

Azumi Kei
あづみ圭

月が導く異世界道中 5

Tsukiga Michibiku Isekai Dochu



ALPHAPOLIS
アルファポリス

Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu

– Moon-led Journey Across Another World –

- Volume 5 -

-Author-
Azumi Kei

-Artist-
Matsumoto Mitsuaki

[Reigokai: Isekai Translations]

Jin

中央ロツガルド学園の
男子生徒。剣士志望。



Eva

中央ロツガルド学園の
図書館で司書として
働いている。真に关心を
寄せているのだが……。



Ruria

エヴァの妹。ロツガルド
にある料理屋「ゴテツ亭」
で働いている。



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。



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。



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。



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。

主な
登場人物

Chapter 81

Misunderstanding

Several days passed after reuniting with Shiki. Being freed from the line, he accompanied me to tour the streets of Academy Town.

This town has a city smell that Tsige didn't have. I was enjoying the townscape constructed mainly of stone.

As expected of Academy Town. Maybe it is because a lot of people from different lands gather here, the lined up goods and the attires of the people walking had a strong sense of individuality. It has a wideness that Tsige didn't have and I was able to stroll without getting tired.

Right now I am in the middle of that.

Suddenly, I stop my feet.

"What happened Raidou-sama?" (Shiki)

"Nothing, is what I want to say but, that..." (Makoto)

Signaling with my eyes, I point out a group of 5 quarreling with a woman. The sight of people picking on the weak isn't something strange in Academy Town.

But for that weak to be a hyuman is unusual. It would be one thing if we were in a special environment like in the Zeno base, but in Tsige I didn't see something like that happen.

With a demi-human, it is quite the normal happening though. In the middle of a journey or in here where the teachings of the Goddess are sufficiently strong, the standing of the demi-humans is low. As that bug would say, the demi-humans are failed products of hyumans and they only exist because of God's compassion, so they should serve the completed product, the hyumans. Is that bug serious? To think the teachings itself were crooked as well.

“Ah, it is probably extortion or something of the sort” (Shiki)

“Who knows, isn’t that just bullying?” (Makoto)

“Bullying huh. Yeah, it does look that way” (Shiki)

Shiki doesn’t seem to be that interested. Well, I am probably worrying too much because I came from another world.

Now that I think about it, when I told Shiki that I came from another world and told him about the things regarding the Goddess, he made quite the ruckus. It was to the point that I was beginning to doubt if all his vocabulary was gone except for the words unbelievable, incredible, impossible. He repeated those words while walking around in the narrow room.

His eyes were glittering like the time when Tomoe used me as an intermediary to peek at my memories.

Luckily, at the present time he is not hooked into any videos yet. It would be troublesome if he gets a weird hobby, but it is natural to feel something after touching a different culture, so there might be some sort of influence in him. I am already prepared for it. If Shiki does a rebirth, I will accept him... As long as he doesn't awaken to BL *<Boys Love>*.

“Bullying between hyumans isn’t something I have seen, so I will go and take a look for a bit” (Makoto)

“Raidou-sama?” (Shiki)

It isn’t because the one being bullied is a girl. It’s just... those eyes.

Those eyes haven’t gone cold, nor are the eyes of someone that has given up, or ones that are warped. Just what are they? I was a bit interested.

“Oi, say something!”

I exchange looks with Shiki. That there is another person who can talk for me is something reassuring.

“Ah, can you leave it at that?” (Shiki)

No no, why are you asking them in question form. Shiki, at these times you have to be cool and assertive.

“...Who are you guys?”

“Oioi, can’t you see these clothes? Are you guys stupid?”

The idiot said something. Clothes? Ah, all of them are wearing the same clothes. Or more like, those are clothes I have seen quite a lot since I came here.

I can think of the reason why.

(Is it okay to kill them, Makoto-sama?) (Shiki)

(Wait!) (Makoto)

(Stupid? He called ME stupid? Or could it be... at Makoto-sama? Ah, this is death sentence right. Understood) (Shiki)

(Don’t understand it! It is fine to just look at them with painful eyes and push those words aside! Don’t suddenly go killing! Understand?!?) (Makoto)

(Aw. U-Understood) (Shiki)

Aw, he says. Tomoe is fine but, will Mio be fine? I hope she isn’t going around killing. Tomoe is accompanying her, so I trust that they won’t do anything excessive. I believe in them!

“Anyways, all of you get lost. Feel lucky I won’t be killing you” (Shiki)

Ah, their clothes are probably uniforms. They must be students at the Academy. There are a number of colors for it, but the design is practically the same.

This is something that makes me wonder, are the heroes and me the first ones to come here?

The blazers really look alike. Is that coincidence? It is more convincing for me if someone has already come and told them the design.

I don’t think all worlds have the same school uniforms.

Tte.

(Shiki, are you not good in conversations?) (Makoto)

(No. But I am not good at dealing with idiots) (Shiki)

Ah, I see.

He is thoroughly picking a fight. Those people might become my classmates.

That they are exaggerating the importance of the clothes might be because the students here are pretty high standing? When talking about students that are still studying a lot of subjects, in terms of society, their standing should normally be low.

Because if I said something like: “Can’t you see this uniform? I am a high school student you know?” in my common sense, people would without a doubt treat me as crazy.

Is the position of a student higher because we are in Academy Town? If it’s because the town is specialized in scholarship and research, making engineers and researchers’ position higher, I would understand. But to put the students that are just the unhatched eggs in such a high pedestal, is like putting up a mountain of people.

“Don’t mess around with us!”

It seems from his palms, magic power is gathering. A spell huh.

In an incredibly slow speed, moreover, making a loud aria that everyone can hear. This isn’t a kindergarten sports event you know.

[Sorry, but is this some sort of performance?]

If they are trying to begin a show, then this kind of aria is okay but the situation right now is a fight.

That’s why I wrote these words with my honest feelings. However, it seems I truly made them angry. They glared at me with intensity.

(So Makoto-sama is joining the fray) (Shiki)

(You are totally misunderstanding) (Makoto)

"Wa! So fast!"

Shiki finishes an aria for earth element magic. Or more like, it is the normal speed. As expected of students, they don't know how the real world works. If you continue like that, a scary woman will cut you to pieces you know?

Shiki hits the ground with his staff that's enveloped in black light. It's a staff the eldwas barely made in time and I gave to him apologetically. It seems the efficiency is pretty high and the moment Shiki took it in his hands, his eyes were wide open.

The guys all went gyaaa and waaa.

The five of them screamed in a way that lacked individuality and it reverberated in the streets. Seriously, learn of the hoodlums in Tsige.

From the feet of the student-looking people, a pillar of stone made from Shiki's magic protruded out and invited them to the sky. The bullied girl looks like she is inside that stone pillar prison. Oops, maybe I should have wrote something. To suddenly be surrounded by stone pillars of several meters is something that might be scary for her.

Well~ they are splendidly towering. For now let's remove them. It troubles the people around after all. The passersby are starting to make a ruckus about what is going on.

I gently touch the stone pillars.

Grasp the linked magic composition and reverse it. I find the part that serves as a core and destroy it with darkness.

As if it didn't even exist to begin with, the numerous pillars disappear. Now, what will the people who were thrown to the sky do? They seem to be able to use magic, maybe? Different from me, one of them should be able to use wind magic.

"Splendidly done. It won't be long before counter-spell is complete" (Shiki)

It would be great if that happens. I made an ambiguous smile at Shiki in response. Negating the magic of an acquaintance and a magic I already know of, won't bring much results. There are people like Sofia, so my enthusiasm in completing magic negation is slowly fading.

[Are you okay? If you are able to read this, I don't know about the reason, but since we

have involved ourselves in it already, it would be great if you run away]

“Eh, a...”



The girl is surprised by the writing appearing in front of her. Maybe she is a waiter. It isn't maid clothes, but she is wearing an apron, has frills, and other parts that make me think she has a job in that kind of area.

She was looking at the men that were in the sky and letters suddenly appeared in front of her, so maybe I scared her.

...The strange light she had in her eyes was already gone. Too bad. Well, that's fine. In the end, it was just interest.

"I didn't ask to be saved"

So she can read, I see. Then I can communicate with her.

[I didn't do this aiming for a reward or anything. We might never meet again so don't worry about it]

"..."

[Hurry and go]

"I am working as a waiter in the Gotetsu local that's close to here. I live there while working, so please come when you have the time. I will at least repay you"

[If I feel like it]

The girl runs off. The netted hair that was long enough to hide her shoulders waved busily. Gotetsu huh. Will there be nabe<*japanese hot pot*>? When things have calmed down, I should try visiting it once. The food in this world is lightly flavored, but it is pretty delicious so I am looking forward to it.

"For someone that has been saved, she is quite rude" (Shiki)

"Really? Suddenly appearing and doing something beneficial for her. Wouldn't there be people that suspect this person of having underhanded motives? There was also someone who did a flashy move and gathered a lot of attention after all" (Makoto)

It is a world where there aren't that many chivalrous people. It's no surprise to suspect.

"It was flashy huh. I used a docile spell that wouldn't kill them though" (Shiki)

If the front was pointed, they would have probably died. Docile he says.

"Being that tall, of course it would. Wouldn't burying them grab less attention?" (Makoto)

"Now that you mention it, even when those guys are barking a lot, they aren't floating. Are they looking to die?" (Shiki)

The bunch above have a desperate expression and look like they are using magic but... it seems like they are trying their best to not drop while sweating an incredible amount. They are falling in a questionable way. Won't they run out of strength if they continue like that?

"...Could it be, they can't fly?" (Makoto)

"Then they are just pigs. I pray that their next life will be a happy one" (Shiki)

"...Please save them" (Makoto)

While sighing slightly at my words, Shiki accepted and spreads out a floating magic. The people that were caught in that area, slowed their dropping speed and gently fell... or not. At the last part, they dropped vigorously. Shiki~.

Are you a kid?!

"I will remember this!!"

Ah, how pitiful they look falling on their butt. But can't they do a roll at least? Didn't they learn this in physical education?

This is what I think but, is it okay to say that clichéd line while running off? You guys will definitely regret saying that later.

"...Raidou-sama, I know this may be too impertinent of me to say but, to interfere with those kind of events every time they happen, I don't think it is recommendable. Those are what one would call society happenings. If the basis itself doesn't disappear, it is pointless to interfere in this one" (Shiki)

“Shiki, it wasn’t pointless. I was satisfied after all. I am aware it is a pastime, but if Shiki wants to correct the pastime of this person, you will have to do so with all you have” (Makoto)

That’s right. It isn’t like I interfered because I thought bullying is bad anyways. I wasn’t able to ask about the reason for those eyes, so even if it was a pastime, I still have to reflect on it huh.

“...”

“It isn’t like I am looking to get rid of all the bullying. And I don’t intend to do so. This time was only because I felt like it” (Makoto)

“Raidou-sama...” (Shiki)

“Sorry for being a master that moves around at his own convenience” (Makoto)

“No. I said too much” (Shiki)

“Now then, let’s do a good-job party for Shiki who reliably stood in line. After lining up and finishing the reception, they said the test will be in three days. Just how much does one have to wait to do a matriculation exam” (Makoto)

Because Shiki lined up for the test, we were able to finish the reception, but the important test will be in three days from now.

This night we will hold a meal with us two males to celebrate passing those 6 days of boring line up.

“Eh?” (Shiki)

“...What was that “eh?” for, Shiki? The test will be in three days right?” (Makoto)

Shiki made a dumbfounded expression at my words. Why?

“Raidou-sama, what do you mean by matriculation exam?” (Shiki)

“There’s no need to ask. It’s to matriculate into the academy right?” (Makoto)

Shiki showed the documents Rembrandt arranged for that sake and also the

recommendation letter he made. Moreover, Shiki lined up for 6 days for that.

Rotsgard is a place where a lot of people from different lands gather.

It is in the dead center of the country and at its circumference there are numerous towns as if it were a satellite land. Holding various specialized education institutions. By the way, in this center land there is only one institution that holds the same name as Academy Town. It's the representative of the academies, Rotsgard Academy. It seems to be the place where the most promising students gather. The ones a few moments ago were really weird and savory, but they seem to be elite.

And that's how it is.

The attitude of those guys can be translated to that of "Hey we guys are of Tokyo University you know". It doesn't change my impression of them though.

Anyways, the ones that are looking to matriculate here have to take a test, and depending on your skills and specialties, you will be send to a school that is fit for you, is how this place works. Actually, aside from skills and specialties, I think they also take into account their assets and social standing.

"No, I understand that but..." (Shiki)

"What's strange?" (Makoto)

"Raidou-sama intends to take the matriculation exam?" (Shiki)

Isn't that obvious? I nod at him.

"Please listen. What Raidou-sama will take three days from now isn't a matriculation exam" (Shiki)

Eh?

"In the first place, the education institutions' matriculation scale may vary by age but it is something fixed. The school that takes receptions seems to be pretty special" (Shiki)

That's why, isn't the pretty special mammoth school here? Thinking about it in general, to have 1 or 2 years apart is normal.

For an out of norms school that matches the age to still reach the hundreds, it wouldn't be strange right?

"At this place, in this season, they are not taking applications for students, Raidou-sama" (Shiki)

"Then what was Shiki lining up for?" (Makoto)

"For the personnel employment exam" (Shiki)

P-Personnel?! Personnel as in working?! Are you kidding?!

What are you saying so nonchalantly?!

"S-Shiki! I am a merchant that is affiliated to the Merchant Guild, a person with a full-fledged job you know?" (Makoto)

I didn't come here to find a job though?!

"But in the documents I received from Rembrandt-shi, the contents said Raidou-sama was applying to be a tactics specialized teacher" (Shiki)

R-Rembrandt-saaaan!

"Why didn't you think it was weird after seeing the contents of the document?!" (Makoto)

"For Raidou-sama to become a student is stranger for me. I was like "Oh, so that was the case" and naturally accepted it" (Shiki)

Ooooo. Rembrandt-san, what are you thinking?! Shiki too. I am only 17 you know. Like hell I can work as a teacher!

I should have looked at the contents! But to check the contents of documents... The only application documents I have checked in this world were the ones I got at the merchant guild.

"The recommendation letter. That's right, what about the contents of the recommendation letter?!" (Makoto)

"Ah. In the recommendation letter, if I remember correctly, it said: "Raidou-sama has a lot of real combat experience in the border of the world. He may have difficulties in speaking, but has no issues in communicating his intentions. Since he is a person with hard to get abilities, I want to ask of you to please accept him even when it isn't the season" And that's how it went" (Shiki)

To please accept me even when it isn't the season? The line for personnel applicants was build up, so isn't it the season for it?

...Could it be, Rembrandt-san messed up the document entry? No, there is no way that would happen with him and Morris-san. Specially Morris-san. He looks like the perfect butler type.

"Then, uhm. Three days from now I will be taking an exam to be a tactics specialized teacher?" (Makoto)

"Yes" (Shiki)

The quick affirmation of Shiki.

What does tactic specialized mean? It's a subject I have never heard before, there is no way I can teach it. With this, I will most likely fail the exam.

There are things I want to research and I want to find a place to open a store here. Being a student is just a thing I wanted to do in the occasion, so being a student or a teacher doesn't really matter. But even so, a teacher, no way. Teachers are people that teach other people you know?

There's no way I can do that.

Maybe I should try going to the office and ask if they can change it.

Me feeling in the mood to look at the sky and drink alcohol, was something that would happen a while after.

Chapter 82

Raidou takes the test

I feel heavy.

At any rate, I feel heavy.

I was thinking it was obvious I would become a student and didn't confirm the documents and the recommendation letter Rembrandt-san arranged. This may be because I was naïve. But I am still only in my teens. I am aware that even my outward appearance is seen as younger than my actual age. I didn't think even for a second that they would recommend me as a teacher.

The subject called tactics specialized, in simpler words, seems to be a subject that teaches real combat techniques. Honestly speaking, there is no way I can do it.

I have lived in here for a while after coming to this world, but I myself understand that I am a strange existence. With just that one point, I think it is impossible for me to teach techniques. It seems that I am able to do my lectures in the area I am most suited in, but the magic I used, made Lich call me a pervert once.

Just like that, 3 anguishing days passed and yet, I still head to the test location. I had a recommendation letter on top of already making the formalities after all.

Shiki lined up for 6 days too. To invalidate all that is a bit... I tried to ask if they could change the working personnel test, but it seems I can't anyways.

Not only that, they thought I got scared (I actually did thought) and recommended me to withdraw from the test. When I thought this might be an option as well, Shiki perfectly managed to worsen the situation with the personnel involved.

In the time I was trying to calm the situation, I was made to take the hardest test of all. They said it was a test that one could count the number of people that had passed it.

I was a bit internally happy that the test changed from a written test into a practical one. In short, a test where practical skills is a 10 while written is 0. An extreme barrier,

or so it seems.

I think that being able to choose the balance between practical skills and theoretical knowledge is a special system. By the way, in the theoretical 10, it seems one has to do a test of 18 subjects. And after that, an interview.

...That I didn't have an interview at all, might be because of the effects of Rembrandt-san's recommendation letter.

Truly an authority that makes the test bow down.

Well, I have no choice but to do it. I don't know what Rembrandt-san was thinking putting me as a teacher, however, I can't tarnish the name of the person that went through the trouble of writing a recommendation letter for me. He will be relating with Tomoe and the others after all. I at least want him to have peace of mind when working with us.

Uhm.

I remember the explanation of the test. Remembering the interruption of Shiki makes my head hurt, so I just remember the general outline.

Right now I am in a vast field. It seems to be the place where the test will be done, but the scale is on a whole different level. Just how many kilometers is it from each side? Counting me, there are only 4 people taking the test.

Before being send here, we met face to face. From what I saw, they seem to be veteran adventurers and scholars. An elf, a beast and a hyuman. I think they have the same ability as the people who serve as backbone in Tsige. Over there, Tomoe and the others as well as Toa-san's party, their levels increased quite a lot. The next time I visit, they might have increased their level even more. Their levels may increase but I don't know about their skills though.

Well, it is just an assumption but I think they are approximately level 150. They know I have come with a recommendation letter and that I am associated with the merchant guild. I wonder if they will charge me for deception because I hid that I am registered in the adventurer guild as well. Not saying it, is a bit different from lying, but I am a little worried. Still, writing that I am a level 1 is just... Well, it is fine if I answer when they ask. When I wrote that I was a merchant, the personnel in charge had quite the impression.

Ah right, the confirmation of the test's content.

In this field with mountains and valleys, there are three types of spherical objects quite separated from each other, so the objective is to bring three of them back within 3 days. Everyone who fulfills this, passes. Fighting between us is prohibited. Food will be self-provided.

When I tried to check with Sakai, these three people and I were really the only ones in this field. Moreover, it seems all of us have been send to locations pretty far away between us. With this, unless the examinee intends to, battles should not happen.

However, it's not like the wastelands, but it is possible that they have released wildlife here. I can feel the presence of a number of mamonos. I wonder if the others will be okay. We have been provided with a give-up item, so it might not turn into a worst-case scenario.

What they provided us was a bell in case of danger and a feather-shaped ornament we use to leave when the test is over. If one takes it in his hands and reads the exact words written on it, a door to leave the test field will appear and will be able to return to the place where we received the test explanation. In the end, both of them seem to have practically the same effects, but the fact that they went through the trouble of having us hold the two makes me have a bad feeling.

They also told us about the special characteristics of the three balls. Basically, all of them move at high speed. They showed us a sample and it was pretty fast. It's the size of a fist, floats and from zero it makes an instant acceleration that makes you wonder what the hell happened to inertia. It just gave me the impression that it seems to follow the conventions.

If we are able to deal damage to it and accumulate it, when a determined line is passed, its movements will stop and one will be able to capture it.

A ball that will be destroyed if hit by magic. A ball that will explode the moment a person gets close to a certain distance. And the last ball will crumble if hit by physical attacks. All attacks aside from those, they possess high defensive capabilities.

There might be a lot of other methods, but what I thought of was: get close and punch it, shoot from a long distance, bring it down with magic. Each one of them is: short-distance physical, long-distance physical and magic.

If we stop their movements, it seems that they will return to normal balls, so it is okay to just put them inside a bag.

I don't want to sleep outdoors in such an empty place, so let's finish this in one day. I am glad it is an easy and anticlimactic test.

However.

I was soon showed that this was an incredibly naïve and fleeting illusion.

I was quickly able to locate the balls with Sakai. This was no problem.

Closing in quite a bit, I grasp the location of the close-distance type with my eyes and use Sakai to acquire the details of the ball. This also passed with no problems.

The problem came after that.

Approaching the punching-type ball, I punch while laughing. It was supposed to stop its movements... but it turned into smithereens.

I shoot the shooting-type ball with the bow I brought with me. Bull's-eye. It was supposed to stop its movements, but it turned into smithereens.

I shoot the magic-type with a brid. Bull's-eye. It was supposed to stop its movements, but same story!

My way of doing it wasn't wrong.

It seems I put too much power. Even though I did it lightly. I was in a mental state where I wanted to shout out not to make lies of it being sturdy.

It makes me suspect that at the front, it may look like a test, but it is actually an absurdity used in order to drive out claimers.

Without being discouraged, this time I lightly pressed my finger while holding back to test it out. Totally destroyed.

Now I do it softly, as if touching a baby. It was unnecessarily tiring for my body, but no choice. Totally destroyed.

.....

...

Uooooooooo!!

My stress is! My stress is not stopping!! It's accelerating and going at Mach speed!! I am balding! It's all going to disappear in one day!!

In the end, the fight with myself that lasted until night, resulted in zero spheres obtained.

When I decided to just go and rest, I search for a random place. In the middle of it, a gorilla-like something attacked me and I left it half-dead. A something that had a long nose like a Tengu, everything else omitted.

In the end, I had to sleep outdoors. Damn it.

The next day.

I was now challenging them with a feather-like touch. Everything hit the target, and then, every single one of them escaped. I didn't hear that they could teleport?!

Could it be... they don't intend to let anyone pass?

Fu... fufufufu~ this region, should I make it scorched earth?!

C-Calm down. Fuh~ Fuh~

In these situations, adults would probably feel the urge to smoke a tobacco with trembling hands. No one around me smokes so I don't know, but if that were the case, I would totally understand that person's feelings.

Tentatively! Tentatively speaking!

I have now understood that I am able to attack them with a feather-touch without destroying them completely. At the third strike it broke but... O-Oh well, I am certainly doing a step forward!

If I don't take that much time and attack it again, it seems it won't teleport.

Trial and error. This is the only choice huh. Bring it on.

What I lack in talent, I compensate with persistence. Let's do this then. I don't care if it's tactless frankness, there is no problem if I bring out results in two days.

At this moment, the test that I didn't really have that much enthusiasm in, changed into a summit I had to conquer.

After that, I must have destroyed quite a bit of balls. It was already a memory that felt like a nightmare when I think back at it.

By the time the stars took the leading role in the sky.

I was finally able to complete the three types of ball.

I-It took so long. Today I am totally sure I have learned the art of holding back.

With this I can finally return!

But let's leave that for tomorrow.



"Ah, Raidou-san. Did you finish gathering them? Or maybe, withdrawing?"

Instant sarcasm huh. The examiner made a complacent smile. His expression irritated me.

I used the feather to return. Can't you confirm it from your side?

[I gathered them. Please confirm]

I hand over the bag to the one in charge. It is now the third day, but I was somehow able to finish. To think I would taste such a mental training. Out of my expectations.

"...Hoh~ you gathered them, you say. Then let me see... T-This is?!"

The person in charge looks at my balls and shows clear agitation.

Was there a rare bonus ball or something? Even if there was one, I didn't have the

leeway of aiming at something like that! Not a single bit!

Oya?

The other three people that took the exam at the same time as me were here.

Fast people can return in the first day after all. They must be people with skills surpassing my expectations. I was the only one left at the third day after all.

Anyways, as long as the conditions were met, everyone would be able to pass, so there was no sense of competition. More like, comrades?

It seems it was a harsh test right, everyone.

“Raidou-dono, just what in the world are you?”

N, what's wrong examiner?

You changed from -san to -dono you know?

I just brought the number of things I was told to bring and returned, so I don't know the reason to call me -dono.

[I am just a merchant with combat experience though?]

“These balls, there are one of each type. People that have passed this test with this kind of result... there have been none”

Don't understand what you are trying to say.

You were the one that said there are three types of balls and to bring three here.

.....

But maybe my doubt was the one lacking common sense. The three examinees that had returned first had their eyes wide open and stood up vigorously.

What is weird?

[I thought that was how the test went]

"Yeah. I did say to bring three back. If you were able to capture three of the balls that are incredibly sturdy with the "special method", it would be okay. And yet, Raidou-dono brought one of each type. That means, you used the three methods in order to capture them. Is that right?"

[Yeah, that's how it is]

"For the academy, this is a test that lets us gauge the abilities of the "specialists" in each area. The other three gave up long ago and returned, and yet, to think someone would appear that would surpass the passing line, bringing all three types"

...

Oh! I see.

So the original objective was to bring three of the same type huh. Maybe I missed something while listening, or it might be because I just let it slip by. So it wasn't to bring one of each type huh!

Now I get it. That's why it was so troublesome. Moreover, the other three gave up. Even though I was doing my best trying to learn how much I had to hold back... You guys are not my comrades!

"As expected of someone that has survived in the borders of the world. The power you hold is on a different level. I thought the contents of Rembrandt-shi were quite ambiguous unlike him, but if it is like this, I can comprehend. You are able to clearly communicate your intentions with writing and we don't mind if you use your retainer to talk for you. What we judge is the skills and not the outward appearance anyways"

It seems there won't be problems in having Shiki as my assistant. At the end, the person in charge talks about me.

I didn't want to retort about that unnecessary remark of him.

"There are no complains. You pass. Raidou-dono, Academy Town welcomes you as a temporary lecturer. You can choose to be a teacher of a new lecture, or serve as an assistant with the class of another lecturer. Also, taking into consideration your circumstances, we allow your retainer to accompany you"

Telling me that the details will be at a later time, he asked for a handshake. Of course,

I accept. A part-time teacher huh. I am glad. If I suddenly become a homeroom teacher, I would die.

Also, he told me it was in Rotsgard Academy. I am glad I don't have to move to a town in the area and can stay living here.

With this, I might be able to visit the Gotetsu local in a near future. I actually didn't have any plans of going, but if I am going to be staying in this town for a while, it wouldn't be a bad idea to go at night. If a bogus nabe appears, I can only laugh. If that happens, it would be nice to bring Tomoe here.

Different from my objective, I have now become a teacher in Rotsgard. Moreover, in the center town that elite students gather.

Like this, our life in Academy Town began.

Chapter 83

Gotetsu

After the test, 6 more days pass.

Calling myself a merchant while in this situation where I am not doing any business and only using money. How vexing.

Luckily for me, I have the products of Asora and the armor of the dwarfs. In a sense, I have items that can turn into gold, so in terms of expenses, I probably don't have to worry that much. It's just, as expected, having money leave my hands only, feels like a waste. I am a commoner, so I can't help feeling like this.

