemies, and even when Jin acts like that, he is the type that doesn't do rash things. If they level up to that extent, they might get overconfident and tell me to call out the Mist Lizard again next week. It will be the last time the sisters will be participating as well. At any rate, Shiki, isn't your way of expressing beginning to sound like Tomoe?" (Makoto)

"She told me to learn of Raidou-sama's world and gave me several documents. I have been looking through them with interest" (Shiki)

Raidou was predicting the actions of his students and having an expression as if having fun. He was being immersed in a pleasant sensation, like watching juniors trying their best. Predicting by reading the trends of society is still too hard for him, but with his memories of his club activities, and his memories of his own training, he was able to somehow grasp the behavior and thought patterns of the students.

"I presented them a place where the current them can manage. From tomorrow on we will be able to move more easily huh. We will be liberated from protecting the students" (Shiki)

Shiki talks with a cheerful tone mixed with a feeling of freedom as he tells him about the advice he gave to the students.

"...There might be unexpected events, so just in case, let's see... let's have Eris follow them at their back. If we give them a banana, those girls would definitely give an immediate approval" (Makoto)

"As you wish" (Shiki)

Instead of being happy about being free, he first thinks about securing the safety of his students. 'Isn't master pretty soft as well?' are the words Shiki swallowed and just replied with a positive response.



Too easy.

It is so easy that it isn't even an obstacle.

The omnipotent sensation I felt in the village I was raised in was ruling my whole body. I was called a prodigy. In sword, bow, magic and bare-hand as well. I didn't lose to anyone in the village. Since the time I obtained a guild card and was able to increase my level, I went almost every day to hunt, and in time, not even the people in the neighboring villages were able to beat me.

An unbearable feeling of being able to do anything. Before I was called by the academy to come as a scholarship student and arrived at Rotsgard, I was always number one.

Since the time I entered Rotsgard, my useless confidence was crushed in an instant though. In the world, there's always a top for the top. I still have the potential. I was just a student with a bit of an advantage.

What I am trying to say is that, for a long time, I haven't tasted this sensation.

Right now, our party of seven are in a forest that is slightly apart from Rotsgard. The objective is level up. It is normally something that is impossible to forget, but since the

time we entered Raidou-sensei's class, we practically haven't increased our levels. Probably not only me, Amelia Hopelace, but also Jin who stands at the front of battle and decides on his objectives, and the Rembrandt sisters who have just joined the class, must be the same. In Raidou-sensei's class there's no practices for increasing levels, moreover, seeing that my level has not increased from the latter halves of 40, I might have been feeling bitter.

But I think that the number one reason lies in Raidou-sensei. That sensei's class is a strange class where one gets strong even without increasing levels. No one has divulged it though. It is true that it is harsh to an incredible extent, but I can clearly tell that I have become stronger than a few months ago.

I was told to think about the meaning behind every attack and defense. He also told me to learn the habit of inquiry. In the middle of the lecture as well, in the time when we were at the enjoyment lecture against Blue Lizard-kun, he gave us words and teachings I didn't understand, but now, after hunting, I have clearly understood.

The opponent's movements are dull. In the time when we thought that, made contact and decided on our strategy, the mamonos practically didn't move. It was a scarily easy fight. Even though our speed didn't really rise.

This is a first.

Even when an individual does a sudden change in movements, we are already prepared for that case so we are able to counter it without any problems. If this were a fight against other hyumans or demi-humans, the story might have been different, but this didn't look like the same enemies that everyone had to desperately surround and defeat in the past, before receiving Raidou-sensei's lessons.

This out of place sensation is probably being felt by everyone right now. While everyone is bewildered, we slaughtered the mamonos in an unbelievable pace and with practically no injuries, we increased our levels.

"This is amazing..."

Right now we are resting at a base in order to pass the night.

The wind user Izumo who normally doesn't show emotions in his face often, was unable to hold back his excitement and let's those words out. Ah, calling him a wind user now might not be correct. He is now able to use three types of elements in a level

where it can be used in real combat after all.

Everyone, including me, nodded at Izumo's words. In just a single day, their level that should have entered a stage where it is hard to level, had increased by 8. Moreover, there's no sense of inconsistency in their body that should be felt when one levels up and gains power. They were able to properly use the increased power as their own. It was mysterious.

"This is the result of Raidou-sensei and Shiki's class?" (Misura)

Misura intercepts attacks and receives them. A role where he is bombarded a lot. That's why, after fighting for a whole day and increasing levels, it should be normal for him to not have enough stamina to even talk. Today he didn't receive any wound that could be called a wound. It isn't like the number of wounds he received were small, but the medicine that Shiki-san gave him healed the wounds in an instant. That must have been one of the main reasons.

With Misura and Sif's spells, healing would have been plenty possible, but because they didn't need to use magic power in that area, they were able to concentrate in their attacking role and it made it a lot easier to defeat mamonos.

It felt like a completely different world.

That's right, Shiki-san. He is a really amazing person. He is guiding us to the next step. Without him, we definitely wouldn't have been able to recover from Raidou-sensei's class. I think I myself am a sore loser, but that sensei sometimes says things that hit really hard. I heard that he is practically the same age as us, but just how real that is is questionable. Shiki-san puts the demonic lectures of Raidou-sensei in my permissible line.

Honestly speaking, I like Shiki-san. He is the ideal male. He is kind and comprehensive. On top of that, he has a refreshing smile that matches perfectly with his beauty. Has extensive knowledge and isn't unpleasant. About Raidou-sensei, his attractive trait is dreadful. I wish such a person with minus traits to not barge in. Actually, for the Rembrandt sisters to be chasing after him is even more... Well, enough of that.

Hah... is he already married? He definitely has at least a lover. If it's him, I don't care if I am number 2 or 3 though~. Right now my admiration is so strong that I can't even imagine myself beside him though.

“Thinking while fighting makes so much difference huh”

“It was as if I got incredibly fast!”

“It was terrible when we rushed into Blue Lizard-kun without thinking after all”

“So true!”

The first night wore on. I was somehow able to calm down my exalted body and it was difficult to rest.

The battles at the next day passed with no problems at all. We changed the battle location to the inner parts of the forest where we weren't able to enter in the past. We were still in perfect harmony against the first mamonos we clashed with. That we have two excellent magicians who can counter almost all elements must have been one of the main reasons of it. Right now I can only use magic that can barely be called firepower, but once I return to the academy, I plan on doing my best in that aspect. ‘It widens your strategy options’, this is also one of the remarks of Raidou-sensei. To think it would increase our advantage in battle so much. I can imagine Izumo and Sif are thinking the same way as I am. A part of me hesitated in being friends with Sif because of the Rembrandt's bad reputation, but in a situation where we entrust our life to each other, we are able to cooperate this well. We have eaten meals together several times and have conversations like the one last night, so I think I don't have such a thick wall created between us now. Of course, Yuno as well. I don't know how the Rembrandt sisters acted before, but now they are reliable party members.

“N?”

Just now, I think I saw a small brown person at that tree's branch... Was I imagining things?

“Amelia, what's wrong?” (Jin)

Jin asks me even when it was only a slight reaction. He is also a reckless one. He is the type that beats his enemies down before he gets taken out, but now he is slowly changing that way of fighting. He is the first one to charge into the frontline while confirming the situation in the whole area. There isn't even a need to say it; that's not an easy feat. ‘You are overthinking’, is what I tell him with my eyes. As expected of a scholarship student, he has excelling talent. It's vexing to admit it but, I am still unable to look at the whole picture yet. This is one subject I have to better in the future.

"Hmph, I felt like that branch shook a bit, but it seems there's no problem" (Amelia)

"Got it. At this rate we will be able to arrive at the lake shore later today. Tonight let's camp there" (Jin)

We agree at Jin's words. In the inner parts of this forest there is a small lake. It has high quality water and is in high demand, but because the place itself is a problem, the supply can't catch up to the demand. In short, it's highly priced. The place is obviously somewhere where a lot of mamonos in this forest gather. Meaning that the main problem is the troublesome transportation. The containers and weight are quite the hindrance. There also seem to be rare medicinal plants growing, and if they are going to make money, that part is easier to do and it has popularity.

Ah, that's right.

"Hey, Jin. We came all the way here, so how about getting medicinal plants from the lake shore as a present for Sensei and Shiki-san?" (Amelia)

What a nice idea from me. Since we will be going there, we should at least repay our benefactors.

"Nice! The water is a pain to bring, so let's bring medicinal plants back at least" (Daena)

Daena also agrees. He also decreased the amount of movements he does a lot, so thanks to that, he has conquered his weakness of his stamina not lasting till evening. He jumps around a lot when fighting, and yet, he is truly energetic right now. That hell-like enjoyment lecture has steadily increased our competency. It wasn't simple torture. I'm glad I believed in Shiki-san!

"Then let's continue moving on! I also increased my level a lot and am overflowing with power!!" (Yuno)

With spear in hand, Yuno walks parallel to Jin. A bit behind, Daena and Misura. Izumo, Sif and I are securing the path while following their steps. Since the time we began taking Raidou-sensei's class our stamina has gone up, but having magicians running around the forest is just harsh. As time goes it may be possible, but right now we move forward by walking in an easy to walk part and are somehow able to follow the party. And yet, our progress is advancing rapidly. Thinking about that, I can tell that we are all doing our best.

While smiling wryly at the merriness of the frontline, we arrived at the lake shore where they were waiting.

There, a single dragon was present.

No joke. Seriously.

Is it using this lake as a water supply?

No good. I am steadily getting agitated. My composure till now is being overwritten.

That's not it. This is not how it's supposed to be. Think. Think of a counter-measure. Attack, defend or run. What's most important is to confirm my cards at hand. Calm down, calm down!!!

At the front of my field of vision, there's still a decent amount of distance. A crescent moon-shaped lake, we stand at that outside part. The dragon is close to the center, in the part where the land pushes into the inner area. It is drinking water, no, it was. Right now it has stopped its movements and is looking at our direction.

It has a body resembling that of a lizard, but the proof that it wasn't a lizard is in its forehead that has a sharp horn protruding straight forward. The color of its body is gray, its outer skin layered with scales. Its length is probably around 4 to 5 meters.

“J-Jin...”

Misura's voice is scraped. We also understand his current feelings. However, you also were at perfect condition when coming here, so you should be thinking as well. I believe in you guys.

“Amelia, do you know about that one over there?” (Jin)

Jin slowly unsheathes his sword and takes a combat stance. He must have judged it impossible to overcome this situation without fighting. I quietly nod at his question. Right now, what I can be the most proud of in this party is my knowledge.

“Yeah. It is one of the lowest grade dragons. I don't know the name, but if I remember correctly, it is a dragon that moves individually and its weakness is ice. It is recommended to fight it with long range attacks as soon as you encounter one and defeat it. If you are going to challenge it, a party of 10 with levels over 90 is best”

(Amelia)

“What are our current levels? I am 75” (Jin)

“Same here” (Amelia)

“I am 74” <Male>

“74 here” <Male>

“I am 77” (Sif)

“I am also 77” (Yuno)

“...I am 73” <Male>

The numbers and levels are not enough. In short, running away is the best choice. Just... right now we are already being targeted by the dragon as enemies. If it were a situation where we were the ones finding it, then running away would sound like a realistic option. Also, that its weakness is ice is bad. If possible, it would have been best if it was wind. Or fire and earth. In a situation where we can smash it with strong magic, we would still have a chance of winning.

“I will be the rear guard. Izumo, I want you to cast wind support magic and have everyone’s speed increased” (Jin)

Jin’s words hinted at escaping. It may be the correct choice. But that means Jin would be-

“GYYEAAAAAAA!!”

My thoughts were cut off in the middle.

The moment the sluggish dragon opened its mouth facing our way, an absurdly high volume roar echoed in the area!

An overpowering roar! If it’s a dragon, this yell is used by almost all of them to seal the movements of their opponents. That’s right, it had that. I forgot such essential information in this important moment! I pretended to be calm but was unable to act it!

Regret wells up over and over inside me, but my body is not moving at all. I can tell that it was totally cowering in fear. This is my first time receiving this roar, but it is really effective!

With its pair of legs, the dragon advances to our location at a speed that doesn't match its massive body. The fear that roar poured in my body has not disappeared. Actually, because of the trembling that its advance is making, my body trembles as if responding back to it.

Even if I said it is the lowest grade, it is obviously not an opponent we can match!!

Someone, anyone, if you are able to move, please run!

My vision that has been freed looks at the other members, but every single one of them is clenching their teeth and with a rigid face, their whole body trembled. Jin, at this moments you would do a war cry and show us that you can move right?! Is it fine to just wait and get eaten?!

My thoughts that were close to pushing blame were vain, and the dragon continues to approach. Just an instant of carelessness. A single mistake. For such an ending to happen is just...!!

“...Obu... Zeiruno... Juna”

A-ria?

Where? Up?! At a tree branch?!

There, a small girl wearing a white parka I have never seen before was sitting.

She had a yellow fruit-looking thing in one hand, maybe she was in the middle of her snack?

There's a dragon right here though. A snack., seriously?

My head was being ruled by confusion. Even when I try to remember Raidou-sensei's teachings, I couldn't keep my calm. It is mortifying but, the me right now can't stay calm in any situation.

What a strange parka. There's a decoration at the head part. Eh? Cat ears?

At the moment I thought such a useless and stupid thing...

Countless vines came out from the forest and were heading to the lake, no, were released at the dragon. Maybe it was taken by surprise, the dragon slowed its speed, but without giving it any time to decide anything, the vines wrapped around its whole body and stopped its movements.

Summoning of vines? No, these are trees? From the branches of the trees, it changes to something and stretches towards the dragon and seals its movements?

From the huge trees and the saplings as well, not only that, the grass and shrub too. They all stretched out like shackles. Now that I look in more detail, it is not only brown, I can also see green mixed as well. This is a spell I have never seen before.

“...”

My voice doesn't come out. Is this also because of the dragon's roar? To seal your ability to use arias as well, what a truly scary skill. Thinking that every dragon is able to use this, I can feel my back freezing.

\*Ton

A light sound is heard.

When I look, I can see the person who saved us (?) standing in between the place where Izumo and Sif are. To be able to come down so easily from such a high altitude. Is she a demi-human?

Because of the parka that is worn deeply, I can only tell that she has brown skin. Also that she is small.

That girl placed her hand on Izumo's stomach and hit it lightly with a \*ponpon sound. She shakes her head left and right.

“How vexing”

“?!?”

After that, she grabbed Sif's breasts with both hands and rubbed them. Oh~.

“The era of large breasts is not eternal”

“!#\$!&?!” (Sif)



From her expression, I can tell that Sif is panicking. Honestly speaking, the true feelings from me who has a modest hill are: "Good job". Tte, what am I thinking?

If we think about the order, I am next?

My conjecture must have been correct, the kid (I think) that is jogging cutely to where I am, stepped onto my tiptoes with all she had.

"I am not small!"

"&&!!"

O-Ouch!! Or more like, why does she know what I was thinking?!

After that, she talked with each one in order while walking to where the dragon is.

By the way, she compared Yuno with Sif and then told her 'brace yourself'.

To Daena, she told him 'Live strong, pikmin'.

To Misura, 'There's a spider ahead. You can still make it, sucker'.

To Jin, 'Last time I mistook the change', saying that, she took out coins and put them in his shirt pocket.

I-I can't understand at all.

"Well, it is still an excursion till you return so..."

That girl turns back and looks at every one of us, and with the hand that's not holding the fruit-looking thing, she pointed her index finger at us.

"Also, bananas are not counted as a snack. I still have two. Ufufufu~"

...Why is it, I don't understand what she is saying, but I am beginning to feel like there's not even a trace of tension here.

The dragon, while being bounded in both hands and feet, struggles with its two legs. I don't know how many trees he is being wrapped in, but to be able to restrain a dragon for so long, what a high leveled spell. This girl is definitely a magician.

She must have thought about something. The person wearing a parka with cat ears finishes eating the yellow fruit and throws the skin-like thing at the dragon's feet.

Of course, the skin was cruelly stepped on and crushed.

The kid looks at that mortified.

Eh? What? What was she even trying to do?

Right now, it isn't as hard to voice out. Just once is fine, I felt like retorting.

"We said so!"

The parka person declares firmly while pointing at the lower half of the dragon. It seems she stopped her mortification for now. The other hand was placed at her waist and was making a pose. Maybe it's because of her ability, she has a lot of composure when facing a dragon. Aah, I want to be stronger~.

"It would be dangerous if we make princess Komoe angry"

Princess Komoe? This person, is she under the command of a country?

"Because this happened after all (monotone)"

Before I noticed, there was a magic formation below the parka girl's feet. At her fingertip, there's a spinning small thin staff. Is that the tool she uses as intermediary? It is as small as a writing tool and it doesn't look powerful at all...

The magic formations were being posted at several parts of the lake surface. Countless magic formations of the same pattern floated on the lake surface and...

The dragon faced the lake and was thrown there. It was freed from the tree shackles and its body was in midair, moreover, on top of the lake surface that has countless dim shining magic formations.

It probably wanted to roar once again. The dragon opened its mouth wide.

Will it plunge into the water first, or will the second roar come first? I was thinking that, but neither of them occurred.

Because from the countless formations, giant spears of ice spouted out simultaneously and skewered the dragon in midair.

I felt that unreal scene was slightly comical.

"Too bad. If you were able to dodge every sone of those, the true performance would have begun"

The words that were nonchalantly continuing held a meaning I didn't know of.

The dragon's body turned into dust.

The cat eared white parka kid also disappeared at some point in time.

This summer will be one that we will never be able to forget. With our bodies that were still unable to move, we silently accepted that truth.

# Chapter 110

## Summer vacation Part 2

### ~ last migration interview ~

Asora. The mist town.

The location is not definite. A place that no one knows its details. Even the master, Misumi Makoto, is unable to comprehend it completely.

Currently there's several races from the wasteland that have moved there and taken residence. They are in the middle of constructing a town apart from their original settlement.

But for the size of Asora, the amount of residents is just way too low. Because even when we count everyone, the numbers won't reach the thousands. There are several reasons. They must fit Makoto's conditions, must be accepted by his followers, and the invited race not accepting migration.

Makoto judged that it wouldn't prove any problems to increase the residents and send out people to invite the races with the wasteland as its focus, but... there were no reports reaching him that there are races wishing to migrate. There were several who were suitable, but till now, there's not a single one who has migrated.

Recently, Makoto has been busy in his activities at Academy Town, so the highland orc Ema was being considerate of his situation and stopping the reports to a certain extent until she gets a clear answer from the other party in order to prevent any problems. The efficient secretary Ema arranges all sorts of reports before outlining them to Makoto and his followers. She understands that there isn't sufficient people, so reporting every single case of migration request would just trouble Makoto. That is most likely one of the reasons why it hasn't come to a conclusion till now. After giving them an apologize, she asks them to do another interview when Makoto gets some time in his hands, is what she thought.

When Makoto got that time in his hands, meaning today when the Academy Town's activities enter summer vacation (a word Ema is not familiar with), his activities in

Asora increased. Moreover, he is doing some sort of training and there are times when he stays there all day. This was the best chance. Ema told Makoto about the races that were requesting migration, and told him the time of the interview. These are all cases that have already gotten through the approval of his followers Tomoe, Mio and Shiki. Next, there's only the need of Makoto nodding and their migration would be accepted. In total, three cases.

Even though she has been holding back the reports for a long time, three cases are not that much. But it isn't like migrating to Asora isn't enticing. Actually, there were a lot of cases that just by telling them, they held an incredible amount of interest, but most of them pulled back in the middle of it.

Asora is bringing in adventurers with an objective in mind. This is something Makoto proposed and Tomoe accepted, but because of this deed, the races that have been living for a while in the entrance of the wasteland retracted their migration candidacy.

Maybe because they have battles with hyumans a lot; the demonic beasts, demi-humans and beast people that live there have extraordinary amounts of hostility towards hyumans. Therefore, just by thinking that adventurers are in Asora – no matter if it's at an isolated place – they didn't wish to migrate. They are random races that have strong hostility, so Ema didn't think much about it. Because it's better to not plant seeds that might bring problems after all. In the initial stages, invitations were brought to them, but they were all refused.

In the exploration of the inner parts of the wasteland, there's a need for good amounts of people, so the hostility towards hyumans is normally thinner. The number of hyumans that have gotten that strong are few, and on top of that, the races that live there normally follow the logic of 'the strong eat the weak'.

And so, the talk about invitation in itself begins mostly from races of these areas. The Forest Onis can be called an incredibly rare case. Well, the current situation is that they are being forced into a Spartan training that would make even Mist Lizards pale, and it isn't a complete migration either.

From this stage, Makoto's follower, Tomoe, begins the side by side selection. What's usually investigated are things like the race's diet, social nature presence, special abilities, etc. Depending on the followers, the way they carry out the selection is different. Mio is the most whimsical and instinctive; Tomoe is careful and selects well; Shiki emphasizes ability and selects in a safe manner. In short, have Mio agree to a

certain extent, get pass over a picky stage, and have ability up to a minimum; is how they pass the selection. It's incredibly harsh.

After that, we bring the talk about migration to that race.

Even if the three are suitable, there's the chance of them refusing, so... it was hard to move to the last interview. This is one of the reasons that's causing Asora to be shorthanded. It isn't like anyone's fine, and the people that investigate know that. It must be a race that can be respected, or it would bring difficulties in the future. There's no guarantee that there won't problems occurring after the migration.

This time, the three cases that Ema has, based on her own experience, they are people that they can expect from. There's also the probability of some problems, but there's the chance that the three of them migrate. She herself wasn't involved in the investigations so she only knows the various races from documents, but from the information, that's how she evaluated them.

If the migration is established, it will turn busy again, but for Ema it is a happy type of busy. Because the comrades will increase. From every race, children are born and there's some slight changes in Asora, but as expected, it can't compare to the change that the migration of a new race would bring.

“Excuse my intrusion”

“Ah, Ema. Morning. Today is the interview right? Is it beginning?”

“Good morning. The three races' representatives have already been invited to come here. If it fits Makoto-sama's convenience, I am planning on beginning after this”  
(Ema)

Makoto talks in broken down words and Ema responds with a smile. He talked in a polite manner before, so there was a time when she requested him to conduct himself as a lord. Now he does it, but it is more like he is speaking with a friend, and that's how he acts towards Ema. It isn't the goal, but it is something that makes her happy.