Today, we finally received a notification from the Academy about the inn we will be lodging in. A notification telling me I officially passed and a schedule of how many lectures I have in a week. Also, telling me that they want to visit in order to do a formal contract.

They are not thinking about my convenience. It feels like they are talking from a pretty high position. It probably shows how much influence they have in this land. The contents felt like they are telling me they will be suddenly intruding this afternoon or in the morning two days from now.

“Makoto-sama, is it a notification from the Academy?” (Shiki)

It's Shiki. With two men, there is no need for two rooms. In all of the towns we have travelled, we have stayed in a room with two beds. In this town it is the same. Around him, there are a number of books scattered. He, who loves reading, buys any book he finds interesting when he accompanies me. In this world books are quite high priced, so when I saw the number of books increasing, I asked him if the money was fine. But it seems he has enough savings, so my worries were needless... or not.

Actually, Shiki over-paid. He used stones and jewels filled with magic power as a replacement for money and it was in a quality that a book wouldn't be able to match. I think that doing a sale of stones would have brought out more money, but it seems that Shiki considers knowledge as something that he must obtain no matter how much

money he uses. I thought this thought pattern is dangerous. Wasting money is not good.

"It says today in the afternoon or at morning two days from now. I finally will be able to ask about the store. The merchant guild gave me permission to do business, but when I told them about the Academy, they nailed me saying I had to prioritize that. Also, call me Raidou" (Makoto)

"Tto, right, Raido-sama. The building that will be used as store seems to be a good, so we are lucky right" (Shiki)

"Yeah. The previous storekeeper looks polite and seems to be plenty useful. That such a good store went down is a problem though" (Makoto)

When I went to the Merchant Guild to report, look for a building to use as store and a plot of land, the people related to the Academy took lead and began acting.

In their first greeting they were like that but, maybe it is because Rembrandt-san talked to them about me. Things related to the Merchant Guild proceeded without any problems. They cooperated in looking for a store too, but well, there were a lot of stores available. Ones that were in bad state and also others in good conditions. There were many varied types of stores that were closed.

The ones at the streets were also unique. There were ones that you wouldn't be able to find unless you know they are certainly there and the buildings that went from the town's gate to the academy on that wide street were also varied.

The types of stores were numerous too, but the restaurants and armor stores were especially plentiful. There were also stores for general goods and... Night stores. Even in a town centered on research, there are still "those kind" of stores, is what I honestly thought. I don't have plans on going at all, but the merchant guild onee-san, seeing that we two were men, without changing her smile, not only did she guide us to the place but also told us the incredible services they provided. That lady, she is a professional.

"With how wide the town is, the competition is fierce as well. A place where there are mostly young ones and the quality of customers is special. The changes in fashion are also fast" (Shiki)

"It is scary how possible it is for something that was popular a few months ago to suddenly be seen as cuckoo now" (Makoto)

Scary. If I want to do a restaurant, the best option is to make a staple menu and obtain regular customers. But that I am thinking this way, may be because I am lacking an adventurous spirit. What I can compete with in this area, is with the Chinese food and simple Japanese-style food from my previous world. And if young people are the target, fast food is also an option. Well, it is a pointless thing to think about for a novice like me who can only do simple cooking.

Shiki must have noticed how hard it is to do business here as well. He makes a pondering face. I am happy that he is trying to contribute. Well, I want Shiki to be following me as I move in the Academy, so the time we will be together will increase.

I have to think about the person who will be minding the store. There is the choice of employing a hyuman, but I still don't know them that well. Instead of being looked down for strange reasons, it would be better to just bring someone from Asora. In that case, the potential candidates are the Forest Onis. That will depend on whether the training of Tomoe is going well though. If not, the runner-ups are the Arkes huh. I don't know if they can hide their strength and there is the problem that they aren't originally human-shaped, so the forest onis are the best choice though. If Akua and Eris looks after the store obediently, they would surely become the poster girls of the store. IF they act obediently. It won't work. The fact that I am having doubts makes them unqualified already. Also, they are young girls, so trouble with customers will... ouch ouch, *my stomach is hurting*.

N? The Forest Onis they sent to Asora seem to be elites, but there were quite a lot who were young. I don't know how much of their personality has been corrected, but I feel like they may become a seed for trouble. However, the Arkes don't have experience in interacting with people. No matter which I choose, I feel like it would cause me headaches.

In that case, I may have to think about the possibility of employing a hyuman. Ah, I wonder if in this world there is something like interviews, which lets me look at the abilities of the person in question. I don't know if interviews are too formal, so when I go to the guild next time, I will ask.

With what happened with those students a few days ago, I am uneasy about employing people without skills to communicate with customers. Well, thanks to that event, I was able to tell the forest onis can easily handle those kind of people with their strength.

"The place we bought is on a big avenue, so at least we won't be passed by without

catching the eye of no one. Also, I think it is a good thing there are no similar businesses near" (Shiki)

"It is because of that, that we bought the place. I don't know how to advertise a store that doesn't stand out after all. That part, I will be settling it with money. Medicine as main. After, I will make it so people will be able to order armor as well, so I am counting on you Shiki" (Makoto)

"In what?" (Shiki)

"As the public representative. On the outside, you will be acting as the owner of the store. That's why on the times like lectures, I want you to indirectly tell them medicine knowledge and the way to use magic medications in practice. That way, a part of our students will be able to tell the quality and effects of our products right?" (Makoto)

"...Publicity. You have already thought about it" (Shiki)

"Only to this extent. You and the Arkes seem to have made various medicines and it is true that their effects are high" (Makoto)

That's right. Shiki has built more intimacy with the Arkes than with Mio. I don't know if it could be called the fusion of alchemy and pharmaceutics. They have good compatibility and have made quite the amount of types of magic medications. Some of them even made ambrosia. I don't intend to put that one out normally for sale though.

Ah, I should think about the line-up of medicines I will be putting out. The general ones like fever medicines and wound medications are a given. An antidote against the poison of mamonos and later I will bring out a drink medication I have thought of. It's not like I was the one who thought of it, but it is something like an energy drink that is used to recover from fatigue. I thought it would be nice having those here so I made them reality. For the students that are doing their best and the people that work hard, I feel like this will be profitable (until there are copy products of it). *Aim for it, at the bags of the students and the loving white robe*.

"I want to continue the talk of the store, so let's go take our lunch. If we do well, we might be able to open it soon" (Makoto)

"Understood. Then for lunch..." (Shiki)

"N. Isn't Gotetsu fine?" (Makoto)

"That place's nabe is superb. I have no objections" (Shiki)

We coincidentally found the restaurant Gotetsu where the girl we saved worked in. We have used it a number of times for lunch and dinner. Thinking about the number of days we have been here, I am aware that the amount times we have gone there are quite a lot. The nabe that the shopkeeper says is a specialty of his hometown, tastes quite different from the one of my hometown, but it is still delicious. I liked it because I have memories of my homeland, but Shiki seems to have honestly liked the taste of it. Now, every time I ask Shiki where to eat, he would instantly respond Gotetsu. Tonight I want to check my new store, so this time I designated Gotetsu for our lunch. Even though he likes it, I hope he is not wishing to eat on the same place for lunch and dinner every day. It is something from a long time ago, but in my previous world there was a person who always responded *Ma kukama* <マ○ク カマ○> when we asked him where would he want to eat. Well, the two are the same kind of store though. After a while, we stopped asking him where he would want to eat. His answer was always the same after all.

I feel like if not handled well, Shiki might turn the same way in this town. That's why I have to be forward in looking for a new store.

The first time I went to that establishment and saw nabe, I seriously questioned about the existence of otherworlders aside from me and the heroes. When I tasted it, my doubts vanished instantly though. There were various types, but there were a lot of peculiar ones. I then understood that it would be hard to not get tired of this town. Also, there was no taste of soy sauce.

And also, shopkeeper, there's no sweet nabe. For me, there is definitely none! When I saw that overflowing cream and ingredients, I honestly thought it was merengue and wanted to escape reality. That I saw Shiki as a being surpassing humanity for eating such a thing, is a secret. Really, thanks a lot for eating it all Shiki. This was the first time I gave up on the food in this world.

The girl working at Gotetsu said her name was Ruria. That she seemed a lot brighter than when we first met must be because she was serving the customers. Looking at that girl who had such cold eyes, changing her attitude and acting so bright while working made me think she is quite level-headed. I haven't done part-time jobs, so it may be because I haven't seen people act inside and outside of work. The people doing

work probably have to be this tough or they can't live by. This world clearly discriminates more than my previous one, so one may have to be even tougher.

We went a number of times, but it doesn't seem she thinks we are aiming for her and she doesn't seem to be acting wary of us. And in reality, every time we come, we wholeheartedly eat nabe, especially Shiki. At the first times, for some reason she looked at me with a face filled with cautiousness. Maybe because my outward appearance looks suspicious. I do have my mask off, but don't tell me it's exactly because I don't have it on? No, I am probably overthinking.

But she talks, there are no weird parts of her and she is hyuman. Why was she involved with those students? Did she have bad luck, just plain chance? I tried asking and she didn't talk so maybe it wasn't coincidence. Then she has some special circumstances? I don't know.

The two of us visit often and we ask for two menus, so Shiki and I seem to stand out quite a bit in the store. Ruria also remembers our names already. Now when we come, she does some light conversation.

Today too, while Shiki ate his nabe, we talked about us going to the Academy and about finally being able to begin working. She is the first acquaintance in this town to know our names. The place where we are going to open our store is a bit far from here, so when we open, we probably won't be able to come as often and a part of me is sad about that. Well, if I talk to Shiki about it, the chances of him wanting to come here are high, so we might unexpectedly visit often. In my case, since we are in a center place where we can find varied stores, I want to try out different kinds of food. We might find something resembling konbu and katsuobushi faster than Tomoe. If that happens, it might work as a nice souvenir.

Someday I want Shiki to try the nabe I know of. Mizutaki, shabushabu, sukiyaki, yudofu. Yeah, I also want to eat those.

Ah, that's right. If possible, I want to do something about the interior design of the store this evening. The design will be done by Shiki to a certain extent and it will also be based on the stores around. In this world, as long as you use magic, there is no definite need to call for a craftsman in order to work on the interior. Shiki can use the earth element and he has just the right kind of magic to use in this type of scenario. When we can economize, it feels plain good.

Not only that, it also becomes good practice for my magic. Lately, I have been living in a constant state of concentration where I can activate my magic at once. Even so, I can't maintain it for too long and I have tried training in making a strong defensive barrier even if imperfect. I learned not too long ago that in places with special environments like a battlefield where one holds a characteristic state of mind, it is hard to move your magic like your own hands and feet.

Now that the bug has found me once, it is true that I don't know what might happen and when. I have to pass each day as precious and not waste any of time of it. My life is at stake after all.

Finishing lunch, by the time Shiki and I arrived at the Academy, the students were at lunch break probably thanks to us eating lunch early. Quite a lot of people were coming out from respective buildings. The giant white construction looked somewhat modern-like and also felt a bit nostalgic. It may also be because the nature of it being a school feels nostalgic as well.

Seeing as we are not from here, they look at us with curious eyes (I want to believe it is not because of my appearance). While avoiding them, we head for the designated place.

...That there were people taken aback and some that looked back twice, must be because this is an unusual happening.

Chapter 84

Encounter with the “Library”

[Looking forward to work with you]

“Looking forward to work with you”

Shiki and I finish our greetings once again and clapping sounds.

This place seems to be the Academy's office where briefings are done. It's wide and seeing the desks lined up, for a second I thought it was a room for staff members. I didn't feel the characteristic tension. They explained me the lecture's contents and the rules in detail and after that, they asked about what plans we have.

Two people were receiving us.

One of them seems to be the same as me, a teacher. Though, I can't say we are the same huh. He is a full-time teacher and I am a part-time one. I don't commute to this academy every day and am not lodging in the dormitories. It seems he is teaching fighting techniques like me, but he doesn't look that strong. Fighting techniques are pointless if you just speak the theory of it, so he must be relatively strong. They told me the contents of the current lectures and the level of the students. I thought they were playing house. But I only thought of it. I obviously restraint myself from saying so. I can't say that it is troubling to deal with elite(lol).

The other one is an important person in the work place. This one didn't show a single bit of haughtiness like the male teacher and felt like a lenient person. The staff in the high school I was in, acted frankly around me so I was bewildered at first, but the ones in front of me are polite and on point. Maybe it's the difference in behavior between being a student and being a teacher. However, they didn't make questions regarding salary, my store and didn't look at the documents; they just smoothly replied and that made me feel they had high ability. Finishing the explanations, they wished regards and we answered in equal fit.

“Then, with this I will be going. At first, I will be sending the students from my class in rotation, but later please try gathering students with your own skill, Raidou-sensei.

From what I heard, you are a person with high abilities. I am looking forward to it”

“Brait-sensei, thank very much”

It seems the teacher will be leaving now. Shiki and I lower our heads once more and see him off. From what he said, the first times I will be doing my tactics specialized lesson, I will have a certain percent of students from Brait-sensei’s class. He is an attentive person and he introduces students to new teachers in the same area. A reliable person or so they say. It seems the staff are also being helped a lot by him, I can tell that they have a favorable opinion of him in the staff room. I personally think he feels like an unsavory person. People that are too nice don’t bring me good vibes.

From what I heard of the staff-san, a part-time teacher that secures enough students for a class is rare. When comparing a full-time teacher’s lecture, a part-time teacher’s regular number is half of that. 30 people. Is it possible to not gather 30 people in this giant academy? By the way, the theory classes are different from practical skill ones in that as long as the students can enter, it can accept as many as they want. It seems to be because there is a limit to how many students a practical skill teacher is able to take care of. If one isn’t careful when using magic or swords, one can die, so it is expected.

The lecture’s payment depends completely on ratio. In the case of a part-time, the selection of students is quite free. If you want to earn, you will have to try your best to increase your number of students. For one lecture, a part-time teacher gets 10 silver for each student. If a part-time teacher gets 30 people, one time will be 3 gold. It is practically the annual income of a person working in a normal store or a staff in a guild. If you work for numerous times in a week for 1 month, it would turn into an incredible amount of gold. Thinking about the value on my previous world, the payment is quite excessive for a teacher. If a part-timer gets this much, then just how much would a full-time one get?

“And so, Raidou-sensei. About the lecture, is it okay for you to begin next week? There will be around 10 students from Brait-sensei’s class, so we have no issues on our side”

[Next week huh. I don’t mind, but I want to do lectures with the students I choose, so I might bring troubles to Brait-sensei. Also, I am planning on doing lectures for a big amount of people. There’s no problem in that right?]

A while ago I confirmed this and since I was worried about it, I confirm it once more. I am intending to do a class with 10 people, or around the number of people one can

line up in a column. Also, I will have Shiki accompany and teach once a week. I only have experience teaching the kids in the neighborhood, I haven't taught anyone while receiving anything as compensation. At first I will have Shiki do a follow-up and get used to it.

"Yeah, of course. But that is quite unusual. Part-time workers normally frantically gather as many as they can without caring who it is. As expected, a person that is administering a store at the same time really has a different way of thinking"

[Since I am in charge, I want to pay attention to it after all. About the business, as long as I don't do any activities related to it in Academy grounds, there is no problem right? I am grateful for your hasty replies]

That means there is no problem for Shiki and me to use medicines for free or to show them, and to widen the knowledge of them. Great.

"...Teacher is a lenient person. Also diligent. It's a bit unexpected. I have heard that you are quite the strong person after all. I was wondering how you would present yourself. To tell you the truth, I hold you in respect. This place gathers the best students around the towns after all. Please train them to your best"

[Okay. Then with this, I will be leaving]

"Ah that's right. There is a library you can use when you want to search for data, a place inside the Academy one can use to train practical skills, and a reception where one needs to do petitions beforehand to use the field. I will be telling them of your arrival to these places"

Shiki and I along with him, talk about the places as we confirm their location. We certainly need to know both of them. And while at it, I should finish the field application today. The document's process is relatively complex so I feel like the things I will be asking of Shiki might increase.

In that case, I have to think about the store a bit. As expected, the Forest Onis huh. Arkes are scarce so, yeah, there is also the option of asking Tomoe's opinion.

Also, the library. I thought it would be a room, but for it to have a building just for it, is quite unexpected. It's like a university.

Having such a big library, I can really expect a lot from it. It wouldn't be a bad idea to

look at books related to magic. I am sorry for the book loving Shiki, but I will leave the application to him and head to the library.

[Shiki, I will be checking out the library. Head to the reception and after finishing the request, I want you to head there as well]

I order him as we leave to the corridors. Shiki nods. I think he is the number one person who wouldn't run rampant, so that's why instead of those other two, I nominated Shiki. I am truly happy. The number one reason is that we are of the same sex though.

Because we are right at the opposite direction of the staff office, Shiki and I turn our back to each other and walk to our objectives.

At any rate, the air that is flowing here is peace itself. When I am here, my sensation of being in another world or in my original world gets fuzzy. Because the subject I am teaching is otherworldly in itself, the strange sensation is even stronger.

In the halls there are students engaging in friendly chat and the bulletin boards have pleasant posters with contents about contact information within the school. The atmosphere resembles that of my sister's university which I visited in summer. There are a lot more people here though. It may also be because of the season I visited.

"This is literally what a school is" (Makoto)

Before leaving Tsige, there was a time when I thought about my homeland. While on my journey, I was thrown into the battlefield, so it slowly grew fainter though. This place reminds me so much of modern times. Really.

"The choice of lectures is lenient and it feels like I have come to a university with freedom. Oh, this place is the library huh. Incredible. How big" (Makoto)

I do a monologue no one would understand as I arrive at the library. Ah, did they think I am a crazy person? Well, who cares.

Anyways, this place is big. It's a lot bigger than the municipal library in the town I lived in. This is surprising. In this world there is a library this big huh. This truly shows me that I have lived in a rural area. And the heroes began from a big country's castle huh. Fuh, how unbearable.

I enter inside.

In the shelves that are taller than a person, one could see books, books, books tightly packed without leaving any gaps. The scene of shelves fully loaded with books lined up left and right, could be called a forest that grows books. At least for me, this is my first time seeing so many books gathered in one place. Incredible. Just, incredible.

That characteristic and pleasant scent. Different from Tsige where one could see snow in places, at Academy Town the days become increasingly hotter. I can tell that I have come to a faraway place.

The library scent I have not smelled in a long time hasn't changed at all. Also, it is a pleasant air. In this world it seems they don't know that libraries go well with air conditioning. In this sense, one can feel the difference between science and magic.

There should be quite a lot of persons here, but the reason why it feels so sparse must be because this place is big enough to make me feel that way. Because the number of books is bigger than the amount of people.

"Do you need something?"

I, who was deeply moved, was called out by someone. A calm and mellow voice. A voice that one would be able to feel seductiveness, but the girl itself took away the nature of sensuality in her voice.

When I turn my head to the direction of the voice, there was, as expected, the figure of a woman. She isn't a student. A librarian, maybe?

[Sorry. This is my first time seeing a library of this degree and unintentionally spaced out. This is a splendid library]

"I see. I am happy to hear your praises. You were standing in the hall but, what business brings you here? If you are looking for a book in specific, I can be of help"

I was talking with writing, and yet she didn't get fluster for one second and quickly answered. Eh, she wasn't surprised?

[I don't have a book in specific, but well, about magic. If there are books about aria language, I want to read them]

I respond to her with the subject I thought of a moment ago.

“Ara, for that Raidou-sama who possesses incredible magic and combat abilities, to look for such simple content. Is your companion Shiki <識様> the one reading it?”
<Shiki's name is written differently here>

!!

As if her words blew me away, I take my distance from her. This woman...

Luckily, because there is a hall just after the entrance, I still had space. I am thankful I was able to open space. It's not like everyone can do weird teleportation like Sofia after all. I don't plan to change my tactics of first taking my distance.

I have already completed an invisible barrier. The moment I took a step back, I had already finished its preparation. It's thanks to the daily tension. After, I will have to learn how to naturally do this.

“Incredible! In that instant you spread out a barrier. It's like a sleight of hand. To be so skillful even without using aria. It's just like the stories tell”

[Who are you? Why do you know my name?]

While showing her the writing, I check out the woman.

Her age is, young. It's just an estimation, but it looks like she is in the first half of her twenties. Her height is close to mine. She doesn't have any weapons. Doesn't have strong magic power equipment and I can only feel the presence of a normal person from her. Because of her baggy robe, I don't know how toned her body is, but she isn't showing any signs of exerting them. There is no magic aria either.

I can't tell her build because of her clothes, but there is no doubt she is a woman. Her face, is cute. In this world, this is an easy 100 points. Different from the indigo blue hair from Tomoe, her hair is a light blue. No doubt she is a person I don't know. She is probably a hyuman though.

“Just like stories tell” is what she said. She knows about me and Shiki. Also, is there a person here who knows about me having incredible magic and combat abilities? The only person I can think of is the one in charge of the test. But is it information that a librarian should know? I don't want to think that the information regarding the

persons taking the test to be leaked so easily.

"Don't be so on guard please. You are a teacher from this school. I at least should know the name"

Lies. I confirmed in the staff room. Taking into account the part-timers and full-time ones, there is easily a hundred or so. To have the ability to remember all of them is too strange. Moreover, today is the first time I have been here.

I won't lower my guard. Taking into account the interference of my whole body, I pay careful attention to the changes in magic power flow while checking that woman's movements.

[As long as you don't prove to me that you have unnatural memorization ability, I can't believe you]

"...I was just intending to tease you though. It seems you are the distrustful type huh. Your and your companion's name as well as that information, I just heard it from other people"

Maybe she was shocked by my cautiousness, she shrugs her shoulders. The one in charge said it? But I don't like that simple teasing of hers.

"How troublesome. Then let me tell you the name of the person that I heard this information from. You know Ruria from Gotetsu right?"

I heard a name I didn't expect.

Ruria from Gotetsu. I certainly know. If it's her, it would be normal to know my and Shiki's name.

"About your skills, I heard from the one in charge of the test. I don't know if Raidou-sama knows his name, but he is called Erus. There was a talk of someone gathering three types of balls while we were eating so..."

The woman makes a gesture of holding a cup with her hands and bringing it to her mouth. Is she talking about a meal with alcohol?

Three types of balls. So that's why she said vague things like incredible magic and combat ability huh. However, I don't see the connection between her and Ruria.

Is she a regular in Gotetsu? But is Ruria someone that would easily talk about other customers? Her mouth is tight and she doesn't talk that much with other customers. I have gone a number of times, but I haven't seen this woman there.

[I know about Ruria. I have been going to Gotetsu lately after all. But I don't know what reason she would have to talk to you about us]

"Fuh~, Ruria is my sister. She told me about a strange customer and it was about Raidou-sama and Shiki. That Shiki is a nabe lover who could eat cream nabe for his three meals. I was a bit shocked when I heard it"

Cream nabe. Ah, that was really nightmare in a bowl. I wonder how Shiki is able to eat two of those.

Tto. Fumu. If she even knows about the cream nabe, there is no doubt. But sister huh. Now that she mentions it, the color of her hair is the same.

I look at Onee-san once again.

"What is it?"

Maybe she found it suspicious, the Onee-san calls me.

How pitiful. I don't know the age difference between her sister, but she is totally losing in body development. There won't be a turning point in the future, so live strong.

"...You seem to have a discomforting expression but, did this clear your suspicions?"

With her eyelids twitching a bit, she fixes her glasses and asks once again. I understand that gesture. When you have glasses, you unconsciously play with it.

[Yeah, the misunderstanding was cleared. I see, so you were her sister. But to suddenly be called by my first name, moreover, by a complete stranger, no matter who it is, they would be surprised]

"It wasn't to the level where one would get surprised though. But I am sorry for my rudeness. My name is Eva, nice to meet you" (Eva)

[Eva-san, I see. My name is Raidou. You may already know but, I am a part-time teacher. And you, are you a librarian?]

"Yeah. If you have a book you are looking for, please ask without restrain. I am almost always over there" (Eva)

Saying that, Eva-san points out the right hall's counter. A number of staff members are there. I can tell that they are glancing at my conversation with Eva. We were probably a bit noisy.

[I will be counting on you. Then with this, I will be leaving]

"Is it okay to not look at any books? If I remember correctly, you were looking for a book regarding arias right?" (Eva)

[I will leave that for another time. Then]

"Too bad. I will be waiting" (Eva)

Eva-san smiles and sees me off as I leave the library.

Hah, I was nervous. I didn't feel like reading a book and just leave outside. I was way too abrupt.

Geez...

(So that was Raidou huh. He is certainly an outrageous user. Maybe he can use it?)

"Eh?"

The moment I finished moving down the stairs in front of the entrance, I suddenly hear a voice and check my surroundings. There's no one. Even though it was a voice that felt pretty close.

That voice was... the voice of the woman I was talking with not long ago. The voice of Eva-san. No doubt about it.

But even when I turned around, I couldn't see her figure anywhere. She saw me off and didn't leave outside so it should be a given. Then what was that just now?

Did Tomoe's power go crazy again?

But my emotions are not going haywire like that time, so why?

Also, the atmosphere of her voice was quite different. It was a voice that made me feel a penetrating cold.

“Raidou-sama, sorry for the wait”

Shiki’s voice.

When I look, he is using the same route I took to arrive where I am. I see, he already finished the application. It’s Shiki, so he probably hurried. He is even trotting to where I am.

“Shiki, I didn’t wait. Thanks. Then, let’s show our faces in the merchant guild and check out the store” (Makoto)

“Understood” (Shiki)

It is still early to call it evening. While being grateful about being able to use more time on the store than I thought, I leave the campus.

Chapter 85

First Class

“Did you hear? Seems the new practical skill teacher can’t speak”

“What with that? Then how is he going to do his lectures? Don’t tell me he will be teaching his students through their body”

“It seems he uses written communication. I don’t care as long as I get stronger. That’s why I don’t like incompetent ones”

“It’s Brait-sensei’s instructions, so I will at least attend once but... it seems he is a demi-human you know?”

“Demi-human?! Why did the academy accept such a thing as a teacher?”

“...Who cares if he is a demi-human. We see elves quite a lot, so it isn’t good to have prejudice”

“Rotsgard specialty. I hope it doesn’t become an empty class”

“If it isn’t good, it will soon become that way. There are a hell lot of choice classes after all”

“Yeah. I at least hope he is a cool person”

“Ahahaha...”

...

Seriously?

How to say this... are they serious?

These are the students I will be teaching for my first class.

Pressured by my uneasiness, I use Sakai to feel the presence of the people heading here and instinctively strain my ears, which I regret doing now.

Their impression of me is bad even before we meet?!

Shiki and I finally arrived at the field and were waiting while sitting on a bench there.

This is obvious but, what I am going to do is a practical skill class, so there won't be that many times where I will be indoors. If we are doing muscle training, indoors is also a choice, but... it will become a plain class, so it will be okay to do so when the students decide to follow me.

The people in the staff room gave me a few textbooks and a number of booklets related to teachers for reference. When I finished reading it today, I understood a little about what's special about this academy and about magic.

Being able to finally touch on the topic I have come to Academy Town for, today, I finally feel like I have moved a step forward.

First, it's about what makes the Academy special.

In this Rotsgard Academy, there are obligatory classes one has to attend, and the rest it is free for one to decide if one wants to take it. It's a system that lets a certain amount of freedom.

Leaving aside the fixed classes and the subjects that are necessary for your related technical skill, the position of the people teaching the optional classes is weak. It would be one thing if you were not able to change them for half a year or all year around once you choose it, but since one can change it anytime they want, the position of the students is a lot higher.

Avoiding the hours of popular classes and holding a course in a different lot of time, making tests easier and I heard there are even teachers who buy students in order to get attendance. That there aren't many teachers thinking of improving the contents of their own class to get students, makes me feel like it is already too late.

In short, one's position can be that of a part-time teacher, but the possibility of being looked down by your students is abnormally high. On top of that, I just learned that I already have a bad impression.

Magic. I have to put this in my mind, but the common knowledge I have earned until now, I feel like it is better to not put it out.

The arias are memorized and magic is something that one has to activate by chanting the aria in a sonorous voice, is what seems to be the standard.

To do an aria without letting your voice out is called voiceless aria and it seems it will reduce the original power of the magic.

...From the very start I have been doing things that deviate from the standard, and I just learned this after coming here.

Well, if I want to have originality in my class, I thought that it would be fine to just teach the students things around this particular area. Saying random things like "In real combat..."

"Raidou-sama, looks like they will be coming soon" (Shiki)

"Yeah, I know. Shiki, it is okay for the class objective to be as we discussed right?" (Makoto)

"I think there won't be any problems. Show your true strength and teach combat aria to the students that remain. There may be low amounts of students who use physical combat that remain, but in that case, I will be teaching them anti-magician battle techniques. It's a course the other teachers don't have, so I think we should be able to choose students" (Shiki)

"Teaching knowledge and power to strange individuals will not bring anything good, so it will be more comforting to teach a chosen minority of elites" (Makoto)

"Yes. However, for Raidou-sama to be the one getting angry and me being the kind one, aren't the roles reversed? In the first place, I don't think there is a need to divide the roles" (Shiki)

"...Well, it seems that in optional classes 2 persons is unusual, so there is a part of me that wants to try if this will really work out. I feel like me playing the bad guy will have better results. If it turns into something weird, I will stop, so accompany me for a bit in this" (Makoto)

"Okay..." (Shiki)

Shiki seems like he is still not convinced. But this is something I have wanted to try once if I had the chance. Like the ones in detective dramas. A combi of one being the angry and the other the soothing one, they manipulate the impression of the person.

In this case I will be the scary one and since us two will be doing the lectures, I think people will gather if one of us holds a favorable impression.

...If I am already not being treated as a human being, then let's just have them hate me... is not how I deal with my despair okay?

I am not thinking about being an ass and then be a bit gentle to see if I can increase affection points, okay?

I feel the gazes of a number of people.

Fuh~ so they have come.

"Uhm~, is this Raidou-sensei's practical skill class?"

The female student who called me demi-human not too long ago, knits her eyebrows but still uses formal language to talk to us.

I nod lightly, not at the girl, but at Shiki. Now then, let's try doing the scary teacher.

"Yeah, that's right. Everyone here are students that came because of Brait-sensei's referral right? I am this lecture's assistant, my name is Shiki. And this person here is..."
(Shiki)

[Shiki's master and was a merchant at the border of the world, Raidou. Because of circumstances I can't speak, but in this way I am able to communicate. This will be a harsh class that will be centered on magic, but I hope you guys follow me]

My personal history is a lie and I tried making my attitude like that of a slightly strict instructor. When my appearance is a minus, instead of smiling friendlily, I feel like it is better to be someone who is kind every now and then to create a gap.

I actually wanted to go with a shouting type, but since that would be hard with written communication, I decided to go with being strict.

"We are planning on opening a slightly unusual store, so if you have the chance, please

check it out" (Shiki)

Shiki advertises.

If we don't say the store's name, they shouldn't nag much about it. And I had Shiki smile gently from beginning to end. Try your best in being the kind and gentle Shiki-sensei. I will also try my best in being the scary Raidou-sensei.

[Since it's the first class, let's begin with a self-introduction]

I have the 10 people that came to my class introduce themselves.

Name, age, what year they are currently in, and after that, their objective and the element they are the strongest in.

It ended safely, but a question still remained. About the element.

[You, you said you were best at water right? How well can you use other elements?]

"The others? Uhm... A bit of earth and fire"

[Can you have a spirit lend you its power?]

"No way! There's no way I can do that!"

Doesn't that mean you practically can only use water? Moreover, this one doesn't have that much magic power and the balance is bad.

Wait. Could it be...?

[You, you said you were best at fire right? Others?]

I ask another one, the student that said she doesn't care if I was a demi-human as long as my face was good. Maybe she felt discomfort that I asked her, she frowns.

"...I can use a bit of wind as well. I can't use spirit magic"

After that, I asked the others, but it seems that the highest is three.

(Shiki, what is this? Are hyumans limited in the elements they can use?) (Makoto)

(No. It's just that they are so accustomed to use the element they are fit in that they neglect the training of their other elements. They consider the ability to use other elements as a type of talent) (Shiki)

(So everyone can do it right?) (Makoto)

(Of course. It's just that they will use more magic power than when using the element they are most fit in) (Shiki)

(I see. Understood) (Makoto)

No matter if it is their specialty, it is not like they are beginners who just began to learn, so I think it is a bit weird to only get better at their forte element. It is actually convenient to be able to use the others after all.

Even that superior dragon kid was surprised by it. So yeah, it would be interesting to train and see how it goes.

[I have understood the abilities of everyone. Sadly, I can only call you guys unskilled]

“Unskilled?! Us?!”

It's the one who said I can't use my mouth. He has vigor, or more like his appearance does too but, you, aren't you a warrior?

[That's right. I want to be appointed by the country, I want to spread my name as an adventurer, I want to stay in this academy as a researcher. I have heard the objectives of everyone here. In the present condition it is possible to make this true, but you will always stay as second-rate]

“...Aren't you going a bit far with your words? Even though you are just a mere part-time teacher”

It's the girl that said “don't be a teacher if you are a demi-human”. She is angry. Today we will show off our strength and have the gentle Shiki-sensei leave an impression. This part is important, so I am sorry about provoking you.

[That's the truth. Well yeah, then, let me ask you something. You said you were a magician right? Then, what is it that a magician should fear the most in a battle?]

“...Being isolated, to get the enemy close to you, to panic, to have one’s magic power dry up”

An answer right out from the book. Well, I think that’s not wrong though.

[Splendid. Then, what’s the proper form we try to achieve in a battle?]

“To adapt ourselves. No matter if we are isolated, approached, in an unexpected situation or run out of magic power; we have to be magicians that can choose the best choices in the right moment. That is the ideal form that we have to aim for”

[That’s exactly right. Excellent. Then, if the girl beside you that said her forte is water, encounters an opponent who is weak against only wind magic so she can’t effectively damage it, what would you do to “adapt”?]

“In that case I will prepare a wind element attack at the vanguard or a different attack...”

[There’s only her there]

“...Then, before it reaches, prepare a wind element attack method. There’s no other choice but to use magic items to prepare”

[Yeah. If you are unable to do anything about it, it’s the right choice to depend on tools. For that sake, it is a good idea to save a tool of another element, but there’s nothing wrong with being able to use it yourself. 3 at most, is not right. You should at least be able to freely control 3 elements or in real combat there’s no doubt you will feel like something is lacking]

“...In the academy and in the country, it is common sense to first learn the one element you are most fit in”

So this time it’s the male student who said this would become an empty class huh. It’s not just “first”, the problem is that you are only doing that. You guys are considered elite after all. I understand their faces of displeasure. It isn’t fun to have someone deny the way they have been doing things after all.

[You guys are elite right? Is it okay for you guys to be like the other ones? Having your element seen through, be countered and ripped through like paper?]

“T-That is, we should believe in the swordsman and knights at the front...”

[Believe huh. That's a nice word, but it's not good to use that word as an escape route and not do anything. To create counter-plans from a high point of view, isn't that how an elite should really be? Of course, even if it is a way to protect your body, to give up on it just because it is not your forte element that's just no good. It would be one thing if it were impossible, but if it is a possible, you should try and reach out]

“Guh”

“Then, does that mean Raidou-sensei is able to maintain a high point-of-view and succeed when being isolated and approached by an enemy?”

This one is... Oh yeah, the boy that said he didn't want an incompetent teacher. Did he get interested a little bit?

[In my case, for the sake of surviving, the point-of-view method is a bit different. Let's see, then let's today let's show a mock battle between me and Shiki. Because it's better to know the skills of the people that you will be learning from]

When I look at Shiki, he nods and takes out a staff that is wrapped in lustrous cloth. The staff that was humbly made by the Eldwas was showing its bare presence. The beautiful cloth that resembled silk, I don't know how it was made, but it seems it has the ability to hide the status of an equipment.

“Me and my master, Raidou-sama, will be showing a bit of our abilities, so please do attend. It would be good if you are able to get used to one of the forms you should be aiming for” (Shiki)

I don't know if Shiki's words were reaching them or not. The students' gazes were gathering at his staff. Their looks were filled with shock.

“Oi, that staff...”

“What is... that?”

“What crazy magic power. Also, the elements are jumbled together”

“Incredible. Not even in the academy's displayed items have I seen something like this”

As expected, that staff is quite the creation. My clothes should be even more, but it doesn't have the nature of leaking its power outside, so its looks are that of normal clothes.

We begin to move to a place a bit away from them.

Shiki had his hair tied up at his back and wearing a serious expression. Even if it was an order, he is a diligent one so he won't cut corners.

[If it's at this distance, it is enough to call it "having an enemy approach" right?]

In the midst of the glances that gathered on Shiki's staff, I confirm with the boy who was the trigger of this mock battle. He nods with a meek face.

[Shiki, let's begin]

"Then Raidou-sama, here I go!" (Shiki)

The mock battle to show our abilities and make the future easier to handle, had begun.

Chapter 86

Looks like he will be my first student

- Aspiring swordsman student POV -

The fight between a new teacher who is in a range where aria wouldn't be able to catch up and the man who seems to be working as his assistant, began.

The reason I came to this guy's class was because Brait-sensei told me so I had no choice. I didn't have any intentions to come here again. In the first place, I am a swordsman that uses magic as support and since the time I heard that Raidou's lecture would be mostly about spells and arias, the direction it took was not fit to mine.

This is like a harassment from Brait-sensei. That sensei, whenever a practical skill teacher comes, he always sends a number of students that are from another expertise and pulls them away at once. That way he will use sweet words to draw in the teachers that are troubled getting students as protégé.

The temporary teachers that gather students in the first week without much effort normally get conceited after all. Later, they usually fail in gathering students. I think it is a low move, but it does show high effectiveness.

Brait-sensei is theoretical and teaches tactics as his main point, but he wants to have a higher position within the practical skill teachers so I think he is doing a lot of things. I don't think that with only writing things down and discussions it can become true ability, so I can't bring myself to like that sensei. I don't think strategy and planning is a complete waste of time though.

Of course, there aren't many decent practical skill teachers, so in the lectures that I have decided, there are some I want to take out or change. This is a place where rich and nobles gather, but it doesn't mean skill will gather as well.

Scholarship students like me who have been recognized by the academy and possess special characteristics and aptitudes, don't mind about being injured in classes as long as it increases my skills to the very limit. In this academy, those classes can be enumerated and because of popularity issues, they normally get closed down. I feel

irritated by that.

That's why, a person who can't use his mouth and can't even tell apart if he is a demi-human by his childish face, there's no sense of expectation at all. Moreover, if there were such a genius of the same generation, the country would have already taken possession of him already. Well, he did pass the employment exam, so he must at least have the minimum requirements.

The man holding a staff, he said his name was Shiki-san. The moment he said he would go, he immediately made a dash onto Raidou and closed the distance in an instant.

Fast. He is probably faster than me at stepping in. I thought he was a magician as well but, could it be I was wrong?

Seeing his delicate features, he didn't give me an image of close-range combat though.

"Wa!"

I involuntarily leak out my voice. I can hear something from everyone's mouths, so it isn't just me that's surprised.

At the tip of Shiki-san's staff, a golden knife appeared. It looked like a spear. There was no aria.

Is that an ability of that staff? I can tell that it is an amazing article from the magic power it releases. Also that it is a rare item I wouldn't be able to even imagine its price.

There was no shred of hesitation. That edge was aiming directly at the chest of Raidou. He said himself that he was his master. What are his intentions?

The spear was heartlessly lunged. Fast. From the front, that is not a speed a magician would be able to follow with one's eye.

This is over. I was sure of it. Shiki-san wins.

But my prediction was easily overturned.

Because the spear stopped less than 10 cm before reaching Raidou by a hexagonal barrier.

“...”

Again, I couldn't feel an aria. What in the world is this?

It feels cold, like being poured with ice water.

Raidou is empty-handed. Not only does he not have a staff, he is not holding anything.

With no catalyst, he was able to create a barrier without aria in this short amount of time? Even for a joke, this is too far.

Without minding about being blocked, Shiki-san once again takes an offensive with his staff like a spear. The speed of the spear increases and his technique increases. Even my eyes can't catch up.

And yet, Raidou was able to completely block that barrage with a single small barrier that he moved around.

Thus...

Raidou who caught Shiki-san's spear with the edge of his barrier, used the barrier to slide the edge and ward it off. Before I noticed, the form of the barrier had changed from flat to a round shape.

The moment it was warded off, Raidou made an attack to the staff's side and crumbles the posture of Shiki-san. The right hand of him that was shining red was stretched out.

The palm that had gouged into Shiki-san's body shone magic power light and exploded. Shiki-san's body is blown several meters away and a cloud of dust rose... What an exchange of offensive and defensive.

Raidou has practically not moved from his initial position.

Incredible. Is this... really a fight between two magicians?

I can hear the sound of gulping breath. I was being fascinated by the battle unfolding in front of me.

Before the cloud of dust dispersed, I could only confirm their figures by their shadows, but when Shiki-san got up as soon as he dropped, he hit the ground with the staff's

jewel.

In an instant, Raidou jumps back.

In the place where he was, at its circumference, numerous spears that would skewer its target projected out from the ground! Shiki-san is an earth element magician!

Raidou-sensei was able to predict this move. If it were me, there's no doubt the battle would end with that surprise attack. I unconsciously bite my lips.

The cloud of dust was forcefully dispersed by that magic attack.

A red flash.

Is it fire arrow? Raidou-sensei, while jumping to the back, he was forming the spell and shot it. When I look carefully, I could see a part of Shiki-san's earth spear was smashed.

However, I don't know if it hit Shiki-san or he evaded it. There was no explosion nor impact. It just passed through my field of vision and disappeared just like that.

The figure of Shiki-san that was now in the open, was laughing.

His clothes didn't have a single wound. I thought it was a magic with quite the power, but was he able to defend against that? It was to the point that a number of female students let out screams.

Looking again, this time, on Raidou-sensei's feet, earth began to swell up. A black shining ore was created. The tip is sharp and had the shape of a nut.

That was shot at Shiki-san. The speed was as fast as an arrow.

Shiki-san uses the tip of the staff that doesn't have the edge anymore to stop that black attack. When he does this, the black cluster that had become a dangerous weapon returns to being just earth and falls to the ground.

When sensei saw this, he creates two arrows at the same time one blue, one red and shoots them at Shiki-san.

Shiki-san takes them on with the tip of the staff again. The two lights are being

swallowed. That staff... is absorbing magic power?!

"N-No way... Water, earth, fire. There is no way a person can use three elements at that high level of power"

"Parallel aria. This is the first time I have seen it"

That's right. That staff is incredible, but Raidou-sensei is also. He is without a doubt using three elements at a battle-able level.

Also, to form two spells at the same time, parallel aria.

[Even though I shot two arrows of different elements at practically the same time, it was splendidly blocked]

"I have been training as well" (Shiki)

Since the battle began, this is the first time they have conversed.

[But we have taken a lot of time]

"You are right. Let's end it with the next one" (Shiki)

After some frivolous talk, the two of them nod.

I was already completely fascinated by this fight. Since coming to this academy, I was sure this fight was levels above the ones I have seen until now.

From the mouth of both of them, arias were chanted for the first time. Both of them were languages I have never heard before.

Ancient language. This was clearly a different system of aria from the one we use.

Shiki-san points the staff's tip at Raidou-sensei. Several magical formations overlapped and rotated in place at the tip and spheres of intricate design were being formed.

Raidou-sensei, seeing Shiki-san, he moves half of his body; his left hand to the front and his right hand to the back. As if he were holding a bow. At the end of that right hand, a black darkness was forming spherically.

The moment both sides released their spell.

Shiki-san's white and Raidou-sensei's black that were released...

Both of them collided and the light that surged took away my field of vision completely. I was now unable to follow the direction this battle would take.

Inside that light, I heard the short scream of someone.

And then, the light in the surroundings began to fade.

After recovering my eyesight, what I saw was Shiki who had lost his posture and leaning on his knees and Raidou-sensei grabbing his neck.

"I have lost" (Shiki)



I heard the voice of Shiki-san affirming this scene.

I unconsciously let a sigh escape and a sense of exhaustion pervades my whole body. It seems it wasn't only me. Looks like the strength of everyone had left their body.

Raidou-sensei releases Shiki-san's neck and looks at us.

If it were before the mock battle, I would have been able to return that gaze, but the me right now felt awfully scared by it. The gaze that overlapped for a second, was averted by me.

[I will leave the decision of if you want to come next time. If you want to become strong no matter what, I will welcome you guys with open arms]

I was astonished that even the magic power of the writing was scaring me now. For such a person to exist...

The world is vast.

Raidou-sensei didn't turn back and leaves the field. But I have decided. There was no need to tell me. There's no doubt that the current me needs his teachings.

"In the end, it felt like we only made self-introductions, but with this, this time's lesson ends. I think you have now understood the effectiveness of being able to control multiple elements and to improve your arias... Oya? What's wrong?" (Shiki)

Shiki-san tells us about the end of the lesson on Raidou-sensei's stead. The tied up hair was already untied. Even though he was doing such an intense fight just now, Shiki-san smiled in a calm manner.

He is a magician, but this person possesses close-combat abilities that surpasses mine. Feelings of honest respect well up for Shiki-san. There's no doubt the two of them are incredible people though.

Lured by the words and gaze of Shiki-san, I look at a girl of the same year. She was holding her left elbow with her right hand. From below that right hand, red blood was drawing a line.

"No, it's nothing. Just a bit..."

“A splinter hit you in the mock battle just now huh” (Shiki)

Avoid something like that, is what I thought.

Ah, but... the scream that I heard at that last light. At that time it wouldn't be strange to not be able to evade the splinters. The field of vision was zero after all.

But to hide her wound in shame at Shiki-san's words must be because she thinks she is clumsy for not being able to evade it herself. She is also a person that is exempt from tuition, so her pride in her strength must be high.

“Uhm, it's really okay so... ah”

“That's something I will be deciding after looking at it. Even if I look like this, I have experience in healing after all” (Shiki)

Saying that, Shiki-san takes away her right hand and looks at the condition of her wound. Shiki-san naturally cleans the wound and the dirtied right hand with water. This person can also use water?

Also, experience in healing? It's so incredible I have no words.

“It seems to be a shallow cut. It won't turn into anything serious” (Shiki)

“Ah, yes. Thank you very much”

“At this level, there's no need to use magic. Let's see... Ah, here it is” (Shiki)

Shiki-san looks for something in his bag and shows it to her. A small bottle.

“It isn't to the level of deluxe, but it's a handmade medicine for wounds. If I smear the wound like this...” (Shiki)

“Hi~u!”

“Was it cold? Sorry, I forgot to tell you” (Shiki)

“Wa, yes. Ah, no, it's okay”

He takes out an ointment type of medicine from the small bottle and spreads it

through all the wound.

“Ah”

“Wow!”

“Incredible!!”

The wound visibly closes and returns to normal. Without using magic... Isn't that quite the magic medication there?

N?

...Handmade?

Medicine manufacture... He is even in the alchemy area?!

Is he a superman?

“It isn't something to be surprised about. It's just a thing I slightly improved from basic wound medications” (Shiki)

Basic? This is?

If this is basic, then I might even believe his special ability can revive the dead.

“Now, with this you are fine. I am sorry for injuring you” (Shiki)

“N-No... Thank you very much. Uhm, about payment...”

“It's enough with your thanks. This level of medication can be commonly found lined in our store. Well then, later” (Shiki)

This isn't on a level that can be found even by mistake in pharmacies, Shiki-san.

But after Shiki-san brushed the earth that was on the clothes of the healed girl, he bowed and turned his back.

Brait-sensei, I... for the first time am grateful at you.

I truly thank you for introducing me to Raidou-sensei and Shiki-san.

Coming to this academy, I have finally met a person I want to call master.

Chapter 87

Wishing that it will go well through all seasons

Even though I slept late, I woke up when the outside is still dim.

It's been 2 weeks since I began working as a teacher in the academy.

In that period, I went to Gotetsu 10 times. I personally feel like I don't want Nabe for a while... wait, that's not it. Let's leave aside my personal feelings.

Today is the day Kuzunoha will be opening its first store.

For the first store to be a branch office and not in Tsige feels weird, but I decide to just ignore that. In the midst of complicated circumstances, the time to finally open my store has come.

After consulting Tomoe, I had 2 Forest Onis send here. These guys are her personal selection so I believe in them, but the two people were the ones who attacked me, Akua and Eris.

The moment they got send here, I looked at their face and was thinking "change" but they were on the verge of crying and hugged me, so for now I decided not to do it.

I brought them to the outskirts once to test their skills, they have gotten pretty strong. It's a mystery why they tremble at the mention of Tomoe, Mio and, for some reason, Komoe-chan. They must have passed through tough training.

I explained them about the work details, gave them advance payment and with an incredibly serious face, they swore loyalty.

It seems that the days here are a lot easier than in Asora. So that they don't slack off, I must discipline them every now and then. We are in a situation where we can't secure sufficient employers, so I thought I laid out quite the strict conditions though...

The conditions here are that they will be working for 10 hours each day with only one weekly holiday you know? It will be like living-in so even if daily necessities are

guaranteed, for them to be this happy, just what kind of life were they leading in Asora? It should be mainly about correcting them, so it shouldn't be putting that much pressure on them.

They were happy that they would be eating meals before working and at noon and also that they would have free time after finishing work. They cried happily while asking me if it was really fine to eat out. It's not like they were thrown in an isolated cell at Asora and guarded 24/7. How exaggerated.

Last night at the time when Tomoe, Mio, Shiki and I were doing the closings of our discussion, it turned out that two eldwas will be send as well. These ones seem to have experience as staffs in the small store at Tsige, so I intent to frankly depend on them.

The initial members will be them, me and Shiki. In the end, when I tried asking the guild about interviews and abilities, they told me that the usual is to employ and then teach them. It seems like they don't seek for abilities beforehand. Not only that, the job offers are something rare and the cases of company's shopkeeper employing friends and family members are high. It seems like requests for part timers are not usual in this world. With worried faces, they asked me if I wanted to have the guild provide some people, but for now I refused.

And so, our numbers are totally not enough (at least for me), but for the store policy I am aiming for, these members have sufficient capability.

The first forte of this store will be that it will be opening late at night, when the night entertainment people and customers are returning home. When we have gathered people, I plan on having it operate ordinarily. Luckily, in this town there are no policies regarding the time a store that sells medication or miscellaneous goods should open. It's just that all the stores think about the balance of customer numbers and security, so they close at evening, which in this world is at 18:00. In short, as long as there is enough safety, one is able to open at night and take all the customers in that hour, probably. Also, it would be nice if the miscellaneous stores that sell medicine remember our name.

It's just that I don't know how many customers are at night and if I should really go with this opening time, and I have to think if I should aim to be a convenience store. In this world, the people that work until late at night are not as many as I thought. I think it is a special case because it is Academy Town, but even with that.

That's why, depending on the circumstances, I am thinking about doing direct deliveries at night. In that case, I would have to think about how to receive the orders. We will have to do various test runs, but the thing about opening at night will be done as an experiment to see how it goes.

Ah, that's right. Now that I think about expectations, I remember that these are not all the members.

Tomoe said something about sending a useful one along with the eldwas. That Tomoe said was useful, so I think I can expect something. She herself has gone to the battlefield I was before to investigate, so she isn't here and can't come. Mio seems to have a previous engagement as well and didn't seem to be so attached to coming to Academy Town. She must be making connections with people aside from me. I am a bit happy.

"It's a surprise after all", is what Tomoe said while smiling, so I feel slightly uneasy though...

I finished changing and walk outside the room.

At the indoors of a place where people are not present yet.

I walk down from the second floor where my room is, to the first floor where the store is.

That's right, since 3 days ago, Shiki and I have already vacated from the inn and been living at the second floor of the store.

The number of rooms at the second floor is 6. Shiki and I have a room each, the forest onis will have one room, eldwas one room and the surprise person will have one room. The storeroom is at the first floor for now, so the second floor is completely a residence area. The forest Onis and eldwas will be changing places and returning to Asora every now and then, so I am not sure if those rooms will actually be used for sleeping though.

Each room is about 4 to 6 tatamis. It's smaller than the rooms at Asora, but maybe because of Shiki's interior design reform, the sense of the inside is pretty well done. I also participated in that, but I despaired at my lack of interior design sense in the middle of it and left it in the hands of Shiki. I noticed it when reforming the store as well, but it seems that Shiki has unexpectedly good sense in this. Even though he was a former skeleton.

Pulling myself together, I check the interior of the store that was created by my instructions and Shiki's sense. Last night, I stayed up until late at night to check the goods line up and confirming the inventory. It felt bad to leave it to someone else, so I unintentionally stayed until late in things like changing the position of the spittoon, confirming that the shelf of the special products doesn't obstruct the path of the customers...

While thinking that I was doing the same thing, I repeated it several times.

And as I moved my hands with a wry smile, I noticed that a faint light was coming from outside.

Finally huh.

I plan on opening at evening so it is still not the time yet, but even so, seeing the sunrise reaffirms my determination.

For now, I plan on using the medicines Shiki made, the energy drink I suggested, unusual southern fruits (in short, Asora), and also armor repairs by the eldwas. About the armor, I decided that instead of selling armor, we will just accept repair petitions. I received a report saying that people are placing a lot of armor petitions in Tsige and are creating quite the pressure.

Cutting the fruits of Asora in small sizes so that they don't know what it is and put them in a container to sell, is also one of the reasons for their achievements in Tsige. While the fruit in itself is 'effective', we have discovered that there's a bit of a problem with the seed. That's why we cut the unusual fruits to make them easier to eat, is what we make them believe and remove the seeds beforehand. The refrigeration installations are easily made with magic and it is so convenient it makes me believe it surpasses science.