“Eh? We are not the ones receiving them huh. Calling them to us, how eminent~”  
(Makoto)

“Makoto-sama. We were the ones who brought the talk about migration to them, but they also wished for it and that's why it has advanced to this stage. So it is natural for

them to be the ones coming to us" (Ema)

For Ema, Makoto is the messiah that saved her family, the highland orcs. On top of that, he invited them to a prosperous and magnificent world. She considers him as an existence close to God. Even if that's his speech and conduct, there are times when his low stance attitude is not amusing for Ema. Even if he explained her that that's how we was brought up and it can't be helped, she understood it, but couldn't accept it. She even thinks that it should be fine for him to be a bit haughtier. For Makoto, it might have been quite the difficult request.

"Ema, you were a bit scary just now. I see, they are already here huh. Did Tomoe bring them?" (Makoto)

"No. They came here by Komoe-sama's gate creation training" (Ema)

"So Komoe-chan can even do that already. Even though Shiki was finally able to do it not too long ago. I feel like he might get depressed again" (Makoto)

"She is like Tomoe-sama's child after all. Well then, let's move to another room" (Ema)

"Understood. There were three cases right? Can you please show me the documents?" (Makoto)

"Yes, here. Please look through them while we are moving" (Ema)

Ema gives Makoto the documents that were at her side. Opening the door, she prompts Makoto and begins to walk in front of him to lead him to the room. Ema walks at the left side of Makoto in a fixed interval. It was silent. In the hall, the only noise was the sounds of papers being turned while Makoto is walking. In the place where Makoto's room is, even if Asora is peaceful, there's a reasonable amount of security posted in that area. In a day like today where they know beforehand that Makoto will be mobilizing, they hide and don't show themselves in consideration. Makoto doesn't really mind it that much, so the most he thinks is 'there's few people here~'.

"Heh~. This time there are races with a good amount of numbers. If all of them migrate, we would surpass the thousands, no, as expected, it won't be that much. For there to be this many when they have been living in the inner parts, that's pretty impressive" (Makoto)

"Even if we call it inner, it is a part that is prosperous. The third race that will be

interviewed is one of those cases. That place is one that will have fights for rich lands no matter what, so it can be said that they have been decreasing in numbers steadily. They are also the ones that are the most active at wishing for migration" (Ema)

"I see. Like an oasis in a desert huh. Then those guys have been protecting their village with their skills" (Makoto)

"That's how it is. The first ones that you will be meeting are a race that live in a special place because of their ability, and the other race, because of their racial characteristic, foreign enemies don't try to fight with them. Both of them have high combat power, and in terms of social nature, there's no problems for now" (Ema)

"...Certainly. And they also acknowledge living in level ground. Fufu, I am beginning to look forward to meeting them" (Makoto)

"This is the room, Makoto-sama. I originally wanted this to be in the audience room, but since this was a request, we prepared a table. Please do take care of what you say" (Ema)

The two of them arrive in front of a room where two Mist Lizards stand in row between both sides of the door. Ema felt that the body of the Mist lizards that was firm had become even firmer with the arrival of Makoto. In this Asora, there aren't many jobs that let you involve directly with Makoto. These two that were selected as the door guards this time must be pretty nervous. A smile surfaced in her face as she imagined their situation. By the way, for some reason, in Makoto's mansion (or more like, lately it is beginning to look more like a castle in Makoto's perspective) there's a wide space that is prepared for audiences, and when he heard the report from Ema that they will be using that place, Makoto hurriedly asked her to change it to a normal room with a table. 'I shouldn't have told him', is what Ema muttered and Makoto didn't miss it.

Inside the room there's a table and seats. As usual, it is made from excellent craftsmanship. The work of the eldwas. The windows are open, letting in the outside air, and there isn't that characteristic smell an unused room has. Makoto, seeing that there were two seats prepared, estimated that there will be two people for each race representative he will be meeting today.

"Please sit down and wait here. I will be bringing the guests here" (Ema)

Ema urges Makoto to take a seat and after confirming that he has sat down, she leaves the room. She tells the two lizards that she will go to get the related party and advances to the neighboring room.

On the other hand, Makoto is sitting and waiting for her to bring the representatives while reading the documents of the first race he will be meeting. Of course, he is using [Sakai] to grasp his surroundings. He knows what room Ema headed to, and understood that there were two guests in there. When they move to where he is, he plans on hiding the documents and receive them standing. Ema wanted to avoid exactly that and that's why she asked him to stay sit in the room waiting, but he didn't understand that at all.

(The first ones I will be meeting are... a race called winged people huh. Well, they obviously fly. In that case, were they living in high ground? Do they have bird wings, or maybe bug type wings? Ah, it is written. At their back they have bird wings or bat wings huh. Both of them are the same race. Even if they don't mix, they can be born with either. This people are a social position society. N~ it is probably gonna be alright. If they talk about social position here, it would be troublesome. Here we basically don't have higher or lower in races after all) (Makoto)

Looking at a part of the documents, Makoto felt uneasy. But it could be said that this was a reading discrepancy. The winged people are born with bird wings or bat wings. The distinction is simply because of the difference in power. And based on that, they divide their work to fit their strength, and as a race in the wasteland, they are quite numerous. They have a community of about three hundred. Of course, the strong ones get important jobs and big authority, but it comes with its dangers. It was a bit different from the social position society that Makoto is imagining. What he was imagining is a bad image where the society is divided in commoners and slaves.

(Anyways, if I don't meet them and see for myself, nothing will begin. If they are way too awful, I will excuse myself) (Makoto)

Makoto senses that the three of them are heading where he is and stops his imagination. He stands up and waits for the door to open.

Before long, the door opened. In Makoto's eyes appear two people with the height of a normal person and folded wings at their back, and Ema who looks at Makoto's appearance and does a small sigh. The two of the winged people have a darkish skin, and it reminded Makoto of the Forest Onis.

“Nice to meet you and welcome to Asora. My name is Makoto. I am in a position similar to that of a feudal lord in this place” (Makoto)

In front of the three that approach the table, Makoto introduces himself first. Ema sighs once again. In her perspective, she probably wished Makoto to at least say something like ‘Great to see you have arrived to our world’. The winged people seem to be confused at Makoto’s behavior too. They have already received the interview with Shiki beforehand. Because they sensed that thick overpowering aura of him, they couldn’t understand the behavior of the male in front of them that should be standing above that personage.

“...Eh? Ah, go ahead, sit down first” (Makoto)

Before he sits, he urges the stiffened party to sit.

(Both of them have white bat wings huh. The highest standing people have come)  
(Makoto)

Makoto observes the winged people with a slightly mistaken understanding. Aside from the difference in bird wings and bat wings, there’s also the difference in the color of the wings. White and black. In other words, there are 4 types of wings. The one at the highest is the white bat wings, the next are the white bird wings, then the black bat wings and bird wings.

“...Nice to meet you. For this offer of migrating to such a splendid land, we thank you very much. I am the winged people’s elder, name is Kakun. This one here is my counselor, Shona” (Kakun)

“Nice to meet you Makoto-sama. Pleasure to make your acquaintance” (Shona)

After their words, the winged people take sit facing Makoto. Male and female. The one who claimed to be the elder is a male, and the one who greeted without her naming herself is the female.

With a slightly rough expression, Ema sits beside Makoto last.

“I have received the report that you wish to migrate to Asora. Taking that as a preamble, I have a number of questions I want to do. Is that okay?” (Makoto)

“Of course”

"Great. I will be hearing the questions from your side later. Well then, first of all..."

Makoto begins the interview with the winged people. Without noticing at all that Ema had resolved herself to warn him about his behavior later.



"It seems that he understood us well, but is that person really the lord of this land? He was acting pretty lenient though..."

"Yeah, but don't you feel like the conversation went way too smoothly? I heard from Ema that at a later time they will be checking our combat ability, so until then, we must make sure to not get careless. I suggest that we inspect this place"

"I already understand that Shona. But when I think that they approached our race with our power as their goal, it feels like what is being evaluated is our attitude as a race and I can't help but be confused. After Makoto-sama said that we were approved and Ema-dono added that there will be an ability test, Makoto-sama told her that that wasn't necessary. Even though we are given the permission to live in such a rich land, the conditions just don't balance. If in the end there's actually no hidden objective behind all this, I would have spun the gears in my brain for nothing" (Kakun)

"They are actually abnormal after all. To be able to live in this kind of place without fighting each other. From what I have seen, Makoto-sama didn't have any evil intent when he stretched this offer, but I think that to doubt that is an important job of yours. Now then, let's go out and have them show us around" (Shona)

Leaving the room, the orc that Ema told them will be working as their guide was waiting for the winged people's elder and counsellor who were giving out their impressions of the interview with Makoto.

The result of the interview is pass. And it was so easy that it was anticlimactic.

'How many conditions will they bring out and what will they want from us?' even when they tried to throw the questions they had, all the answers betrayed their expectations in a good way. What they were the most surprised about was that they accepted independency really readily. The winged people were expecting a lot of conditions for this favorable migration. For example, something like payment to the previous residents, offer 80% of their people for manual labor (excluding all the old

and children, almost everyone), moreover, distribution of manual labor that everyone would want to avoid. They came with the intention of being treated one step before slavery. All of their life necessities are satisfied, and on top of that, they are able to obtain several articles that they have never been able to get their hands on by equivalent trade. Moreover, the ones who wish to, are given the chance to study, and have also promised high level training for their warriors.

When Ema told them the outline of the offer, they doubted that even 1% of it would actually be true, but Makoto completely affirmed them all. It can't be helped that Kakun and Shona unconsciously widened their eyes and opened their mouths agape.

Will a future like that really come for them? The two of them still half-doubted as they moved through Asora and continued their surprises.

Winged people, over three hundred denizens. Pass. Migration after 5 days.



“Well then, can you please take off that blindfold?”

The two women that were sitting in front of Makoto trembled greatly at his words.

Matching that, Ema also trembled a bit, but when Makoto exchanged glances with her, she was soon able to calm down again. She faces down as if she was embarrassed of being agitated.

“But, just as we explained, there’s a problem with our eyes”

“Even if we don’t have any intentions of injuring Makoto-sama, the effects will still take place”

The two women have a cloth with complex patterns drawn covering both of their eyes. The winged people that Makoto met before gave the impression of being slender, but these women have more meat in a good sense, a sensual figure. They have a cloth wrapped around their body resembling that of nymphs that appear in Greek mythology, and have an attire that exposes quite a lot. It’s not small clothes but cloth, is what Makoto muttered as he blushed.

Gorgon. For Makoto, calling them Medusa would be easier to understand, but it is a

race that resembles her. The people that look at their eyes are turned into stone, is the special racial characteristic of them. They are a race that even with that ability they didn't perish and have lived peacefully till now in the wasteland.

Their appearance is extremely close to that of humans but, maybe it reacts based on their emotions, their hair moves. The hair of those girls have quite the transformation capability and are legitimate weapons.

The girls have no control over their power, and it is always in an ON state. It is a power that doesn't activate on people of the same race, but if it's others, it will activate without mercy. It is an ability that can already be considered a curse. With a special blindfold they are somehow able to restrict the activation of their power to others.

This is the reason why they live in the wasteland and also the reason they secluded themselves. And they steadily move into the inner parts and change locations, so that they don't unnecessarily spread the petrification. There may be other circumstances, but at least that's how Makoto thought of it and felt that they are a kind race.

This time they got interested in the migration because of their hope that they may be able to use their power more naturally, and because of a problem the race carries.

They were defined as those girls, but actually, the Gorgons are a race that only has women. Meaning that they need a male from a different source. In exchange for being able to share their seed with most of the races, the babies they breed are all Gorgon. A mysterious race.

To be able to maintain their existence as a race, they must be in an environment with males. 'I am surprised they didn't perish' is the insensitive thought Makoto was thinking.

"It is fine with me. It didn't work for Tomoe right? In that case, it is fine. I will also be protecting Ema so, go ahead" (Makoto)

"But, from Makoto-sama we uhm... don't feel that much magic power though"

"I don't think you will end up safe at all"

Makoto is currently doing a certain training. Because of the effects of that training, he is using [Sakai] most of the time to suppress his magic power. Right now he is not using his power to look around the surroundings, in this time where he is receiving guests,

but using it to suppress his magic power. The uneasiness that the two Gorgons are feeling is plausible.

"The two of you, if an ability didn't work on Tomoe-sama, it is impossible for it to show any effects on Makoto-sama. I am also okay, so please take them off. That is Makoto-sama's wish after all" (Ema)

Being urged by Ema, the two Gorgons place their hands on their blindfolds. Their hair undulates slightly, but Makoto didn't seem to mind and looks at the two of them. Ema said that it was fine, but maybe she is nervous, her body is stiffened.

"Well then..."

"..."

The two of them take off their blindfolds. In front of them there is a man that called himself a hyuman and a female orc. The two of them didn't turn into stone and just continued looking.

"Fumu, it certainly does seem to be eyes that hold a strong effect. Is it a type of demonic eye? But to have your eyes covered must be inconvenient right?" (Makoto)

Makoto talks to both of them like normal. Ema sighs in relief. Her reaction is actually the most normal one. No, the fact that they are okay is probably pretty strange. And in reality, the Gorgons had their eyes wide open and were looking at the other party that's moving.

"Ah, ehm, yes. The food would also turn into stone so. Well, we can also eat petrified food. It won't taste good, however, we can absorb the nutrients. But even if we have to put on a blindfold to do it, it is more delicious to eat like that. Also, we talked about this at the previous interview; it is inconvenient when taking the seed of males of other races and... having our vision taken away affects our whole daily life"

"Yeah, it certainly does sound inconvenient. I have heard that some hyumans have that kind of hobby though..." (Ema)

The Gorgon that returned to her senses first, talks about the inconveniences. Ema agrees to that, and for some reason, looks at Makoto. Makoto felt like her eyes were a bit cold. It felt as if there was some sort of allusion to the latter half.

“Ema, don’t look at me when you say that. Even if you don’t retort to that, I clearly understand that it’s inconvenient. But, Gorgon-san. I can’t go as far as getting you a partner to make kids, so at that part it is more of a mutual concession, you don’t mind right?” (Makoto)

“Yeah, in that case it is fine. With that blindfold, even in our current situation it should be fine, is what you told us right, Ema?”

“Yes. No problems” (Ema)

“In that case, there won’t be any problems to just change that blindfold into something similar like glasses or contacts that hold the same effect. And so, it can probably be solved. You have already accepted all the conditions including: sharing of knowledge, participation in battle training and cooperation in the construction of the land; so the only part of concern is probably the talk about baby making. If you act properly in that part, it should be fine. We will be confirming how much effect those eyes can take in Asora. But regarding the migration, I welcome you with open arms” (Makoto)

“Really?!”

The two Gorgons get up from their seat and look at Makoto as if shooting right through him. The two of them who were thinking all the time that they will definitely be rejected in the end, these answer was unbelievable.

“Then, all the Gorgons are fine with the migration right?” (Ema)

“Well that’s, we are really happy for that but...”

“Is it really, rea~lly all right? Because you know, we are a race that even if we are able to turn people into stone, we are unable to turn them back”

“Ah, I see. About the petrification, it can probably be cured so there’s no problem” (Makoto)

“Eh?!”

Makoto looks like he remembered something and places a hand on the table. It’s the table that was turned instantly into stone after the Gorgons took off their blindfold. Makoto pours magic power.

"Uhm, like this... and then, by doing this..." (Makoto)

The table that was turned into a cold ashen color quickly returned into the colorful light brown one. But it soon turned into stone again. Obviously. It's being exposed to the eyes of the Gorgons after all. It is in a state where it is continually transformed into stone, so the girls themselves have already given up on thinking of a way to solve it.

"Ah! Damn it! So it won't work if I don't give it resistance to the petrification itself huh. Then how about this?!" (Makoto)

After meditating, Makoto once again puts his hand on the table and pours magic power.

The two Gorgons watch attentively. Even if it was only for an instant, they lost their words after seeing the table turned back from its petrified state. On the other hand, Ema didn't show much agitation and is looking at Makoto. The girl that got surprised every time by Makoto is already gone.

This time, matching the words of Makoto, the table that returned to its wooden state didn't turn back to stone.

Even after a while, it didn't turn into stone again.

"Unbelievable"

"I thought we would have to wear this blindfold for the rest of our life..."

"In the past, I challenged a problematic abnormal status you see. As a byproduct of that, I have become able to deal with a good variety of abnormalities" (Makoto)

Makoto takes the eyes of admiration from the two of them with a bashful laugh. Shiki, Makoto and the others have challenged a status abnormality. The Tree Punishment was a status abnormality that surpassed the power of the Gorgon's petrification by leaps and bounds. Because of that, Makoto was able to calmly counter the petrification power of theirs. The Tree Punishment interferes with their existence itself and brings about scary changes. Even with the most intelligent people of Asora, it still took several months before they could find a solution to the curse.

"Makoto-sama. Please shelter us in this world"

“We will follow any orders”

“Shelter you say. After talking to you, I didn’t see any problems in your social nature. Try not to fall into immoral relationships, triangle relationships or muddy relationships, and it will be fine. It seems that you are not familiar to welcoming the father, so in the worst case scenario, if the lost hyumans meet the purpose, feel free to do so. Uhm, it may be a bad way of calling it but... something like a one-night stand”  
(Makoto)

After that, the interview with the Gorgons and Makoto continued in a smooth manner, and the migration of the girls was clearly decided.



“That was impressive. I was surprised with Tomoe-sama as well, but to think that Makoto-sama and everyone else was still fine after looking at us”

“And he even said that he would lend us a hand so that our power doesn’t inconvenience us. I feel as if I am in a dream”

“Things that could be worn in our body, at most, it was to wrap a cloth around our hair, but maybe we will be able to wear normal clothes now. Incredible. I am so excited”

Makoto apologized by the fact that they have to put on their blindfolds again, and the two blindfolded Gorgons returned to the standby room that was readied for them and are having a pleasant talk. Even if it’s called a standby room, the furniture is well prepared, and for receiving guests, this room was more than enough.

“Even if our field of vision is shut, our hair helped us grasp our surroundings so we were somehow able to live by, but if it is okay to look, that’s not bad at all. If possible, we want to try enjoying dressing up”

“The battle training also sounds fun. I want to migrate fast~”

“Right. I really want to bring everyone here fast”

The two Gorgons are talking with wide smiles in their faces and having flowers blooming around them *<Like in shoujo mangas>*. The girls themselves and Makoto haven’t noticed yet but, the migration of those girls will have a small expected

problem.

Until now, those girls that were unable to choose the opposite gender by their outward appearance will be migrating to Asora. The girls that didn't care if they were of other races as long as it is male.

The magnificent favor that Makoto brought upon their whole race, just how will they repay him? Free love, mutual concession; the vague things that Makoto told them, as long as it is not misinterpreted, there won't be any problems. There won't be but... if something were to happen, well, Makoto will just be getting his just desserts. It is the fault of Makoto for forgetting that he is also included in the males of Asora.

Gorgon, over two hundred denizens. Pass. Migration after 10 days.



“Our specialty is gathering nectar!”

“Also, we are able to contact everyone!”

At one side there's Makoto and Ema, and at their front it looked like no one is sitting there.

And in reality, there's two small cushions on top of the table, and there, two small guests are sitting. Accurately speaking, they were: sitting, standing, flying; moving around restlessly.

(Just like how I imagined those kids, no, people. The more I look at them, the more they give me an impression of fairies) (Makoto)

The last interviewees are small fairies. The image that Makoto has of fairies is: simple-minded, vigorous, and likes pranks. The small crown that is resting on his head looks like the tools used by moms and it is charming. ‘It is proof that he is the king so I have to show respect’, is what Makoto continues to think, but he can't stop the thoughts of the books he has read before.

“I see. And so, the forest that the fairies were living in has been discovered by a foreign enemy, so you are asking for shelter, is that right?” (Makoto)

“We are not fairies! We are Al-ermera! We are more distinguished than those small

insects!"

They say they are al-ermera. Or so to speak, an existence more eminent than that of fairies. But in Makoto's eyes, these guys have exactly the same characteristics as fairies. Because their name is hard to remember, he unintentionally called them fairies.

And in truth, if the fairies they call insects were to line up with them, it is doubtful if Makoto would be able to properly tell the difference.

"We are the interim between fairies and spirits you know! If it's a low grade spirit, we are able to interfere and utilize them!"

Flying all around, diving into the cushion, flying right in front of Makoto while talking; he didn't show a single trace of calming down. Ema seems to be enduring their wild behavior quite a lot. She is trembling bit by bit.

"...Why... did Mio-sama pass this kind of things? In front Makoto-sama, they are..."  
(Ema)

Ema grumbles. If this were not an audience but a daily conversation, she probably wouldn't get so angry.

"N~ Well, they are numerous but small, so I don't see any problems. And if they are able to get in contact with everyone, that means if something happens, they will be able to tell us immediately. You will be helping out in the explorations right?" (Makoto)

"Leave it to us! We are al-ermeras with courage!"

"Then, prepare, and after the migra—" (Makoto)

"I'm against it Makoto-sama!" (Ema)

"Hia!!"

"Uwa?!"

The courageous al-ermeras hid down the table because of the sudden shout. Makoto was also surprised by the sudden shout at his side, but he didn't really do much and is still sitting in place.

"Such a restless race, this bunch that are practically children, if they were to enter Asora, it would be a disaster! Maybe it's better to just let all their forest get conquered! That way they might reflect!" (Ema)

"E-Ema" (Makoto)

"This is an interview you know?! Moreover, with the race's future at stake! And yet, this... is this how the king of a race should act?!" (Ema)

It seems that Ema's anger reached its peak. Makoto faces up. Certainly. If he were to compare the previous two races, the attitude of the al-elmeras has many problems. Makoto thought of them as kids and was thinking softly of them, but even if their appearance is small or cute, they are an adult organism, and the one that is asking for the interview is the king. Because Ema was looking at them as a matured race, she showed her anger at the amount of rudeness. And if the king of their race is like this, she thought that the other people of the race would be even worse, so even if she had to oppose Makoto, she still voiced out.

For them who stay in their child-like nature even when they reach maturity, this may be a harsh demand, but Ema couldn't accept it no matter what.