Regarding the medicines, we will be selling the wound medication Shiki advertised, generic poison antidotes, fever, pain-killer and cold medicine that works for various purposes, and also a strengthening medication that increases your abilities temporarily. Each one of them has been adjusted and limited into common sense level (probably), so I can have peace of mind.

Thinking about it calmly, I consider that this store, instead of having a lot of customers flowing in the first day, it is more the type that slowly gathers popularity and waits to

gain regulars. Today it is fine if we attract people who are interested in the energy drink and the fruits, since it will serve as a seed for the future. If we disperse too many of them, it might create trouble, so I have already decided on the limit we will be selling in a day. It would be nice if it goes well. I can't help but feel uneasy.

Today I don't have lectures, so I can stay in the store when it opens. At night I should go to Asora and tell Tomoe and Mio about how the first day went.

I walk outside and look at the sign that's at the top of the entrance which has written "Kuzunoha". Writing that only we can read. It may become a minus point, but I unconsciously did it. I don't regret it. I did add the translation at the top anyways.

I decided on the material of the sign just because I liked the smell of it, but it gives that Japanese feeling and it's pretty nice. The eldwas also praised the material quality. The Hinoki cypress might be quite the tree.

Looking at the sign that has the name of the store, I resolve myself and returned inside the store.



The time is morning 10:00 o'clock. While I have the two forest oni girls and Shiki clean the store's interior, I receive a call from Beren-san which I haven't received for a long time.

It was to notify me that the two eldwas are ready to be sent. I do as he says and open a gate in the second floor and receive the two eldwas that came.

The person that came from behind them.

It was a person I feel I have seen before. Is he the helper?

But for him to be hyuman, what a surprise.

However, have I met him somewhere?

"Long time no see, boss<*danna*>"

He seems to know me. That means this sensation of not being able to remember is actually real. But, I don't remember having a hyuman call me boss.

A bad feeling subtly rises in my mouth. Is that a hint? My body seems to remember. Anyways, a hyuman huh. In that case, I have to use written communication. What a pain.

“B-Boss? I was instructed to help boss here by sis Tomoe though”

Sis Tomoe? More and more I can’t tell who he is.

Short cut silver hair, high stature and slender arms and legs. Because of that, he gives the impression of thin, but his whole body has proper muscles. His chin is pointed and his eyes are slanted, one can feel a wildness in them. The light that resides in his eyes that transmits composure and gives a cool feeling... cool?

Uhm. For some reason, I feel like I drank something disgusting... Ah, I think I am remembering.

[Could you be, a person I met in Tsige?]

It's vague, but I ask him with that kind of feeling.

“S-So horrible! Could it be, you forgot about me?!”

[Sorry, there's been so much lately]

“It's me, Lime! Lime Latte, Boss! The adventurer Boss let go before”

Oh!

Now that he mentions, there was a disgusting name like that! Right right, Lime Latte. It didn't feel tasty. Ah~, so it's him.

“...It seems you have remembered” (Lime)

[Yeah, I let Tomoe handle this, but why is it that you were sent here?]

That's right. If I remember correctly, Lime Latte had his loved dagger broken by Tomoe and on top of that, Mio robbed him, so I had the eldwas create a decent sword and had Tomoe give it to him through the guild.

I thought that was all our connection was about though? Did Tomoe do something?

"After that, I received the sword from Sis Tomoe. It was in a class I have never seen before. I felt like my hips were gonna lose out" (Lime)



Eh? I told Tomoe to leave it in the hands of the guild and told the eldwas to not make an absurd weapon though?

“Since then, Sis has been keeping an eye on me and in times she even let me accompany her in requests” (Lime)

I haven’t heard of this... Tomoe.

“She even said something pleasant like “I have capability”” (Lime)

Lime scratches his nose happily with his index finger.

“Of course, I still don’t have the skills to use such a great weapon. Even so, I still want to help out Sis and Boss who have expectations of me. I may be undeserving of this, but I have come here to help by the orders of Sis Tomoe!” (Lime)

...Tomoe, what in the world did you teach him in this few months?

Lime looks at the katana that is half-drawn and has the length of a short sword, with determined eyes. S-She gave him a katana. That, instead of a dagger...

The vermillion scabbard shines vividly and draws one’s eyes. Because he is holding the scabbard, I can see the hilt perfectly. Around the hilt I can see diamond shaped drawings lined up and in the guard there’s some sort of flower pattern carved. That guard is the same as Tomoe’s one. I have seen it before.

Instead of calling it a coincidence, I think it is more of a move that Tomoe used in order to win him over. How to say it, for a dragon, she is able to read the hearts of hyumans.

“At times I report her the sketchy occurrences in Tsige and at times I receive training. Every day is so fun I can’t help but be elated!” (Lime)

[I see]

I can clearly tell that the person himself doesn’t regret it at all. Then, isn’t it fine?

“Yes! And so, Sis requested me to help Kuzunoha Company and here I am. Go ahead, you can even use me in frauds if you want, Boss!” (Lime)

Lime says in one breath and falls onto one knee, lowering his head deeply.

Tomoe, could it be you... were using him as a spy in Tsige? What a scary person. I'm glad she is an ally.

I still can't bring myself to trust him completely, but at least he is a person Tomoe can judge safe to bring to Asora. Let's rely on him.

But this guy, he is the person with the highest level in Tsige, right? Is it okay to take him away?

By the way, in Academy Town there is a main office of the Adventurer Guild, but there is no section where one can accept requests. That's why, it is hard for adventurers to gain money here. Obviously, the number of adventurers is low.

[I am happy that you say I can use you and I will be relying on you, but you are the number one adventurer in Tsige right? Is it okay to be here?]

"No need to worry. I am already not the number one after all. Right now, the party of Toa is at the top. Also, please refer to me as Lime with no honorifics" (Lime)

[I see, right now Toa-san and the others are top huh]

The girl and the others that were sticking like suckerfish onto Tomoe have grown in a way huh. The day they once again step into the inside of the wasteland might be close.

"Yeah, they probably have an objective now. They are frantically aiming for higher heights. I think that's one would call growing" (Lime)

[It would be great if that's the case. As a senpai of the adventurers, I feel like I can believe you]

"...I am no longer a senpai though" (Lime)

[What do you mean?]

"Yes. The moment I decided to give my life to Sis Tomoe, I reported my retirement at the guild" (Lime)

[Retire?]

I tried to continue writing calmly, but inside me, I was quite altered. Retired he says.

As in quitting as an adventurer?!

“I want to see what Sis and Boss are aiming for. Surprisingly, I am not regretting it at all” (Lime)

H-He hasn’t been brainwashed right?

What can Tomoe be aiming for aside from Edo? Or more like, regarding me, I am trying to look for the tracks of my parents, hit the Goddess once and do business. Those are the only objective-like things I have you know?

What did she indoctrinate Lime with? I’m beginning to get scared.

[If you have no regrets, then I won’t say anything more. In this place the only work I have for you is store tending, is that okay?]

I think it is an incredibly wasteful way though. He is a person that would even be useful if I bring him to the Academy after all.

“I don’t mind. Sis also asked me to keep an eye on the town’s rumors and trends though...” (Lime)

What should I do? Is what Lime’s eyes are asking me.

She also intends to use him as a spy here huh. I see, it certainly wouldn’t be bad to have him gather information. Inside the Academy I can ask Shiki, but if it’s the whole town, he might be better suited. He looks like he is accustomed already and there’s also the fact that it is a difficult task for the forest onis and eldwas, who are demi-humans.

Right, let’s try leaving it to Akua, Eris and Lime; I will study. Lime also temporarily gathered and acted as the head of the adventurers in Tsige. Then, he should have skills in dealing with people.

[Understood. I will leave that to you as well. Just, when there’s a need for money, don’t hesitate to tell me. Before stepping into dangerous information, make sure to report to me first and we will decide. Those type of things are not of my taste]

“Roger. Then, without delay, let’s see the goods while I help cleaning” (Lime)

It was unexpected, but I have obtained one hyuman. Moreover, he played quite the

active role.

After obtaining Lime Latte, Kuzunoha Company's opening day was able to finish safely. Thanks to him skillfully moving around, the distinguished people of the merchant guild and the influential people of the land, even when they suddenly appeared; Shiki, Lime and I were able to somehow manage. It's the first day of opening, so there will obviously be people coming to greet us. I was totally oblivious. That was a close one.

Regarding the results of our first day, the requests for armor repairing were zero. Even if we take into account the student level armor that they are provided, it is still armor that they entrust their life to, so trust is important. We can't help the results in this. The fruit cuts that I prepared were gone by early afternoon and the extra ones lined up at evening were instantly sold out. About the medicines, each were sold slowly and at evening the students that Shiki advertised in the lecture came and the medicines' sells increased in an instant. Maybe I should have restricted the number each person can buy.

Probably because they weren't familiar with it, the cold medicine didn't sell that much. Well, when real sick persons appear and the effects begin to show, the situation should change. I wonder how the composite cold medicine works in this world. When Shiki heard the concept from me, he said something about being ground-breaking and went to develop in high spirits, so it is probably the type that he didn't put that much mind into. He felt down when it showed the lowest effect rank. If I have to translate what he said, it would be that it is an all-powerful medicine against light illnesses, or something like that? All-powerful is quite the exaggerated word, so I am not really sure.

The one that unexpectedly did well was the energy drink. The people that bought medicines, most of them bought a number of energy drinks. Regarding the strengthening medications, there wasn't a single sell. Thinking about its effect, it is more an item for adventurers, so it might be better to sell this one at Tsige. The armor manufacturing is temporarily stopped, so I was thinking of lining up a new product. Also, I feel like when exams come in the Academy, it might even get restriction order.

Anyways.

Kuzunoha Company has only begun moving.

Business rivals will appear, doubts with the merchandize we handle, and we might

even receive pressure from the people.

From now on will be the true company management. I don't know how far a teenager with an inhuman face like me can go, but I will do my best.

Chapter 88

Gossip – Tomoe, Royalty and Hero

Tomoe went to the lake bank. It was wide, deep, and so clear that even in Asora you wouldn't be able to find one like this. It isn't marked in maps, but it is certainly something that exists in this world.

Wearing Japanese clothing that can't be found locally, she looked at the water surface in front of her with a simple pleased expression.

This girl who came here after her master Makoto returned to Academy Town, headed further north from there and arrives at the place where her master had fought. The girl, seeing that lake and thinking what in the world happened, finds some sort of thing that was in a hollowed space and it explains everything.

She does a single breath. Tomoe, who had heard the story from her master and left, couldn't help but laugh. Holding her stomach, she literally rolled on the floor laughing.

The nonchalant words of her master, the words that one would even ignore, seeing the difference in realities was just too funny. 'My last attack was probably on the level of pestering' is what her master said, but to think that one attack created a lake. She couldn't help being happy.

When she finally managed to calm herself to the bare minimum, she returned to the lakeshore and looks at the lake with a different impression from the first time she saw it.

"To create a lake from pestering. Really, Waka is truly a person who doesn't bore me. I would have wanted, not to see it from memories, but to experience it personally"

The person that explained her the situation was a hyuman man who was a former soldier. When Tomoe took a peek at his memories, she saw that he was dragged into that attack while he was retreating. Losing one leg and somehow managing to survive, he stopped working as a soldier and is now living his life at the lake shore that is prohibited entry for now. He, who was in his midlife, had high experience as a soldier and there were many times when he had life threatening experiences. However, after

he met with that attack, he has completely deteriorated. It was like if he was carried away by religion, he left the money with his family and began living his life here.

"What did he think and how he felt. Those kind of feelings became like a diffused light and, sadly, couldn't see anything properly"

Moreover, he didn't look at the fired attack. Thinking about the circumstances, there's no doubt it was her master, but the only thing he knew is that her master had appeared suddenly in the battlefield. And the being that appeared from that golden light wasn't a hero that appeared to save the people, but a being that had come to bring judgment in stead of God. They called him "Devil" by their own convenience. No one knows who began calling him that way, but maybe because that man liked the name, he began calling it over and over. Tomoe didn't really blame him for that. Maybe because she thought of something after hearing the words of the broken man.

"Being a person and at the same time a demon. Because he executed both equally, he was called a devil huh. I see. Certainly, for Waka no matter if it is a person, a demon, a dragon or a god; if he considers you an obstacle, he will eliminate you. He is no agent of the Goddess nor an executioner, but that name certainly defines Waka well"

After doing a monologue with an expression filled with deep emotions, she followed the orders of her master and started investigating. Just like how she spoke with that man first thing in the morning, she searched for people that live at the lake shore and hear their story, and at night gather information from people that are not hyuman. The lake was close to Limia, but Tomoe didn't step in there, and that day she lodged at the inn of the closest village. From what she heard in the inn, they said that, even if the lake was made not too long ago, powerful mamono don't get close for some reason and moreover, maybe because it linked up with a number of rivers, fishes have begun to move there and it has heavily assisted in the daily life of the village.

(It's probably because of the remnants of Waka's magic power. It may be slight-ja, but what's left is keeping the mamonos away. Also, if there are demon beasts that were present that day, even if the magic power disappears, they wouldn't get close. More like, for hyumans to live so close when it hasn't been even 1 month is strange-no ja. Now then, what should I do tomorrow? I will continue what I was doing and check out the other half that I haven't checked yet, and I still can't get a clear idea of how to stop the Goddess power and the interference of thought transmission. This one will probably take quite a bit of time)

The next day.

The prediction of Tomoe hit in the blank. There were a number of settlements, but there was no visible progress in the investigation.

Just, this lake is inside the Limia Kingdom and it is in a place close to its capital, and yet, even if it's in an inconspicuous lake shore, Tomoe was surprised that demons were living there. For an enemy nation to live right in enemy territory is normally something impossible. Moreover, in that place lived demons and hyumans.

They don't seem like spies. It seems that the demons who survived that day left the army and returned to live hidden here. When she checked their memories, there was the attack of Makoto, and Tomoe was surprised. The soldiers said that war is pointless and after being entranced by the destruction light and receiving injuries, no matter if they were hyumans or demons, they began feeling something that surpasses shared awareness and began living together. It was truly a strange scene.

Also, in terms of gatherings, there's also the appearance of the devil.

This also left Tomoe dumbfounded.

A tall beautiful woman that even with a blue coat wrapped around her body, she still exuded the sexiness of a woman. No, it was a big red coat she dragged around.

A never before seen demi-human that emitted a golden light from its whole body. Its left was blue and its right it wore a red vestment. A young man who held an unworldly beauty when naked.

There were quite a lot of testimonies. Moreover, all of them were perfectly wrong. Just with what she remembered, there were at least ten different statements on the devil's appearance. It was to the point one would question if it was a monster with different forms.

Since she was already in Limia, she thought she might as well go see the face of the hero, but from the information she gathered, it seems that the Limia hero is currently not in the region and it was a credible source so that day Tomoe decided to return to Asora.

Just in case she used the testimony that it was a man as base and that night Tomoe made a number of questions to Makoto.

"You, what did you say I was?" (Makoto)

Is the answer that was returned. Moreover, for some reason Makoto said "it will be light" with a scary smile and Tomoe was forced to accompany him in his bow training. She felt like she was walking in hell while alive.

While dragging her body, she was somehow able to arrive at her bed. She did feel like it was unreasonable, but this was her fault.

Because the questions were like this after all.

"Did Waka shine in the battlefield, like, literally?"

"Do you like to wear a coat with half blue half red?"

"Have you been naked in the middle of a battle?"

Those were the kind of questions. So Makoto had the right to get angry.

And so, at the third day.

This day, Tomoe went to the east bank of the lake in the morning, at a place with low number of people.

"Fumu, in this place, aside from the magic power of Waka, there's no other thing that stands out-ja na. In the end, there was no information about the ring Waka said sealed the power of the Goddess. That it doesn't even leave remnants might be because it really just functions for a short amount of time. A disposable tool-jaro. Because last night Waka was so intense, the joints in my body still hurt, so maybe I should leave the investigation of the lake's interior for a later time. Hmph, Waka showed no maturity. I admit that I didn't choose my words properly, but there was no need to chase me around with his certain hit arrows. Let's just rest in Asora for today... Hn?"

Tomoe mutters words of complain while walking into the forest of the lake bank, but she suddenly stops her muttering.

Hyuman presence. Moreover, numerous.

Tomoe changes her senses. Even if she didn't go to the point of taking combat stance, she is now in a state where she is slightly vigilant. To meet hyumans isn't really that

much to be conscious of, but it's because she felt a number of dangerous presences in that group.

Instead of encountering inside the many trees, it is better to... , is what Tomoe thought and returns to an open space in the lake shore. There was a nice stump there to sit on. She sits with her body and gaze facing the lake. Of course, her senses were directed at the back where she still felt the numerous presences.

(It seems that... they are wearing quite the extravagant equipment. It looks like they even have attack methods that are effective against dragons-ja. It's hard to believe that they came here aiming for me, but let's not lower the guard. 3 persons huh)

Tomoe silently analyzes the other party. If they don't make contact with her, then that's fine. However, in the case that they make some sort of contact, she was thinking of what kind of façade she will take.

The presences get closer. It doesn't seem like they noticed her, but it was a distance where they could see her. The three presences have advanced till the end of the forest.

(Is their objective this lake? It's impossible that they came to sightsee, but if they are here to investigate like me, I could understand. In that case, it is fine to act like an adventurer or a company employer)

After deciding how she would act, from Tomoe's back, a somewhat high-pitched voice of a man was heard.

“Samurai?!”

“Hm?”

It was a word she was used to, but it was the first time someone called her that way in this world. Tomoe reflexively turned with a smile.



“I see, you are a merchant's bodyguard” (Man)

“Umu, it's called Kuzunoha Company. It's still a small place though. I serve my master in that place. I work as a guard, as a merchant; well, I do anything” (Tomoe)

Tomoe, who had introduced herself as a merchant's follower, had the eyes of the woman turned at her as if researching her. But she didn't mind it and just says the name of her company.

"...You are using *Washi*? From what I see, you are only in your 20's though?" (Man)
<Washi is an old way of saying I>

"Uh? Ah, well, that's just how it is-ja. But to ask for the age of a woman you just met is quite rude you know, brat" (Tomoe)

"B-Brat?!" (Man)

Tomoe who had judged that he was clearly younger than her and called him brat, the boy clearly shows anger and his voice gets rough.

"For a merchant, you don't choose your words" (Woman)

The woman that had her eyes as if researching Tomoe, launched words that were mixed with criticism. The small girl that was at the woman's side probably didn't like Tomoe's comment and lightly inflated her cheeks and glared at her.

From Tomoe's back, the group that appeared was one man and two women. One of the women was at the latter half of her teens, the other was at an age one could call child. The man had a young face and make's one think that he is probably in his middle teens. Their way of moving their bodies was quite good and the personal appearance of the three was neat. Also, instead of calling Tomoe an adventurer, her appearance gave more of an impression of white knight.

"I don't have any name to call you anyways. I saw you in the age to call you brat, but was I wrong? From what I see, you guys give me the impression of being a group of knights or nobles, but what business do you have in this kind of place-ja?" (Tomoe)

"I'm not a brat! I have a proper name, Tomoki!" (Tomoki)

"To-Tomoki-sama. Today we are travelling incognito so..."

"...Onii-chan"

"Ah, without thinking I..." (Tomoki)

"Hoh~, Tomoki-dono huh. If calling you brat displeased you, I apologize. Sorry. And so, the remaining two, who are you guys?" (Tomoe)

When Tomoe turns her gaze away from the silver<?> haired young man, Tomoki, she looks at the two girls and urges them with her words. *<Maybe a typo for blond, don't remember him having silver hair>*

"...I am Lily. A person serving Tomoki-sama" (Lily)

"I am Mora. A companion of Onii-chan" (Mora)

After slight hesitation, the woman who was older, responded to Tomoe with a clear voice. And maybe because she was pushed, the girl that was hiding behind Lily's clothes names herself.

(Lily, and also Tomoki huh. Thinking about the attributes of their weapons... It should be proper to see him as the hero of Gritonia huh. An otherworldler just like Waka. It stirs great interest but...)

On the other hand, Tomoe nods at the two's introduction while guessing their identity. From their names and equipment, she had a general idea, but her interest was mostly concentrated in Tomoki.

"Lily-dono and Mora huh. Then once again, my name is Tomoe from Kuzunoha Company. Now then. Returning to the previous question, what are you guys doing here? I'm sightseeing this just-made lake, but from what I see in your heavy equipment, I can only think that you have a different objective" (Tomoe)

"?!"

Maybe they were astonished by the fact that she mentioned their equipment, Tomoki and the others show surprise. They have a number of strong weapons in possession, but they are mostly stowed away or deactivated and in a concealed state. They didn't think she would point them out.

"If there's a need to move in secret from Limia it must be..." (Tomoe)

"A-Anyways! That thing you are holding there, could it be a katana? Can I look at it for a bit?" (Tomoki)

Tomoki suddenly changes the topic to the two katanas that were hanging at Tomoe's waist.

"Hm? Do you have an interest in my katanas? Now that I think about it, you said something about samurai, right? I don't mind you looking. There you go" (Tomoe)

Tomoe takes the short one from the two katanas and gives it to Tomoki. Receiving the katana, Tomoki's eyes shone and quickly takes the handle into his hands.

(What. He doesn't have any interest in the workmanship of the scabbard and the guard's design huh. How boring. The heroes came from another world just like Waka, but it seems that even if it's an otherworlder it doesn't mean it will be a person I can look forward to-ja na. Like this, the one at Limia is also doubtful)

Tomoe was disappointed in Tomoki's conduct. Since before giving him the katana, she has been feeling discomfort from the gaze this thin silver haired man was giving her. Even so, she prioritized observation and didn't let her expression show a single clue of the impression she has on him.

His way of moving, magic power, speech and conduct.

Tomoe, who has a master called Makoto, had a bit of interest in the heroes who came from the same world as him. Not only that, from the information she has obtained before her eyes, she couldn't help but despair at the Gritonia Hero Tomoki.

Comparing his way of moving to the adventurers in Tsige, he is pretty decent. He probably would be inferior to the girl Toa, who had accompanied Makoto once.

His magic power, not only was it lower than Makoto, it was even lower than Tomoe herself. Comparing him to her self before the pact, he would be one turn higher.

His speech and conduct are out of question. In that area, he doesn't have any difference from the idiotic adventurers you find anywhere. That's how Tomoe judged him.

"Eh? Why? I can't take it out from its scabbard" (Tomoki)

Obviously. If anyone could unsheathe it, no matter how low rank it is, she wouldn't give her weapon. It's a katana that, though imperfect, was given to her by the eldwas. It's on a different level from the prototypes. To unsheathe the two katanas on Tomoe's waist, you must be the owner Tomoe or Makoto or the craftsmen that maintain it.

That's how it was made.

Also, the most important part...

Was his attitude of not even asking permission from the owner to unsheathe the weapon. This left Tomoe astonished.

"Hm? Could it be, you want to see its blade? Sorry, that is something I have made so only I can draw it" (Tomoe)

Saying that, Tomoe stretches her hand as if telling him to return the katana. However, Tomoki didn't show any signs of returning it.

"No, there is no way! I can use any kind of weapon. That's why, this one as well..." (Tomoki)

He hasn't even taken out the inner part of the sword and there's not even a slight sight of the short sword, but the boy still tried to desperately draw it.

(Yareyare)

Amazed from the bottom of her heart, Tomoe takes the katana from the boy who was holding it with both hands as if it were the most natural thing.

"Wa?!" (Tomoki)

Not understanding how the katana was stolen from him, Tomoki's surprise was in vain.

On the other hand, seeing Tomoe's movements, Lily strengthens her vigilance. Even she didn't understand what Tomoe did, but Tomoki and her, and also Mora who was beside her, were surprised by the movement she used to take the katana which they couldn't perceive. Right now, Lily regretted the fact that they didn't have the knight Ginebia accompany them.

"Please don't treat it so violently. It's an important partner after all. If you want to see its blade, here, is this fine?" (Tomoe)

Tomoe, in front of the eyes of the three, at the same time as she recovers her katana from Tomoki, takes off the sheath and unsheathes it in an instant.

“Incredible...”

“What is that”

“Beautiful...”

From the three of them, breaths of admiration and words of wonder leaked out.

The beauty of the sword. The peculiarity of that sword’s blade which one wouldn’t be able to find in other swords. The three of them were almost entranced by that sensation.

No matter where you look: the handle coil, guard, scabbard; there’s no doubt they were fascinated by the craftsmanship that was performed in them.

The sword blade that has not touched the water and yet looked like it was wet. That wasn’t because of the forged metal, it proved that this was a rare article that had been endowed with high skills.

Not only that. The moment it was unsheathed, the surroundings grew cold and the temperature began to lower. This increased the freezing impression it gave off, but at the same time, the three who were overwhelmed by the katana didn’t notice the spell she casted at the moment she drew her sword.

“Tto. Even though it is noon, this part is cold. Staying here too long might affect the body’s health” (Tomoe)

With a natural gesture, Tomoe sheathed her katana.

“Are you satisfied? Then, I have other things I have to do in a hurry, so with this I excuse myself” (Tomoe)

(Geez. To think the hero would only be at this level, what a waste of time-jatta na. He is like a kid who got an edged weapon that can cut well)

“W-Wait please!” (Tomoki)

“...I did say, I was in a hurry though?” (Tomoe)

Tomoe turns as if it was a pain.

Confirming that she stopped, Tomoki whispers something to Lily's ear. Hearing what he said, the girl nods.

"You said your name was Tomoe-san right. That weapon, seems to be quite the rare article. How about it, I will ready whatever price you ask, so could you please give it to us?" (Lily)

(That trade, it isn't done by the hero but by the woman huh. Lily, I see, she is a princess right. So that means she is the wallet in this group. But to want a weapon you can't even unsheathe, does he have no distinction or does he have some sort of plan? Well, I don't have any intentions of giving it to him though)

"I thought I told you this is a katana only I can use-ja. Sorry, but I don't have any intentions of trading it for money. If you want a katana no matter what, you can go to the remote land Tsige. If you do well, you can obtain one-jaro" (Tomoe)

"...I was thinking of keeping this a secret, but guess I have no choice. Tomoe-san, the person here, Tomoki-sama, is the hero that the Goddess-sama has send. I am the princess of Gritonia, Princess Lily" (Lily)

"Hoh~, you guys are the hero and princess! What a surprise!" (Tomoe)

Tomoe shows surprise at the identity that was finally revealed. But at the truth that she already knew, she internally smiled wryly at the shamelessness.

"I will plead you once more. For the sake of the hyumans, no, for the sake of this world's future, could you please cooperate? I may be someone who has abandoned her position, but I am still a princess. I can even help Tomoe-sama open a store for the Kuzunoha Company in our country. No, I promise you" (Lily)

Tomoe narrows her eyes at Lily's words.

"Oh, scary scary. The moment you take out your position as princess you change into threatening? Mentioning the name of my company makes me cower in fear~. Also, even if you are a royalty-sama, to use such intonation. Just how deliberate can you be" (Tomoe)

"No, in no way did I say this with such intentions. I am already not in a position where I can call myself royalty. To lower my head to a person who will provide assistance to hero-sama is a given" (Lily)

(Tomoe, huh. This is the first time I have heard of Kuzunoha Company, but seeing how the conversation goes, it is most likely a company that has just opened a store in Tsige. That place is located at the border of the world, so it isn't a place I can't ignore anyways, so maybe I should investigate. That weapon, from what I have seen, it is one with quite the depth, so if there is a craftsman that can create it, I might be able to capture him and have him work in the production of guns) (Lily)

"I see. I can't help but feel like you are thinking about a lot of dangerous things though" (Tomoe)

"...Please don't joke around" (Lily)

"Anyways, I have no intentions of giving it" (Tomoe)

"...Then, it is fine. I don't need the katana" (Tomoki)

"Onii-chan?!"

"Tomoki-sama, is that okay?!" (Lily)

"Hoh~ what pleasant words but, what do you really mean?" (Tomoe)

"Just like how Lily said before, I am a hero. I am fighting for the sake of this world. Defeat the demon lord and after that I will create a peaceful world. Tomoe-san, for that sake, please lend us your power" (Tomoki)

Looking straight at Tomoe's eyes, he makes a serious face and confesses he is a hero, inviting her to be his companion. Tomoe admired his manner for a second. It was literally a second though.

(...Just by looking at his words, it is splendid-ja. But that impolite gaze that has been checking my body for a while now and that way of handling my katana. Also... the eyes he is currently using to look at me. When I thought he was at least able to talk while looking at one's eyes... this is the enticing type huh. How stupid. Defeating the Demon Lord and after that peace, he says. I can already clearly see his attachment to power. If I want to, I would be able to see this idiot's memories, but he is so transparent I don't even need to. It's making me feel sick) (Tomoe)

When she silently takes his gaze, the enticing power that Tomoki was emitting increased in strength instantly. It was a strengthening that one wouldn't be able to see

its effect, but even so, Tomoe took it refreshingly. Lily probably noticed what Tomoki was trying to do, she watched over the situation.

A space of silence.

Mora, who was behind Lily, looked like she decided something and took a step forward.

Tomoe shifts her gaze from Tomoki and looks at Mora who had showed movement with a refreshed appearance.

“What is it, girl?” (Tomoe)

“Y-You are a dragon right?!” (Mora)

“...Hoh~, why do you think that? No, wait. I see, you said your name was Mora right. You are a person who uses dragons huh. Now that I think about it, hyumans can be born with the power to use dragons, though it is pretty rare. It is said that it will never happen with demons but... I see, so you are like that” (Tomoe)

“Uh”

“So you smelled the scent of a dragon in me? But too bad-ja, just as how you see, I am not a dragon. And if I am dragon, what did you intend to do?” (Tomoe)

“Lies! It’s not only the scent of a dragon, I can clearly feel the power of a dragon in you. You are quite the strong dragon!” (Mora)

(Dragon?! Mora is a dragon tamer, obviously her ability to detect dragons is better than anyone else. Moreover, she said she was quite strong. In that case, the dragons around here would be the “waterfall” dragon. Is she somewhere around that kin? Then I can understand why that sword is like that. It looked like a water element one after all) (Lily)

“Ku... Ku kuku! Too bad-ja, but I’m not a waterfall dragon princess. It is nice to ponder, but it is better not to jump into weird conclusions” (Tomoe)

“Wa... eh?”

“No matter how strong you are, if you are a dragon, you should listen to what I say!

Tomoe! Become my and Onii-chan's strength! (Mora)

At some point in time, Mora held a transparent ball in both hands facing Tomoe and voiced out words with power.

On the other hand, Tomoe had been ignoring the words of Mora and urging her to continue, but when she said, Tomoe, without any honorifics, her eyebrows twitched.

“...The dragon that is attached to this girl must really adore lolis. There was practically no knowledge in enslavement there, and not only that, it doesn't even look like you know what you are doing. You idiot” (Tomoe)

“Ah, eh? Tomoe, just called me...” (Mora)

“Fool! How long do you plan on throwing me your stupid thoughts you lass?! I will admit your petty talent. If you have good affinity, you would be able to make medium class dragons obey you practically with no conditions, but that's how far your talent goes” (Tomoe)

With a thunderous voice, Tomoe erases the submission urging thoughts that were being transmitted from the transparent ball. That expression was the most severe one the three of them have seen until now, and was clearly looking down on their everything. Especially the girl who was exposed to Tomoe's cold gaze, she was trembling in fear.

“W-Why?” (Mora)

Mora couldn't understand what was happening. There's no helping it. If it was a dragon, no matter if it's a stray one, she would be able to tame it and hear the wishes of Mora. The being in front of her was emitting a pronounced dragon scent from her body and was clearly a being related to dragons.

And yet, not only did she not lower her head, there wasn't even a sign of obeying.

“Looking at you, you are probably compatible with fire type dragons. They are idiots who have uselessly big wings and are only good for flying and I despise them, but it seems like the fellow who is serving you has quite the perverted inclination-ja na” (Tomoe)

“D-Don't speak ill of Nagi!” (Mora)

“Don’t bawl!” (Tomoe)

“Hih!”

“That so called Nagi isn’t showing any signs of helping her master in need though? You still don’t understand? The difference in strength between you and me. Rather, why don’t I show you right here?” (Tomoe)

(Kuh, damn it. In the course of events, I have ended up angered. As expected, if I want to put my hands on the hero, I would have to get permission of Waka first. But this group of idiots, just how hopeless are they?) (Tomoe)

After accidentally blurting out words driven by anger, Tomoe thinks about her master. Makoto is somewhat mindful about the heroes. Though even if it’s said like that, it doesn’t mean in a cooperative way, but more like just their circumstances and tendencies. In truth, Tomoe, Mio and Shiki who are the closest to Makoto, don’t even know his relationship between the heroes.

If it’s just because they are otherworldlers, then Tomoe and the others wouldn’t hold back, but for heroes that were transported to this world at the same time, they couldn’t help but hesitate asking.

In the time when Tomoe was pondering, Tomoki intruded in the space between her and Mora.

“If Mora did something, I apologize. But, could you please give me your answer to my invitation?” (Tomoki)

He once again gazes at her. For Tomoe, this enticing power is only annoying.

“It’s not to the level where hero has to apologize. Also, you who are facing me with those annoying eyes, is no different from her. Is it because the visitor from another world doesn’t have that much confidence in himself? It is slightly sickening, so can you stop. Of course, my answer is no-ja. I already have a master called Makoto who I have offered myself to” (Tomoe)

“You... You noticed the demon eyes?!” (Tomoki)

“Relax. No matter if you use that kind of power or not, my impression of you would not have changed. It’s just boring. Not only do I not want to fight along with you, I don’t

even want to cross blades" (Tomoe)

"Lightning Lance!" (Tomoki)

"?!!"

Seeing Tomoki calling his loved weapon, the two girls stiffen their bodies. But Tomoe looks at him as if looking at a pebble on the roadside, she looked at Tomoki with an inorganic gaze.

"You look like a kid throwing a tantrum-ja na!" (Tomoe)

"Shut up!!" (Tomoki)

Tomoki's lance penetrates Tomoe's right shoulder.

But Tomoe doesn't show any signs of pain, and blood doesn't flow from the wound.

At another place from Tomoki's dumbfounded expression, Tomoe's contour blurred, becoming small grains and dispersing.

"You can't even tell apart if the person you are talking to is an illusion. Truly, foolish. Princess Lily, our meeting here may have been sweet, but let's make it as if it never happened. If you don't even understand the true meaning of this and still begin foolish actions, have in mind that, not long, there will only be one hero remaining" (Tomoe)

Tomoe's voice reverberates in their bodies.

A mist that enshrouds till the knees of an adult.

(When did this mist... It must be an illusion type. "If you don't understand the true meaning" huh. She probably means to not make contact with Kuzunoha Company. No, as long as I don't get the full picture of Tomoe, I should not put my hands on Tsige. Just what in the world is her? I have never heard of a dragon that can read the minds of people) (Lily)

Because of Tomoe's spell, the forest becomes a mist labyrinth.

Tomoki and the others who were in the middle of it, could only absentmindedly stand there.

Chapter 89

Gossip – Mio, Cooking and Hero (1)

“Ehm, seaweed with thickness and hard dried fish... was it?”

A woman that doesn't fit the port town's market walks.

The bustling sells of various articles that are unfolding on both sides of the street, and the calls of the shopkeepers that shout with a loud voice.

That the places where there are no stands are the street, makes it a complicated labyrinth with irregular shaped pathways.

The people seen when walking down the road were normally naked on the upper half or wearing a thin shirt. The number of muscular men was high.

She was clearly not familiar in this place, a girl wearing clothes deep indigo blue that were close to black was obviously an existence that was out of place here.

The clothes called kimono is probably an attire that no one in this port town has seen before.

And also, her hair that may or may not reach her shoulders, glossy black hair that has been beautifully trimmed. Her long slit and black eyes, and her vibrant deep red lips. The beauty that emitted conspicuous colors was clear in everyone's eyes.

Her attire and appearance, with those two combined, make the people walking by turn and look twice. That person is one of Kuzunoha Companies strongest jewels, Mio.

Her representative Makoto is currently in Academy Town and finished opening a store there. Tomoe who has been acting alongside her, has received a task by Makoto and is in a faraway place, so right now Mio is alone.

But she is not free.

For the sake of pioneering the port town as Makoto told her, she advanced through the

north road of Tsige and arrived at this town that is located at the sea.

It isn't that big of a town. Compared to Tsige, the size of this one is clearly smaller.

The other remote regions have a land route for goods distribution called the gold highway, but the growth of this town is slightly restraint.

To walk with hyuman legs and take just a few days, one would be able to raise several questions.

Whatever the case, this location is port town Koran that is blessed to a certain extent, doesn't have a direct connection to the world's border special procurement route and even when they have the potential to receive merchant ships of the highest class, they still haven't reached that scale. A deplorable town.

Even so, there's obviously no need to compare this to Tsige in marine products. There were many ingredients Mio had seen for the first time and were unfolded in the market.

However, it seems that the thing she is looking for or something close to it, she still couldn't find it. Mio stops her feet and sighs.

"I can't find anything close to kelp and skipjack tuna"

What Mio is looking for are ingredients that are pretty common in Makoto's world.

It's just that, this isn't something that Makoto asked for.

After Mio separated from Makoto, she has been enjoying the food and she has mostly visited the famous restaurants and bars in Tsige. Makoto has accompanied her in eating while walking and has been accepting the food he recommended, but even if it's wide, there's still a limit. There are a few where she hasn't visited, but it's clear that she will hit the bottom soon. For Mio who loves Makoto and delicious food, this was a worrying situation.

Then a chance came.

Tomoe nonchalantly said this.

"In that case, isn't it fine for Mio to just make the food Waka likes?"

For Mio, these words were literally a divine revelation.

To make food... HERSELF.

For the girl who just ate the food that was brought to her, the impact of those words made her body stagger. And then she looked at Tomoe with a serious face, as if looking at a genius.

That's exactly it.

If she makes it herself, she can create what she considers the ideal taste. Even the taste that Makoto wishes for, she might be able to make it as well, is what she thought.

To begin, she tried to recreate the food she has eaten until now. But she was left astonished.

She didn't know the process of cooking at all.

Cut, bake, boil, fry; that level she can manage, but the further steps she just can't.

There are people in Asora who can cook, and she was mostly taught by the orcs in cooking which increased her skills.

Even so, she wasn't able to reach the level of the food she ate in Tsige. Mio, lowering the number of requests she took in the Adventurer Guild, revisited the restaurants and bars and lowered her head to the cooks there.

She challenged a number of times and failed. And Mio who had begun understanding the basic parts of cooking, had felt some sort of respect for the people that she couldn't replicate the food from. That's why, for Mio who wants to be taught the recipe and technique, it was natural to lower her head. On the other hand, the shopkeepers and cooks who saw this, couldn't bear it.

In Tsige, the adventurers and the people related, there is not a single one who doesn't know the existence of Mio. And that person herself is suddenly lowering her head and asking to teach her cooking.

The cooks showed such respect that one wouldn't be able to tell who was the one asking for a favor, and practically in an instant they accepted her request. Just, there's also the deal about competing stores and secret recipes, so there were parts they

couldn't teach her; is what they supplicated Mio with visible sweat. Of course, Mio nods at their words. She told them that it was okay to just teach about some particular foods, and she is not intending to be a hindrance in their business so it was fine to not tell her the secret recipes and techniques.

And so, relinquishing sleep time, Mio went to the cooks' kitchen to get taught and there were cases when she matched times with them and accompanied them. After 1 month, Mio was able to recreate the food, not to a perfect level, but she was able to understand the basic essentials of the food in Tsige and mimic them.

The complex parts like the hand skills and sauce, she still doesn't reach their level, but it's an acquisition rate that would surprise anyone.

This may digress, but Mio who normally treats adventurers coldly, was using formal language with cooks. And because of that, in the restaurants, bars, and inn's which are close to that connotation; her behavior with the adventurers became docile.

And so, now. The objective of Mio in this port town was exactly, the recreation of Japanese food.

The food of her Master Makoto's world. Before heading to the Academy, Makoto explained her about the world he had come from. And Mio, seeing that it would be impossible to meet that scenery and food, was truly sad. By the way, she really didn't have any particular impression about Makoto's blood-line. Shiki was incredibly excited and made quite the ruckus, so he received the iron fist of Tomoe, but Mio honestly didn't mind what country Makoto was from, no, no matter what world he was from, it wouldn't change. He is just her only master and an irreplaceable existence. That's why, no matter what's in his past, she wouldn't mind. Instead of such boring stuff, her interest in the Japanese food Makoto was eating was more important.

The Japanese food's foundation was different from Tsige's food. Instead of using meat, it gave the impression that they used more marine products and she thought that the port town would serve as some sort of clue, but...

"No good. To begin with, there's not much dried stuff. From the Japanese food I saw in those memories, the only thing I can recreate is the sunny-side fried eggs. I had Tomoe cooperate with me and research for ways to cook, but it seems that the kelp and skipjack tuna are indispensable. The rice and miso are being recreated by Tomoe so, leaving that to her, I should gather various ingredients and learn different ways of

cooking, and yet..."

Mio who had resolved herself to someday provide Makoto with Japanese food in Asora, had quite the expectations from the port town, Koran.

However, the truth was that she couldn't find the ingredients and the important dried fish was absolutely scarce. It was to the point that it made her question if this town didn't actually delve in that kind of manufacturing.

"Dried fish? Things dried in the sun? Hmph, around this area there's no one who would go all the way to dry in order to eat fish and if they plan on carrying it to a faraway place, they normally freeze it"

"In here the most important thing is freshness after all. To go through the trouble of drying it. Well, there might be houses where they dry them for one night but..."

"They are low in numbers but, in places like souvenir and wholesale stores there might be some"

She went around and asked, but the answers that she received were all unreliable. Even so, there was a bit of information regarding dried fish. The problem is the kelp. Even when telling them their characteristics, they all made faces like they haven't heard of it before, making Mio dejected.

After doing a round around the market, Mio decided to go check the beach.

Because she was taught that the place where fishes are dried is in the sandy beach, she thought that maybe she could get some information from the people that actually practice this. She felt like she was clinging to straws.

"Is it that. It makes a peculiar smell. Like raw, or more like... a bad smell I have felt in the city but at the same time different. Fuh~, even though there should be marine plants drifting all around in the beach. Why is it that I can't find any?"

While viewing the work at a distance, Mio despairs at the fact that there is only fish there. Glancing at one part of the beach, there was a black lump there and Mio noticed that it was washed up seaweed.

In a place with pebbles spread all over and wood put together, a base was made located at an area where the sunlight hits easily. Fishes were placed there. The small

ones are left as is and all the others were cut opened.

"Now that I think about it, the smell of fish stinks more than beast meat. I feel like even boiling beast bone for a long time to make Dashi <soup>, there are also no fitting ingredients for it either. Tomoe-san told me that: "That's where the kelp comes in-nan ja", and said there was a special method. I thought that the basic process behind making soup with beast bone and fish bone as well as the ingredients were practically the same, but maybe that's not the case..."

In the end, she wasn't able to get any new information from the workers. However, she was holding doubts about her own thoughts and gets closer to the black lump located at the beach.

One of the workers said: "That's trash of the sea", but Mio didn't mind.

"There are some that are warm to the touch and ones that are thin. There's quite a lot of types. When I look closely at their color, there's green and blue, and there's even red. The taste is... ara. Crispy and tasty. Saying its trash, what a waste. This one here is... well, the slight stickiness is worrying, but it is eatable. The lukewarm one has some white powder stuck on it-desu wa ne. Heh~, this one has a strong taste. The aroma is like that of the beach, a nice scent. The white powder is not poison either. From what I have gotten, the parts that are dry get hard but their taste gets stronger. Isn't this quite enough to qualify as ingredients-desu ka? Geez, they really have no insight"

In order to have Tomoe inspect it, Mio looks for ones whose current state is good. The people that were drying fish gathered at a distance and looked at her eccentricities with a disgusted face. But in the middle, someone suddenly faced where Mio was, lifted both of its hands and began screaming.

But Mio who was concentrated in selecting seaweed, didn't notice that.

Several people look at the source, but Mio concentrated in her mouth. After they made noise is when Mio finally noticed. But it was already too slow.

"That is... what's going on? Ah, maybe you were curious after seeing me eat seaweed? Eh?!" (Mio)

An impact suddenly came from the back.

If it was a normal person, it would have certainly been a fatal attack. That's how strong

the attack Mio received was.

Mio who had stood up from her squatting position with both hands filled with her harvest, had completely let her guard down. If she had spread out a “network” and expanded her perception area it would have been a different story, but Mio isn’t that skilled in the perception of her surroundings. Without any proper preparations, she received the attack and was blown away.

Mio was in the inner part of the beach at a place a bit faraway, attacked from behind while she was testing the seaweed.

A loud sound of water mixed with the noise of waves was raised.

That’s right, Mio was completely thrown into the sea water.

The ingredients that she had carefully selected and were in her hands, were released because of the surprise attack. And were washed by the waves and disappeared into the open sea.

“...”

Mio stood up silently.

At her shoulder, there was a ferocious silver beast hanging onto her, biting her hard. With its hind legs it kicked Mio’s body several times and from its moving jaw, one can see that the beast is still continuing to put in power. And yet, Mio didn’t show any reaction.

From the sandy part of the beach, there was a shadow running to where Mio is, and it was reflected in her field of vision.

“...I have been drenched” (Mio)

A cold penetrating voice rang out.

The big wolf that would reach the ground if it stretched its legs, stopped its kicks. That’s the identity of the beast that attacked Mio.

But that big and ferocious beast was scared by Mio’s words and weakness became present in its eyes.

From its throat, an unreliable groan resounded.

“...”

Using her right hand, Mio casually grabs the silver wolf that was biting her left shoulder by the neck.

It was a show of strength that none would expect from a woman, but just like that she pulled the wolf that was at her shoulder and smashed it into the sea.

Mio's shoulders didn't have a single wound. It just left a small mark on the kimono she was wearing. The cloth resisted the attack of a wolf that was obviously not a normal beast. It was clear that it was not a simple kimono.

On the other hand, the wolf, just by being smashed into the ground, was so weak it couldn't even stand up properly. It was pushing its body up with its front legs, but its hind legs didn't do the same. It could only look at Mio while moaning weakly.

“Die, you bitch” (Mio)

Mio takes out the folding fan from her bosom and swings it closed.

Looking at the wolf with cold eyes that showed no mercy, she swings it in a breath.

It was literally a paper-thin difference.

The dark shadow enters into the space between Mio's attack and the wolf, and runs past while holding the wolf.

It must have been quite the desperate sprint. Without taking its distance from Mio, the shadow's posture crumbles.

“...”

Mio, with her dangerous chill still around her, stops her movements and looks at the intruder that was standing on its knees.

*Zuu Zuu

An unusual sound reverberates in the place. The intruder thinking what was that

sound, concentrates on the source of the sound.

At the sea that preceded Mio's folding fan swing...

Without caring about that disturbance, the sea that was carrying the wave... suddenly split up.

The sea had divided in a range of several tens of meters from where Mio is and the bottom of the ocean was exposed.

It was only a phenomenon that lasted for a few seconds, but the intruder gulped its breath and stared at that spectacle.

"The owner? Then accompany it" (Mio)

Mio swings her folding fang without hearing the answer of the intruder who had lost its words because of the previous phenomenon.

"I'm sorry!!"

The arm that was swung trembles, and stops. Because it lowered its head with all it had, when she thought it would stand up.

"..."

Maybe it piqued her interest. The hand of Mio stops and she waits for the next words of the intruder.

"When I went to check the beach, this little one suddenly attacked you and... It's my fault. I understand that you are angered, but please, forgive us. The treatment of your injury and the mending of that kimono; I will definitely do it so!"

Mio slowly lowers her folding fan, and puts it back into her bosom. She forgave it, or more like, it was because this one has piqued her interest.

In this place where people don't know the name of kimono, the black haired girl here had said it as if it were natural. The girl in question stares at the folding fan that was lowered, and looked like all her strength left her.

"...I am not injured so there's no need for treatment. Also, mend my kimono? It's is

unfortunate, but this isn't something you can fix" (Mio)

It looked like she was a bit down because of the traces of fang in her kimono, but it wasn't torn. Actually, the only damage-like damage was the washed away seaweed and that she was drenched.

"I-I am sorry"

"Let's see, if you help me out and treat me to dinner, I can leave it as if it never happened" (Mio)

"If there's anything I can do! Regarding the dinner, please let me treat you! Thank you very much! Uhm..."

"Mio-desu. And you lady?" (Mio)

"Hibiki. Mio-san, I am truly sorry. This child is also reflecting so..." (Hibiki)

At the place where she points out, there was the wolf curling its tail, but it was still sending a hostile gaze at Mio. It didn't look like it was reflecting at all.

"Reflecting?" (Mio)

"Sorry! Horn, return!" (Hibiki)

The silver wolf is enveloped by light and disappears into the sash of Hibiki. Seeing that, Mio slightly narrows her eyes.

"That wolf is a spirit who lives in a tool?" (Mio)

"I don't know in detail, but it's something like a guardian beast" (Hibiki)

"...I see. Then Hibiki, could you please help me sort out the seaweed that is in good state?" (Mio)

"Seaweed? Uhm... is it for wakame or kelp? Mio-san is a cook?" (Hibiki)

Mio's eyes widen at the nonchalant words of Hibiki. For Hibiki, her real reason to ask about her being a cook is because she actually wanted to continue by asking Mio what in the world is she. Of course, she doesn't really think that Mio who easily split up the

sea, to be a cook.

“?! That! Is there kelp among these?!” (Mio)

“Eh?! Ah, uhm, it’s probably the big one over there” (Hibiki)

“This one?! Or maybe this one?!” (Mio)

Just where in the world did her previous intensity go. She was now holding the said seaweeds in each hand and looking at Hibiki with eyes that radiated a different kind of intensity.

“T-The one Mio-san is holding at your right is probably... kelp I think...” (Hibiki)

“To think that not only was it not being sold, but dropped?!” (Mio)

Throwing away the one at her left, Mio holds the kelp (probably) at her right with both hands and looks at it seriously.

(Eh? Is she really a cook or something like that? I have heard that the wasteland before the town called Tsige was a place where common sense didn’t work but... is it that common sense won’t work beginning from the outside part? She was uninjured after being attacked by Horn and was able to easily split the sea with a folding fan. For someone like that to be a cook...) (Hibiki)

Hibiki looks seriously at that Mio.

“Uhm, Mio-san. The one you threw is probably something called wakame and it is used in miso... I mean, as an ingredient which I think will go along well in soup” (Hibiki)

Just from the looks she wasn’t sure, but Hibiki follows her explanation on the other one that was cruelly thrown away onto the beach. Immediately after that, Mio once again holds the wakame and washes it with sea water.

“Wakame! That’s right, this was wakame! Ah, Hibiki-san! I thank Waka-sama for this encounter!” (Mio)

“Uwa!! Mio-san, just what is Waka-sama? Or more like, I’m sorry, it hurts, it stinks. Please let me go~~!!” (Hibiki)

In her left hand wakame, in her right kelp; holding both of them, Mio embraces Hibiki with quite the vigor and strength, without reserve.

Mio didn't notice at all, but this is how the Limia hero Otonashi Hibiki and Mio met.

Chapter 90

Gossip – Mio, Cooking and Hero (2)

“Then, Hibiki and the others were looking for weapons and were in the middle of heading to Tsige?”

“Yes. Our original plan was to use the gold highway and teleport until reaching Tsige, but we had some circumstances and have used ships and inconspicuous routes to transport until here”

In the highway with people, 5 persons were walking.

The sun is still high up and with the sparse number of people in this highway, one can tell that it isn't used that often.

It's the shortest route that connects Koran to Tsige. At both sides there are a number of mountains, forests, lakes. To fulfill requests and train their skills, the adventurers that live in Tsige head to those places.

It has been 2 days since Mio and Hibiki met.

Mio while still not knowing that Hibiki's an otherworlder, she is being taught various knowledge about how to cook marine products by Hibiki. And Mio also visited numerous restaurants and passed her days eating things she has tasted for the first time. Right now she is accompanying Hibiki to her objective Tsige by Hibiki's suggestion and so they are now walking along in the highway like this.

Hibiki has not revealed Mio her birthplace and that she is a hero. Hitting it off with Mio who wants to recreate food, she talks about the knowledge she has of food in her previous world.

The group of the Limia hero is travelling incognito while vigilant of their surroundings just in case, but because of the death of one of their comrades, they are fatigued in spirit so noticing that the conversations with Mio were a good diversion, all except the person herself, silently consented Mio accompanying them.

"I am sorry to interrupt in the middle of your conversation but, can you please give me a bit of your time?"

When Mio and Hibiki had begun conversing about cooking, the magician who was silently walking, Wudi, cuts into the conversation. Because from the few days accompanying them, he knows that when the two of them begin talking about cooking, they don't finish for a long time. He thought that it was better to first digest the things that must be asked and the questions they had. His decision was the correct one.

"What is it Wudi?" (Hibiki)

"Make it short. Today I want to ask about drop-lid simmering-desu kara" (Mio)

"Of course, Mio-dono. This may be a late question but, just what in the world are you? A cook, an adventurer or a merchant? Even though you did quite the shopping in Koran, you are not holding anything. You also didn't have a carriage. I haven't heard of a spell that one person can use to store that many goods" (Wudi)

Mio isn't that used to be called a cook. That also goes for being treated as a merchant and an adventurer. It's like when throws away the world and lives long years of retirement, like a rich daughter secluded in her room. She gave off this aura that she is not used to this world yet.