"Calm down Ema. Stoppu!" (Makoto)

"No, I can't Makoto-sama! Makoto-sama is way too soft on this guys! What al-elmeras, what interim between fairies and spirits! In that case, go repel the herd of Riz that are approaching your forest! That's right, it is fine to just come back here again after you are able to do that!" (Ema)

Seeing Ema snap for the first time, Makoto tried to calm her someway by desperately talking to her, and then he called the lizards and ordered them to return the al-elmera representatives to their room. Ema was swinging her arms madly at the fairies that were flying to run away. Truly an unusual scene.

The lizards were also taken aback by the maddened Ema. Even so, they followed the orders of their lord and leave with the small guests that should escape.

"I will stick them into a birdcage and throw them into the forest! Where did you run away you insects?!" (Ema)

"Ema, I understand. They are the ones to blame so, for now, just calm down!!!" (Makoto)



“What was with that orc?! She doesn’t understand just how strong we are!”

“We are not scared of mere Riz, but if we fight, our comrades will get injured, so we thought that we might as well accept their migration offer!”

“Now that it has come to this, we will drive those Riz back and have that woman apologize!”

“Amazing! King, so intelligent! But what about the migration?”

“This place’s flowers give tasty nectar, so I want to live here more than in that forest! I am the king, so I have to share this nectar with everyone!”

“Then we have to return and prepare for war!”

“Right! We will show Makoto-sama our power!”

Al-elmera, approximately three hundred. On hold.



That night, Makoto and his followers were sitting together after the meal. While reporting the results of that day’s interviews, they pass the time relaxing.

“Then we will be increasing the number of races by two huh. Regarding the Gorgons, I will discuss with the dwarfs and have them make both glasses and contacts to test” (Shiki)

“So Shiki will be dealing with the Gorgons huh. Then I will be handling the winged people. I should think about a training menu as well. I also have interest in the 4 types of wings and the difference in aptitudes. The thought transmission case has already been solved with the aria that Waka gave us and analyzed after all” (Tomoe)

“I am counting on you two” (Makoto)

“At any rate, Mio, don’t go passing a strange race. Are you listening Mio?!” (Tomoe)

Tomoe and Shiki decide on their own movements as they hear the talk of Makoto.

Regarding Mio who is getting scolded by Tomoe, she is approaching Makoto with a small bowl in hand with vegetable sticks of varied colors in it.



“Waka-sama, Waka-sama. Try this out please” (Mio)

“Vegetable stick? Eh, could this be, mayonnaise?! Mio, did you make it yourself?!” (Makoto)

“Yes! I did my best!” (Mio)

“Heh~! Then, I will be trying it out. Yeah, so nostalgic!! And the vegetables here are a lot tastier. This is the best Mio!” (Makoto)

“Ufufufu” (Mio)

Mio was completely delighted, so she didn't listen to Tomoe, no, the words of Tomoe probably didn't even enter her ears.

“Hoh~ this is mayonnaise huh. Mio-dono, is it okay for me to taste it too?” (Shiki)

“Waka-sama has already been pleased so, it is okay. Shiki, eat and taste it thoroughly” (Mio)

“Well then. This is... sour, thick, delicious. What a complex taste. It goes well with the vegetables too. Fumu, is there a way to put it in nabe as well...” (Shiki)

Shiki seems to have been captivated by the mayonnaise. The result was quite the high praise.

While continuing to eat the various types, he thinks about a way to utilize it in nabe.

"Hmph, it is certainly delicious, but it can't be compared to the Miso that will be completed in a near future!" (Tomoe)

"It is because you can't make Miso that I am here recreating many other things am I not? Please create miso soup fast, Tomoe-san! Soy sauce as well got it?!" (Mio)

"It will be soon-ja, very soon-ja!" Mu, that it is unexpectedly good is so vexing!" (Tomoe)

While saying that, Tomoe is nibbling the carrots and cucumbers. Her favorite seems to be the cucumbers. 'She would definitely like Japanese cucumber as well' is what Makoto thought.

"Tomoe, mayonnaise has strong devotees, so don't go saying careless things" (Makoto)

While nibbling on celery, Makoto laughs as he watches over Tomoe and Mio's interaction.

Obtaining new residents, Asora approaches its second year.

# Chapter 111

## School festival is soon to come

The sky is so vast.

In the time when I was in Earth, I felt the vastness of the summer sky like the one I am feeling in this world. It is soon going to be 1 year since I came to this world, so maybe the nostalgia is making me feel this way.

Even if my standpoint has changed, the fact that I am in school makes the feeling stronger.

More than a month has passed in the summer vacation of Rotsgard, but that doesn't mean the latter period of classes will begin immediately. In name, the academy has resumed its activities, so the students have to attend every day, but because of the academy's foundation festival, the general classes are not open.

After a break of more than 1 month, there's another period of close to 1 month to prepare, so in essence, it's like having a break of 2 months. For the students that get busy at the preparation period, they don't enter in that 2 month break category though. At least for the students in my class, that's the case. In the summer vacation they took my classes, and yet, they told me they want to continue taking classes even in preparation period. I refused. I also have one or two things I want to do after all.

Having a festival in autumn at the academy, it isn't like we are celebrating good harvest or anything, is what I was thinking, but if the foundation is in autumn, I can somehow agree with it. But well, compared to the autumn cultural festivals I have experienced in my world, this one seems to be pretty different.

It has a duration of 1 week and there's quite a decent amount of events. The students in charge of the management are the students that are at the top and the assistants chosen from each department; a portion of students from each year. The ones who are in charge aren't many, and seems to be quite the honor. There's several research publications and stage performances in the first half. At the latter half there's a number of tournaments scheduled to show off practical skills.

Many attend to this festival and even the inns of the surrounding towns are filled. A scary amount of people come here temporarily and lodge in an inn at the outside, just to attend this school festival. No, I might be the strange one for defining it as "just". And in truth, a good amount of state guests from Limia and Gritonia that are in war at the frontlines are invited. They look for talent and run several diplomatic conferences that go side by side. I should say: 'As expected of the hyuman's highest academic center'.

Jin and Amelia seem to be quite motivated. They are not the highest of the academy and are not graduating this year either. They will be attending the academy next year too and it isn't like this will be their last school festival, but it seems that they are doing their best daily in preparation for the tournament they will be participating. When they heard that that was an important scenario to show their talents and get recruited for the future, they got into an indescribable mood. The highest of the academy must be facing this event with an incredible resolve.

"Raidou-sama, this is the inventory of the merchandise at the school festival"

While I was checking out some company related documents and looking at the scenery, a voice called me out.

Shiki. Slender as always. In this summer we have been to Asora quite a lot, and there was a time when our diet became extravagant. Of course, at that time I was training and even with that, my body still gained weight, and yet, he didn't change at all. What up with that? If that's an advantage of being in a pact, it would be nice for me to have it as well. He is easily surpassing the 3,000 calories a meal because of the development of sweet nabe + mayonnaise. No matter how I think about it, he is obviously having a more unreasonable diet than me. How unfair.

"Yo, Makoto-kun. About the school festival, how about walking around with me to a few places. Don't worry, I won't be guiding you to any weird places"

Root. A silver haired young man. Or a boy maybe? He looks like the same age as me, but I feel like both of those denotations fit him. Well, young man is fine. His appearance is like that, but just like my follower Tomoe, he is a dragon-sama. Moreover, the most distinguished one. And he is the head of one of the mysteries of this world, the adventurer guild, and also its founder. Anyways, he has a lot of titles. If we were to describe him shortly, it would be: a genius and pervert. After our meeting before summer vacation and the shocking things he said, he has been coming to our company

and inviting us to meals. By the way, maybe because I can't trust him from the bottom of my heart, I haven't brought him to Asora. Seeing that Tomoe and Shiki haven't done it either, must mean that it isn't just me who thinks that way. Because I have told my three followers that it is fine to bring anyone to Asora as long you find that person fitting.

Improvements to the anti-jamming thought transmission and the counter-measure to the forced summon of the Goddess. The things that were urgent have been mostly finished. Also, be it Tomoe or be it Mio, everyone has been steadily getting stronger without slacking off. Personally, I think that Shiki's growth rate is impressive. That's why there's a part of him that seems to be more motivated.

By the way, at the end of the summer vacation, I showed the results of my training to everyone, and all of them had their eyes wide open. I didn't do anything that weird, so their reaction was pretty exaggerated.

"Tonight, the list of company merchandise that can be supplemented will be arriving, so it is fine to continue then. Please line up the current merchandise so that there's more space in the shelves. Root, if there's no problem in walking side by side with a famous person, then I can tag along. That's why, please don't come every day. Just as you see, I am busy" (Makoto)

"Understood. About the newcomers' education, is it okay to discuss it with Beren to increase the efficiency? The numbers are a bit too much and I can't narrow them all by the arranged time" (Shiki)

Root seems to have agreed. He nods with a smile and begins to read some book at the sofa. I think I did tell him to leave though. Even when I ask him about my parents and Kaleneon, he answers me with excuses like 'I am preparing the bath'. When I pursued the subject, he told me that he does know, but he explained me that he only knows a bit of information about those two after they left the country. Their relation with the Goddess came at that point in time it seems. Well, it is certainly true that he doesn't know everything about that's happening in the world, so it isn't strange to not know the details of what others do. In the end, he told me that if he remembers anything more, he would talk about it in bed. At that moment I asked him to leave. That he still hasn't given up is truly scary. He came once in the appearance of a woman and it was crazy beautiful. Her appearance was that of a person in her twenties, but she had a strange charm. I began to doubt if my tastes were older women. Is the appearance of Tomoe and Mio based of that desire of mine? I thought I didn't mind about age that

much though.

"Ah, I see. That's fine. I leave it to you. Do you think a number of them can come before it gets busy here?" (Makoto)

"Let's see. I think a number of them will be able to come. They are demi-humans, so unless they learn common language, we won't be able to move on. That's why I can't state a definite number of people" (Shiki)

Common language huh. In the end, I gave up at pronunciation. If I have a chance to be face to face with the Goddess, maybe I should try negotiations. As I thought, I do want to talk normally.

"Eh? There are going to be more people huh. Are you going to employ demi-humans again? Makoto-kun is really kind to them. No, maybe it's just that you hate hyumans?" (Root)

"...Root. We have Lime too. It's not like I intent to like and dislike depending on the race. I will say this clearly. L-E-A-V-E" (Makoto)

Just go back obediently to your guild and work. The guild people are probably troubled that the master is missing.

I look at the back of the guild master that I somehow managed to make him leave. I am in one way or another doing my best as a merchant, so the genius should do his job properly too. Lately I have gotten slightly used to being a merchant, but I still can't compare to Shiki. Well, I will leave it as a task to better from now on. About the inventory knowledge, I will be giving part of the task to the forest oni combi.

"...That person, no matter how many times we tell him, he still calls Raidou-sama as Makoto-sama" (Shiki)

"Even if we tell him that's there's a purpose behind it, he still doesn't listen. And he is like that, but he does call me Raidou-dono when other people are around. If we give him a reaction, it will only please him" (Makoto)

"I have learned that. If possible, I want him to teach me his knowledge, but he doesn't act in a friendly manner with anyone but Raidou-sama" (Shiki)

Maybe Shiki is showing respect to Root's extensive knowledge. From my followers,

Shiki is the one who has the most favorable opinion of Root. That he intrudes in this time when we are busy with the preparations of the school festival and Shiki doesn't get angry must be because of that reason.

"Now then. Even if we try to anticipate the result from now, it will depend on the people that are making temporary camps at the outside. So, how about going to Gotetsu Shiki?" (Makoto)

"Temporary camps, ah, you are talking about the lodging establishments at the outskirts huh. The earth element specialists have made quite the number of buildings in this month. Truly a time for profit" (Shiki)

It's because it's this world that is possible. Making inns at the outskirt with magic when they see fit. When it has already served its purpose, they carry out the furniture and necessary items, and just return the building back to earth. Truly convenient. It is necessary to gather a fair amount of skilled earth element magicians, but in this town that's no problem.

"Right. Rembrandt-san and Sif should use this chance to gain some pocket money" (Makoto)

If it's Sif who has the blessing of an earth spirit, she would be able to efficiently make inns. She would definitely be able to make money. Even if she has returned home in the latter half of the summer vacation, at the first half she gained quite a lot of power, so she should be able to do something of that level. Earth and fire, at the beginning, she was obviously specialized 100% in attack, but now she is now able to use support to a certain level. Her deplorable healing magic has also begun to take shape. And yet, she comes every day with Jin and the others, asking me to teach them. Even though temporary teachers don't do classes until the school festival is over. It may look like it is an extension of vacation, but in my case, the store gets busier and it is an important time where I have to prepare for the festival. I am refusing them every time.

"...Ah, I see. It is certainly the time when Jin and the others normally come. You are using the lunch as a chance to take refuge in Gotetsu huh. I will accompany you" (Shiki)

"Thanks for understanding. Let's tell Eris not to get cocky before we leave" (Makoto)

In the middle of vacation when Jin and the others went excessive in their training, Eris, who I left as an insurance, played an active role. Later, Jin and the others realized her

identity, and she is now considered an incredible person and a target of respect. Even when told that she is a demi-human, their behavior didn't change that much. That's why, even when Akua tells her to be more modest, she still gets carried away quite a lot. Last week I had her returned to Asora for about a week and has now become a lot more tame, but you know, it is still Eris. It is better to put a collar around her. She told Jin that to be hired by Kuzunoha Company you need to have at least this amount of level, or things similar to that. Seriously, nothing good comes out of that mouth. No matter if you are level 1 or 100, the salary won't change. Ah, about the salary, I think it should be better to think about it properly. I have already begun understanding the other companies, so let's think about it when the festival is over. Since this is a busy time, let's give them a bonus.

Regarding Gotetsu, it seems that lately, Eva-san has been showing her face frequently there after she finishes her work at the academy. We have been encountering her quite a bit. Before we began going there, there were already customers, but since the time Shiki and I recommended a few things to them, the number of customers has been increasing more and more. It may not be my business, but it still makes me happy. Well, I just recommended a few condiments and ingredients that I use in my homeland so that the store doesn't smell so much of sweets though. Shiki also enthusiastically made recommendations for the nabe. The boiled tofu made of kelp and fish wasn't that well received and I am the only one who orders it, a failed product, and yet, the old man of Gotetsu still leaves it in the menu because I am ordering it. Thank you.

I go down to the first floor and warn Eris who is looking after the store. She jumped like a surprised cat and nods her head several times.

"I will do my best. I really will do my best. Definitely do my best" (Eris)

[No well, I know that you are working well. When the students come, make sure to treat them properly as customers. Well then, I will go out for a bit]

"Have a safe trip" (Eris)

Seeing the appearance of Eris, the other employees make a strained laugh and it overlaps with her voice. Shiki and I nod once and leave the store from the backdoor.

It is still early to call it evening. Even so, looking at the sky, I can tell that that time is coming.

“\*Tsurube-otoshi\* huh. Today really reminds me of my own world” (Makoto)

I do a sarcastic laugh as I leak out those words.

“Raidou-sama?” (Shiki)

“It’s nothing. Let’s go” (Makoto)

I respond with a smile at the worried words of Shiki. Maybe I was making a lonesome face.

Around 1 week before the school festival. It is most likely going to be the time where I will see the most people around since coming to this world. There will be many people coming from different countries, so that’s a matter of course.

I will just continue doing what I want to do. Maybe thanks to the power I have obtained in the middle of vacation, I have been able to feel a bit more confidence in myself. Even when I heard that a large amount of people will be coming to town, I didn’t panic and was able to accept it. In the future I will encounter the heroes in some part of the world, so minding the public gaze is just pointless. And it isn’t like I can just threaten the people that have seen me. Even if I get thrown into the battlefield, I think that my current self can do better than before. The point is, I am now conscious that I have gotten stronger, but my emotions are pretty at ease.

When I arrive at a big street, the town’s noise became louder. It looks like everyone is looking forward to the school festival. With a mix of feelings of expectation and anxiety as if something might happen, I head to Gotetsu.

# Chapter 112

## An envoy from the church

“From the church?”

As I continue living boisterous days, the academy town's largest event, the school festival, is approaching. At first, I thought of it as a big culture festival, but this is clearly on a whole different level.

When I think about it, the town will become one whole festival, so no doubt this will become an event with a scale I have never experienced before.

Before the festival comes, I received a message from Lime who is tending the store. In the store there's a person from the church, in other words, a person that is a believer of the Goddess religion. Before the summer vacation, Lime has been able to exchange conversations with me. He acted so naturally that I didn't notice until after a while. Even so, it isn't like I am now able to converse with hyumans. I called Tomoe and asked her. It seems it turned into quite the big deal (or so I felt), even Komoe-chan was involved. Lime passed the summer vacation here with a face as if nothing happened. It made me think that Lime is a pretty bold fellow. I scolded Tomoe telling her that she should inform me about attempts in experiments that affect the body. It is certainly true that it didn't affect me directly and it is within Tomoe's ability so all problems could be dealt with. It doesn't involve Asora either. There's no doubt that it is within her freedom but...

Oh right, someone from the church has come. I leave the room. I change to written communication and return an acknowledgement to Lime just in case anyone's hearing. It is better to handle this personally, so I decided to go myself. When I showed my face inside the store, the people that were in the store leak out a sigh of disappointment. Well, sorry for not being Shiki.

“I thank you for gracing me with your presence in this sudden visit. I serve as a priest in the church”

Saying that, he shows me a necklace as a substitute for a social document. He is a male, but he is not brawny and has a slender body like that of a woman. When he took out

his necklace, I could peek at the area of his collarbone for a brief moment and it didn't look like he is exercising at all. He most likely doesn't do any physical labor. As a person that not only heals but also manipulates many diverse techniques, is it okay to go to the battlefield like that?

[Don't worry. If it's a business from priest-sama, no need to mind me. Please do forgive me for using this kind of way to communicate with you]

"Eh... is this some sort of curse?"

[I think it is a type of curse disease. It is embarrassing, but the reason there a lot of medicines in this business is partly because of personal matters]

As expected, he meddled into my inconvenience with words. Of course, I already have a response for it, so I was able to answer without getting agitated.

"A curse disease huh. How unsavory. What a pity. Then, is it okay to consider you the shopkeeper? I confirmed in the merchant guild, its Raidou right?"

[Yes. Normally, I leave the store to the people I trust in, but the head is me, Raidou. And so, what business brings you here today?]

"Umu. It's about the various medicines that are being used here. The effectiveness is so high that rumors have reached the church as well. The price is also cheap, and normally, it is something to be happy about, but uneasy people are beginning to appear. People that wonder if this is really okay to use"

...

Making a face as if troubled, the church person talks with words as if sympathizing. If I remember correctly, aside from the other drug stores and magic medications, there's also the church that has a variety of efficient medicines in sale. Now then, did the church move in order to do a disturbance sham to someone of the same trade? Or did the church send a person here just to point out their thoughts? No matter which it is, it doesn't seem like it is related to the Goddess, so that's a relief. If that were the case, there's no way they would send only one person after all.

As expected, in this situation they will be trying to demand hush money or something? That he is from the church might be a sham in itself. In that case, if the objective is bribe, I can understand why only one person came. I don't know how much weight the

position of a priest has, so just with the official position I can't estimate if they would have trouble with money. But if he is able to denote himself as a person of the church, there's a need for quite the resolve, so I don't feel like it would be realistic to risk it so much for pocket money. In that case...

[I didn't think the medicines in our store would reach even the ears of the church. I am sorry for all the trouble coming here]

"No, you don't need to worry about that. And so, it must be troublesome to have foolish distrust about your store right?"

[If possible, it would be nice to have those rumors blown away]

It seems it is indeed bribe. If it is a few gold, I don't mind paying.

However, the priest male seems to be having difficulties in cutting to the point, or maybe he is hesitating, his mouth is shut now. What a troublesome fellow.

"...Right? And so, this is a suggestion from the church. How about leaving the sales of counteracting medicines and wound medicines to the church?"

Hah?

My thoughts get suspended for a second. What is he saying? Is he telling me to wholesale the medicine to the church and not sell it ourselves?

[I don't understand well what you mean]

I somehow, really somehow manage to ask.

"Tch... that's why I told them. That they wouldn't take such an unreasonable action. Those problematic bunch of elders. Just how much interest do they want to covet before they are satisfied?"

It was low, but I heard a tongue clicking and incredibly dirty words. He also understands that the demand is too unreasonable huh. I am a bit relieved.

"...Please forget what I just said. About the sweeping of the rumors, I will have it so that the church also cooperates. But for that, there's one condition"

[Let's hear it out]

"Please make clear the production way of the counteraction and wound medicines. Of course, I promise that this is only a verification for the church and will not leak it to other businesses"

He is telling me to reveal the recipe huh. Certainly, if they are able to create the same thing, it would be easier to confirm the safety of it. However, he says that he won't be leaking it out to other businesses, but, this man, he didn't say a single peep about not selling it to the church people. It is suspicious how much meaning the promise has but, should I try confirming just in case? Or there's also the option of playing the sheep here.

[Revealing the recipe huh. If that happens, the church would be able to replicate the same items as well though]

"...I plead for your understanding in that. I am trying to suggest you a reasonable method here. Is there anything... you are dissatisfied about? Ah, the school festival is coming soon and the church is busy as well, so I want to hear your answer now"

Fumu. It seems that he thought I was easy to deal with. Then, let's try playing the sheep for now. There were church people related to the body experiments that we found before summer vacation, so it wouldn't be bad to have connections. There was also a bishop that died in an obviously suspicious manner, and yet, they announced it as a natural death. That picks my interest. When the Rembrandt sisters went back to Tsige in the summer vacation, there was a trifling incident where the church was mentioned. Because of Mio's actions I was unable to investigate in a more detailed manner, but I may be able to drag out some information of the church from this man.

[I don't have any dissatisfaction. Rather, if the church is able to sell this medicine as well, more people would be able to get it. Truly a happy result. As I am a novice merchant, the opening just won't go as I expected and my business is still unable to expand. I will tell you the recipe with pleasure]

"?!! You really don't mind?"

[Yes. Please tell me a day that matches your schedule. I will have a magician head there and explain you the details. Is there a need for me to be there as well?]