Even so, she is traveling alone like this and has travelled from Tsige to Koran and she is accompanying them on the way back. For Wudi there's something that doesn't fit. He had some bad feeling.

"...I am a person who is currently interested in cooking and I have registered as an adventurer. Also, I am part of a company. If you ask me what am I, that is my only answer" (Mio)

"...What a jumbled personal history. You say you are an adventurer but, you are not forming a party with anyone?"

It was Bredda. While he consented travelling together with Mio, he is cautious of her. He didn't go as far as thinking that the demon race has expanded their influence up to this point, but even so, as long as he is traveling while protecting the hero, his approach isn't wrong.

"Yeah, because the levels don't match or something like that. I actually wanted to party

with Waka-sama, but since there's too much difference and because he is right now far away. The person who is closest to my level is someone called Tomoe-san who is in the same company as me, but it is not on the level where we can form a party so... Ah, that's right. I was originally a bodyguard of Waka-sama, so I am probably a bodyguard as well" (Mio)

With no malice or anything of the like, Mio answers Bredda's question disinterested. Depending on the points of view, this could also be taken as feigning ignorance.

In truth, she really is not partying with anyone. The person she wants to party with, Makoto, is in level 1, and even the one who is the closest, Tomoe, is over level 1,300. Mio who is in level 1,500, isn't able to party with anyone, so it can't be helped.

"This may be rude but, what is the level of Mio-dono?"

"Sorry. Waka-sama has nailed onto me that I can't tell other people my level without a reason, so I can't answer. In exchange, I won't ask for your levels, so please do forgive me" (Mio)

"Hey, Wudi, and also Bredda! This is not an interrogation, so let's go with a more fun mood! We are doing a fast pace in the shortest route, but even so, she is still a person travelling with us!" (Hibiki)

Hating the fact that the mood was getting bad, Hibiki scolds her two companions.

The two of them apologize and obediently step back. It was not their intention to make the mood bad.

In the route from Tsige to Koran that Tomoe and Mio planned to advance through has a number of hyuman and demi-human settlements, a roundabout route that takes several days. In contrast, the one that the five of them are walking in right now is a slightly steep and certainly the shortest route, where the adults could use magic to assist them to get through it in a single day. On top of not being able to pass with a carriage, there are chances to encounter mamonos, but if you are an adventurer, this route is a choice. Taking into account the girl Chiya who has a questionable amount of stamina, this route would take them at least 2 days to reach Tsige.

"Hibiki, thank you. By the way, this is something I thought after the talk of level, but Hibiki and the others are reasonably strong-desu yo ne?" (Mio)

“...Well, I think we are able to put good fight” (Hibiki)

Bredda holds in his growing anger and Hibiki answers Mio’s question. That reply had emotion mixed and the faces of Hibiki’s party get slightly clouded.

“I see... I normally don’t do this, but I am accompanying you guys while being cautious of the surroundings. And it seems that something unusual is heading towards us-desu. Is it fine to leave it to you guys? Or do you want me to help you?” (Mio)

“Don’t joke around. I don’t feel anything” (Wudi)

“Yeah, I also don’t feel anything around...” (Chiya)

Wudi and Chiya refuted Mio’s words. The two magicians had a hostile perception spell they were expanding in shifts. Saying something like that, Chiya who was resting, expands the spell again but in the effective range there was no reaction.

“It is being expanded a bit wide so I can see why. Ah, there wasn’t the need to try perceiving it. See, there it is” (Mio)

Mio points out at the far mountain range.

“What... is that?”

“The wind is raging about?”

There, many trees were dancing in the sky. And the forest was visibly shaking.

The sound had not yet reached, but it was clear that something abnormal was occurring. And the abnormality was increasing its speed as it headed towards Hibiki and the others.

“Now do you understand-desu ka? And so, what will you do?” (Mio)

“Mio-san, do you know what that is!?” (Hibiki)

“You were able to perceive that... from this distance? Isn’t that impossible...” (Wudi)

“I am not really sure but... it is probably a bug type mamono that has mutated in the wasteland and has crossed the mountains. It happens from time to time-desu” (Mio)

Mio ignores Wudi and answers Hibiki's question.

"A mamono from the wasteland?!"

Bredda was clearly agitated. Even though they were thinking about trying out the wasteland after preparing their equipment in Tsige, they didn't expect that they would encounter a mamono before reaching the town.

In the time they were talking, from the forest, the mamono doesn't change its direction and continues charging at them.

It will soon come in contact with the perception spell of the hero party.

"This is?!"

"Incredibly strong! And also big!"

"What are we going to do Hibiki?!"

"...Mio-san. The thing that is heading here... is it stronger than the black calamity spider?" (Hibiki)

"Eh, spider?" (Mio)

"Yes, a hungry spider monster. Don't you know about it?" (Hibiki)

"I do know about it but... Well, if you ask me which one is stronger, I have to say the spider is stronger-desu ne. But, is there a need to compare them?" (Mio)

For Mio, the spider or in other words herself, hasn't fought anyone seriously until meeting Makoto. That is to say, what's the point of comparing strength when it wasn't even clear?

Even so, there's no doubt that if she compares herself before her pact (taking out the hunger) and fought with her original strength, there's no doubt she would win against that thing charging at them. That's why she answered Hibiki like that.

It isn't wrong. But the difference between the spider Mio is taking into account and the one Hibiki uses as measure, is what will make Hibiki do an incorrect decision.

"That means we are enough. Everyone, we will be fighting so, prepare!" (Hibiki)

Hibiki unsheathes her sword. Matching this, the other three prepare their fighting stances.

(Ara, they are really doing it? Even though it is clearly stronger. This people, are they the type who die an early death when entering the wasteland? That's troubling-wa ne. Well, if Hibiki seems to be in danger, I just have to save her so there no real problem-desu wa ne) (Mio)

"I see. Then I wish you good luck. If you think it gets bad, say so okay?" (Mio)

Practically at the same time as Mio says so, a strong wind is raised in the surroundings. She jumps gently and sits down on a tree branch a bit faraway while resting her chin on one hand.

There, something that had 4 legs extending from its abdomen, supporting its body and from its upper half there were two giant characteristic scythes in the place of its arms.

"A praying... mantis?" (Hibiki)

That's right. Just like how Hibiki said, there was a giant monster there which was probably based on a praying mantis. Its height is over 3 meters.

Without even a single instant...

It did an action that clearly told that the objective of the praying mantis was not the hero party. It does a swipe with its giant scythes that scatters the obstacles and heads onto the hero party.

(Ara)

Seeing the horizontal swipe of those scythes that cut off the surrounding leafs in an instant, Mio notices something.

(I see. It's a variation that was weakened and got possessed by a wind spirit. From its size, it most likely ate a lot after that. And so, because it was troubled by food, it crossed the mountains. It would normally be a case where an emergency request is made in Tsige and gets noisy) (Mio)

Mio is in a place outside the range of its attack and observes the praying mantis calmly.

She has done requests in the wasteland and has experience protecting adventurers she accompanies so she knows how to act in this situations.

Honestly speaking, taking into account the boost that Tsige has received because of Tomoe and Mio, Hibiki's group is about third place in Mio's eyes. She doesn't know about their level, but considering their survival abilities and instant decision making, they are just one of those parties that has some skills and has somehow not been buried.

"Bredda!" (Hibiki)

"Roger!" (Bredda)

With Hibiki's voice, Bredda takes a step forward and stops the scythe attack with a wide width sword and deviates it.

(Heh~, it is quite the well done defense. But well I have seen their weapons and I have to say, they have quite the poor equipment... Eh?!) (Mio)

Mio's surprise.

That reason was Bredda. Mio instantly understood that his sword was already not in a state where it could be used properly, but maybe because Bredda still didn't understand that, he was preparing himself to receive the other incoming scythe with his sword.

Moreover, it looked like he didn't notice the difference in nature of the attack at all.

Seeing how low their observation ability is, Mio clicks her tongue. It seems like she was overestimating Hibiki and the others and has been left disappointed.

"Idiot! Evade it!" (Mio)

Without any other choice, Mio warns him.

"Eh?"

From Bredda's look, it seems like he didn't take heed of Mio's words. The reason he let

those words slip was because Hibiki was aiming for a counter.

Flash.

Bredda takes on the second attack of the praying mantis.

But the result will not be the same as last time.

The right scythe had passed through.

Bredda's sword gets torn in two and without stopping, it cut through his left shoulder that was protected by metal like it was paper.

The heavy armor young man coughs fresh blood and falls face up.

His eyes were not filled with despair, but surprise. How pitiful that sight was.

But he is still not dead. The healing light of Chiya who is in charge of recovery envelops Bredda. Wudi's aria doesn't stop and the battle is just begin, or at least that's how it was supposed to go.

"Bredda!! No... M-Mio-san, I am sorry but please!" (Hibiki)

Just like that.

Unrest runs through Wudi and Chiya.

Mio also gets surprised by the unexpected words. It's true that Bredda suffered severe injuries, but he is still able to continue fighting. Or more like, if he doesn't get up somehow, it is certain that everyone will die.

For her to change her thinking to running because of this, is way too fast.

Of course, there is no way for Mio to know this, but it was because Naval's death had become a heavy trauma in Hibiki. Outside it looks like she had already gotten over it, but in reality it was far from that.

Actually, the slight escapism of Hibiki to her previous world had something to do with the cooking discussion she had with Mio.

The normal Hibiki, after seeing the ability of Mio in the beach, she would have answered her questions while asking her to have a bout with her. And yet, she answered all of Mio's questions and just conversed about cooking. Because of the peaceful conversations, she must have unconsciously felt peace of mind.

For the mamono, the people's circumstances are totally not its business.

Mio, while thinking about the unexpected request of reinforcement this early, moves at high speed to the vicinity of where Bredda is fallen.

"Hibiki, you have disappointed me. How pathetic. If you are weak, understand that you are weak and evade the danger. It's a bother-desu. Those two over there, I leave the treatment of that knight to you" (Mio)

Hibiki's shoulders make a big tremble.

"Geez. For a mere insect to think he is allowed to devastate the forest. How will you compensate if with this the number of mushrooms and fruits lower?" (Mio)

Beating its fang and making an obnoxious sound, the mamono didn't show any signs of answering Mio's question.

She stopped the swung scythe with her folding fan, no, not only that, she repelled it.

"Wa!"

"Eh?!"

"Die" (Mio)

She swipes her folding fan horizontally. She didn't even pay attention to whose voice it was.

Mio easily cuts the praying mantis in two along with the forest behind it.

The mamono that had the upper half imitating that of a hyuman and the lower that was of an insect had separated.

"Done. With this you can even get raw materials from it right?" (Mio)

“ ”

To not have words must refer to this kind of situations. That praying mantis was without doubt a strong one with clear presence and she defeated it like if she were taking care of a hoodlum in the road.

Even though she hasn't sweated at all in the battle, Mio fans her face with her opened folding fan.

“Is the knight fine?” (Mio)

“Ah, ehm, yes. I think we will somehow be able to close the wound”

“I see. Then there won't be any need to assist right? Hibiki, help in dismantling” (Mio)

“Mio-san!!” (Hibiki)

The distressed words of Hibiki didn't reach in time.

Without any time to turn back, Mio's back was slashed.

Losing her posture, Mio steps forward several times. There was no scream.

Flapping its wings at a speed that eyes couldn't catch properly, it made its body hover.

“Mio... san?” (Hibiki)

“...Hey, Hibiki” (Mio)

The tone that was being directed at Hibiki was clearly low. Remotely different compared to the time at the beach.

If Makoto saw this he would raise his hands in surrender. That's how dangerous the current anger of Mio is.

The praying mantis that had its body bisected, had gone mad and continued to slash at Mio's back. But Mio was showing no signs of being affected. Of course, there was no blood and unlike the viciousness of the attacks, it was quite peaceful.

“Is my kimono loosening?” (Mio)

“...Uhm”

“It’s ragged, Mio-oneechan”

“...I see” (Mio)

Taking the place of Hibiki who was having troubles saying it, Chiya explains her the situation. Mio puts her folding fan in her bosom. She breathed deeply and exhales.

And then she turns and faces the praying mantis. There, a domain of two giant scythes were raging.

And yet...

Mio thrusts both of her arms without hesitation.

“You... inseect!!” (Mio)

Grabbing the left scythe with one hand, she ties its other scythe whole with the darkness that was gushing out of her right palm.

Thinking that the darkness had gone into the praying mantis’ arm, the arm that was wrapped up in tight muscles had been instantly sliced into thousand pieces and fallen to the ground. Hibiki and the others gulp their breaths. The mamono makes a painful shriek.

But Mio doesn’t stop at just that.

With her open right hand, she firmly grabs the remaining scythe that was grabbed with her left.

And then, with Chiya’s scream in the background...

She cuts it into thousand pieces.

With the slender arms of a girl.

She does that to a mamono that is praised for its strong build.

To the prided arm that had a scythe.

Once again, an inhuman shriek reverberates around the surroundings.

Losing its lower body and its two arms...

The mamono had already noticed its own demise. But even so, it still tried to cling to life and with its flying ability that was still left, it tried to escape from the fight.

However, even that was not possible.

Mio's right hand was still holding the mamono's arm. Its left arm's scythe was cut in thousand pieces and thrown away, but her right hand was still holding its arm.

Increasing the strength of its flapping, the praying mantis that had already lost its original form, created a gale while trying to escape.

“Shut up!” (Mio)

The giant body is send flying in the air in a form that it didn't wish to. Mio had raised it with one hand. And just like that, she smashed it to the ground. The ground that had received the body of the mamono, showed a fissure.

“How dare you do that to the kimono Waka-sama praised!!” (Mio)

The lower body that was lying powerless and the upper body that was being smashed, were wrapped by darkness at the same time.

Even though it was darkness created by magic, a part of it makes you think it's a living being. The wriggling darkness begins to expand and envelops that giant body, and after that, it slowly gets smaller.

In time, the darkness disappears in midair. There was nothing left.

“...Ah... Because I continue letting my guard down. Can the kimono be fixed?” (Mio)

Changing into a troubled face that one would even think it's not the same person, Mio looks at the state of her back. However, Hibiki and the others had no words, and were only overwhelmed by the being that was on a whole different level.

“No good. As expected, this is not the time to be leisurely returning” (Mio)

Mio seems to be pondering about something.

(Mu, thought transmission? Is she talking to someone?)

Wudi who had left Bredda's treatment to Chiya, goes to where Hibiki is and while confirming her state, he notices that Mio's pondering look was because she was talking to someone and he had taken an interest in it.

In time, Mio faces in the direction of the three.

"I have decided to hurry and return to Tsige. I can't just leave you behind so, please do forgive me" (Mio)

Darkness envelops the three.

A sound of powerless falling reverberates.

Mio who had taken away the consciousness of Hibiki and the others, confirms their state and once again connects the thought transmission.

(Tomoe, I have taken down everyone. I am counting on you to get us to Tsige-desu wa)
(Mio)

(I am not a taxi-ja ga na) (Tomoe)

(Taxi? A word I still don't know of huh. Didn't I tell you that this has to do with my learning of Japanese food?) (Mio)

(Ah, that you did-ja na. Well, if it's about that, I will cooperate. Is the gate of Tsige fine?)
(Tomoe)

(Yeah) (Mio)

In the place where an intense fight had taken place, a number of presences disappeared.

Chapter 91

Gossip – Mio, Cooking and Hero (3)

“Ara, you came”

At the interior of the counter, in a place where there is a workshop, a familiar voice is heard. Hibiki and the others notice that they have arrived to their objective.

They are at Tsige which is showing the most growth in this remote region, and moreover, in the Rembrandt Company that is riding on the momentum and growing with it. They are at a corner.

A darkish skin demi-human smiled at them gently from the counter and received them.

It's the sub-branch of Kuzunoha Company in Tsige.

This company has already obtained a deep amount of stable customers and among the adventurers it is a store they admire.

It uses outstanding materials and in this town it is the place with the highest quality of equipment. Moreover, if one has the right amount of money, they even accept orders for improvements or original weapon creations. For equipment that will certainly last for a long time, not only the adventurers but the people who have occupations where they will encounter battles, rate this place highly.

Even so, there are a number of merchants at a corner lining up to buy medicine. Kuzunoha Company's medications are famous for being more effective than those other unskillful magic medications and their sales are rising. There's no doubt that it is doing well as a company.

Right now the armor orders are temporarily stopped, so in the place for armor orders, there's no one. However, a number of adventurer-looking hyumans were there looking at the situation from the distance, so some people were anticipating that the orders will begin again.

Hibiki and her companions were transported to an inn in Tsige by Mio while they were unconscious. Mio gave detailed instructions to the landlady and left the inn. Hibiki's group heard the situation from the landlady (several parts were altered) and devoted themselves to Bredda who was heavily injured, living several days there.

And so, today.

Because Bredda was able to walk normally now, they once again reunited and headed to Kuzunoha Company's sub-branch where they were told they could contact Mio.

Hibiki's group didn't know about the gazes of inquisitiveness and envy that were being directed at them. It's because they were envious of them having connections with Mio, but Hibiki's group who don't know about Kuzunoha Company and the status of Mio in this town, it is no surprise that they haven't noticed.

When the Forest Oni clerk said "Sorry for making you wait", a black haired girl they met a few days ago appeared.

"That knight, it seems he has healed already-desu ne. It's great that it was nothing serious" (Mio)

"Yeah... That time you really aided us. From what I heard, you even lend a hand in healing. We thank you" (Bredda)

Bredda himself steps forward and thanks Mio. Mio glances at him and soon turns her gaze to Hibiki.

"I don't mind-desu wa. I am used to protecting after all. And so Hibiki, it seems that your companion is in a good state but, do you have time?" (Mio)

"Yes. I heard from the landlady that you had business with me. So uhm... Is it about the fight with the mamono?" (Hibiki)

Hibiki's expression is gloomy. Showing a pathetic appearance and being told that she was disappointed, had become a lingering discomfort inside her. For her, there were no past experiences where she has disappointed anyone and no experience in confronting her own weakness.

Coupled with the fight of the demon general that made her hold doubts about her strength, she who is a hero, hadn't been able to digest this feeling inside her yet.

“Fight? Ah, I don’t really mind that. I just said this but, because of reasons, I am used to protecting people like you. Just think of it as being lucky-desu wa” (Mio)

However, Mio’s words totally negated Hibiki’s thoughts. From Mio’s point of view, the way back to Tsige had turned into protecting humans, that’s all.

“We were lucky...?” (Hibiki)

“Yeah, because you guys didn’t die. Moreover, I am not your companion nor your teacher and yet, why do I have to grade your fight and scold you?” (Mio)

Mio’s words implied that she didn’t care much about the life of Hibiki’s group. Those words stabbed Hibiki’s group.

“That is... then why did you save us?” (Hibiki)

“I told this to the landlady too but, Hibiki, it’s because I had business with you-desu. I still haven’t asked you about how to make Dashi from the marine products and dried fish after all” (Mio)

“D-Dashi is it?” (Hibiki)

“Yes” (Mio)

“Just because of that?” (Hibiki)

“? That’s right. If you know about ways to cook, it would be a pity to have you die. Just that. Now Hibiki, you have already taken care of your worries, so please give me some of your time” (Mio)

Without any concern, Mio just answers the words of the dazed Hibiki.

“Mio-dono, we are grateful for saving us, but we are unable to agree to your request. The reason we came here is to train and get good equipment. Sadly, we don’t have time to spare...” (Wudi)

Wudi opposes Mio’s proposal. Hibiki’s group came to Tsige because they were looking for an outstanding place to train. And also to find equipment that matches their skills. For the sake of the rematch with the demon general and also to overcome Stella Fort this time for certain. All of these actions are for that sake.

"Stop it. To be defeated by an enemy of that level and moreover for a party that has the decision making of a baby, stepping into the wasteland will just turn you into feed. Your levels may be high, but in that place that just makes you a child with big build. It's impossible-desu" (Mio)

Mio rejects Wudi's speech as if amazed. It wasn't that she belittled them or scorned them. It was like she was really admonishing a kid.

"Even so! We have to get stronger! We don't have the time!" (Hibiki)

Mio sighs at Hibiki's intense words. Because she saw in her eyes the light of an adventurer hurrying to its death place, the characteristic eyes of a person with narrowed vision.

"I don't understand. I thought you were adventurers who were a bit different, but do you have an objective that makes you hurry that much?" (Mio)

"That is..."

"But I want you to at least repay me for saving your life? Also, no matter how strong you are, do you intent to take such a small child to the wasteland?" (Mio)

"..."

"Silent-desu ka. To think you guys were more stupid than I thought. Hmph, even so, this is troubling. I also can't back off after all..." (Mio)

"Mio-san, for a while we will be moving in the day. So how about I tag along with Mio-san at night?" (Hibiki)

"From how you said it, it feels like there might not even be that many days-desu wan. I see, what should I do...?" (Mio) <Hinting that they will die in a few days if they continue>

Hibiki and Mio converse across the counter.

There, one man cuts in. It's a man that just like Mio, came from the interior of the store.

"Then, how about this?"

“N, Beren. Do you have an ingenious idea?” (Mio)

“It’s not to the point of calling it ingenious though. Mio-sama wants to ask about cooking to that lady there right? And if possible, learn the techniques as well” (Beren)

“Yeah” (Mio)

“And so, the group says they want to get stronger at the wasteland” (Beren)

“Yes. That’s the reason why we came” (Hibiki)

Aside from Hibiki who answered, the others also assent.

“I see, just like how Mio-sama said, if it continues like this, you guys will die in given time. Practically certain” (Beren)

“!!”

“Beren, don’t beat around the bush and just say it!” (Mio)

“Sorry for the courtesy. If you are going to teach Mio-sama cooking, in regards of teaching her, I will also provide everyone with equipment that fits you in deferred payment. You can leave to the wasteland at that time. That way, until the equipment is done... let’s see, three days maybe. In that time it will be done. After that, you will continue teaching Mio-sama cooking at night. What do you think? Excuse me for my impoliteness, it is true that everyone’s equipment is reasonably good, but they seem to be quite damaged. To go to the wasteland like that is suicide” (Beren)

“...Can we be at peace by just changing the equipment?” (Mio)

“Then, how about having Toa and the others accompany them as well? If it’s Mio-sama’s request, they won’t refuse” (Beren)

“I see. If it’s them, as long as it is in the day there’s not much to worry. Beren, wasn’t it an ingenious idea after all?” (Mio)

“I am honored. And so, how about it?” (Beren)

The opinions of the people inside the counter had been arranged and the dwarf craftsman asks for the answer of Hibiki’s group.

"Three days huh. You can't shorten that time?" (Bredda)

"I will be taking the measurements now so. It is a different story from just repairing. Three days is an incredibly short time that no matter what craftsmen you ask would concur" (Beren)

To Bredda's question, the craftsman Beren answers politely. Inside him, he was amazed by the knight who didn't understand smithing.

"What prove do we have that the accompanying adventurers can be trusted?" (Wudi)

It's the magician Wudi. He was worried whether the people accompanying can be trusted. To have the adventurers you hired betray you, isn't that unusual of a story. If a betrayal occurs in a dangerous place, it can even kill them all.

"Toa-dono is the person at the top of Tsige's list. Her face is known and she is not the kind of person who would do unreasonable things. Her party's average level is over 450 and its ability can soon be called high class" (Beren)

"450?!"

"Also, they are adventurers Mio-sama trusts. If you say there's no way you can trust them, then at that time we would have to think of another way" (Beren)

"?!"

Wudi trembles at the gaze mixed with blood thirst that Beren released for a second. He felt like he wouldn't hesitate to take unscrupulous means. To feel danger from a conversation about cooking is just unreasonable.

With a nod that one could take as consent, Wudi steps back.

"Hibiki, what will you do? I do think this proposal is advantageous for your party though?" (Beren)

"...I count on you" (Hibiki)

"Great! Then let's begin the measuring as soon as possible. Beren, hurry. The first one will be Hibiki okay? After that, contact Toa and..." (Mio)

“Everyone, over here please” (Beren)

Being invited by Mio and Beren, Hibiki’s group disappears into the interior of the store.

Limia’s Hero began her restart in the borderland.



This is the first time in Hibiki’s life that several months felt so short.

Now it feels nostalgic the times when they were surprised by the performance of the weapons Beren and the other elder dwarfs created.

From the adventurer party of the girl Toa they were presented to, they have learned the adventurer way of decision making and way of thinking. Toa who was filling the role as party leader, is the type who uses speed as weapon and while it is the same type as Hibiki, she uses a different method to take advantage of the enemy’s openings, and she was able to become a good sparring partner for Hibiki. Toa who thought of Hibiki as a person of her same trade, didn’t find the chance to show Hibiki her trump card and hidden skills. No one knows what the result would be if a real fight were to happen. At least Hibiki thinks that she doesn’t want to confront her.

Lately, Hibiki has not been increasing her level, however, her strength has clearly increased.

At first, Hibiki who was still dragging her trauma of losing her companion, splendidly lost in a spar with Toa who was close to her level. She already has experience, but this is the first time that Hibiki has lost to a hyuman so badly. By the way, she also sparred with Mio, but the result was a complete defeat. She practically didn’t let her do anything.

One time, late at night in the inn where she had expanded a barrier in case of intruders and was sleeping, there was a case when Mio had, not broken the barrier, but passed through it and woke her up. Hibiki who was struggling because she didn’t know what was happening, got easily subjugated and was dragged to the kitchen by Mio who had sparkling eyes, to teach her cooking.

There was a time when Hibiki who was particularly stuck to the idea of levels, didn’t

understand why she lost to Toa who has a lower level than her, and had to ask.

“When I was in Zenno, I was like that. Well, aren’t levels just one of many indicators?”
(Toa)

Is what Toa thought as she remembered the masked merchant.

“Having a high level is just proof that you have killed a lot. You shouldn’t feel strength from a number but with your body” (Mio)

This was said by Mio. It was slightly mixed with the masochism when she was controlled by hunger, but Hibiki didn’t notice it. She was only looking at Mio with admiration.

And that Mio who was being taught by Hibiki the way to make Dashi from dried fish and konbu, had the sparkling eyes of a child.

A companion that has the same black hair as her, and even if it’s only limited to cooking, she is able to talk to her about the knowledge of her previous world in a favorable light. As Hibiki was steadily conquering her trauma, she was at the same time growing dependent of Mio.



Tonight will be the last night her party will be staying in Tsige.

A repatriation order had been send by Limia.

At first, because they were being treated favorably by the dwarfs, Hibiki’s party were a target of envy, but being friends with Toa’s party and the mutual cooperation in the wasteland, and at the same time as Hibiki conquered her trauma, she slowly regained her disposition of attracting spirits and were slowly being accepted by the adventurers in this remote region.

That’s why tonight, a party was being held for the sake of her and her party, and a great number of adventurers were sad at their parting as they make a racket. There were some who decided to follow Hibiki’s party to Limia and there were others who had decided to fight alongside her.

Bredda and Wudi were dead drunk and in that state, they disappeared somewhere.