"T-That's a great help. Then, I am sorry for the suddenness but, can your magician and

you, Raidou – is it fine to call you that? – please head to the church tomorrow? I will notify the reception that the priest Shinai has an appointment with you”

[Shinai-sama is it. Certainly, I will visit you tomorrow then]

“Okay. Sorry for the intrusion. Well then, I will be waiting”

Maybe because the conversation proceeded without a hitch, the priest leaves the store in a merry manner.

Shinai huh. I will remember that name. I thought he would give the same impression as a catholic priest, but he is quite the prideful one. Maybe the church holds quite the authority?

Actually, even if I tell them the recipe, there won’t be any problems for us.

The medicine that Kuzunoha handles. The recipe itself is pretty normal, but there are several hurdles. It is normal, or more like, it is more accurate to say: it looks normal when written in paper.

First, the ingredients. There are plants mixed that one can usually obtain in the wasteland. In Tsige, the adventurers that gathered it would have those for sale. As a matter of fact, I can substitute several of the medicinal plants in the mix. No matter which it is, the gathering and compounding would take time.

Next, the compounding technique. If it’s Shiki and the Arke, they can easily compound it, but the difficulty is pretty high. By the way, the highest leveled alchemist, who is the companion of Toa-san, has a success rate of approximately 5 out of 10. It seems he is not a specialist in medicine, but even if they brought excellent specialized alchemists from the academy, the limit would most likely be about 80%.

If the church is able to acquire the ingredients and get a skilled alchemist, they would – in outline – be able to create a similar medicine. Well, we can anticipate a pretty hefty price for it.

That’s why it will probably not turn into any threat. Let’s just tell him with my chest held high. Let’s cooperate with Shinai-san as a good willed sheep. Since we have the chance of entering the church, might as well tour as well.

“Is it okay to make such a promise?”

...

When I follow the voice and face that way, there is a single woman I am used to seeing.

Eva-san huh. Suddenly calling me, that's not good for my heart. In the time of the school festival, the library seems to be closed, so there's plenty of times when Eva-san ends her work in half a day. She also worked in summer vacation, so I thought the library would be open in the school festival as well, but because there are so many visitors, there's the risk of theft and crimes which they wouldn't be able to handle, so they decided to just close it.

Today she worked half a day huh. During summer vacation, she has been visiting my store occasionally. I am personally happy that she has taken a liking to the energy drinks. Above all, thanks to the article she brought me, I was able to get stronger.

[Of course. I don't know until where you heard, but I won't say things that I don't consider alright]

"Ara, how scary. I am beginning to feel pity for the church that tried to put a hand on the Kuzunoha Company" (Eva)

[So he really is a priest of the church huh. I thought he just came here to demand bribe, but when he told me something that was one step further, I was a bit surprised]

"Ufufu. The school festival will be coming soon. There are many important people of the church here as well, so they are most likely trying to do things that might get them some points. The people that are assigned here are mostly people that have climbed the steps of promotion. Meaning, there are many who greed for promotion" (Eva)

I see. In other words, their bosses are coming, so to have them remember them, they want to do something. The rumors of my store have been used for that huh. What. So it really was nothing important.

Well, even if it wasn't related to the Goddess, the one who killed the bishop was Rona-san, so I can't say I had nothing to do with it. That may be why I am a bit too distrustful. Just in case, I should ask Lime to investigate in order to loosen my mind a bit.

Yareyare, it even makes people related to the church agitated huh. This is quite the event, the Rotsgard foundation festival. Jin and the others are also enthusiastic and have leveled to around 90 already. Actually, they should be able to surpass level 100

by now, but because of the tournament rules in the school festival, anyone that is over level 100 can't participate. Seems that there was an enrolled student who surpassed level 100 in a long past, so the rule was created because of that person, but it has continued to exist.

In the mock battle with the Mist Lizard, they have already gotten to phase 4, so even if they participate in a tournament to compete in martial arts or magic, I think that they will be able to put up a good fight. In the group battles where one participates in parties, I am sure that they will gather attention.

...Now that I think about it, I got a petition from Rembrandt-san saying that he wanted me to withdraw her daughters from participating in the tournament.

(Researches, lesson announcements, singing and dancing; if it is those type of competitions, it is okay, I can accept those. But tournaments that compete with battle techniques, I definitely don't want them to participate. Raidou-dono, is that necessary for the daughters of a merchant? Nope, definitely not!!) (Rembrandt)

The emphasized words are recalled in my mind. In the time when I went to Tsige along with the sisters, I got caught by Rembrandt and was told those words.

Just like in the letter, the wife that was at his side smiled gently, told me not to mind him, and dragged him away. His wife was truly a charming person. Now I understand the reason why Rembrandt-san doesn't have any mistresses.

And then, I was told that he (and probably his wife) had their daughters attend the Rotsgard academy to learn etiquette, gather personal connections, and to obtain skills in social life. Because what I am teaching in Academy town is battle techniques, the people close by will be that kind of people no matter what, but it seems that in the academy there are also decorum and normal classes, and also classes regarding social life. In the past, I did question the reason why the Rembrandt sisters were attending this academy.

[To get points huh. The church is also having it hard]

While I was thinking, I answer Eva-san.

"With the exception of a part of people that hold special talents; in the church, the lineage and factions have to fight for promotion or the doors for their future will be closed. Everyone must be desperate" (Eva)

[If they lose, they get send to Tsige or the wasteland right? I understand]

"The people that are here, as long as they don't do anything extremely stupid, they won't get demoted to such a point, but a comeback is impossible. To climb up to the great church in Limia is their deepest wish. From my perspective, no matter who it is and from what church he comes from, it won't be much of a difference though" (Eva)

[A way to say you don't see any value in them]

"Yeah, that's exactly right. Right now for me, Raidou-san is the candidate for God" (Eva)

[Candidate for God? I would like you to demote me to neighbor]

Is she trying to joke around with me? Or is she serious to a certain extent? She says some pretty scary things.

It seems she still hasn't thrown away her wish of recovering Kaleneon. The only grace point is that it is far. Even if Stella Fort falls, it is still further away. Even if we were to regain just that area, it would be pointless. Maybe because Eva-san understands that, she hasn't done anything rash.

Her connection with that organization has been completely severed. Fortunately, the organization is too deep in secrecy that the amount of people was pretty limited. I thought that I would have to handle troublesome things like assassins for a while, but nothing happened. Maybe because she was in the outer layers of the organization.

Now she only shows she wishes for something of the Kuzunoha Company. Doesn't seem like she has any evil intent. Rather, she is a welcome person that brings various suggested books for me to read.

"By the way, Raidou-san, about the school festival... If it is okay with you, can you go together with me?" (Eva)

[That's a pleasant invitation, but I already have prior engagements. I apologize]

"You already have your schedule filled huh. Too bad. I thought it would be more interesting to watch the tournament if Raidou-san were there to comment" (Eva)

[Sorry]

For some reason, there are many people inviting me to the school festival. Like: Root, the Rembrandt sisters, Eva-san, and the mob of female students.

Since it is a long-awaited festival, I want to bring my followers along to look around, so I have refused them all. I do feel bad about it.

Jin also asked me with serious eyes to please watch the tournament. Even if he didn't ask me to, it is a big event, so I intended to attend. Maybe he wants to show me the results of his training. If that's the case, he has a pretty cute side.

When Tomoe and Mio heard about the festival, they looked like they were looking forward to it. I am a bit uneasy wondering if they will move obediently, but it is the place I am staying in, so I don't think they will do anything unreasonable.

Looking at Eva-san leaving after finishing her shopping, I think about how many days it is before the school festival while I walk back to my room.

# Chapter 113

## Kuzunoha is no sheep

“So glad the temple isn’t all sparkly”

The impression I had of the Goddess was: the glittering room, her pride, and also her tiresomeness. We arrived at the church division that I didn’t even try to get close in the past, and not long after, I was able to catch a sight of our objective, a big construction which was strange in itself, but it wasn’t made of pure gold or anything like that which made me feel relief. If it really were like that, I would have wanted to leave as soon as possible.

“Raidou-sama? Is there something wrong?”

Shiki stops his feet and turns back in concern at me who is looking at the temple.

“No well, I was thinking that for a temple that reveres the Goddess it looks normal, no, pretty solemn” (Makoto)

“A thinking stemming from the exchange of words between Raidou-sama and the Goddess right? Because of that one exchange, you learned her personality. For me, the size may be different, but every one of them look the same to me” (Shiki)

Certainly. In Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, I haven’t thought if they were made in the image of the God. And I haven’t really thought of the method of construction either.

I see. This thought did come from me actually meeting the God itself huh. In the way, I glanced at the temples that revered the spirits (is it called that way? I don’t know if there’s another way of calling it) but all of them looked the same to me, and I didn’t put much mind into it.

“Personality huh. If I remember correctly, the Goddess is the only God, a sublime and honest one, affectionate over all hyumans, a pure mother; is how it goes right?” (Makoto)

"That's how it is mostly interpreted. Other examples are: a gallant god of war, or things like a liberal guardian deity. She is thought as almighty, so I think that as long as it's a compliment, they all fit the bill" (Shiki)

It sounds like a lie but... When I investigated about the Goddess at the library, her personality as a God, her characteristics, they were all like how Shiki said. And when she is narrated as a god of war, what's normally used as the ones suffering are demi-humans or mamonos.

This truly is an almighty image of a God. It may be okay to give her an image of perfection, but if they see the real thing, there's no doubt contradictions will appear.

In my mind, she is already completely contradictory. For me, she looks more like those black things. <Cockroach>

"If it's the church that thinks of her as almighty and the unique God, it is certainly true that her image will turn into a majestic one. Now then, there are more people around, so I will return to written communication" (Makoto)

"If we stand still just looking, we will be thought of as suspicious, so let's just enter" (Shiki)

Taking Shiki's suggestion, we enter the temple. The pleasant air brushes my face gently. Maybe there's air conditioning here, nicely played. There's still lingering summer heat even though summer has already passed. Even so, in this world, the only thing you can do is use air conditioning magic. Use magic. In other words, hyuman power. Even if the entrance is completely open, this convenient magic lets you control the temperature in its scope. There's the need for a certain amount of manpower, and it isn't like they can set the temperature. In the end, they would have to rely on the magicians' sense and the people around. In our house, the only men were me and my father, the women were three. I have memories of my living room not being refreshing at all. I also remember that the girls' side was weak to the cold.

Even if the science air conditioning turns into magic air conditioning, the temperature will still be dictated by the ones with more power. If you want to change the temperature by yourself, you would need quite the power and effort. Well, if it's for work, you wouldn't be able to do that though.

"We are here for an appointment with the priest Shinai. We are from the Kuzunoha

Company. I am Shiki and my master Raidou" (Shiki)

Shiki tells the church woman in duty that approached the reason we are here. She is wearing white clothes. However, it seems that in the temple this isn't the only uniform they wear. With just a few glances, I can tell that it is indeed mostly white, but the designs have quite the varied patterns. That's unexpected. I thought that there would be simple differences between male and female, and other things would be totally the same. I was imagining long sleeves and low exposure clothes that covered all the way to the ankle, but that also varies depending on the person. Maybe there's no regulations aside from the color?

"With Shinai-sama? Yes, I have heard of it. Please follow me"

'I will notify them' it seems those words were not a lie. The young woman, who looks like a student doing part-time job as a shrine maiden, is guiding us. She is looking at our walking speed as she walks forward. From outside it looked big as well, but as expected, from inside it is quite wide. And yet, in the whole inner area, I can smell a unique scent. This is probably not the effects of magic. They probably scattered a large quantity of perfume. In the academy, there are places that resemble salons and use perfume, so I am familiar with it. It's just that, the extent here is on a whole different level.

While we were walking, we passed a lot of white clothed people. Every time I look, the attire changes. Don't tell me, all of them are different? There's no way that's true, right?

I beckon Shiki and whisper to his ear. Using thought transmission with a person that's so close to me is just troublesome after all. Shiki seems to be asking the woman about what I told him.

"Excuse me. The people that are on service here are all very particular about their clothing huh. Everyone is wearing clothing with pretty individual designs. It surprised me" (Shiki)

"Ara, is that so? Ah, if I remember correctly, the Kuzunoha Company came from Tsige right? In that case, you would probably be surprised. In this lands, with the exception of formal dresses and uniforms, the everyday clothes have no specification aside from the color, so everyone is wearing clothes they want. Instead of using specified clothes to work, we think it is better to serve in clothing that fits us"

Why is it? It is certainly true that with the same uniform, the differences in the subject will become clearer, but the people here are not the type that minds those points. Also, that everyone is all disconnected feels out of place. Saying that it would be better to serve with clothes that fit them, it may not have any ulterior motive in it, but for some reason, I don't like it. I was the one who asked, but Shiki nods to me and gives me a sign. Shiki probably understood how I felt. After that, he connects with some casual talk and ends the conversation.

Hm, the goal seems to be underground. So there's an underground floor. Just imagining my underground facility at the store, I can't help but have a bad image.

The type of scent also changed. At first I had my doubts, but it seems there's no bad effect in the perfume. There might be different types depending on the floor and room.

"The priest is waiting here. Well then, with this, I will be excusing myself"

"Thank you very much" (Shiki)

[Thank you very much]

She told us to wait, and then, she whispers something at a relatively big door on the left side. There was a short conversation, after that, the door opens and the girl returns. And after telling us that Shinai-san is waiting for us there, she lowers her head and leaves. It may be because we are guests, but she was smiling all the way through. Even on our way here, I didn't feel any strange gazes from the people inside. Is it because they are well trained? I was expecting to receive gazes harsher than any I have received before.

"It's the Kuzunoha Company people. Pardon the intrusion"

"Come in"

Without saying anything, I follow after Shiki. I can't talk after all.

Inside, there is Shinai-san and there's around 5 others. The space is about 8 tatami mats, maybe a bit more. Might be because it is underground, it feels like it is especially dark here.

"I'm glad you came, Raidou-dono. Is that person your alchemist? Is his name Shiki?"  
(Shinai)

[Yes, Shinai-sama. He is the employee I rely on the most and also a close aide of mine. Name is Shiki. This time's request-]

"I am grateful you accepted to exhibit your techniques with the church. I wanted to show my gratitude to you guys even if for a bit, so I notified my superior, and it seems that he will be exchanging some words with you. It hasn't been long since he arrived here, but the Bishop-sama, who puts together all the lands' believers, has come" (Shinai)

Bishop. Ah, the substitute for the one that has been assassinated huh. If we take into account the position Shinai-san is standing in, the other 4 seem to be underlings. In that case, is it that person there? His hair is long. His face is being hidden by something resembling a hood, so I can't see it clearly, but is it a woman? I see, their religion is based on the Goddess, so it wouldn't be strange for the people at the top to be women. Even if I try to check his body, he is wearing clothes with low exposure, so I actually don't know if it's just a male with long hair. If he talks, maybe I can tell.

Also, I wonder why Shinai-san interrupted my words. Could it be, he reported that I was the one who wanted to publicize it? It seemed like he came to our place because of the orders of someone else though...

[This is too much of an honor]

I don't know if this is the correct gesture, but I get on my knees and lower my head. Shiki also follows. But in Shiki's case, he is probably just imitating me. Later, I should ask him how I should behave in this cases.

"I have heard that while being a small business, you handle rare medicines, and you will be making clear how some of them are made. I thank you for that faith. I promise you that the church will brush away the rash remarks regarding your store"

Husky voice, moreover, the voice of a glossy woman. It gave me the impression of a person that is fond of tobacco and alcohol. It pleasantly resounds in my body. So the Bishop is a woman huh.

[I thank you for your consideration]

"I heard your words have been stolen by a curse disease. We will be providing our assistance in that regard as well. I don't know how much help we can be of, so I can't tell you to be relieved"

I didn't even ask for it. Quite the kind one. Is it okay to take her words in face value? I really don't know.

"Bishop-sama, the times is..."

"Hm, I see. Well then, Raidou, let's meet again in the future. I will leave it to Shinai"

"Understood. Thank you for sparing important time of yours" (Shinai)

From the 4 at the back, one quietly approaches the Bishop-san and speaks to her. Well, she must be busy.

After saying a few words to me, the Bishop leaves. Shinai-san lowers his head 90°. Damn, I forgot to lower my head.

"That's not good Raidou-dono. The Bishop-sama should be shown the greatest of respects. Even if it hasn't been long since you have come here, it doesn't mean disrespects towards that personage can be forgiven" (Shinai)

[I am from the country side after all. I apologize for being ill-mannered]

"...Well, it's fine. And so, today, you guys were going to show us the medicine's recipe. Obviously, you came prepared for that right?" (Shinai)

[Of course]

Shiki follows my signal and steps forward. He brought the ingredients for the medicine we will be making today and also the tools. The manufacturing method doesn't use big tools, so it was possible.

"I see. So the magician there has everything prepared huh. In that case, this will be fast. Honestly speaking, I don't have knowledge of medicine manufacturing, and I want to talk with Raidou-dono about several topics we have on our side as well. No worries, it's like casual talk" (Shinai)

Otto, this is a bit out of expectations. I totally thought he wanted me to explain the process for him.

[Understood. If it's okay with me, go ahead]

"Then, please use the seat here. Magician-dono, use the desk there to make the medicine while explaining to those people" (Shinai)

"Got it. Well then, everyone, over here please" (Shiki)

Shiki approaches a big desk with several medicine manufacturing tools on top, and he opens his luggage on it. It seems he is explaining the ingredients he prepared one by one in a thorough manner. At that rate, the medicine creation might take about 1 hour.

Glancing at my follower that is already explaining the manufacturing process, I sit facing Shinai-san. In the small desk between us, there's nothing on top. It should be fine to at least bring out tea. I am – in outline – collaborating in good will you know?

"Well then, Raidou-dono. This would be the first time we can talk calmly huh. I have introduced myself before but, I am the priest Shinai. Pleasure to make your acquaintance" (Shinai)

[Affiliated to the merchant guild, Raidou from the Kuzunoha Company. I am happy to make acquaintance of someone from the church. I think that in the future we will be able to help out each other]

"Fufufu, I wonder just how much of that are your true feelings. But for a merchant and a servant of God, this is how first impressions are. You look quite young. How long has it been since you began your business?" (Shinai)

[Not even three years have passed. We are newcomers]

I haven't told any lies. No matter if its three days or two years, it is true that it hasn't been three years yet.

"Even so, you already have stores in two towns huh. Is it because you have strong luck, or maybe, you have a strong backing?" (Shinai)

[It can't be called backing, but I do have a good relationship with the Rembrandt Company]

"Rembrandt... Hoh, that..." (Shinai)

Shinai-san seems to be thinking about something as he whispers the name of Rembrandt. It doesn't seem like he is acquainted with Rembrandt, but he probably has

prior information about him.

[Are you acquainted with him? He lend a place to me, who didn't have connections, not too long ago, and he is also a benefactor that taught me the 101 of business]

"He did huh. It seems your and my impression of Rembrandt differ slightly. If he were a bit more cooperative, we would be able to propagate the religion to other lands, and even open up at deeper parts of the wasteland" (Shinai)

So it is that. After the events with his wife and daughters, Rembrandt has not been visiting the church at all.

He probably relied on the Goddess at first, but didn't work. And so, he tried solving it himself, and when he met me, it felt like he was on the brink of giving up. It may be unreasonable to ask him to maintain his faith after that incident. Because the trigger to solve it was the request he himself petitioned in the guild after all.

[I came from the wasteland, so I don't know much about the church's teachings and the connection between them and Rembrandt. But at the very least, I know that Rembrandt-shi treated me with sincerity. Even now, my feelings of gratitude towards him are big]

"When the standings are different, that may be what happens. Even so, I have understood well. The reason why the daughters of Rembrandt-shi are under your care is because of that huh" (Shinai)

Uhm, did he investigate about me? It seems he knows that I am working as a temporary teacher at the academy, and also the students I am giving classes to.

He probably already knew that I am from the wasteland as well. If that weren't the case, he would have shown a bit more of a reaction.

[Yes. Rembrandt-shi has indirectly asked me to take care of her daughters]

Even if he didn't pursue the subject so poorly, he would have probably brought out the subject himself. With that thought in mind, I just touch in the topic that I am giving lessons to his daughters.

"He is a father that's thoughtful of his daughters huh. I must change m impressions I had of him a little bit. From the reports of my subordinates, I only thought of

Rembrandt as a miser with thin religious faith. Seriously, without talking to people of different standings, many misunderstandings will be born. It has become a good lesson”

‘I must reconsider’ is what Shinai-san’s face is saying. I can also see slight arrogance, but the root itself might be genuine. I can feel elite-like traits from it. This is what Eva-san said but, it seems that the church people in Academy town are mostly the ones that have climbed up the steps of promotion, so maybe he is indeed an elite.

After that, he asked me a few things here and there. While Shiki was finishing the second medicine manufacture performance, I explained him the personal history of the character called Raidou.



– After Makoto and Shiki left –

Two were cleaning up the tools and materials of the medicine manufacture, and the remaining two were with Shinai in the room next door.

The woman that urged the Bishop saying ‘time is...’ before, closes the door. Inside the room, there is the Bishop and several hyumans sitting there, waiting for them.

“Did they leave?”

The bishop opens her mouth. Her voice is the same seductive one she used when talking to Makoto.

“Just a while ago they left the church. Just in case, we are tracing them” (Shinai)

“I see. You did a pointless thing then” (Bishop)

“?”

“I said it was pointless. You may have intended to utilize the Kuzunoha Company, but it is probably quite the opponent. From now on, be more careful and move only when I have given the acknowledgement” (Bishop)

“...What do you mean? From the conversation, I thought there wouldn’t be any problems though” (Shinai)

Seeing the complicated expression of the bishop, Shinai is bewildered. From his view, taking into account the contents of today's talk and the attitude of them, it seemed like they were good willed. He thought they would be able to form a friendly collaboration.

"Please tell him" (Bishop)

The red haired bishop does a sigh and listlessly nudges with her elbow. It is a gesture not fitting of a bishop. She is using the same seductive tone of voice, and yet, her behavior is completely different.

Urged by the voice of the bishop, one of the persons at the back opens his mouth.

"I have investigated their thoughts and magic power, as well as the people related to them. I was able to find a bit of information regarding the employee Shiki. However, regarding his master Raidou, I was unable to understand at all"

"What does that mean? Did the thought and magic power investigation fail?" (Shinai)

"...First, Shiki. I was able to confirm that he possesses, at the very least, magic power that surpasses several magicians of the imperial court. Maybe he had countermeasures for his thoughts, I was unable to read them. About Raidou, not only his thoughts, I was unable to measure his magic power either"

It was a report that was close to telling him they didn't understand anything. Shinai thought that was just impossible and got confused. A magician that has the capacity to be appointed in any country if he wished, is working as an employee in a store that can be blown away with one puff, moreover, serving a kid. 'Who would be able to imagine that!?' Is what he wanted to shout out.

Also, for the thought reading which the church is proud of, to not work, and not only that, they are unable to measure their magic power either. He could only think of this as some sort of bad dream.

"Impossible. Are you saying Raidou has magic power that surpasses Shiki?" (Shinai)

"Who knows. Thinking about it in a normal way, since Raidou said he is a reliable close aide, he might be weaker than Shiki. But in reverse, it can also mean that Raidou is stronger. We at least know that Shiki is a close aide of the temporary teacher Raidou and that he is an extraordinary magician. Also, about Raidou's magic power, we can't understand it at all. It is not that we can't measure it. It's like all the magic power

around him has been paint out, and we can't feel magic power at all" (Bishop)

The person in charge of the investigation nods heavily at the words of the bishop. The continuous utterances of unbelievable things were making Shinai confused.

"In others words, his magic power and thoughts were being suppressed?" (Shinai)

"That's how it could be taken. For people that can manage to pull such a deed, there's no way subordinates would be able to tail them right? That's why I said it was pointless. The medicine itself is also suspicious. Just how was it? Can I get a report?" (Bishop)

The Bishop talks across the head of Shinai, onto the 2 that saw the medicine manufacture from start to finish.

"...Honestly speaking, it was a splendid recipe. The process was systematic and the explanation was clear. Also, the ingredients used were not things that can't be obtained"

"Heh~. How unexpected. Then you guys can also make it?" (Bishop)

"Probably. I think Shiki didn't hide a single step of the process and showed us everything of it. But..."

The man looked like he had a hard time saying what came next. The Bishop doesn't press him on and just waits for his mouth to open again.

"Regarding the price, I think it will be a lot higher than that of Kuzunoha Company"

"...The success rate?" (Bishop)

"That as well. It seems the Kuzunoha Company practically doesn't fail, but with our ability, I say 5/10 is max. He said that they have brought two types of ingredients from the wasteland, but told us that there are plants here that can serve as substitute, and he actually showed us the process of that as well. The judgment result is: he was able to create a medicine that was practically identical to the one we obtained beforehand and there were no lies"

"How kind of them. And? If you said 'that as well', it must mean that there are other reasons right? Say it" (Bishop)

“The production cost”

“Production cost? You mean the expense for ingredients?” (Bishop)

“There’s that and the need to employ a magician that increases the success rate, but in that part, it isn’t that much of an issue. From the ingredients that Shiki told us and the price of those in the market, just with that, the price of our medicine would differ greatly from that of Kuzunoha Company. Even if we order them from the wasteland, or get the two types of medicines he proposed to us, we would have to place requests for the adventurers and that would include the danger compensation and raw materials cost, so just by trying to obtain the raw materials, we would already be surpassing 10 times the price of a completed product of the Kuzunoha Company. If the church creates it and sells it in other places, the price would have to be a 100 times more or we won’t be able to profit at all. In the future, if they were to open a store in the areas that we sell, it might affect the trust of the people towards the church”

“100 times more you say? No way. The Kuzunoha Company is selling them at a lower price right?” (Bishop)

“They gather all the ingredients by themselves, so they obtain it all without the need of using the market. He did say that he had confidence in his circulation of goods, and it may sound unbelievable but, as long as it’s treated as merchandise, they must be obtaining profit at that price”

“No way...” (Shinai)

Shinai cuts into the conversation. In that case, it wouldn’t be much different from the other high priced medicines. No matter the effect, it would turn into a price that would surprise anyone.

“As I thought. In other words, it is safe to assume Raidou is feigning to be a pure child. While we are casually using him, a cold sensation might cut into our throats. It’s good that we were here as well” (Bishop)

“Bishop-sama?” (Shinai)

“I don’t think Shinai’s eyes were wrong. However, don’t get involved with them for a while. And also don’t go spilling the information to other factions. Depending on how we play it, they may become a trump card that could help us in the future. An unusual hyuman that employs a lot of demi-humans huh. Tell everyone in an oblique way. That

whenever they hear the name of Kuzunoha Company, they should tip their ears. For the meantime, at least until the other bishops and the people of Limia have left Academy town, I ask you to make sure they don't perceive our interest for Kuzunoha. And also, for now, there's no need to think about the price, so try making about a 100 wound medications. There's no need to force ourselves in competing with them. Those goods are useful after all. If it's in a different town where our comrades are, or in the frontlines of war; just by changing the location, there are many different ways of utilizing it" (Bishop)

"Understood"

Along the priest, everyone in the room nods silently at the words of the bishop.



I quietly clear my ears.

I hear a conversation that is not that reserved in volume. At this time, there aren't many customers. It's because at this time, most of our merchandise has been sold out already. The most we get are Onee-sans, who work late at night at the backstreets, buying energy drinks from us. Those girls have already become regulars at our store and now it is normal for the representative to come here and buy several dozens. The repairs of weapons have become more popular lately, but they normally come to receive their weapons at day time. I am sorry for the sudden customers, but when it is night time, we only have medications for cold and energy drinks. I hope you guys also get popular soon.

If you ask me what I am trying to say with this, is that at this time it is easier to idle.

When I returned to the store using the normal circulation route, I heard the usual small Forest Oni and the young chat-loving Eldwa talking with someone. Good grief, even if you are clerks talking with a customer, don't go speaking in such loud voices. I can't even see the R in reflect from that girl.

Akua, who was looking at that situation with a tired face, suddenly looked back from the account table she was in. In other words, she noticed Shiki and I arrived. For a moment, she opened her eyes wide, and after that, she seals her mouth with her hands. This time, Akua didn't stop them, but she didn't slack off either. Well, let's consider her 'not guilty'.

I beckon her to come.

"I am back. I see that you guys are having quite a lot of fun here" (Makoto)

"Is it always like this when we are not here Akua?" (Shiki)

Shiki's tone is also lower than normal. Of course, it is not because he is speaking low.

"W-Welcome back..." (Akua)

"The customers are... tte, its Jin and the others huh. Those guys are also... pretty free huh" (Makoto)

"They are slacking. Maybe we should tighten them a bit. They might not be able to participate in the school festival though" (Shiki)

My assistant Shiki narrows his eyes. In those areas, he is strict. And the employees that got in it and have begun talking in the spur of the moment are the most problematic ones.

Akua does not participate in conversations normally? Or was it by chance that she didn't participate? Seeing her eyes swimming like that, it is suspicious.

"That's just pushing it too far. And so, Akua, since when were they like that?" (Makoto)

"E... Ehm... it hasn't been long" (Akua)

"If you answer me honestly, I will reward you with a taste of the new banana menu though" (Makoto)

"For about two hours. Today the fruits were sold out early, and later after, the wound medications and counteraction medicines stock was finished as well, so our hands were free" (Akua)

So not much after we left huh. What a thing... And to think that the public is praising us for our customer service and technique. That makes their self-confidence inflate even more. If people saw this scene, the reputation of the store would go down. You stupid clerks and malignant regulars.

And also, what an effective confession. Your eyes are sparkling Akua.

Eris and the young Eldwa. Sorry to say but, there's a need for punishment here. You haven't even noticed I am already here.

I take along the doggy that's waiting for her reward, I mean, Akua, to the kitchen. It is called kitchen in name only and only has simple equipment, but I am just going to do some orthodox cooking, so this is enough.

"Shiki, is it cooled down?" (Makoto)

"Yes, here" (Shiki)

Shiki takes out a bottle with a white substance in it and a single banana from the refrigerator. And also a small bottle with an amber color object in it. As expected of Shiki-san. It seems he understood what I wanted to make just by the mention of new menu. Tomoe, Mio, Shiki and Komoe-chan have already tasted it after all.

By the way, if we reverse the order of people mentioned, we would get the order of how much they liked it. As expected, the one who likes bananas the most is Komoe-chan.

Akua is looking at my movements with eyes that surpassed sparkles. They were blazing. I can feel a strong gaze focused onto my hands.

Well, I am not making anything significant here. I am just cutting the bananas, smashing them and mixing it all.

The amber object is nectar. It isn't the nectar from Asora, but the ones you can normally obtain around these parts. Like maple syrup, it has a peculiar taste and instead of using it to add sweetness, its purpose for mixing it in is mostly to add flavor.

The white substance is milk. This one comes from Asora. It's on the dense side. It should be cow milk, but it is excessively dense and delicious. When I drank it, I was a bit uneasy if my stomach would be fine, but it's not like I will die. And since the day I drank, I haven't felt any problems in my health. The others also seemed to accept it without any problems and it is already being consumed by the residents of Asora.

Done. What was made is banana milk.

I pour the big white liquid container that's mixed with yolk to three glasses. Shiki is nodding. Akua is gulping her breath and looking at the liquid pouring down.

“Here, go ahead and drink it” (Makoto)

I gave Shiki and Akua the glasses. Confirming that both of them took theirs, I also bring mine to my mouth. One sip. The rich sweetness of the banana and the fragrance of the parallel world’s syrup spread in my mouth. At the end, the taste of milk that’s as dense as fresh cream is left. As a whole, this can be called a worthy dessert. I also drink it occasionally and I like it. I put away the glass for a moment. When Shiki confirmed I have drunk, he also brings it to his mouth, and after that, Akua, who was holding the glass dearly, brings it to her mouth as well.

Shiki has already drunk it before, so he smiled after confirming its taste. He made a really nice smile as he drank it in one go. This sweets-lover.

Akua drank one sip of it and her whole body trembled. As if she got hit by lightning. Well, it’s not like I have actually seen a person getting hit by one though.

After that, I thought she would drink it all in one go, but she did one sip and then another sip while trembling. She really does like it huh. I unconsciously did a bitter smile.

“Hah~, I want to drown in this forever~” (Akua)

After Akua finished drinking slowly and savoring it, she gives her thoughts with her mouth half opened and her cheeks blushed. Her words surpassed the boundary of delicious.

Is she imagining herself in a banana milk bathtub? If it’s me, I would definitely refuse that. Even if she asks me in an ecstatic face, I would not agree.

“It tasted nice” (Shiki)

“I am glad you liked it. Well then, let’s go for punishment time. N, what’s wrong Akua?” (Makoto)

“...”



What she is looking intently is... ah, the glass I only drank one sip of.

She wants to drink it huh. She is just looking at it and it is already telling me everything.

"Akua, I will be giving you that one as well, so for now, just come" (Makoto)

"Y-Yes!" (Akua)

The doggy that is biting her bone, I mean, Akua who is holding the glass in hand, heads to the store's interior.

"Incredible! Then Eris-san can defeat blue lizard-kun?!"

"Of course. If I can't do at least that, I wouldn't be able to work here as a clerk. Even at night, this place is safe. I am here after all" (Eris)

"As expected! The other day, you also showed us how you did arias while moving right? How can you do arias while jumping around like a scout?"

"That's also basic. I first choose the aria that is the most fitting for me of the magic exclusive ancient languages, then, while I am moving, I divide the spell's aria and whisper it until I complete it" (Eris)

"As I thought, it is hard to use common language arias in more than half of the spell. That's why, if I am able to master that aria, I will be able to turn it into a trump card, but..."

"Hide your trump cards. Waka taught me this. It is standard to use your trump cards only on opponents that you are going to kill. By the way, you won't be able to kill Waka and Shiki, so it is fine to show them. They are special" (Eris)

"But I really do respect you. To be able to defeat that Blue Lizard-kun. Just where did you fight such a beautiful blue scaled lizardman?"

"Hmph, they lived in the inner parts of the wasteland. Now, Waka lets me fight with them when we are training" (Eris)

"At the inner parts of the wasteland. Heh~ is that so. Water and wind, to be able to use two elements, it must be quite the high leveled mamono right?"

"Of course. They are mist-?!" (Eris)

"?!!"

Idiot.

Eris is truly a big idiot. Just how much does she want to brag? Learn from Mondo who has already become completely diligent. At least try to stop the reception of weird things and reflect on yourself.

Getting carried by the flattery and divulging information. She didn't leak out anything regarding Asora, but this is seriously dangerous. This children won't even amount to a threat, but information can spread, so we have to be careful.

Akua and I were looking at the situation from the account table, and when Eris got engrossed in the conversation and was going to talk about something bad, Shiki intervened.

Just like when picking up a cat, he holds Eris up by grabbing the back part of her peculiar parka. She is as light as her height tells, but it isn't like it is easy to hold her up with one arm. The students must have learned that Shiki possesses surprising strength. No, today is the day they learn that Shiki is scary when angered. The Eldwa was also talking to the students about weapons, but this one didn't have any contents that would be problematic. But only in content. I will leave his punishment to the Eldwa craftsmen and the elder. Honestly speaking, they are way stricter than me, so he will probably come pleading me for mercy.

"Eris, you have become quite admirable huh? Since when did you become so conceited that you are now able to teach others your techniques? We need to talk about this, right?" (Shiki)

"Shi-Shiki-san?! Ah Ma-, Waka too?!" (Eris)

Ma-? Wait Eris. Were you about to say Makoto? Her behavior has become quite dubious now huh.

[Fuh~, the Eris that's supposed to be doing her best, what is she doing?]

"Y-You set me up right, Akua... Ah?! What are you drinking?!" (Eris)

Set me up? You...

Also, she is being held up by Shiki and noticed my presence, and yet, her attention is turned to the drink of Akua?

“...Banana milk. It’s a reward” (Akua)

“I knew it! It gave out the smell of banana! Even though I thought of Akua as a close friend, to think that you would sell out your friendship for food, how vexing. From now on we will only be comrades huh” (Eris)

“...I will give you half later. If you get forgiven by Waka-sama that is” (Akua)

“Akua, as I thought, we really are buddies that have overcome life and death. Waka, Eris had a change of heart. It is okay now. My loyalty will not waver anymore, and I won’t get cocky either. That’s why, I want to plead for the magistrate-sama’s forgiveness” (Eris)

Shiki makes a heavy sigh. Seriously, I have the same sentiment. Is it even possible for this girl to have a change of heart? What an unreliable loyalty.

[It hasn’t been long since you said you would devote your loyalty to me till death though?]

“..”

[Let’s return her to the camp once more. Do you want to meet Komoe-chan again?]

“?!?!?!?!?!?! That’s no good. I have already received enough princess component. I will be fine even if I don’t meet her for a while. I am healthy. T-That’s right. I will promise loyalty even after death. Yeah, with this it should be fine” (Eris)

[After death? That’s quite the spontaneous decision. Do you intent to become an undead or something?]

“That’s right. I will provide cooling in the hot summer” (Eris)

Ah, I am losing neurons. Eris, what a fearsome one. I should have protection to status effects, and yet, she is able to tire me to this extent.

Should I call her master Mondo and have him reprimand her? For now, I will have the angered Shiki take care of her. I just don't know how to get angry at her anymore.

[Shiki, I leave the rest to you. I'm leaving. And also, Jin, this includes the others as well, if you plan on cheating, you don't need to come to my class anymore. It is truly stupid in a lot of meanings]

Seriously.

I already had the church give me weird gazes and throw me strange spells, and I even had Shinai-san sending tailers. Well, right now I am not using [Sakai] to grasp presences but to hide the magic power around me, so Shiki was the one who told me this when we returned to the store though.

Until then, I didn't notice at all.

"Now then, Eris. And also everyone. It seems you have quite the amount of spare time, so let's train a bit today" (Shiki)

Without waiting for the answer of anyone, several presences disappeared from the store. If the situation changes in an instant, my current self can understand the state of affairs.

Akua, it looks like you intended to share your banana milk, but will she able to endure till Shiki ends wringing Eris out? Well, even if she ends up drinking it all up, I wouldn't blame her. It looked like she liked it quite a lot after all.

Let's return to Asora and introduce the banana milk to the other Forest Onis as well. I have to tell Mio, so we can prepare the ingredients.

# Chapter 114

## You are telling me to do that?

"Welcome back, Waka. I was just about to contact you. Truly a good timing" (Tomoe)

"Tomoe. It is surprising that you are in Asora at this time. Is the investigation going well?" (Makoto)

Tomoe, who gives the impression of always slipping into dinner when she returns, has returned quite early to Asora. Really surprising.

After Tomoe finished what I had her do, she said something about the four seasons of Asora and has been strolling around the whole world. She once told me that she wanted a world map we once saw, and I remember giving her the permission to get it.

Even though she goes flying around everywhere every single day, she is able to handle the matters of Asora, and the recreation of Japanese-food is proceeding smoothly. I have to tip my hat at that working style. She has efficiency that could even allow her to start a business in the modern world. The map may have been an expensive buy, but I felt like it would be necessary in the future, so I bought it without hesitating too much.

"Well, it is about that. I have found quite the likely candidate. I don't mind beginning when the festival is over, but I wanted Waka's approval" (Tomoe)

The school festival huh. When I talked about it, not only Mio, Tomoe also got quite hooked. In the end, it turned into everyone having fun there. I decided to put this week as a holiday in Asora as well. Even if it's called holiday, in the end, everyone will be passing it just like they do every day, is what Ema said while doing a wry smile. Truly diligent people. I told them it is fine to do some service to their families, but I wonder how many will actually do that.

"A likely candidate huh. And what are we going to be specifically doing? If it's fine with just me opening a gate and returning, I can do it now" (Makoto)

It wouldn't take much time. In reality, there haven't been any intruders from the gate

remnants, and even if there is one that proves troublesome for Tomoe and the others, I just need to return to Asora and handle it.

“...Waka. It is certainly true that you have obtained power with your own efforts and it is good that you have gained confidence, but overestimating your abilities isn’t recommendable. As the saying goes: at the other side of the light there’s darkness” (Tomoe)

“I don’t intend to be conceited, but Tomoe and the others have recognized it as well. It will give me confidence. What. Is it such a dangerous place?” (Makoto)

I don’t think it is so far as to call it overestimating though. And as long as the Goddess doesn’t suddenly come attacking, Asora also has defensive measures prepared.

“It is in an area that is completely in control of the demon race. It’s a place that even if the hyumans continue winning and advancing, it would still take several years to arrive” (Tomoe)

“...”

What?

“And there’s demons close using the ruins of a hyuman town as their fortress. It would be a foolish plan to leave remnants of an Asora gate in the demon’s base who are more dangerous than hyumans” (Tomoe)

“...”

Really. Just why is it that the place Tomoe is suggesting so dangerous? If it were somewhere in the wasteland, we would be able to go immediately and there wouldn’t be much need to think.

I am also getting a bad feeling about this. Is a misfortune going to happen? A misfortune again?

I also want happiness you know?

“Waka?” (Tomoe)

“...By the way, you... what do you plan on doing? Also, did you make contact with the

demon race's fortress without asking for my approval?" (Makoto)

"What I plan on doing... well, I just plan on securing safety. I actually haven't gotten close to the fortress at all. From the analysis of the actual site's investigation and the information, it was possible to do some estimations" (Tomoe)

At the same time as she says that, Tomoe shows me a map rich in color. But it isn't as if the map itself is in color. It's just that she colored the areas to divide the places in her climate investigation, so it has become a colorful article. She is coloring an expensive map? That's not it. This map is a map that Tomoe duplicated to have at hand.

If I remember correctly... tropics, subtropics, temperate zone, Frigid Zone... and there's even the atmospheric temperature allocation and its similarities to the four seasons of Japan. There's an incredible amount of information written here. Even I can tell just from looking. I feel like I am looking at the notes of a prodigy who is good at putting together all the main points.

"And, here huh. The disparity between Japan's temperatures, even if it's only a conjecture, for it to match 95%... this is pretty impressive" (Makoto)

However, no matter how many times I look at it, this map is mysterious. If the number is just a coincidence, well, that would be it. There's still discrepancy.

But, the map of this world, no matter how I look at it...

It gives me the impression as if someone made a vague map of Japan based on a history book. The scaling is out of order and there are many parts I want to retort at, just like how the maps in the past were.

For example, Kyuushu (or at least the place I think is), the lower part is spread out like a folding fan and the lower part has not been drawn. This place indicates the wasteland. Tsige's borders are where Kaimon Straits is. The Gold highway we used is in Sanyo district, new Meishin, and going all the way until the middle of Chuuou, like a freeway road. Further that area, we have Limia kingdom at the west, in the east there's the Gritonia Empire, and in the north, at the half of Kanto, there's the territory of the demon race. The ruined country of Elysion doesn't seem to be drawn that accurately. There's not a single thing drawn in the Hokkaido region. Is it because it doesn't exist, or because it hasn't been discovered yet? It is this similar, so my guess is that it hasn't been discovered yet.

In place of inland sea, there's a mountain range that stretches from the Hiroshima area to the Shikoku area. There are no lakes close by there, but in Rotsgard there's one in the vicinity of Lake Biwa. I can't tell the actual distance because I moved by teleporting though, but the positions are similar to those of Japan's geography and makes it pretty easy to remember. It seems the two Seas' of Japan have been confirmed, but both of them have nothing drawn on what's further ahead. Is it because there's nothing ahead, or because they still don't know if the world extents further? If the resemblance isn't only in Japan, obviously, all the other lands should be the same, but is the information from the ocean itself thin? I haven't heard anything of it at all. Root might know something about it.

While looking at the place Tomoe pointed out, I remember a few things I thought about this map. At any rate, this place, if I remember correctly...

"It's a place I want to secure if possible. Do you mind?" (Tomoe)

It doesn't go as far as hyperventilating, but Tomoe looks clearly impatient.

"Do you mind, you say? We can't secure it right? That's demon race territory" (Makoto)

"No problem. As long as I get permission, I will clean it up in an instant" (Tomoe)

Clean up... So you are fully intent to fight huh.

"It's a fortress you know? How will you do it?" (Makoto)

"From the front, till I destroy it all. No problem" (Tomoe)

Is she... going to fight? Don't suggest it as if you are going out for a stroll. As expected, I can't make a prompt decision of this. I want to say 'there's no way there's no problem'. Yeah, her wording is strange.