Maybe they were kidnapped by women who were sad by their departure and wanted to pass a night of passion with them.

Chiya didn't have adventurers who were the same age as her and felt left out, so she had a time when she was homesick, but because she hit it off with Toa's sister Rinon, she was having fun in this party as she drank juice and in the end, the two of them happily went to sleep on the same bed.

And Hibiki...

Had left the tumult and was on top of the rampart that surrounds the town. It couldn't compare to the modern sight of neon, but at her back there's the lighted town of Tsige. At her front, there's the gold highway. The place where the wealthy merchant Rembrandt and his butler saw off Misumi Makoto, is exactly this place.

She is not alone.

From the inner part leaning at the rampart, there is a woman looking at Hibiki. It's Mio.

"I heard you have something to talk about? Is it something that you have to ask me to come all the way here for-desu no?" (Mio)

"...Yes. In that place where a party is being held, I just felt like the mood was not right" (Hibiki)

Hibiki who was looking at the highway, turns around.

"Make it short. Being in this kind of place at midnight can create unnecessary misunderstandings" (Mio)

"As always, when it isn't related to cooking you are so cold, Mio-san. Understood, I have two things I want to convey" (Hibiki)

"..."

"First, Mio-san thank you very much" (Hibiki)

Hibiki lowers her head deeply and gives her thanks.

"If we didn't meet Mio at Koran, I think we wouldn't be alive. The wasteland was a lot harsher than we thought. The trigger was Horn running wild, but I am really glad that I met you Mio-san" (Hibiki)

"I also had an objective after all. There's no need to thank me" (Mio)

(Also, the reason why that wolf called Horn attacked me was because he reacted to my smell. Through the end it seems these guys didn't realize that I am the black spider they fought, but only that thing noticed it. There's no helping it that he attacked me. Also, I have already "silenced" Horn, so there's no need for me to tell her) (Mio)

Mio found out the reason the silver wolf attacked her. On top of that, she gave detailed instructions to Horn and had him unable to disclose anything to Hibiki and the others. Thinking about the conditions, that wolf wouldn't disclose anything, is what Mio thought with peace of mind.

"I was surprised that you even had katanas, but the sword that Beren-san made is really incredible. Our meeting with him is also thanks to Mio, so please accept my thanks" (Hibiki)

Hibiki had her heart quite moved when she saw the katana at the elder dwarfs' workshop. It is also because she originally practiced kendo. When she took it in her hands and unsheathed it, she was dazzled by that beauty and gulped her breath.

But, Beren bluntly told Hibiki that she is not fit for a katana and cut off her longing eyes.

Beren who had seen her sword, had warned her that Hibiki's sword technique didn't fit katanas anymore.

"I can tell that the skills that lie in young lady's body are originally techniques that handle single edged swords. However, the sword that young lady is swinging right now is clearly double-edged sword techniques. I don't recommend the katana which also has a special method of maintenance. That's my opinion as a person who recommends weapons" (Beren)

There was no mistake.

The way of using a sword that Hibiki had originally known was kendo and a bit of fencing. Apart from kendo which she continued in club activities, she also learned a

bit of fencing, but because of reasons, she soon had to stop.

And so, when she came to this world, she had now settled with the real combat sword techniques of the now deceased Naval that are mixed with self-taught techniques as well as the way of fighting with the bastard sword. To use a katana now might be difficult, she herself knows that.

Accepting the warning obediently, Hibiki for the first time obtained a weapon that surpassed her abilities. Contrary to how it has been in the past, she had to train to be able to properly pull out the capabilities of the weapon. That sword which was mixed in with Beren's playful side, is a sword that's bigger than a bastard sword and its appearance is one that can compare to a big sword, but it was unexpectedly lighter than the sword Hibiki used.

If she accurately took into consideration its size, she is able to use it just like her previous sword. That Beren used the scythe Mio showed him nonchalantly as material is one of the secrets that have not been revealed to Hibiki.

Remembering that gratitude as well, Hibiki turns her gaze away from Mio and looks at the night sky.

"I think right now I am only able to bring out about half of the capabilities of this sword. Beren-san also said I still haven't been able to bring out the trick to it and was disappointed. To leave before finishing a task, is honestly mortifying" (Hibiki)

"Not really. The current you can get proper training even without staying here. You probably will be able to use Beren's creation in a near future" (Mio)

"I will do my best. And so, about the other thing I want to convey" (Hibiki)

Hibiki, unusual from her, was showing a look like she is having a hard time choosing her words. Having drunk and eaten enough and not having any urgent business, Mio just waits silently for Hibiki's words.

"...Mio-san, could you please come together with us? In the end I wasn't able to meet him, but I will definitely make sure not to show courtesy to the company's representative!" (Hibiki)

Hibiki has not met the Kuzunoha Company's representative, Raidou. It is someone that comes in conversations at times and she has also heard stories from Toa. That

mysterious merchant who seems to have skill, in the end didn't return from stocking up and Hibiki and none of her companions have met him.

It's just that it was clear that Mio, Beren and the people in the company admire him a lot and when they told Hibiki about Raidou, they showed extraordinary pride.

"I don't want to-desu. I have Waka-sama after all. I told Hibiki too right?" (Mio)

Immediate answer.

"Then together with that Waka-sama. I will also prepare it so he can make a store there" (Hibiki)

"That's also a no-desu. Didn't I tell you that Waka-sama is currently busy?" (Mio)

There were no points where Hibiki could find compromise.

"...This is just an example but, if my wish concerned the world and you pulling back drags Mio-san's important Waka-sama, and turns into a situation where your strength is necessary to cope with. Would you still say that?" (Hibiki)

I am a hero, through the end, Hibiki didn't tell Mio. She deceived her by randomly telling her that her knowledge of cooking was learned from reading books. Of course, it is a lie that just by asking would soon crumble. But for Mio, the important part was the cooking knowledge and techniques and anything else was irrelevant.

It's also because she was uneasy about revealing her position of hero to Toa and Mio, and changing their way of treating her. Being able to stay as a simple adventurer, this several months were fresh, and are really regretful times to part from.

"Not even worth discussing. I don't care about the world at all-desu. What's important is Waka-sama only. If it turns into a situation where a mere woman like me has to provide reinforcement to resolve, it means that Waka-sama can deal with it as well. Then I just need to stay at that grand person's side, and put my life for him" (Mio)

"...No matter what?" (Hibiki)

"No matter what-desu wa" (Mio)

Hibiki thought about just revealing that she is a hero once and for all, but she soon

threw away that thinking. Mio said she doesn't care about the world. Then, even if she reveals that she is a hero that has been called to protect the hyuman society, it wouldn't affect the negotiation.

(Just who in the world is this Waka-sama that Mio-san is so in love with? Toa-san also said that he is on a whole different level and made a wry smile after all. Could it be that guy and Mio's group could even save the world?) (Hibiki)

The comment Hibiki thought jokingly might not be that much of a stupid one, is what she will think back in given time.

“...Fuh~. No matter what huh. I have been splendidly rejected” (Hibiki)

“If you are a person with the role of managing a party, you must know that having it easy and being comfortable is a minus. I don't intend to follow the orders of anyone aside from Waka-sama” (Mio)

“Yes yes, thanks for all the sugar. This is all I wanted to convey. Then Mio-san, with this...” (Hibiki)

“Yeah, take care when returning” (Mio)

“Yes. Mio-san, please visit Limia when you have the chance. At that time I will remember more recipes” (Hibiki)

“Ara, this is the first appealing proposal you have made. I will keep it in mind” (Mio)

For the end, Hibiki did a deep bow and leaves.

That's how the strange meeting of Mio and Hibiki had ended.

Chapter 92

Makoto's worries and unexpected rumors

The company is going well.

I think it is stupid that I didn't think about it, but after opening there have been conspicuous resales and things like buying all the goods. It isn't perfect, but I made some counter-measures.

Specifically speaking, things like limits on how many goods one can buy and "requests" for the people that want to resale.

It isn't something that I can completely stop anyways, so giving up somewhat, I made a plan to the extent I can. Because doing the same thing repeatedly and going stale is just unproductive.

The lectures too... One might say, they are going well.

Since then, the students that were introduced by Brait-sensei some of them remained, and those that remained introduced the class to other students, so we succeeded in securing a fair amount of students.

...That only 5 people remained, well, it's probably good like that. Having too many just makes it troublesome, yeah.

The 5 people are all scholarship students and have the nature of craving for power. Seeing it from a normal student perspective, my lectures didn't fit their taste, but the highest percentage felt danger from it. It was probably not a very desirable lecture.

For the time being I am still accepting students, but I am not really expecting much. As for the students that remained I will do some light "experiments" without permission on a level where their health is not affected, and while at that, have them take the lectures.

Because I use a weakening [Sakai] in the practical skill area the whole lecture, it looks flashy but since it is not on a dangerous level, the academy side decided it was okay.

Just as planned. What I was worried about was that the effect should weaken depending on the scope of the effect, but lately, maybe because I am getting used to it, the effect seems to have increased.

Currently, there haven't been any interference from the teacher faction and it has been peaceful.

In short, the livelihood in Academy Town is going favorably.

And yet...

In the library I have been going to as a habit after my lectures, I find a book I am looking for and sit on a desk that's slightly to the front of it, and just like that I fall prostrated.

A long sigh leaks from my mouth.

Right now, I am being cornered in a sense.

"To think that in this world the hyumans practiced polygamy" (Makoto)

A sacred system that was established by God, or so it seems. Yeah, God.

A monologue comes out from my mouth. Maybe because no one understands me, I feel like my monologues after coming to the Academy have increased. I don't want them to look at me with strange eyes so I am trying to not do it that much though.

But, to think they practice polygamy. That bug, she really gets me every time. That total idiot.

It looks like a system convenient for men, but it is actually not the case. In my lack of imagination, I thought of the polygamy system as something like a harem. I was really naïve.

After looking at the hyuman society I have finally noticed.

This is not something like having as many wives you want and going "uhauha", rather, it is more like the qualitative difference between modern Japan gets even worse.

People that have the most beauty and riches, in other words, the women gather onto

the superior men and it isn't like everyone can have a harem.

On the contrary, it increases the chances of males that can't marry. Goddess, just how many terrible things do you have to do in order to be satisfied? There's no need to screen them out that much.

Polygamy system is actually a really dream-like system for the majority of males.

Even so, it makes the chances of me marrying even lower, or not.

...It's the opposite.

It has been several months since I come to this Academy but, maybe it was 2 weeks ago?

That I was confessed to.

For someone like Shiki, from the first day there were numerous girls that wanted to go out with him, but I just laughed as if someone else's business and didn't envy, nor soothe, or hear his complains.

At the time when my company had rode on the tracks and the Academy had somewhat approved of my abilities; well it is something recent though.

It began with a call that said a student had something to consult. It was a girl I have never seen in my lectures. In short, a student I have never met before.

"Is sensei already married?"

That was the beginning of my nightmare.

[I'm single. What about it?]

Of course, that's how I responded.

I don't know how it turned this way, but after that, the girl said this:

"Then after the third one, could you please marry me?"

The inside of my brain... became a complete mess. In my previous world, when I was

confessed to by my kohai and my club friend, I didn't feel anything like tension or excitement.

I was just dumbfounded. Because, even if a person I first met suddenly asks me to marry her, my feelings are zero. Also she said something about numbers. At that time, I didn't understand the meaning.

To the female student that said something absurd with an unexpected serious face, I breathe out a sigh, knowing that it was rude.

[I am sorry, but I don't have any intentions to]

I was somehow able to write that and left the place.

The next confession was that day at evening. No, instead of confession it was like the first one, a proposal.

And so, in the store, outside, inside the Academy; without caring about the place, they called me and if it gets bad they make a marriage proposal right there.

Moreover, there's always the "please make me your wife number X". However, in the X number, it is always a number that's not number 1. They were mostly 3 to 5.

Polygamy. Really the worst.

I have a business and have a decent amount of money as well as having fair amount of ability. Then they ignore my face and just suggest to be the number 2 wife and on to gold dig. That's probably how it goes. Just their objective of having me support them is cruel and yet, it feels like they might even bring out something like rebuilding their home and have all of my money taken. There were girls who had some transparent ulterior motive like that.

Leaving the love and raising the child to the number 1 or 2, they aim to do nothing at all.

In truth, that's just how it is.

There was once when a girl who had an appearance that was truly to my taste came wearing a white robe and, I couldn't tell if she was demanding research expenses or proposing marriage, but when she did, I said jokingly:

[If you become my number 1, I will marry and give you as much money as you want]

And when I said that, not only did she show me an expression of incredible disgust, she also said:

“No thanks!”

As if her life was at stake, and ran away as fast as she could.

I have been confessed as if looking down on me several times, but that one really got me.

...Really, I give up. It isn't popularity, I am just being locked on as prey. It was a lot easier when they just didn't treat me like a human being. The way they are now makes it hard for my spirit.

In the library there haven't been those kind of developments, but it is just a matter of time.

Now that I think about it, why is it that the library is a safe zone?

Do they have some sort of rule? Or is someone keeping them in check? No matter which, I am grateful.

I raise my head and hold the book in my hands. Now then, let's study today as well.

Today I don't need to go to the store. At first I was doing business with no breaks, but most of the stores normally have a 1 or 2 days break. We even work till late, so thinking that it would be okay to have regular holidays, I made it so in a day when I have lectures it will be a free day.

The small one of the Forest Onis said “Gloria~~!!” and raised her hands in the sky. That girl is someone I still don't understand well.

“Ara, today is a book about religion? Raidou-sensei really reads books of many different types. Magic, combat, history, geography, customs, also demi-humans... The ones I haven't seen you reading are probably tales, math and biography”

[Eva-san huh. If you suddenly talk to me like that, it will scare me. Also, do you remember every book someone like me reads?]

"Yeah. I am interested in Raidou-sensei after all" (Eva)

The librarian Eva-san smiles teasingly.

[Please give me a break. You won't be coming to ask me for marriage as well right?]

"...Ah, so the reason of your fatigue was that. Superficial love. It seems like there are many girls that want to marry. I sympathize with you sensei" (Eva)

[Right now this is the only place in the Academy that can bring me peace. Concerned about my appearance and after my popularity increased they now want to suck on the sweet nectar. Geez, just what do they take marriage for?]

"Well, here the number of students that are nobles or have a big mercantile house is not small, so there are a lot of students that don't think of marriage as mutual love" (Eva)

Changing her smile to a wry one, Eva-san answers to my resent. Maybe she has experience herself, Evan-san doesn't answer in an intellectual way, but in a way that feels like she has some basis. I like when it is easy to understand.

[Political marriage huh. To have such a way of thinking at their teens. Is that normal for nobles and rich people?]

"...It's just that some will reach that way of thinking faster than others. Is one way of taking it" (Eva)

[I think that a marriage where feelings of love exist is not bad though]

It is not that it isn't bad. I really think that's how a marriage should be. Something that connects the people that marry.

"Raidou-sensei is i-, no, pure huh. Since small, no matter who, they would put marriage as like and dislike but... as expected, when one grows up they take into account the feelings as well as advantages and disadvantages. Of course, it is not like it can be put into words nor can be defined with a set definition" (Eva)

Hearing the talk of Eva-san, I remember the voice I heard in my head the first time I met her. Now that I think about it, it resembled the voice of her. That time I didn't link the contents with anything dangerous, so I wasn't sure nor did I take it in mind but...

Maybe she also has some sort of ulterior motive for being considerate with me. If that's the case, then it is a bit sad.

[Then what is Eva-san's meaning of the word adult love and the feelings that it contains?]

"...Let's see. In times it is a material for bargaining. If I say something like that, will sensei be disappointed in me?" (Eva)

[Who knows. However, I am not in the mood of reading anymore. For today I will be going]

A material for bargaining huh. Unexpected. Words that didn't connect to the word love at all. To have heard such a thing from a person who doesn't match that image is just... shocking.

I give her the book I was planning to read and leave the library.



[And so Gin, what did you want to talk about?]

After leaving the Academy, I was caught by one student.

The owner of the voice that stopped me is a male.

It's the male swordsman that has been attending since the first lecture without missing one. He uses magic and seems to have been especially impressed by the style of Shiki, and while learning foundation techniques, there are times when he requests spars with Shiki.

From the five, I just remember the swordsman Gin that has been attending since the first day and the bow-wielding girl Amelia.

Gin uses the sword as main and magic as support in battle, but Amelia uses magic as main and bow as support. I still can't say much, but well, the two of them show promise. Amelia does have desires for power, but more than that, she is in love with Shiki. Maybe she is changing the power of a woman in love into learning power, she is fast at memorizing and improvement.

Well, since I was called by a student I know of, I decided to just take lunch with him.

By the way, Amelia seems to have aesthetics in the afternoon.

Aesthetics.

When I heard this word for the first time in the Academy, my eyes went wide.

After asking in detail and researching in the library, it seems that aesthetics is a concept that was brought about by the Goddess. An institution for the sake of pursuing beauty and spreading it.

Before spreading such stupid things, there should be techniques that need to be taught to humans or something like that. I was truly amazed. Because of that reason, there are names of cosmetics I have heard about before and there were times when I was asked if my company also handles cosmetic products.

Currently I don't manage those and I have no plans to do so in the future though. Things like lipstick and powder are stuff that Tomoe might suggest and I don't want that. In the current state, she is already making Asora pass through so much hardship after all.

Well, for now let's leave aside the topic of Amelia, aesthetics and cosmetics. Honestly, I don't even have the energy to retort.

I wavered, but in the end I decided on Gotetsu.

I haven't visited as frequently as Shiki. Even so, the taste is to my liking and since I am used to coming here, it is relaxing. Gin seems to have come here for the first time and was looking at the store interior with curiosity and smelling the scent of the food.

Asking for a private room at the inner part of Gotetsu, we both enter and take our seats.

"Ah that's right. Sensei comes from Tsige right?" (Gin)

[Yeah]

"Actually there are two students that were attending this Academy and are currently absent" (Gin)

[Fumu, continue]

"They are not scholarship students, but they have quite the skills and are promising" (Gin)

[If they are promising, why are they absent?]

"It seems that they are ill" (Gin)

N, ill? Since Tsige, these are the first ill people. Students... and their age.

Could it be...?

[Could it be, are you talking about Rembrandt's daughters?]

"...So you already knew huh. I heard that Rembrandt Company has quite the influence in Tsige, so I thought you might know" (Gin)

[But what about it?]

"I don't know if they were truly ill, but it seems like they will be returning to the Academy soon. And so, I was thinking about warning Sensei" (Gin)

[Warning? Also Gin, even though school friends are returning to school, you don't seem happy]

"You see... Sensei probably doesn't know but, those sisters are..." (Gin)

[If you are warning me, make yourself clear]

Why is it getting hard for him to say it? What is he trying to tell me?

"...Their personalities are the worst. They are the archetype rich girls and are particular about beauty. And they have good grades too, so that makes their personality even worse" (Gin)

...

.....Eh?

Those girls had that kind of personality? No well, didn't they give more of a fleeting feeling?

No, wait a second.

Now that he mentions it, there have been no moments where I have exchanged words with those girls properly. *“Run away” is the only thing I was told*.

Even if you talk about beauty or whatever, taking into account the wife, the three of them were monsters.

Since Rembrandt-san is a good person, I thought that her wife and daughters were good people as well.

Rich ladies and have a bad personality? Are you serious?

“It seems you didn’t know. No well, lately Sensei has been targeted right? From the girls around” (Gin)

Maybe he took my silence as affirmation, Gin felt sympathy for me.

[Don’t say it. It makes my head hurt]

“When they return to school, it is better to not get their attention. The two of them are incredibly particular about physical appearance so it might be okay, but just in case. It’s just, if they have their eyes on Shiki-san, it might impede the lectures. Really, be careful okay? Ah, this thing called Nabe is delicious. I didn’t know about it~” (Gin)

...

I feel like he indirectly told me something rude. Also, I feel like he is actually worried about Shiki.

[Understood. I will tell Shiki as well]



“Thank you very much! Is this place your favorite Sensei? How tasteful~. Can I come here as well?” (Gin)

[Do what you want. Ah right. Shiki also comes here quite often. Since we are already here, how about I order you his favorite?]

“Is that okay?! I’ll eat! Eh? And Sensei?” (Gin)

[I remembered I had something to do. Just take it easy]

After ordering the cream Nabe on my way back and finishing my revenge for his rudeness, I winced as the seeds of troubles increased while I leave the store.

But, the Rembrandt daughters are ill-natured?

Are they really? Seeing Rembrandt-shi’s stupid manners, I could tell that they were truly loved daughters so I didn’t doubt it. Is he the type of person that no matter how the daughter acts he will still think of them as cute?

Well, if they are really going to be returning to the Academy soon, it will be clear at that time.

After being proposed twice on my way back, I arrived at my store.

Chapter 93

Our home

I have heard a worrying story about the Rembrandt sisters' personality.

I have confirmed it with a number of people, but the reputation of those girls is not good in general.

I am one of the people staying in Academy Town that's why I can't go ask directly, so I asked Tomoe and Mio as well as the eldwa managing the sub-branch, Beren, to investigate in Tsige.

This was recent.

And so today, since there were various reports arranged, Tomoe asked me to return to Asora and decide on a place to meet.

...Actually, recently I haven't stayed in Asora for long. No, honestly speaking, none. The most would be the occasional times I go to shoot the bow.

It's not like I have gotten into a fight with anyone. There was a more simple reason.

"Shiki, can we go now?" (Makoto)

Even if I am trying to evade it, I still have business there so I have no choice. That's why Shiki and I are returning.

"Yeah, it is fine. I have already arranged the reports on our side. It should be okay to leave the business to Lime" (Shiki)

"...Wait, you intent to open?" (Makoto)

It makes me uneasy, so maybe we should just make it a break.

"It isn't a regular holiday and it hasn't been that long since we opened the store, so I think it isn't that recommended to close arbitrarily. I have ordered them to put on wait

any business offers, so there's no need to worry" (Shiki)

I am leaving a lot of the handling of the store to Shiki after all. I feel some sort of dignity there.

"If Chief Shiki says so, I will believe. Then... let's go" (Makoto)

Without waiting for his answer, I open a mist gate.

While holding a melancholic feeling, I return to the Asora I missed.

Suddenly, I feel a thick smell and heat.

Just by being there I was beginning to sweat, and the warm and damp air enters my lungs.

That's right, the climate of Asora that was unstable has recently been stabilized in a high temperature tropic climate.

How discomforting. It is hot and humid, and there's no sight of rain. I'm not really sure if there are, but this makes me feel like there are tropical rain forests out there.

If it were on the level of everlasting summer it would be bearable, but this one easily surpassed the summer in Japan and it was on the level of murder.

This is the reason why I haven't visited Asora recently. I mean, it is really harsh you know!

I thought it would soon change its climate again, but there is no signs of it changing. At this rate, won't the agriculture be affected?

I ordered Tomoe to investigate and she told me that she has gotten to the stage where the report is in order, but she will certainly come with a proposition which has high experimental rate. Well, for now this heat hasn't affected the area that much.

"It's hot as usual" (Makoto)

"Yeah. The Academy seems to be in spring and it is easy to live in, so it makes this place feel even hotter" (Shiki)

“Even though you say that, you have a refreshing expression though, Shiki” (Makoto)

“I don’t mind heat that much after all. Raido- I mean, Waka-sama” (Shiki)

“...In this place I don’t really mind which way you call me you know?” (Makoto)

“Mio-dono... doesn’t seem to like you being called Raidou-sama that much so...” (Shiki)

While making a wry smile, Shiki scratches his cheek. He is worrying about the small details huh.

I just nod lightly and, shaking the air coiling around me, enter my home.

It is even night and it is still this hot. Seriously, what is going on?



“Waka-sama, welcome back!”

When I open the door of the hall where Tomoe and I decided the meeting to be, a big amount of voices suddenly welcomed me!

That scared me! My heart is beating like crazy you know?! What, just what is happening?!

With my mouth still open, I look inside the room and there I saw the residents of Asora gathered.

Doesn’t this look like... everyone is here?

Surrounding a big table, all of them were gathered without care for the race.

Was there such a crazy big table like this? No, there wasn’t. That means it was recently made. Using an incredible trunk of a tree just like that, they... Eh?

Isn’t it way too big? A table that can easily take more than a 100 people easily, just what kind of giant tree is that? Did they cut a world tree or something?

Also, this hall. The house was on the big side, but even so, it wasn’t this wide. With this, it isn’t a hall made for meetings, this is more like the halls aristocrats use to do their parties!

With surprise still showing in my face, I shake my head to the sides and check the situation. Everyone is looking at me with smiles in their faces.

And then, Tomoe and Mio as well as Ema come to where I am.

...That Tomoe, she is showing a face like her surprise was a total success.

Damn it, why is she so happy about tricking Shiki and me?

“...Shiki, are you okay?” (Makoto)

“Yes, Waka-sama” (Shiki)

...

He doesn't show any signs of being agitated. The retainer that has been the longest time with me recently. Not only that, he is smiling.

Eh?

Eh, eh?

“Welcome back, Waka” (Tomoe)

“Welcome back, Waka-sama” (Mio)

When they are in a close distance, Tomoe and Mio welcome me once again. Ema was one step away and lowering her head.

“A, yeah. I am back” (Makoto)

While still confused, I answer with “I am back”.

“Good work, Shiki. Just like planned, it seems like Waka didn't notice anything” (Tomoe)

Tomoe grins while talking to Shiki across me.

“Waka-sama, I am sorry. Tomoe-san said she wanted to do a surprise no matter what so... Lately, you haven't come here at all, so please just think of this as a cute prank”

(Mio)

Even Mio.

...

Shiki, you too huh. You were also involved in this.

Aaah!

Geez! They got me!

"Haaah~ you really did surprise me. I am back! Also, I am sorry for not coming back often!" (Makoto)

"Well, Waka seems to not be used to heat that much so I understand how you feel. Everyone wants you to return a little bit more often. Then, this" (Tomoe)

Tomoe gives me a glass. It has a characteristic scent. Alcohol huh. A night party, I don't really mind. It's a substance with pink color. If I remember correctly, this is a Sake that's made by some sort of fruit and sold well in Tsige.

Everyone's gazes gather on me and all of them contain expectation. Ah, I see. This being a dinner party and me, the leading person, holding a glass means that huh.

"CHEERS!!" (Makoto)

I lift the glass high and announce the cheers. From several places, the sound of glass hitting resonates.

"It's been so long right? Tomoe, Mio. Also Ema" (Makoto)

Before I noticed, Mio was holding a plate of food with the hand that's not occupied by the glass. Wah, so fast. But the party has begun, so it isn't bad to have as much fun as you can.

"Seriously-desu zo. Asking us to investigate while you go to the Academy, only minding about children and business" (Tomoe)

"Everyone missed you. Waka-sama, please come back to Asora more often. I beg of

you" (Ema)

It's from Tomoe and Ema. Well, I receive the obvious scolding. If it were just hot it would be one thing, but I simply can't handle the humid sensation that coils around too well. When I don't have business I don't really want to do it that much, but I really should return to Asora a bit more.