"...Let me think a bit" (Makoto)

"Can't be helped. Understood. I look forward to a good response" (Tomoe)

Tomoe withdraws while looking slightly dissatisfied. It's not that I don't trust her. However, to attack a fortress is, as expected, hard to decide. Just what does Tomoe think of their military force? And if she picks a fight with the demon race, it will – without doubt – make them hostile to us. It may set in stone our standing in the future.

"Sorry. Well, while we enjoy the school festival, can you please continue the creation of ingredients in a leisure manner?" (Makoto)

"I will do so. Because of what Waka taught me the other day, I have somehow understood \*cultured rice\*, so I think I can progress in a few things. If everything goes well, I think I will be able to report of a sake that the company can use as well. Well then" (Tomoe) <*growing mold in steamed rice*>

"Got it. See you at dinner" (Makoto)

Tomoe leaves. Understanding on cultured rice huh. I don't understand half of it myself though. Even though I told them in an unclear manner, Tomoe and Shiki seem to have gotten something out of it. Their admiration at that time made me embarrassed. I really didn't say anything *out of this world*.

I didn't talk only about molding. I did an overview explanation of fermentation. That small beings invisible to the naked eye eat the sugar and starch, and that makes the alcohol and flavor spring forth. After, there were some that wanted wine when they tasted the alcohol, so I told them it would be better to discuss about a place to make sake and one to make wine. I remember that it was pretty disorganized miscellaneous knowledge.

Even so, Tomoe and Shiki heard me all the way till the end. 'Isn't cultured rice a special medicine or a type of catalyst?' Is what they said in strange admiration. Sometimes I want to ask them if they get strange misunderstandings when they look at my memories. It isn't like I investigated in detail, and to accurately find that part of my memory to gather that information which I just grazed, well, it must be pretty difficult. The two of them are so capable that they were able to act with just that over-the-surface information.

Shiki was muttering about microbes in this world that work the same as the ones in my world and wondering if it is possible to use them for this process. He was steadily constructing his thoughts. Lately, Shiki also seems to be getting better at gardening and research of food. Don't know if that's good or bad though.

After Tomoe left, I move to where the Forest Onis live to meet Mondo. Ah, now that I think about it, he asked me to have the remaining Forest Onis migrate. He wanted everyone to migrate. One of the elders, named Nirgistori, saw that the young ones that migrated here have grown in an abnormal level and seemed to have convinced the

congress. Well, it may have actually been because they found appealing the food and equipment the young ones brought when they visited their village again. Now that the Tree Punishment is possible to recover from, there's no fear of them anymore. If the other side wants to, I don't mind letting them. The problem is the forest and a part of the prairies in the wasteland that those guys are in control of. What will they do about those? It is still on hold, but it is practically decided that almost everyone will migrate.

“Wa-Waka-sama?!”

Probably because they caught a presence getting closer, the Forest Onis hurriedly approach and make a surprised voice. It is true that I rarely come alone to the Forest Onis' dwellings, so I can understand their surprise. Well, I didn't feel the need to bring Tomoe along, Mio is cooking while humming, and Shiki is in an appointment with Ema and I didn't want to get in the way. At this time, Komoe-chan is normally napping, so that's a no as well.

“Long time no see. Is Mondo here?” (Makoto)

“Y-Yes! I will bring him here this instant!”

“No need. I will go. I am the one that has something to talk with him after all” (Makoto)

“Then let me guide you to the place of captain. Over here please!”

I can tell from his body that he is nervous, but he is properly dealing with the situation and guiding me to Mondo's place. Their reaction is completely different from when we just met. I was able to confirm once again that Tomoe's tortu-, I mean, training program is quite effective.

“As I thought. Compared to the other races, the residence area here is smaller. When the time comes and the migration of everyone is decided, want to move to a different area?” (Makoto)

It looks more like a lodging house than a village after all. There's sparse amounts of dwellings, but I don't feel it is a scope big enough to call it a village. It looks exactly like a temporal dwelling.

“You will approve the migration of everyone?!”

“It's still not definite yet, but it is practically a sealed deal. It looked like the elders from

your side were pretty interested after all. Also, I think that in time, you guys will be able to help us learn about the Tree Punishment. You guys have really worked hard. Everyone thinks so, including me" (Makoto)

"?!! Thank you very much!! In the future, we will continue doing our best in missions and face training!!"

Quite the diligent one. Eris should learn from him. How can she survive that hellish training and obtain top class grades while still maintaining that personality? Even if she is like that, I suppose she can still be considered a genius, in a lot of meanings. Even when Akua was like that, her arrogance thorns were taken off, and her actions have become earnest in the good sense, but it seems that it is not altering in any way the personality of Eris. Ah, I should also ask Mondo his punishment for Eris. Even with all that, she is still popular with the customers and she is also an important employee of Kuzunoha Company. As long as she doesn't do anything incredibly stupid, I don't plan on changing her. I am probably being too soft here though.

It didn't look like they had contact in advance, and yet, Mondo was out at the front of his house. Forest Onis, can't underestimate them. I lift my hand and inform my visit. He answered me by lowering his head deeply. The other day, in the end, I was unable to treat the Forest Onis with banana milk, so after talking with them, let's treat them some in today's dinner. When I arrive to where Mondo is, I tell him about the talk we had of the migration, the work at Rotsgard, and also about the new menu. I continued to talk to him about several topics.

It was truly a meaningful time. Just excepting one thing.

Mondo...

"A contemplation fist and an admonition kick" (Mondo)

The one who asked about Eris' punishment method was me. But what do you expect me to do after hearing such a response?

# Chapter 115

## I wake up late and various things start.

Noisy.

Someone is making noise. No, that's not it.

What's going on? In the end, I wasn't able to sleep much because of the school festival that began yesterday. My important sleeping time before the store opening is...

!!!

Damn! What time is it?!

I hurriedly raise my upper half and look at the window. From the edge of the curtain, I could see a strong light leaking in. No matter how I see it, there's no way that's the light of early morning.

Oversleeping is quite mysterious! The strong drowsiness that I felt a while ago has completely disappeared, and in exchange, an intense agitation runs around my whole body. Seriously, it feels exactly like in my times at Japan. The worst kind of feeling!

I hurriedly finish changing and arrange myself in the full-length mirror. This is a new habit. If this was my past self, the most I would do is wash myself up and while at it, fix my bed hair.

I probably began this custom after the Rembrandt sisters coordinated my clothes and all of my self. My appearance is remarkably lower than the people around me, so I thought that whatever I do it would be useless, and without caring about the season, I wore the coat that the eldwas made. In winter it is warm and in summer it is not hot, a pretty outstanding product, so that may be one of the reasons why. 'This is a way of repaying you, so please' is what they said, and I was dragged around by the sisters for half a day. In that day, my hair, clothes, and even perfume were selected. Since then, the eyes around me changed quite a bit. My face and height can be considered an established fact, but the things I wear and the scent I put on, I can change it as many times as I want. And the impression my face gives, changes a lot just by switching

hairstyles.

It may be obvious when one thinks about it, but it is due to my own negligence and the fact that I haven't minded it in all the years I have lived. And after that, I was lectured by the sisters, saying that I should at least try to put at least a minimum effort in my personal appearance. This is a customer business, so it is good to have good health in body and mind.

After confirming once, I head downstairs.

I don't want to suddenly show my face inside the store, so I first check the situation. In there, it was already filled with a large quantity of customers. Ah as expected, I did mess up... One normally oversleeps in the times when it is already a bit too late.

Shiki notices I have already woken up and comes to where I am by passing through the mass of customers.

"Good morning Raidou-sama" (Shiki)

"Shiki, good morning. I'm sorry! I totally overslept" (Makoto)

"Yesterday you were preparing things till dawn, so it can't be helped. Also, as long as the preparations are done, it isn't as different as the usual business" (Shiki)

Shiki's kindness hurts. Changing the shelves, increasing the number of central merchandize, putting on and taking off posters for advertisement, and changing the contents of the black board at the outside of the store. Shiki and I did that till dawn. Since he is already up, it can't be said that it can't be helped.

And to say it isn't that different from usual? The congestion inside the store is incredible. If there's only one eldwa here, then maybe Lime and the remaining one is outside? In that case, there's an outside line?! So that's what woke me up. That makes me feel even worse.

"Lime and the eldwa are outside?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. They are regulating the customers. The Kuzunoha Company doesn't have a stand outside, but counting the people that work close by, for the sake of not being in the way of the other stores, I ordered them to regulate the line" (Shiki)

"That's a great help. Right now it is around noon right?" (Makoto)

"Yes. It is going to be noon very soon" (Shiki)

"How's the sales?" (Makoto)

If it is already noon, even if we sell several times as much as normal, the inventory should still have enough to spare. This place is an 'anything store' so as the word says, we handle a variety of products. Well, medicine is the main though. Just that, even if people increase because of the festival, I don't think this type of industry directly connects with drastically increasing sales in this kind of events. That's why we just prepared in case there's a need for personnel and then increase the inventory to tackle the sales. In base, that's how I decided to go. The number one most dramatic increases are probably the inns and restaurants. At night, probably the entertainment stores too?

"It seems that today's share will be over soon. There are many customers who are here just to check it out, and there are many who buy goods that normally don't show much sales together with other stuff. And the ones selling can't catch up" (Shiki)

"?! We just reduced the price a little bit, and yet, it has sold that much?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. When I saw the massive line outside at the time of opening the store, I was wondering what in the world was going on" (Shiki)

A massive line before opening?! Uwa, I really wanted to see that...

"What is attracting them so much?" (Makoto)

"It seems that the people who used our products have advertised about them being highly effective. And so, people that have come to Academy Town to see the festival, while at it, they check out the place. Also, it seems there are people that have been requested to do so as well. Adventurers don't show at Academy town unless there's pressing business, so we rarely see them here, but today I can see quite a few" (Shiki)

Word-of-mouth huh. In an area where people normally don't come, there are some who have tested our medicines huh. It makes me a little happy. Making Tsige my starting point, I have been having the Forest Onis sell medicines as well, but that's a place that is being constructed as it is being explored around, so there's not much we can expect from word-of-mouth there. There aren't many customers there that have

come from distant places after all. In that case, the other merchants, and the people who have visited from other towns and are coming to the store by chance, have bought medicine and advertised about it huh. Thanks thanks.

“Should we... rearrange the inventory?” (Makoto)

“No. It is originally things made along with the Arkes, but now the Gorgons are helping out in the production as well. It seems they are fit in medicine production. And so, the production amount has increased quite a lot. That’s why there’s no problem in the inventory as long as we return to Asora” (Shiki)

“I see. Then...” (Makoto)

“However, if we sell too much, there’s the chance it will create doubts. I think that doubling the amount decided last night should be about fine” (Shiki)

Before I could say let’s sell as much as we can, he nailed me down.

It’s certainly true that there’s a lot of inventory, and it isn’t recommendable to have people doubt us. If we stand out too much, there may come a time when it affects the business. Learn prudence.

“Understood. Let’s do that. But with that amount, there will be people who won’t be able to buy” (Makoto)

I do want to sell to the customers that have gone through the trouble of coming all the way here though. Too bad.

“There’s definitely going to be. Just in case, I have made several methods to keep down the displeasure” (Shiki)

“What are you going to do?” (Makoto)

I didn’t think it would reach a situation where the stock isn’t enough, so of course I haven’t thought about what to do when that happens. We have checked the annual situation of stores with the same type of products as us in the merchant guild, so we should learn from how they work.

“I had Lime go to the rear of the line and make it so that there’s no more increase in people. And then, the people that are definitely not going to manage in the amount of

merchandise for today, we will have an eldwa head to the people that won't make it and have him tell them that we will be giving them a coupon valid for the next day. For the customers that are unable to come the next day, we will give them a tradable coupon from the merchant guild which allows them to eat in a restaurant around the areas, and apologize to them" (Shiki)

Tradable coupon. Now that he mentions it, I do remember receiving one of those once. It is fine for the owner to use it, or you can let your customers use it. But, I feel like there weren't that many though.

"Tradable coupon huh" (Makoto)

"Yes. On top of that, from tomorrow on, we will be confirming the most demanded merchandise and along with the inventory, I plan on telling the customers that can't purchase, to not line up and explain this to them. I moved by my own accord, but was it okay?" (Shiki)

"No, don't worry, thanks. Did we receive that many tradable coupons?" (Makoto)

"Regarding that, this may be a report after the fact though. Since I thought it would be bad to give cash directly, I remembered the guild distributing this tradable coupons. If we use those, I thought it wouldn't look strange. And so, I headed to the guild and bought the necessary amount" (Shiki)

"I see. If I remember correctly, they did say that if necessary, we could buy them anytime we want. It's fine. I do think it was a necessary expense. At the very least, I who was stupidly sleeping in, can't say much. Well, I don't know if I would be able to make a decision of that level even if I were awake though" (Makoto)

"I am sorry. Several incident-like things happened, so I thought about waking you up, but when I went to your room, Mio-dono was looking at your sleeping face so..." (Shiki)

...

Scary!!

Mio is already here?

"I-I see... And?" (Makoto)

"I was asked the reason why I was trying to wake up Waka, so I answered her, but while at it, she also asked me why Waka was still sleeping" (Shiki)

He really can't get to the point huh. Well, Shiki is kind after all, so he is probably carefully choosing his words. When talking about Mio, he doesn't call me Raidou but Waka after all. How honest.

"Continue" (Makoto)

"I told her that you were probably tired because you were doing work till dawn. And when I told her, she asked me why I am not letting you rest. 'Do you think it's okay to wake up Waka just for this? Nope, it's not' is what she said and denied me" (Shiki)

Mio. It is okay, it was the right choice for Shiki to come wake me up. It's okay to slap me awake you know...

What a highly efficient anti-alarm clock.

"...Sorry, Shiki. It must have tired you more than necessary right?" (Makoto)

"No. It is certainly true that this was something even I am able to resolve by myself, so after re-thinking, I went to handle it. No problem" (Shiki)

"...And so, where is Mio?" (Makoto)

Shiki says even he is able to do it, but probably, instead of using my half-awake head to decide, he resolved it in a much better way than I would have been able to. Lately, when I am looking at him, the words steward and manager float in my head.

"I think she is out for a stroll. Tomoe-dono is also with her" (Shiki)

"Is it okay?" (Makoto)

To set free those two alone in this town.

"Root-dono was also there at that time, so it seems the three of them went to walk around and eat. I am looking forward to eating in Gotetsu at dinner, so I asked them to definitely return at that time" (Shiki)

It makes me feel relieved and at the same time, it makes me even more uneasy. There's

no other choice but to leave my hopes to Root who has been living in hyuman society for a long time huh.

"Well, even if we tell those two to help out in the store, we won't be able ask them so suddenly in this congested situation" (Makoto)

"Right" (Shiki)

Shiki's wry smile explained the matter. I can see Akua and Eris serving customers to their utmost best. Also, the eldwa is following up with flattery. Eh? Isn't he supposed to be selling weapons?

"Ehm, didn't the eldwa say he wanted to try selling weapons? I do remember giving him permission to do so though" (Makoto)

"Ah. It has already been sold out" (Shiki)

"That's fast. I did tell him it was fine to sell 10 daily..." (Makoto)

"Yes. The 10 have already been sold out" (Shiki)

That's impressive. Should I let him sell from now on? Those weapons don't have much performance, but I feel like it might be able to cause strife.

"Well, for the people that use weapons, it has an ability endowed in it that helps them quite a lot after all. Above all, it must have affected a lot that the first customer was a demi-human with the appraisal skill. He was lucky" (Shiki)

So he got an approval of its ability huh. Certainly, he was pretty lucky. I did let him explain the abilities of the weapon, but I stopped him from guarantying its particulars. For people coming to a festival, this is high priced, so people who don't have skilled eyes won't buy it. I thought it would be better for the weapon to be bought by people who understand its usefulness.

"A sword that after the fight is over, you just need to wipe it and it will never rust huh. A weapon with a high attribute endowed" (Makoto)

"Yeah. There isn't much to mention about the weapon's endurance itself, but it's decent. As long as they don't do anything unreasonable, it is an article that will support its owner for a long time" (Shiki)

“For the elder and the skilled craftsmen, this was extremely unpopular though” (Makoto)

When the young eldwa displayed it, they all made bitter faces. This is what I think: if I were not there at that time, he probably would have been scold.

“The elder sighed while saying ‘the younglings of today...’. Even though they made several types of Waka’s armor depending on the season. I do think that in a sense, that request is pointless for an armor’s true purpose though” (Shiki)

Always having a long coat on would look bad. I am grateful to the eldwas who answered my selfishness. It is certainly true that him saying ‘the younglings of today’ might be something justifiable.

I want to believe that they just lamented the fact that the young eldwa endowed an ability that lets one slacken in maintenance and not because of the type of request I made. There’s no mistake that the appearance doesn’t have anything to do with the true essence of an armor.

“That’s true. I am being pampered a lot. Then, the weapons are already sold out huh. Ah, what was that about a previous incident? Were you talking about the massive line?” (Makoto)

“No. Actually...” (Shiki)

What is it? Shiki seems to have a hard time saying it. The conversation until now has been proceeding smoothly excepting the part of Mio though. This does worry me.

“Was it... resolved?” (Makoto)

“Yes. Actually, this happened soon after opening. A problem because there were demi-humans except me and Lime. ‘This store has an inferior race employed, do they really sell decent stuff?’ is what they said. In our normal business we don’t get such types of slander, but as expected, for customers that come here for the first time, there would be some level of rejection” (Shiki)

“...Discrimination huh” (Makoto)

“Yes. Lime and I managed to subdue the problem but we made everyone feel bad. I don’t mind if it’s later, but please do give him a word of thanks. Right now it is calmed

down, but even outside where Lime is in charge of, there's still some sort of friction" (Shiki)

"Can't we call back the eldwa outside?" (Makoto)

"That will be hard. A situation where Lime and I both are not in the store is not good. I think that having Lime talk to them first and then leaving the actual work to the dwarf is safer. Having Akua and Eris serving the customers is most suitable after all" (Shiki)

"I see. It isn't like they are anything outstanding, and yet, why is it that hyumans can show contempt to the demi-humans without any repercussions? Don't they feel pathetic for that?" (Makoto)

Is having the favor of the Goddess that amazing? It's the Goddess that didn't do anything for several decades and was just sleeping you know? I can't understand.

Shiki just continues making a wry smile.

There's no change inside the store and it continues without any need for me to intervene. I am so late that there's no place for me. From tomorrow on, I will definitely not oversleep.

"Oh, it seems that some of the supplies and commodities are beginning to run out of stock. I will also return to customer service and explain it to them. Today, I ask of Waka to please adjust the inventory after closing time. I will also be helping" (Shiki)

As expected, it would be reckless to go serving customers without knowing the situation that occurred. After greeting Lime and the Eldwa who are outside and confirming the massive line, I will begin checking the inventory one step earlier. At night, I will take Tomoe and Mio to Gotetsu. I already have plans after all.

When I finish arranging the inventory... right, I have to take Shiki and go to the academy.

I forgot there are several places I have to greet no matter what. We have been here for quite a while, so there's definitely going to be hyuman relationships formed. In the research exhibitions of today there are many subjects I don't really have much interest in, but it can't be helped.

Finally, the school festival has begun.

“Let’s go!” (Makoto)

With a memo note in my left hand, I confirm the schedule of today. I leave from the backdoor of the store with feelings of recovering from that sudden mistake.

Eh? There’s people here too. *<As in, the line reaches all the way there>*

Hm, why is it? It kind of feels nostalgic...

From the rear entrance, one store away in the main street, the people there piqued my attention. It isn’t like there’s some weird atmosphere there. A slightly darkish skin and black hair. Yeah, an arab-like face would give this kind of impression. The abundant beard below his nose gave the exact image of a person from the oil country. Maybe it is because there’s mostly people modeled from white westerns in this area, that’s why, when I compare my face that is similar to that guy (if I told him that, he would definitely get angry though) in the group, I feel a slight sense of nostalgia and closeness. *<He is talking about his racial features>*

Well, it has nothing to do with me. He isn’t an acquaintance or anything. He seems to not be minding me and looking at a list. He is looking at the list and then returning here, and repeating that process. Is he not a customer?

“Ku-zu-ha?”

It’s Kuzunoha. You are missing the No.

To meet Lime and the others, I must pass beside him. I don’t know if this will work for a person I have met for the first time, but I lower my head while passing beside him.

Great, it seems he understood it. He moved aside in this road that is not that spacious.

“No doubt, it’s Kuzuha. Why is the writing of my Lorel in this kind of place?”

N, Lorel?

The name of the major power that I was able to slightly hear, piqued my interest. But I have a lot of things I have to do, so I don’t have time to ask him about it. While surprised by the line that surpassed my expectations, I give my thanks and apologies to Lime and Eldwa who are moving busily, and began what I had to do for today.

## Chapter 116

# There are times when the night drowns you

“To think the sake... that the sake wouldn’t make it in time!!” (Tomoe)

“Tomoe-san, you are noisy-desu” (Mio)

“Calm down. It is proceeding smoothly right? There’s no need to hurry” (Makoto)

But I also think that if there’s ponzu, we would be able to aim for higher heights in boiled tofu, however, for that, we would need to make soy sauce. And also, in the end, we would have to recreate the Japanese-style fermentation products. The boiled tofu that everyone is eating is still not in its completed state. Eating this with the aromatic salt that’s normally used in this world, it is actually decently tasty in itself. Now that I think about it, there’s kelp salt too. Maybe I should introduce this as well. Leaving aside if it can actually be made, there’s a seaweed in this world that’s incredibly similar to kelp so it might be possible.

After moving around busily, it is now evening.

Even in this busy time of business, Gotetsu still had a place reserved for us. Having a single room reserved is truly extravagant and a grateful thing. There’s a long line outside the store that’s normally not seen, and when we passed beside them and entered the store, I felt slightly guilty. Tonight is a drinking party with everyone that has been working in the store, along with Tomoe and Mio who came from Asora. I feel like this should have been done yesterday, but with my schedule, it was impossible to do so. The only one susceptible to hangovers is me, so it is nice that I can watch them cause a ruckus with a peace of mind.

Tomoe and Mio requested a nabe that is the closest possible to Japanese, so I selected a few and ordered them first. I also ordered the boiled tofu that’s not so popular in Gotetsu, and the also unpopular salty bird meat nabe. I ordered the bird meat nabe with a little extra added. I had them make it with konbu water as a base. In image, it is the closest to mizutaki *<cooking in water>*. It is already been quite long since I have eaten it, and there’s doubtful parts too though.

Shiki and the employee team are doing what they please and ordering anything they want as they go ‘wai wai’ and having fun. There are already a few empty nabes that are left to the side. Shiki has a cream nabe in front of him and a mayonnaise bottle in one hand, and seems to be considering something. That, I will never eat it.

“Waka, this is delicious. Truly delicious. Boiled tofu, mizutaki. Both of them may not be the same as the originals, but it does give the proper image. That’s why! I hate myself for not being able to prepare Japanese sake here!” (Tomoe)

While drowning in defeat, Tomoe does a fervent speech. With her sleeves rolled up, she is frequently pouring alcohol in her beer mug. I don’t think the amber colored one is supposed to go in beer mugs you know. Even if in the near future you are able to create the Japanese-type one, I wonder if it will truly satisfy you.

“Is this... nabe-desu ka? It looks like it is a cooking that has quite the variety-desu no ne. Fish, meat, vegetables, diverse flavoring, and above all, the soup that serves as the base. This is... I have now considered this something worth trying!” (Mio)

Mio, while pinching several things, seems to be interested in boiled tofu and mizutaki as expected. The mizutaki has quite the close taste, but in my personal opinion, not having something to substitute for crown daisy is what creates a bottleneck. Does Asora have it? I don’t find an ingredient for nabe that useful, so there’s no need to waste our time trying to search for it, is what I thought as I remembered a plant I didn’t voice out.

“Wait for it men sake of Hyougo’s open sea, women sake of Kyoto. I will show you that I will finish it soon!” (Tomoe)



...Tomoe's dream. It is at an absurdly high place huh. If that's her objective, then there's still a long way to go. Men sake and women sake, if you really want to do those, you would have to first finish the production of things like rice and water. In Edo, the sake was probably pretty popular at the latter half, but there's no need to go so far you know. And also, no matter how I look at it, Tomoe has a first rate dry taste.

Since I came to this world, I have understood the greatness of internet. I was in a world where it was truly easy to search for information huh.

"Waka, I think cream and mayonnaise might have unexpected compatibility but, do you have memory of a cuisine like that?" (Shiki)

"Shiki, I am sorry but, the only thing I can see in common about those two is the color. Please don't begin scary experiments before even getting drunk" (Makoto)

Just imagining the taste of those two together, I feel like my appetite wanes. I hope the subject strays into soy milk nabe or something like that...

"Sorry for the wait! I have brought the additional ingredients and nabe!"

The one who entered the room cheerfully is Ruria. Behind her, I can tell the situation of the store.

Big congestion. Truly a total mayhem. Incredible. Nabe isn't the type that you eat fast and leave quickly, so what about the customers that are waiting?

"This is a big success huh, Ruria. You seem to be moving with quite the vigor but, will you be able to keep that up for one week? Forcing yourself is poison to the body. I will bring an energy drink tomorrow" (Shiki)

Shiki lifts his head up and talks to Ruria. How natural. I should learn from that.

"I am fine Shiki-san! I am already prepared for the congestions in this times after all! Onee-chan is also helping out" (Ruria)

E? The librarian Eva-san is? Helping out Ruria in this situation? Isn't that impossible?

[Eva-san is able to serve customers too? How talented]

"Eh?! Ah... uhm... Onee-chan is helping in the kitchen by washing the dishes and

“cutting the vegetables” (Ruria)

...She must have been send to the kitchen. ‘Go there do the dishes and cut the vegetables’ is probably how it went. What an expected conclusion. Glad I didn’t ask her straight.

“It’s the place that I am working in, so she always comes every year to help, but as expected, she is not suited for this kind of things. In the house, Onee-chan is always the one who does the washing, so she is helping out in that aspect” (Ruria)

“With just that much, I can tell that she is a truly good sister” (Shiki)

“Shiki-san, it is not that you can tell you know. She is actually a good sister after all. Ah, sorry. I will be returning now. If you want to order anything more, don’t hesitate to call!” (Ruria)

Ruria is probably able to do what Akua and Eris do. Look like they are in several places at once when serving the customers. Serving customers is deep. Could it be... this is one of the strongest combat jobs?!

Also, she was able to predict the contents of what Shiki was about to say. Can’t underestimate her.

...Maybe I’m a little drunk now.

“Well well, today I had Root guide us and went looking around. It is a fun festival huh. For just a single festivity, several people of high positions in the major powers come here and check things out, nobles and big merchants bring along their attendants and can be seen coming and going” (Tomoe)

“Yeah. In Tsige there’s always food carts, but here there’s more variety. There were also many cuisines with different cooking methods, so I am looking forward to tomorrow. Ah right, Waka-sama, it seems in the country called Lorel, there’s a custom where they eat a part of the fish raw-desu yo” (Mio)

In the content of what both Tomoe and Mio talk, I can tell that they are enjoying the festival, but their directions are totally different. They travelled together and yet their impressions are so different.

“Also, in the academy area where normal visitors are unable to enter, the students

were pleasantly training. It seems at the latter half there will be martial art and magic tournaments. I wonder how well the students of Waka will fare. I would like to watch the tournament along with Waka" (Tomoe)

"With this chance, I will increase my information and widen my cooking skills! When with Root, there's no need to line up that much, so it is convenient" (Mio)

I already promised Jin that I would be watching his match, so there shouldn't be any problems in bringing Tomoe and Mio along. Root said he wanted to come too, but with his position he would be treated as a guest, so going together is totally impossible.

Nevertheless, it seems Root has done well in this one day. I don't think they haven't caused a single problem. In this kind of festivals, quarrels are something that always happen, so I don't want to be so fussy about it. As long as they don't cause trouble with any of the high position people Tomoe mentioned a while ago, that's fine.

"Yeah, it is a festival that occurs once a year after all. It will make me happy if you two have as much fun as you can. About watching the match, let's all go" (Makoto)

My followers nod matching my words. With how today went, there should be no problems with me and Shiki checking out the festival in shifts. It is okay to consider the merchandize mostly sold out by noon. Basically, when there's nothing to sell anymore, it is fine to just hear out the people that came to ask something. We have means for contact after all.

If I remember correctly, tomorrow at noon I have plans with Rembrandt-shi to go together to the publication that the sisters are participating in. I cannot oversleep no matter what. I should stop the alcohol and just continue with the nabe.

The surroundings are already pretty completed too. Tomoe and Lime merrily drink and make noise. Mio looks like she is having a serious match with the nabe and her cheeks are slightly flushed. The two Forest Onis and Shiki are mass producing empty bowls of nabe. The eldwas are eating the yakiniku-like nabe with small amounts of soup and bringing the meat to their stomachs with beer.

Everyone looks like they are making noise and having fun. It's necessary to have times where you just don't care about anything and just liberate yourself.

Now then, how about challenging the limited menu!



“The attack to Stella Fort is coming, and yet, to leave the country is just... there's a limit to stupidity”

“If the empire didn't have that princess attend, there would have been no need for us to attend but... there's a need to confirm their true motives”

“I know that already! The problem is all because of that empire hero and princess Lily. There are traces of them entering my Limia country without permission as well. To be stirred from the inside in times of war, I just can't handle it. Having internal troubles with the same hyumans as us is just...”

“Hibiki-dono is a hero as well, but it seems that her way of thinking differs a lot from the Iwahashi Tomoki of the empire. Instead of calling it her accepting them, it is best to call it a relationship where both parties are using each other. If we are not careful, they might become our next enemies”

“I also know that already! That's why you came here, to investigate their movements and find a way to keep them in check right? Damn empire, what are they scheming?”

Rotsgard, situated at the center of Academy Town and serving as the tower where the most exemplar students gather. And inside that place, there's one area inside the academy where they receive the guests. Among that area, there's a room that has especially tight security, a male in his prime of life and a young man of about 20 are conversing there.

Limia's king and the second prince. Even if he is the second prince, he is a bit older than the first prince Bredda. It can be said that this is proof that there are complicated circumstances regarding political power inside Limia. From the contents of the conversation as well, one can tell that he is working as the counselor of the king.

The words of the king leaked out his anger. Even so, he hasn't shown this shameful sight in public. Because he is a king. In preparation for the next attack to Stella Fort which is a key place the hyumans have been unable to reclaim from the demon race for a long time, normally, the king should be in his kingdom in wait for that moment. Even if the Rotsgard school festival is an important event where they can find talent to support the future of Limia, it isn't an event that the king should be attending in this war situation. Then, why is he in this town?

Empire princess, Lily. She is the reason why.

The princess that Hibiki told them to be careful of after she returned from the Stella Fort battle. Even if she is called a princess, she has resigned her rights for the imperial throne and has taken her hands off the enterprises she has been administering. A girl that is trying to disappear from the spotlight. Even without the warning of the hero, Limia has been marking her movements, but after she resigned her rights for the imperial throne, her priority has lowered.

But with the empire's hero and Princess Lily who supports him, there's an aura of turbulence and the attention has once again gathered to her. As a result, several strange movements with unknown objectives have been confirmed. Recently there was also a report saying that there were sightings of them in the lake that was said to be created by the mysterious power, the Devil. This isn't an action that should be done by the princess of a major power to its ally Limia. And that girl, in the current situation where the fight is close, she took separate action from the hero and has come to Academy Town to attend the school festival. Her objective is a courtesy visit to Academy Town and find talent. Of course, Limia knew this announcement was all just a front. That's why, they can't leave it be.

And so, another problem surfaces. The suspicious empire princess that wouldn't be an exaggeration to call fox, who will be the one in Limia that will be handling her?

Large part of Limia's cabinet ministers are nobles who inherited the position. Bluntly speaking, the amount of incompetent people is not small. The status of the household and its power influences the official positions. As the king, it is one of the big problems he wants to fix, however, this isn't something he can undertake with half-assed resolve. This is way too big of a reform to do in the middle of a war with the demon race.

In short, the Limia king, for the sake of checking a difficult individual, has few people that can search for her real intent and that he can truly trust. The people that fit in that category are naturally assigned with several important jobs, so their hands are already filled. Moreover, they now have a big pillar in war by the name of Hibiki. The king who has the trait of not caring about moving himself, headed to Academy Town that is said to take one week from Limia kingdom, and with the secret teleport formation it only took one day and a half. And so, the Limia king visited Rotsgard in the period of the school festival. Even if he is resolved to return when the battle begins, this is quite the despairing decision.

That's why, because the Limia king, who reigns at one of the top class hyuman countries, is attending the school festival, several places were affected by it. As a result, this year's Rotsgard school festival is a lot more extravagant in its cast compared to last year. When the festival heats up at the latter half, the attendance to the events will increase, but aside from that, it will mostly turn into diplomatic places for the nations.

"I still haven't talked with Princess Lily, so I still don't know the intentions of the empire. King, it is soon time for our next schedule"

"Lorel Union right? If possible, I would want them to excavate in Limia the hot springs that are considered the specialty of their country. I would like that kind of diplomatic discussions"

"Fufu, those are quite nice, but I don't think it is the type of thing that can be exported. Now that you mention it, it seems hero-dono also knows about hot springs. Brother was thinking if they could somehow go to Lorel"

"That idiot. Sorry. Because of his self-centeredness, he is bringing more work to you"

"No. Actually, his way of thinking and ability to act are things I don't have and it makes me jealous. Brother will definitely be a fit vessel as a king. I can assure it"

The second prince that had maintained a complicated expression, showed a slightly gentle face. He looks like a person that gets in many head aching situations and has a stiff face, but when talking about his family, it seems it made him feel calm.

In the small space of silence, the entrance door is knocked. Hearing that, the two inside the room change their gears and turn to their business face.

Being informed of the visitor's name, a voice asking to enter the room is heard.

"Come in"

With a voice filled with majesty, the king gives his permission.

After a vocal message and greetings, and added statements of flattery and courtesy, the king urged them to take seat in the sofa that is set in the reception space to the number of men and women that came.

"We are in this type of place, so no need to be so stiff. Now then, first of all, state what

you want of our Limia”

If we count them in the four major powers, Limia Kingdom and Lorel Union are in the same rank, however, the truth is Limia has quite the high national power. The originally strong Gritonia and Limia obtained heroes and now their power increased even more, so the current state is that the major powers are divided in the two high and the two lower.

As a result, Lorel is seen as lower and is treated as so.

“...Well then, I will be straight and say it. Please return priestess-sama”

Maybe the attitude of the king had something to do as well, the man in the center that seems to be the representative opens his mouth big.

“Hoh~, the priestess-dono? She is accompanying the hero that descended to Limia, Hibiki-dono. She is travelling together and fighting along with her on her own will. If I remember correctly, isn’t there a rule in your country that states that no one is able to go against the will of the priestess-dono and no one is to hinder her?”

In contrast to that, the Limia king answers indifferent. Inside, he is thinking: “Do you only know how to say that?” while completely fed up. This is not the first time they have brought up the talk of the priestess.

“We are grateful that you have helped priestess-sama when she arrived to your country. We are also thinking about giving a fitting thanks for the hero Hibiki-dono. We will also teach you about the techniques of our Lorel as much as you want”

(Yeah right. He says that, but he doesn’t intend to explain anything in detail)

The king thinks that, and without changing his expression, he swallows those words.

“Fumu, I have also brought this talk to Hibiki-dono, but just as how I said before, Hibiki-dono wishes for the strength of your country’s priestess, Chiya-dono. And the priestess-dono consented. There’s no need to think about it, we already consider that your country has given their gratitude. No need to worry” (King)

“...For the major power that’s called the matchless by hyumans to abduct an important personage of another country, moreover, having her fight in a battlefield that is filled with danger. This might become a big problem you know?”

"This is vexing. Bringing out falsehoods and bending the truth of the priestess-dono's current state, I can't let that pass. We didn't abduct your priestess-dono, she willingly decided to become hero-dono's strength. Limia is in the foremost line of the war against the demon race along with Gritonia, and of course, this comes with danger, however, priestess-dono understands that and still decided to do so. No, it can be said that the priestess-dono is providing rear aid to your country and taking the initiative to support the hero-dono in the frontlines. Isn't this something your country should be proud of? Isn't the demon race a common enemy of us hyumans?" (King)

Frontline and rear aid, telling them about the difference in positions, the Limia king corners the other party.

"But you should know just how important the priestess-sama is for us! Do you think we can just shut our eyes knowing that her life is in danger?!"

The woman that was silent at the side, stood up and used a tone that can be easily said to be rude towards a king. The prince turns his face in order to tell her to remonstrate, but the king used his eyes to take over the next action.

"If you become emotional, we won't be able to discuss. Think about it thoroughly. Right now, the hero-dono's movements are gathering the attention of the whole world. If in that situation, you were to take your priestess-dono, one-sidedly ignoring her own will and pulling her apart from the hero-dono, just see what happens. How will the people in the world react to that? You can imagine it right? If your country wants to do so no matter what, send an envoy. We will definitely return your priestess-dono. However, about this matter, we will not provide any support. If you are insecure, just bring your most elite. I promise we will definitely arrange for priestess-dono. As long as priestess-dono wishes to be with hero-dono, I think that what your country should be doing is supporting her though" (King)

"Limia... takes hostages?"

"Stop that"

Words of anger were muttered. There was no need for the Limia side to say anything, the man sitting in the middle stopped her.

"I will forget those words just now" (King)

"...I'm grateful. What you say is plausible. Just, for us, the priestess-sama is an

irreplaceable personage. At this rate, it will bring bad effects to the relationship between both of our countries. If possible, we ask for some sort of progress while in your stay at Academy Town”

“I will keep it in mind. We also wish for this matter to head in a favorable direction”  
(King)

Silent and cold, those eyes of the man in the middle that make one feel a strong will. He stands up, and his other companions also stand up. In their eyes, instead of calm, you could feel something close to hatred in that strong light. You can tell just how important is the existence called priestess for the Lorel country.

Without turning around, they leave the room. After confirming that their presences grew further away, the prince opens his mouth.

“A rude behavior and contempt. We should issue an official protest to the Union about this”

“No need. Well, it’s not like I don’t understand their point after all. It’s to say, the same feeling as having Hibiki-dono not returning to the empire” (King)

“That is...”

“Also, right now creating stormy situations with other countries is a bad idea. To check the empire, we need to have our country in their best condition or we won’t be able to move how we want to. The will of the priestess Chiya-dono holds no lie and she is standing alongside Hibiki-dono. Even if it takes a long time, we have no choice but to wish for their understanding” (King)

The Limia King breathes out a deep sigh.

Moving as they wish, if that were to truly happen, the world wouldn’t be in this much of a chaos right? Even when feeling that that’s too immature, the king thinks so in that way. It’s a feeling he had forgotten a long time ago, but the kingdom’s hero is the kind of existence that makes you remember those immature feelings. Maybe she will be able to realize that kind of wishful thinking, is what he faintly feels. Will it become a sweet poison that will bring the destruction of the kingdom, or will it become the explosive that will reform the thoroughly rotten Limia monarchy?

Just like the war with the demon race, the Limia kingdom’s fate is also beginning to

move largely, is the hunch of the king in his prime.



“Isn’t it fine, isn’t it fine~! I like it, you so called Ruria. You want to become my bride?! Good, then come!”

“T-T-T-Tomoe-sa~n?! Stop. Ah... please don’t fondle~!”

“Yo!! Tomoe-nesan, how manly!”

“Ahn? Baniana mayounneise tte huh?”

“Eris, milk milk”

“Oil, there’s not enough oil!! Ruria-chan, one more of the one that makes my throat burn!”

“...Oil, that’s right, oil! With oil of strong flavor, this nabe might be perfected!”

“Yeah, finely cut the fat meat and then put the noodles... zzz”

...

That hellish and uncontrollable scenery, my sober self was looking at it from the entrance of the private room.

Maybe the fun atmosphere turned it this way, or there might a different cause for it. In summary, including my retainers, everyone in the room except me was drunk in alcohol.

The drinks of Tomoe, Mio, and also Shiki were especially strong in alcohol, and their way of drinking is fitting to call it savage. Why does it have to happen today of all days?

It didn’t look like the alcohol had anything out of the ordinary. What a mystery.

It is already late in the night and the ingredients of Gotetsu are running out. The remaining customers are mostly the ones who enjoy alcohol, but they already began dispersing and people who try to make a pass with the waitress began appearing.

The Kuzunoha Company's drunk army that jumped out from the private room, at that time, promptly subjugated the bad atmosphere that was beginning to appear.

Sniffing out the disturbance, Tomoe scattered the hoodlums from every direction. If that was all it was to it, it would have looked cool, but this time the attention began to gather around her. And that's how the hellish picture was created.

Fortunately, the furnishing is still safe and sound, but if I leave it be, it's just a matter of time. Man, so troublesome.

And then, what I feared occurred.

“Raidou-san, even for me, this is troublesome”

The shop manager. Right~? I also have a bit of alcohol in my system, but compared to the bunch making a fuss, I am still normal.

[I am sorry. They normally don't get this chaotic though]

“It is because it's Raidou-san that I am not going as far as saying you are prohibited to enter, but can you please take them with you already? With this, I can't even close the store and the remaining customers won't be able to leave”

[Got it. Thanks for the meal]

No matter how much I calculate, the math just won't catch up, so I give him quite the amount of money.

“It helps a lot that Raidou-san always pays in cash. Then, I will be bringing the change fast, so please wait here for a bit”

[No need. We have caused you trouble so please take it. If you don't, it would be hard on me the next time I come here]

It may not have been us, but I could see several desks and chairs damaged. Anyways, this spectacle, just by looking at it I can tell its chaos.

“...N? Even if you say that, you are also taking care of us quite a lot. Ah right! The next time you come, I will give you service fitting the extra”

[Thank you very much. Well then, for today, thanks for everything]

"Ahahaha! That's my line. The festival is still continuing, so buy, sell, drink and eat! Come here again. We will always be waiting for you!"

The words of the shop owner uncle healed me, and after calling out the guys with lighter symptoms, we began our leave.

I carry the clearly bigger Mio and Shiki, and leave the store. When we left, the cold night wind permeated my body. I'm glad that Tomoe is narrowly able to walk. Lime is lending his shoulder and she is somehow able to walk. No, they are probably supporting each other there. Like a pair of drunkards.

Will we manage to wake up properly tomorrow?

Hope it doesn't come to the scenario where only I get to wake up normally.

With a tinge of uneasiness, the first day of the school festival finished.

# Chapter 117

## Second day, wallflower

“Sorry. Having you do something similar to a bodyguard”

[No, don't mind it. Also, if I came to this kind of place by myself, I wouldn't know how to behave and that would only trouble me. It's great that I was invited by Rembrandt-san]

In truth, I am following around half a step behind him like an extra.

Dance hall (I have never went to one, so I don't know if that's truly how it is called here though). I don't know the proper way of acting in this kind of place after all.

Second day of the school festival. Finishing work more efficiently than the first day, I met with Rembrandt-san, who I had an appointment with, and arrived at the academy. For about half a day until the buffet-format dinner finishes, there will be a party to assess etiquette, or so it seems. There are relatives of students and people that have been invited like me, but the atmosphere is clearly different from the places I am normally in.

For guests like us, it is okay to just enjoy the party, watch over your student relatives, have chats, act in however way you wish. Rembrandt-san has already greeted several merchants and has received greetings from several people.

The students, who are the original leads, are participating in this event complying with the classes they attend to, and their actions and conduct will be evaluated, or so I heard. So they are being tested for half a day here huh. Honestly, I pity them.

“If my wife Lisa came along with me on the trip here, Morris would have to take the duties of the company and there is the chance he wouldn't be able to handle the problems that appear. Having you close is reassuring” (Rembrandt)

[What's most important is that your wife has safely recovered. It would be nice if Morris-san were to come next year too]

The reason why I came here with him is because of Morris-san's absence, and that's why I am acting as his bodyguard. But the truth is different. Half of the reason is because his daughters told him to bring me here, and the other half is to introduce me to a trading place, or so I think. The second reason is one that I thought of when I got here.

If he really needed a bodyguard, it is fine to just hire one, and his wife coming after because she has something to do first just sounds made up. The people Rembrandt-san greeted, and the people that came to greet him, he looked at me and introduced my name and the name of the Kuzunoha Company. Even the dense me knows what he is actually doing.

His wife is most likely going to come a little later after the party begins and reunite with Rembrandt-san. While feeling a bit uncomfortable, I greeted a few active merchants and a number of nobles. When they first saw me, they had surprised eyes as if startled, eyes that clearly looked down on me, eyes that judged me as a slave Rembrandt-san brought along with. There were a lot of types, but maybe they slightly understood after I explained them my standing, most of them accepted at least a handshake. In truth, I am conscious that I am quite out of place here. As long as I get a handshake and introduce myself, it can be said I have done pretty well already.

There isn't a single demi-human here after all. There's only hyumans. And they are all dressed up in extravagant appearances. The women that are wearing dresses of vibrant colors are dancing in the hall and it's truly a spectacle. After all, there's not a single one of them whose appearance is outshone by their dress. I am the only one that's losing to my clothes. After Rembrandt-san finishes one round of greetings and reunites with his wife, I will just quietly stay at the corner of a wall and look at the state of the sisters.

"Dear, sorry for being late"

Hm, the wife has appeared huh. The time I met her when I went to Tsige in summer I thought this as well but, she is truly beautiful. It tells me all over again why Rembrandt-san doesn't have lovers. Just with her outward appearance it already makes me think that way, so she is probably amazing in many other aspects. No matter if male or female, after they pass their thirties, their way of life begins to show in their outward appearance as well, is how I think.

Her body makes you wonder if she really had two children. Her face as well, when

comparing it with her true age, she looks quite younger. An unrivalled young-looking Caucasian.

I have seen a decent amount of hyumans, so now that I have seen her for the second time, I am able to slightly distinguish her age. The first time I saw her after recovering from her ghoul state, I thought she was the elder sister.

...If I were together with my elder and younger sister, the people might mistake me for their uncle. I simply don't like that. Being treated as the only one growing old.

"Ah, Lisa. Today you decided on the blue dress huh. It looks good" (Rembrandt)

[It's been a long time. Are you not tired because of the long journey?]

Ah.

Damn. Was I supposed to praise her dress too? I unconsciously talked to her the way I normally do.

"Thank you. They went through the trouble of bringing it here after all. I thought the dress would be sad since I haven't had the chance of using it ever since I bought it" (Lisa)

The madam responds merrily to Rembrandt-san and makes a turn to show off her dress. A slightly tight blue dress that gives off a deep impression. It certainly does seem like there's not many chances to wear it. But in this kind of party, it really shines. Well, for the Rembrandt household, there's no way there won't be chances like this though.

...Ah, the time she was a ghoul huh. In the time she was inflicted with the curse disease, she wouldn't be able to accept invitations, and she wouldn't be able to welcome anyone as a representative. It's great that I remembered this before saying anything imprudent.

"Raidou-sama, sorry for making you, our benefactor, the bodyguard of my husband. It seems you are also taking care of our daughters at the academy, so it is like we are always asking you favors" (Lisa)

[Your daughters are exemplar, so I am not doing anything worthy of calling 'taking care'. From my side as well, the people in my company at Tsige are being taken care of]

"I will substitute you in the protection of my husband, so Raidou-sama, please go look after Sif and Yuno. The two of them will surely be happy. Also, it was called energy drink, right? The drink I received. Thanks to it, the fatigue I felt when I arrived at Academy Town disappeared as if a lie. Thank you very much" (Lisa)

[Glad to hear that. Ah, looks like it is about to begin]

"Ara, really. It seems I have arrived quite slowly. So embarrassing" (Lisa)

"This isn't such a stiff place anyways. No need to mind it. Well then, Raidou-dono. Sorry but, we will be heading to our seats first" (Rembrandt)

[Take your time. Please call me again when you are leaving. I will be at the guest seats]

Yeah. In this hall, since the beginning, the seats are divided, or more like, the places are divided.

I am not the relative of a student and have just received an invitation from a relative. That's why the treatment is a little different from them. I originally didn't plan on being a third wheel between the married couple, so this fits better.

I look at the back of the two that are linking arms. How affectionate.

Looking at the back of the married couple, I wished for my height to increase while receiving a drink from the waiter and mobilizing. The corner, the corner.

In the way, I pass beside a number of people Rembrandt-san presented me. While bowing slightly, we pass by each other. Are they also on their greeting rounds? How dedicated.

For me, the main objective right now is to spread the medicine and the management of the company, so things like... lobby activities? Groundwork? Creating connections? Well, I haven't really done much of those kind of things. I didn't think of it as necessary, but maybe it is.

If we are beginning a business in a new place, we don't just greet the guild, it is also an effective method to create individual connections with the merchants in the surrounding, the nobles, and the powerful people. It certainly does make sense.

If I had to talk about the connections I have made, it would be Rembrandt-san and...

that priest would probably count as well. No, I feel like that can't be called a connection yet.

Yeah, it really is lacking.

In terms of inhyuman alignments, I have two superior dragons, the calamity spider, and well, if it's to the level of just talking, I have talked to Gods. How extravagant. In terms of antagonism, one superior dragon and one God (?). If we subtract, what's left are my retainers, one dragon and one spider huh <*As in subtract one dragon and one god*>. Well, I don't know if subtracting is okay in this case though.

Maybe I should try a bit more in creating connections at the hyuman side. The potential candidates are probably the two heroes and the people around them. As earthlings, there's the chance we can get along after all.

While thinking that, I look up. At the second floor seats. The place where the nations invited by the academy are seated in. If they have any business they will come down, but they normally just talk among other countries. Even if they come down, it would just be a problem with the bodyguards. In the people that are chatting and dancing, there are probably some wishing for someone in the second floor to take an interest in them and getting a bite of that cake. <*TL: gold diggers*>

Oh.

The ones there are the Rembrandt sisters. Also, eh? Could it be, Amelia is also participating?

Make up and dress. Both of those become like magic, creating an incredible gap in their image. I normally only see those three running around, so it stands out even more, but the change is amazing.

I look at them from afar as they go around introducing themselves. Well well, watching them from here, they have a charm that would make me think they are not the same age as me. Sif is red, Yuno is a soft pastel color blue and Amelia a lustrous emerald green dress. The dress also varies. Sif has cloth even at her shoulders and the hem of the dress reaches close to her feet; a calm, no, it gives off a harmonizing sensation. Yuno has her shoulders exposed, and, from here I can't see too well but, her hem is short to the point that it barely covers her knees; quite daring. Amelia has a haler neck dress and it's the type that shows the line of her body beautifully. The three of them

seem to not like parties that much, but they are showing a smile that doesn't lose to their dress while chatting with the people around.

The students here are really good at doing those kind of things naturally. I do think it is pretty impressive. Amelia is a scholarship student and was born in a normal household, so she must have learned all of it when she came here. I can't even see a trace of the girl that gives battle directions along with Jin.

I'm glad I'm looking at this from afar. If those three were to suddenly come to my side, I might get embarrassed and turn weird. Rembrandt-san must be looking at the sisters from a closer place. I can tell that his face has loosened up. And while at it, he is giving off a fearsome bloodthirst to the men that try to woo them. Well, if only there were people that had so much guts as to woo others in front of their relatives that is. It's unthinkable for me, but in this academy, there are students that are already married and there are some that propose to teachers out of self-interest, so I can't say there are none.

Oh, it seems they noticed me. Well, we do have quite the distance so they won't come immediately. They didn't wave either. In exchange, the three of them directed a smile at me. I thought it was a bad idea to wave, so I lift my hand slightly higher than my shoulders and respond with a smile too. It didn't compare to the smile of those girls that gathered the attention of the surroundings though. Hah, I have to study a bit about this too.

After a while of not much happening and just looking at the state of the Rembrandt sisters and Amelia, the BGM changed. From the pain in the ears music that had no pace to it and has been playing in the hall till now, to one that you can feel the movement and flow. Ah, a dance accompaniment is probably like this.

There doesn't seem to be any tools to replay music, so it is most likely being played by a chamber music group. Live performance. Thinking about it that way, it does sound luxurious.

Obviously, the dancing started. For me who can't dance, it doesn't matter much. Rather, I want to eat something that's not appetizers and drinks. Even if I look at the dance, I would understand practically nothing anyways. Dango over blossoms *<Food comes first>*. Looking at beautiful people won't satisfy my stomach.

Ah right. If there's sliver of a chance someone invites me to dance, it might be difficult

to refuse. Even if a say chance, it is practically none though.

Maybe I should move to a deeper corner.

Eh, what is it?

While just moving my eyes to see the second floor, I drink a sweet drink with my back to the wall. Maybe the surroundings are also resting, I can see a few people doing the same.

A scene that shouldn't be a problem (I think). And yet, the right side is being noisy.

A mass of unnatural people is approaching.

Well then, could it be guests for me? No, I don't know anyone who would gather this much attention...

?!!

Could it be, Root?!

Today I didn't make any arrangements with him though! Also, honestly speaking, I don't have the resolve to meet him today you know?!

Confusion begins to reign over me.

The moment I was thinking of escaping and was about to lift my back from the wall...

“It's Raidou-sama right? Could you please give us a bit of your time to talk?”

Who are these guys?

In the place where a bunch of heavy-looking escorts are present, the one who opened its mouth was a woman that looked docile at a glance.

# Chapter 118

## The wise and the Lorel Union

Hm...

Three demons huh. I don't know what bigshot of which country she is from, but if she has demons infiltrated in her own escorts, that's dangerous.

The woman that suddenly talked to me, looking at her heavily armed escorts she was bringing along, that's how I thought. In the past, I met the demon general Rona-san who was disguised. It is probably magic, but there are three demons that are most likely using the same spell and infiltrating the hyumans. Is it affecting the vision or is it affecting the perception, I wasn't told which it was, but whichever it is, it doesn't work on me. This time as well, I see them perfectly.

Their looks are completely different, so it is obvious. Just the skin color makes the difference clear.

"In this place it seems there's no need to mind about the public gaze and we can proceed smoothly"

"....."

Looks like this woman hasn't noticed that there's demons mixed in. If she really is using them while knowing full well about their identity, she would at least not bring them here in a place filled with international figures. It would be like bathing in gasoline and participating in a campfire.

In this world it is difficult to gauge the age by appearance, so this woman that has brought me outside of the party's main hall, I can't tell just how old she is or in what position she is in. I can tell she is an important person by the atmosphere of the surroundings.

The music that was played in the hall can be slightly heard in this salon-like place we are in. In the space with no people around, there's only me, the woman, and also the escorts.

"You guys, leave for a bit. Let's see, if there are people trying to enter here, tell them to please not. Something like that"

Saying so, she points at the entrance. A pure white skin that even looks unhealthy, slender arms and legs that make you hesitate to grab them. If someone asked me what kind of person she is, I would without doubt answer: 'a weak-looking person'. Also, it strangely makes me feel nostalgic. This should be my first time meeting her though...

[I am sorry. Since I a while I have been thinking but, no matter what, I can't seem to remember you. Have we met somewhere before?]

It would be a problem if rumors run around that a teacher made a disturbance in an event, so I wanted to get this over with in a quiet manner and followed her all the way here. It looks like the other side knows about me, but I don't remember her. That doesn't feel right. Could it be she just one-sidedly knows about the company's Raidou? Or did she learn about me from someone else? Well, it does seem she has some business with me to the point that she cleared out the people to speak with me.

"Written communication... Ah, no, this is our first meeting Raidou-sama. I was interested in you, that's why I invited you in this way. When having escorts it just gets exaggerated, I am truly sorry. Please do forgive me for that, as it is something I can't help because of my position"

A single word. With just that, she was able to accept written communication huh.

Information about me must be leaking around more than I thought huh. Well, it is better to have people know than to explain every time though.

[Now then, before enquiring about the reason of that interest, can you please tell me first the position you are in and your name? Not knowing the name of the other party when already facing face to face like this just doesn't feel right]

"...You are right. I am from the Lorel Union and one of the people taking care of the priestess-sama and kamuro, name is Sairitz. About our Lorel Union, how much does Raidou-sama know?"

Priestess and kamu... ro?

If my memory serves right, in Lorel, they are existences that are extremely important. The priestess is the fulcrum of the nation's spirit and the kamuro is one of the

prospects. When hearing kamuro, my head writes it as 'baldness' which means a prostitute's apprentice though. But it seems the meaning here is a lot different. It is not about prostitutes and courtesans but about aiming to be a priestess. The impression is different. And, when talking about Lorel...

[Actually, I have never been there and I don't know much about it, but I know that it is the union of three regions to become a nation, and the person called priestess is a woman that possesses strong power and a person that is able to interact with several high spirits. I have heard that the words of the priestess have power even in political fronts, so in Lorel it is quite the status. Also, because the relationship is closer to spirits, the religion is stronger towards spirits than to the Goddess. What I know of it is that... they have a peculiar culture and excel in the crafts department]

It is famously known that Lorel possesses several unique techniques. Even if I say they esteem the spirits, that still ends up in being affiliated to the Goddess, so I haven't learned too deeply about it.

Their techniques are highly skilled, and there's a symbol called priestess. My impression is on that level.

"...I am surprised. You really know well. You must have studied well. Have you thought about opening a business at our country as well?" (Sairitz)

[Of course, if it's allowed, I will in time. I have just begun my business, but I have big dreams]

"I see. At that time, please do give me a word. I will assist you" (Sairitz)

[Thank you very much]

The conversation stops. With a smile, the woman promises me her cooperation. While maintaining a gentle smile, she looks at me with narrow eyes as if gauging me. It feels like I am being appraised here. Looks like she doesn't mind my outward appearance, so maybe she is searching for anything she can find out. It feels like she is surveying every inch of my body.

Lorel Union.

It is one of the four major powers and a country I have never gone to. Different from the other three countries, the Union is a collection of several powers into one country.

It seems the three small countries gathered under the name of the priestess. In terms of map location, it is at the south side of the golden highway we crossed, it is at the other side of the high mountain range where the Inland Sea should be. No problem in thinking of it as Shikoku.

Other aspects would be that they seem to possess a peculiar culture, but maybe because their national character is a closed one, there doesn't seem to be much information around. That's why their characteristic techniques and the existence of the priestess stands out even more.

Culture, priestess, highly skilled techniques. When hearing just its characteristics, I feel like it is similar to Japan. If the priestess is replaced for something like his Majesty the Emperor, then it would fit perfectly.

Maybe because there's three countries gathered, it's a nation that its race is not uniform. Their skin and hair color have quite the variations, and it seems there are few that mind it. It does hurt that there's not much information around, but it is a country I would like to visit at least once.

Oops. The issue right now is not that. It is about why she got interested in me. Is it me, or my store? That's the first thing that is in my mind.

"But there truly are curious things huh" (Sairitz)

The woman was the one who broke the silence. Being all smiles, I can't read what she is actually thinking. The power of readings memories, if it were to activate at this kind of moments, it would be very helpful!

[What is it you are trying to say?]

"You, who said that you have never visited Lorel Union, for some reason, are using something that only a few selected are taught" (Sairitz)

Something? Using? Lorel possesses highly skilled techniques, so maybe it is related to the eldwas?

"At the Kuzunoha Company's sign, there are two characters written in it right?" (Sairitz)

Ah, well... I did write kanji in the wooden sign though.

"That's the writing of the wise. From the four major powers, no, in this whole world, there's only a few in Lorel that know of it. Why is it used in the name of your store I wonder?" (Sairitz)

Writing of the wise you say? That's kanji and it's used by us Japanese.

[That is one of the writings I have been using since small. It is indeed mysterious. I came from the border's wasteland, but maybe someone from your country came to the border's wasteland and taught the writing? It's not like I know all the characters in detail you know. It's also my first time hearing the name 'writing of the wise']

It was probably an otherworldler that came to this world and taught them kanji in a strange way. But I have the all-powerful and convenient word, wasteland. From my experience here, most of everything can be resolved by saying this. In a sense, I am being saved by the wasteland.

"An interesting opinion. But that's impossible. In the case the people who know the writing of the wise, head outside the country, the information regarding it will be all recorded. From the people that have done so in the past, there's not a single one who has travelled to the wasteland" (Sairitz)

What?! This is the first time she retorted. Also, records she says? In this world where most of everything is done sloppily? I am surprised she can be so confident about its certainty.

Then, next hand.

[But I do know how to write it and am using it. Then it must have been someone you didn't know of that put his feet on the wasteland. In everything, you must prioritize the facts. As long as this fact exists, someone must have taught this writing]

"True. I have to accept the truth properly. Just as you said, there might be the chance the writing of the wise was taught at the wasteland. But I have a slightly different thought in mind"

(Sairitz)

[Let's hear it]

"The writing of the wise, as the name implies, is the writing that the wise possess. In

other words, if it's a clever and wise one, it wouldn't be strange for that person to know it from the very beginning" (Sairitz)

Wise she says. Could it be, as in sage?

[You are overestimating me. I am not so clever to be called a wise man. I am just a mere person that opened a store]

"...Raidou-sama. The wise differs a bit from the word sage. The wise possess impossible knowledge that's respected. We just call it that way" (Sairitz)

Eh? The turn of affairs is strange?

[I don't understand your meaning well]

"The wise is a general term used for people that are not even from this world and have come from a faraway place. What I think is that you are also a wise-sama. Am I right?" (Sairitz)

Wise stands for otherworlders huh. What a troublesome name they have placed. It is an enclosed country that's why the details of it can't be fully understood just through documents, so well, can't be helped.

Kanji is the writing of the wise huh. That store name, I was thinking about using it as a conversation starter for the time the heroes hear of it by word-of-mouth, so I didn't think too deeply of it. Who would have thought that the kanji already existed, moreover, it is pretty classified information. I do think kanji is a peculiar writing, but I don't really think it is such an important thing to be made classified information. Because you know, it is just writing. In a world where most places use the common language and numbers, I really don't think it should have that much value.

Anyways, it seems right now I am being suspected of being a wise huh. No need for doubts, that's actually true though.

What should I do? Admit it or feign ignorance. As long as I don't know the objective of this woman, I feel like feigning ignorance is the better choice.

"Ara, is there no answer? Also, there's another reason why I think you are a wise-sama. That is, your name. My name is Sairitz and the accurate writing is written like this" (Sairitz)

I maintain my silence (I was actually just thinking about how to handle it though) and without hurrying me, the woman named Sairitz stood up, walked to my side and placed a finger on the table.

The slender finger shines and the kanji for color and ritz are written. She didn't actually use ink, it just followed the trace of her finger. Oh, it is written correctly. More than Japan, it's a name that might fit China better.

"And my family name is like this. It may be an unnecessary explanation, but it is read as Kahara. Kahara Sairitz, that's my full name. In Lorel, the wise-sama are greatly adored and most of the people have similar names. The name giving is done in the spirit temple, we call it Yashiro. There, many parents that have given birth to a child will go there to ask for names. They give out several options that fit the child, and the parents will decide on which, is how the custom goes" (Sairitz)

Hana and then hara, making it Kahara huh. So even the way it is read starts from the family name. Practically the same as Japan. To the point that I think the name Aya Tadashi doesn't sound female-like. The kanji is not spread widely, so when placing names, they leave it to the people related to the temple. She said it is called Yashiro, so it is probably someone like a Shinto Priest that uses the knowledge to place some options. Even though they serve under the spirits and the Goddess, are the priests in Lorel allowed to study kanji? She did say only a few selected, so that may not be the case, but it must be troublesome.

"There are also times when the names of the wise are used exactly the same. That's proof of how much those personage are respected and adored by the people, but the name Raidou-sama also resembles the names of our country, is what I think" (Sairitz)

...

"Also, your face features as well. It is thought that the wise-sama are people that are born from different seeds than us hyumans. The wise-sama, more than their appearance, what's inside proves of more importance. There are records saying most wise-sama didn't have a beautiful outward appearance" (Sairitz)

Oioi, is that true? There's a country that has truly made contact with otherworldlers. Is that the reason why it is enclosed? Being all secretive about it, that's not fair Lorel. Are the techniques also the result of the concepts of our world? The part where they are aware the hyumans and humans come from different seeds makes it sound pretty

convincing. Leaving aside all that about the inside being more important than their appearance.

[Is it okay to tell such an important thing to someone like me? I am, you know, not a wise though]

“Are you misunderstanding us Raidou-sama? We think of sheltering the unfortunate wise-sama that receive unjust discrimination in this world” (Sairitz)

Misfortunate huh. From what I heard of Root, the people that came here from our world are mostly because of accidents. It seems they know quite a bit.

“It may be fine right now, but in time, you will face problems. If it’s Lorel, we will welcome you with open arms. We intend to do what we can for you” (Sairitz)

[This is a problem. It seems there really is no reason for me to be sheltered by you. If I find a wise-sama, I will suggest them to go to your country]

“...Looks like you won’t trust us huh. Understood. I will leave it at that for now. It isn’t something that can be rushed after all” (Sairitz)

Maybe she could tell that my attitude went stiffer, or maybe she thought the matter would not progress. She pulled back pretty easily.

“Right, Raidou-sama, there’s something I would like your opinion about. Is it okay?” (Sairitz)

[If you are fine with someone like me]

“The two heroes that the Goddess-sama uses. We think those two are also wise. Raidou-sama, what do you think of the heroes?” (Sairitz)

[A question I have no way of responding. I am sorry but, it seems my opinion will not be useful. I have never met them before, so there’s nothing I think of them]

Without bringing any dissatisfaction in my answer, Sairitz-san silently stood from her sit. Bowing once, she turns back and walks to the salon’s entrance.

“I see. Ah, right, right” (Sairitz)

After breathing out a big sigh of relief after being released from the tension, Sairitz-san talked to me. Without waiting for my response, she continued.

“Raidou-sama’s store sign, it’s lovely. The Kuzu referring to medicine and the Ha for the plants. Is your current strong point medicine?” (Sairitz)

[It’s the name of a plant, not the character for medicine. Well, it is not wrong to say that I want to spread medicine though]

“...As I thought, you know the writing of the wise well. Before returning to my country, I would like to meet you again. Well then, excuse me” (Sairitz)

Ah.

Why is it? I feel like I have lost in some way.

There’s no reason to stay in the salon that has only me now. Let’s return to the hall.



PtF by: traitorATZEN