My knowledge gathering in the Academy is going well too and there is no point in learning this world's knowledge and common sense completely. It isn't like I knew all about my place of origin Japan after all.

When I gain the basic common sense and knowledge, I should move to the next step. Knowledge is gained to be used after all. Actually, I am able to playback my memories in Asora and I am clearly reading more than I did in my previous world.

I feel a bit bad about copying all the contents of the library just by reading, but it isn't like I am selling them so please forgive me, is what I use as an excuse. I am a small being.

However, I am a bit worried about how little Mio has talked. She spoke with me a while ago, so I don't think she is in a dangerous state. I was actually prepared to accompany her in all her talking.

"U-Uhm. If you want, please accept this" (Mio)

And when I thought that, Mio encouraged me to take the plate of food in her hands. To bring food for others. Maybe it was because she has been influenced by the adventurers and the people of town? That's admirable Mio!

"Mio, thank you. Heh~ it looks like what I have eaten in Tsige. Un, the flavor is thicker than in Tsige and suits my taste. It's really delicious" (Makoto)

It's like the improved version of the food of Tsige that I was thinking would be better if its taste was thicker. The details are subtly different, but it is probably made by someone from the sub-branch who took an interest in the cooking of Tsige.

I see. Just like this, there's also the pattern of Tsige influencing the culture of Asora. It is a happy happening to be able to eat the food of that town. I have been in Academy Town so I haven't eaten the cooking of Tsige for a while.

“N, what’s wrong? Mio, you were the one who brought it, so you eat as well” (Makoto)

“...”

Even when she recommended the food, Mio looks like she is enduring something and closing her eyes in silence. What? Today Mio is really weird.

“Mio?” (Makoto)

“Ahahaha! Waka, Mio is overcome with emotions!” (Tomoe)

“Tomoe... overcome with emotions?” (Makoto)

“That’s right. What Waka ate was actually something Mio made” (Tomoe)

W-What?!

“Made?! Mio did?!” (Makoto)

“Yeah. It seems that she has awakened to cooking lately. She lowered her head to the cooks in Tsige and is learning cooking from them. Also, she is cooperating in reproducing Japanese food. Sadly, we didn’t make it in time for this occasion. The food over there is practically all made by Mio with all her heart” (Tomoe)

Being told that, I once again look at the food spread on the table. Large plates filled with food, fruits beautifully cut up, soup in pots...

This... was made by Mio.

...Isn’t that impressive?

Even if she awakened to cooking, it has only been a few months.

If you ask me about what food I could cook with that amount of time... Ah, it would be the time when I messed up the water in the rice cooker and it became a big uproar. A past I want to forget.

I am totally in despair about the difference in learning capabilities. And at the same time, I am honestly impressed by how amazing Mio is.

To be able to reproduce the food she ate in the stores in such a short period of time.

“Mio, you are incredible. It was really delicious” (Makoto)

I tell her my honest feelings.

Mio trembles for a second and slowly opens her closed eyes. Her face was filled with satisfaction.

“Waka-sama, to think that cooking was such a wonderful thing. I didn’t know” (Mio)

“Eh? Weren’t you practicing for a while now? Also, you were practicing because you liked it right?” (Makoto)

“...No, I didn’t understand. And today, I have learned true happiness” (Mio)

“...I see” (Makoto)

“Yes! Waka-sama, next time I will prepare something even more delicious! That’s right, more, more-desu!” (Mio)

Suddenly making a proclamation, I thought that Mio was going to head to the food in the table, but she actually went the opposite way and left the hall.

W-What happened?

“Yareyare, that Mio. Looking at her like that, she probably intents to ignore the report meetings that are to come-ja na. Well, aside from the ingredient reports, she only has a few cases in Tsige that I already know of, so it shouldn’t pose any problems” (Tomoe)

“Tomoe, uhm, Mio is...?” (Makoto)

“Probably in Tsige. Right now, it seems like an adventurer with rare cooking techniques is there. It seems like in exchange of learning cooking from that person, Mio is taking care of a lot of difficulties for her. I pity her, looking at Mio’s state, she will probably be dragged into an all-nighter” (Tomoe) *<Remember the barrier trespassing incident? Also no gender denotation here>*

What a nuisance she is being. Even though cooking is like an odd job technique for adventurers. Well, Mio is looking after a lot of problems so it should prove as beneficial

for her principal occupation. Well, there's no need to worry huh. It seems like she is engrossed in cooking, so I don't have to worry about her injuring that adventurer.

"Well, it is good that she is satisfied" (Makoto)

"Thank you for your lenient words. Then, there are A LOT of people that have been wanting to meet Waka, so let's go together. The meeting can be done later. Ah, I don't mind you drinking sake, but please try not to get drunk. Shiki, and master as well" (Tomoe)

"Looks like it will be a long night huh" (Makoto)

"I will restrain from Sake. I feel like it would affect my actions in tonight's report meeting after all" (Shiki)

"Shiki is really uptight-ja no. I won't say it is bad, but you are being too stiff. I think it would be nice to have a bit of alcohol in your system. Ah that's right, since we have the chance, let's have food brought into the room of Waka where we will be holding the meeting. Ema, can I leave this to you?" (Tomoe)

"Yes. I will have it done. Everyone seems to be so happy to see Waka-sama after a long time. Today's drinks seems to be quite a lot, so there will probably be people who will be dead drunk soon. I will gather people and have them prepare to nurse" (Ema)

Ema lively gives orders as she disappears into the crowd. Even if she looks like that, she is the type that likes Sake. We have made her take on a hard task. I will have tell someone to bring her food and Sake later.

Anyways, that Tomoe. I thought this at the time of Lime as well but, this girl, she really acts like a rogue. To drink while deciding our plans huh. Since it is like this, I feel like I will hear good news but...

"Now now, Waka. From the eldwas first, in order. They can't wait anymore. They have been doing their best. Do reward them please" (Tomoe)

"Yeah, I understand" (Makoto)

No objections here. Everyone is really doing their best. I haven't been coming that often, but I understand plenty enough.

There's no need for Tomoe to tell me. If I am enough, I want to go to the places of everyone and give them my thanks.

Along with Tomoe and Shiki, I head to the residents who have made a line and waiting for me.

Chapter 94

Late night report

“You guys may be tired, but we will begin the report. Is that okay, Waka?” (Tomoe)

“Yeah, of course. I’m counting on you okay?” (Makoto)

The party is still continuing with a number of heavy drinkers. Most of them went down already or were satisfied. The ones left are those that stay till morning.

We also tasted the fun of the party plenty enough and are now back in my room.

When we returned to my room, there was a decent amount of food and sake and also water. It felt like a night snack.

In that room of mine, the important report began.

“Then, first of all, there is one thing that might be important. Regarding the investigation Waka asked me about the battle region” (Tomoe)

“Ah, how was it? What do you mean by it might be important?” (Makoto)

Things like Sofia and Lancer’s tracks and the ring that can seal the Goddess’ powers. Places that can become some sort of hint. What did she understand?

“In the middle of my investigation, I encountered the hero” (Tomoe)

“H-Hero?!” (Makoto)

The hero as in the people that got kidnapped by the Goddess, the other earthlings aside from me?!

“Yeah. The one I met was the Gritonia Empire’s Hero. The one called Iwahashi Tomoki. From what I saw, he was about the same age as Waka” (Tomoe)

“Gritonia? Eh, Tomoe, weren’t you supposed to be in Limia?” (Makoto)

Even if they are adjacent, they are fellow major powers. The place where Tomoe went was a place close to the capital of Limia, so if there were people from Gritonia, there must be a reason for it.

"He was probably planning something unpleasant. Also, how to say it, he was trash. Well, since Waka was in Academy Town and I judged that he wouldn't be any danger, I just ignored him though" (Tomoe)

...I am hearing a report about the current hero right?

"It seems like the Gritonia hero is one that is attached to greed. After the battle with the demons, he probably intents to wage a war between humans. Also, the princess that was accompanying him..." (Tomoe)

"Wait. Princess? Are you telling me the princess was moving together with the Gritonia hero?" (Makoto)

"Yes. Looking at that, I think they are quite close to each other. Just that part, I want Waka to learn from" (Tomoe)

Meaning that he placed his hands on the princess? The princess of a major power? He is quite free that Iwahashi guy.

Also, he is close to my age. Being told that one of the heroes is a person close to my age makes me feel happy but at the same time it doesn't. It's a complicated sensation.

"And?" (Makoto)

Leaving it as if I never heard her comment about learning from him, I push her to continue.

"...The princess' thoughts were surfacing out. There was the word "gun" mentioned. There was also the image of gunpowder, so there's the chance she is trying to make guns" (Tomoe)

"Guns?! It is obvious that it is completely below the magic here. Then, what is her objective?" (Makoto)

I don't see any merits of spreading guns in a world where magic defense can easily defend against. Even more if it is a major power.

And it is Gritonia, one of the countries which holds the most influence in hyumans. What is she trying to do? It will only lengthen the war unnecessarily you know?

No good. I can't get the reason Gritonia is trying to make guns. In the war against the demons, it would be safe to say that guns are totally useless. It may vary depending on how one uses it, but for the hyuman army that holds simple thought patterns like increasing attack power by leveling up, I really don't think they would be able to use it effectively against the demons who are said to be several generations ahead in strategy.

There's only one thing I understand. It is bad. No matter how stupid it sounds, as long as it's the princess of a military country that is developing it, there should be some sort of objective behind it. There's no doubt that the gun development doesn't involve peace.

There's the possibility that it will be used for fights between hyumans. If small guns are made, it will probably have uses in assassination missions. If it is arranged properly, there's the chance that it won't be recognized as a weapon.

Gritonia Hero. His name was Iwahashi something. Why did you teach the hyumans of this world about guns?

"I don't know the details. Honestly speaking, they are quite the unpleasant bunch. Not only looking at their memories, I actually wanted to secretly kill them without telling Waka. But after thinking it through, I held back and decided to wait for your decision" (Tomoe)

"Then, you didn't fight them right? I am sorry, but I want to meet them at least once before deciding" (Makoto)

Iwahashi Tomoki huh. Including the Empire, I am a bit interested.

About the guns, if possible I want to destroy them before they come out to light. Because having weapons from my previous world spreading around here and probably bringing about death, I just don't like it.

Of course, since it is a major power, I would have to make a plan for the sake of the future. And then, I will have to make sure of the reason of why they are trying to develop something like guns. If not handled properly, there's the possibility of similar things being created one after the other.

This... feels like it will be troublesome.

"As you will. Next, about the Goddess power and the information about the dragon killer. There was practically none. Just in case, I checked the bottom of the lake as well" (Tomoe)

"I see. Good work. What about information of me?" (Makoto)

The important part didn't have much progress huh. Just in case, I try asking Tomoe about information of me.

That time, demons and hyumans saw me after all. I want to know what kind of situation it has turned into in Limia.

"...About Waka, there was no information around. It seems there was someone rampaging right after that, so the rumors were all over that story" (Tomoe)

For a moment she seemed like she was pondering about something, and after Tomoe looked like she arranged her thoughts, she continued talking.

"Oh, rampaging? Just what happened?" (Makoto)

It is good the information of me faded and disappeared, but it sounds like a dangerous story.

"I wasn't able to pick up a detailed image from the ones who survived, but it seems like someone threw an attack so strong that it created a lake and made the fight stop" (Tomoe)

"Created... a lake?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. Involving several rivers in the area, a quite big lake was created" (Tomoe)

"What is with that monster?! Isn't its nature worse than Sofia's? Isn't there the chance that it was something the Goddess did?" (Makoto)

"Pfft!" (Tomoe)

Why do you laugh?

“Tomoe?” (Makoto)

“No, sorry about that. About that “thing”, there’s several testimonies about its appearance and it is shrouded in mystery. I could only tell that it is being called the “Devil”” (Tomoe)

Even though I was flashily fighting with Sofia and Lancer and my face was seen by a decent amount of demons. Was there a person there who didn’t have any particular figure and was able to finish the fight in one attack?

...I’m glad I was able to come back alive.

“Devil huh. To think such a monster was in that battlefield. In that case, more the reason to increase my abilities or it will be dangerous. Shiki, you may be busy as well but, don’t go missing training ok?” (Makoto)

“Y-Yes! Of course, Waka-sama!” (Shiki)

What? He is strangely humble. The surprise is already over, so he should just act normally.

“Y-You are right. Thanks to the Devil, the investigation is proving difficult and the tool that’s said to seal the Goddess powers is currently hard to say anything. About the thought transmission, I have obtained favorable information and I am planning on going faraway tomorrow on” (Tomoe)

“Favorable information?” (Makoto)

“It’s information from the demons. It seems like the demon race has obtained a ground-breaking notion of the thought transmission and are using something like a secret transmission, a special sort of thought transmission. I think it will serve as a hint for the improvement of the thought transmission that Waka was looking for. Well, my gatherings are till this point” (Tomoe)

“Heh~, it is certainly a point of interest. A special thought transmission huh. Tte Tomoe. There’s not only that right? What about Lime, Tsige and the Rembrandt sisters?!” (Makoto)

“Ah, that huh. About the spy, in hyuman towns like Tsige it is easier to use a hyuman to gather information. After giving Lime his weapon, I checked how he was and thought

that he was useful, so I made him the spy number 1 that's all. About the recent investigation of the Rembrandt sisters that Waka asked for, it seems like they don't walk outside that much, so I couldn't get much. There was also the case of them being ill, making the information less. I thought about just asking their parents to save time, but I only listened to them boasting about their daughters. Even when I tried to look at their memories, there was only sparkles and beautified moments, so I just couldn't take it. And so, the authenticity of the information is unknown. Well, you are going to be meeting them, so isn't it fine to just wait for then? Just for two hyuman girls. I don't think they will pose any problems" (Tomoe)

So there's no information because they were ill and didn't come out often huh. Even when I confirmed in detail with Tomoe, she hasn't even heard about the sisters' bad reputation.

Maybe because they are close to their parents, they are playing the good kids?

"The problem is that when I am in the Academy my stomach hurts. In a hyuman town it is better to use hyumans huh. Well, that is logical. And in truth, since Lime got to Academy Town, we have been able to gather quite a good amount of information. He is a real help. Thanks Tomoe" (Makoto)

"...I think, I understand the feelings of Mio a bit. Thank you for your kind words. I trained Lime firmly after all. Right now his winning percentage against Mondo is higher. So use him as much as you want" (Tomoe)

There's no doubt I am grateful. Tomoe's actions normally go one step further from what I want her to, but it's true that she is working well. Saying that she understands the feelings of Mio, Tomoe narrows her eyes happily and lifts the corners of her mouth into a smile. The expression of Tomoe was so imposing and different from her usual self that makes it feel even more charming.

I also heard a nostalgic name. Mondo huh.

Ah, the no-brain Forest Oni. I haven't met that person lately, but his atmosphere must have changed quite a lot. Akua and Eris are on the level that they can serve hyuman customers after all. However, it seems like Lime has gotten so strong he is now able to fight against the strongest of the Forest Onis. I didn't know that.

"Got it. Now then, it is probably our turn to report" (Makoto)

"No, actually there's one more thing. It's an important report regarding Asora. The reports on your side, I have already heard the ones that stand out the most from Shiki. It seems like you have become quite popular" (Tomoe)

Now it wasn't the cute smile from a while, but a grinning face.

"Stand out? That's the most irrelevant report of all. Well, if you have already heard it that's fine. Let's hear the important report of Asora" (Makoto)

Shiki. Counting your help in the surprise today, it seems like you have been meeting with Tomoe quite a lot. Even though you should have been busier than me. Just when does this guy sleep?

...There are also times when he stays up late reading books. Could it be, he actually has quite a lot of days where he doesn't sleep at all?

"Yeah, it's about the change of Asora's irregular climate. I discovered the reason. The way to solve it, I think it is also doable" (Tomoe)

"!!"

Finally!

It is one of the problems Asora has been having since the beginning. It seems like the cause has finally come to light. The hectic climate that in times was summer, in others winter, some dry and others damp; it is finally going to be solved.

Even if I have a body that resists heat and cold, if the climates keeps changing so often, it will feel uncomfortable. There are times when the children or the old people have their physical condition affected. It is a problem that should be resolved.

"The reason for the change in climate is..." (Tomoe)

The report of Tomoe continues.

Chapter 95

Asora changes with him as the origin

“Me?!”

I unintentionally raise my voice at Tomoe's report.

It resounds well in the silent night where the report continues. I would feel bad if I wake up the people that are already asleep. Holding my mouth, I urge Tomoe to continue.

“Accurately speaking, it is the place where Waka is currently in. The places where you have passed through with the mist gate are affecting the climate of Asora, is what I think” (Tomoe)

“What? To think that Waka-sama was deciding the climate of this world. But in that case, it would be possible to change the temperature and weather drastically in a single day” (Shiki)

“Umu, the cases of radical changes are low though. It seems like in a day, there is a set time where it takes the last place Waka passed through and changes the climate largely-ja” (Tomoe)

“In short, what would happen in the cases where Waka-sama goes to Tsige in daytime and night at the Academy?” (Shiki)

“I still don't know what would happen. To investigate it in detail, I would have to take some time with Waka. In truth, I don't know if what's affecting it is the place Waka has been in or the problem is the place where the gate has been opened, so I still can't say for sure. Even the reason about it being the gates is not set” (Tomoe)

“...Fumu, this is a serious matter. For a short while I will be handling the issues in Academy Town. I will try to make it so Waka-sama can be here whenever there's no lectures” (Shiki)

Tomoe and Shiki seem to be continuing their discussion.

If talking about me, I was really surprised and no opinions were coming out. I was practically blank right now.

I mean, just because I am walking around the world, the climate changes along? Even though the weather should be decided by things like: latitude, longitude, wind, tide, rotation, revolutions.

Is the climate in Asora decided by my location or something close to that? I-I can't even travel with peace.

In that case, this crazy discomforting heat has something to do with the location of Academy Town? No, not the location, it's more like because I am there.

"Then as a temporary counter-measure, we should have a mist gate fixed in a place where the climate becomes good and use that in the future?" (Makoto)

I finally try to bring out what I thought. It will be harsh not to use mist gates, but I can't be picky. In the worst case scenario, I will have Tomoe open the gates and bring the goods... Tte, that's no good. She seems to be in the middle of investigating. Her investigation is related to the thought transmission, so I don't want to stop it.

"No. Not being able to use mist gates would be inconvenient for Waka after all. We will try to narrow the conditions, and after pinpointing the reason, we will think about how to deal with it. I already have a few methods in mind" (Tomoe)

It was immediately rejected.

"I think that's for the better. Luckily, until today there hasn't been any serious problems for using the mist gate, and if we don't use it, it would greatly affect our stocking. But using Tomoe-dono all the time won't be efficient" (Shiki)

They are right. Just like Shiki said, not only the interference of the Goddess, even the Church that are faithful are not showing any movements. Regarding the mist gate and Asora, it is probably safe to assume that the Goddess still doesn't know of it.

"How are we going to pinpoint the reason?" (Makoto)

I wanted to hear the concrete method. It is better to resolve problems that are able to be resolved as soon as possible after all.

"The first thing I want to test out is Waka opening several gates and leaving them all without removing the traces completely. Which gate would be affecting the climate or will it still continue with the climate of Academy Town where Waka is. I want to make sure of this one" (Tomoe)

"I see. If one of the gates affects the climate, in the case there's a change, the theory of it being the place affecting it will be valid" (Shiki)

"That's how it is-ja, Shiki. And after increasing the trial and error, it will be easier to pinpoint. It was a method I thought of in my time at Tsige. I have the climate recorded of when Waka was lodged in a village and returned to Asora" (Tomoe)

"As expected of Tomoe-dono" (Shiki)

She had a guess since Tsige, and was gathering data to back up her conjecture. Even though I didn't try to put much mind into it and just considered it a strange climate of Asora. Shiki's words were the representation of my emotions right now.

"Then, is it okay to just teleport to each town once more?" (Makoto)

"Waka, if you do that, there's a chance that the Goddess will notice. I have several gates created already, so you will accompany me, and on top of that, Waka will create a gate once more" (Tomoe)

"Uh, you are right. Teleporting is probably dangerous. Sorry, then I am counting on you" (Makoto)

"Yes. Tomorrow we will go together at the time of departure. And, at night return to Academy Town to rest. The day after tomorrow will be when we will see the first results of the test. I will also take in mind that I have to return every day" (Tomoe)

I feel a bit of self-disgust. Even though I already knew that using teleport formations are probably dangerous, I still talked without thinking.

At this rate, Tomoe seems to intent to do this while minding about her other business. This ability to deal with things, way of thinking. I have to learn from her.

"This will mean that several gates will have to be left open. Will the guarding be okay?" (Makoto)

"I will have the lizards and Arkes stop their town patrolling and deploy them in the area of the gates. Just in case, I will have the gate of Asora itself moved a bit and leave it for future decisions. I plan on not letting adventurers enter for a while" (Tomoe)

"You are right. The rumors are already spread well enough, so I don't think there'll be any problems. I will do the analysis as well-" (Makoto)

"The analysis will be done by me and Ema, and I will gather several others, so there's no need for Waka to go through the trouble. Thanks to Waka endeavoring on books, the numbers of books here has increased quite a lot, so the number of people that can work their mind have increased" (Tomoe)

The books I read in the Academy huh. So those are already being spread around. What a scary work speed. It's on the level that I am worried about them falling from overworking.

And it also makes me feel like I will turn into an unneeded element, making me feel anxious. Everyone is way too reliable.

"Me also, if I am needed, please call me. I am interested too after all. I want to help as much as I can" (Shiki)

I see, Shiki has a lot of knowledge and he looks like he would like to do experiments.

"No, you still have the soil improvement and the rice production case too, so I want you to concentrate on those. Also... you have the case of the fruits of Asora as well" (Tomoe)

"Muh, you are certainly right. In the end, in those cases I could only come up with negative methods to resolve" (Shiki)

"It isn't limited to the people of Tsige. If one thinks about it, using the seeds of the fruits to grow them is an option that one can easily come up with" (Tomoe)

"Yeah. That they would grow atrociously was outside expectations though" (Shiki)

What he means by atrocious is...

The time when I sold fruits in the outskirts of Tsige. There were people who tried to grow the fruits of Asora from the seeds. By the way, it was apples.

It's one of the fruits that have the highest price in Asora. They were probably thinking about cultivating them in the neighborhood. Just like what Tomoe said, something that was clearly predictable, the me at that time didn't think of it at all.

Well, if we are talking about growing, it did grow. Even if I say that, I only confirmed it when it was still several centimeters and didn't see if it could become a tree and give fruit.

However, even though it only grew a few centimeters, it created an atrocious effect on the surroundings.

We learned of it after getting a request from the Adventurer Guild to investigate.

There was a strange report that part of the land rapidly became barren and the magic power in the surroundings became weak.

When we went to check, we saw that there was a sprout of an apple tree.

It seems that the crops and plants of Asora absorb quite a lot of nourishment in this world in order to grow. In the modern world I have heard of crops that would make the field radically decrease. This seemed just like that version but worse.

By the time we noticed, the fruits of Asora were already widely scattered in this world, so there's the possibility that someone still has seeds of it.

After talking with the residents of Asora as well, we made it so that we wouldn't give out that many fruits away. We didn't completely prohibit it though. It is probably a situation where it would be better to completely restrict it but, there's still a part I am concerned about.

Well, the plants are not at fault. We had the apple sprout brought back to Asora and replanted in the garden of my house.

"And so, I remembered. Shiki, what happened to that experiment where you used students?" (Makoto)

Regarding the crops of Asora, in the Academy, the hypothesis of Shiki and "him" brought about an experiment. It is something like a human body experiment, but it has already been tested by the residents of Asora on how it would affect the humans and it probably doesn't have any negative effects on their health.

If there's an irregularity, I intent to have Shiki do treatment immediately.

"...Actually, it seems like, currently, there's practically the same results as the residents of Asora. It seems like it affects the strength of the body as well, so I intend to continue but, it is just... very interesting" (Shiki)

"I... see. Does it seem like there's any damage in their health?" (Makoto)

"No, rather, it seems like they are even healthier. It was an extremely nutritious fruit after all" (Shiki)

A certain change seen in the residents of Asora...

This is something that was pointed out by Shiki and Tomoe in the past and investigations began. I was told that the orcs and lizards look like they have received an increase in strength and magic power.

After confirming it in detail, it was judged that the reason was what they eat.

The effects varied between persons, but the intake of fruits was especially involved in the increase of strength. It may be little by little, but it was clear that it was increasing.

Just that, in the people that were not warriors didn't have that much increase in body strength, and the people who didn't have strong magic power didn't show much increase in magic power.

It turned out that it showed the best performance with people with special characteristics.

And so, with Shiki's proposition, we decided to try it on hyumans as well but, we don't know the limit of the enhancement and there's no assurance that it will have the same results on hyumans. At first, I rejected the idea.

But after doing lectures in the Academy numerous times, there was one student that was attached to strengthening medications and after making that person aware, I finally accepted the experiment.

The result is just as how the report said. It seems to have practically the same effects as the residents of Asora. Meaning, the fruits of Asora work as Status Up items for the hyumans as well.

In that case, would it be better to not bring out fruits from Asora?

"If you say practically the same, it means that there a slightly different inclination?"
(Makoto)

"Yeah. The hyumans, compared to the orc and lizards, seem to have a higher rate of increase. At first, Gin who ate it, had an increase of about 1/3 of his magic power. The increase is practically on the same level as the Arkes who are a lot higher in base stats"
(Shiki)

"So the effects are high huh. The limit is currently not known even in the residents. More like, it would be bad if the hyumans learn of this" (Makoto)

"Yeah. For a while we should deceive them by saying that it is their talent budding. Luckily, Waka-sama's lectures are absurd in a lot of meanings, so it will sound plausible" (Shiki)

"The increase in strength works the same in hyumans huh. There are some plants that have the characteristic of saving up magic power. It really surprises me. I will tell them to temporarily stop the distribution of fruits. Well, thinking of such a benefit, it will take time before we will be able to secure enough to make experiments again. I think there are still fruits that have not been tested though" (Tomoe)

"In that case, taking into account the marriage proposals aiming for money, my lectures will become the topic for talks and students will begin to swarm around me once again huh. Hahaha... looks like it will be a bright future" (Makoto)

Even though events in the Academy will increase from now on...

Chapter 96

In whole, a favorable wind

Finishing the test Tomoe proposed last night, I walked around checking Asora with Shiki and Ema.

In various places the work at hand was farming and construction. I was told of everything new they have found in the area.

When I heard about the expansion of the land, I learned that the needed facilities from one avenue have been completed and are now dividing the blocks for soil preparation. After finishing one street, putting everything in order is hard so they are probably doing it beforehand. Regarding the residents, there's quite the scale in the town, so I think they can do as much soil preparation as they want. This is... that maybe? The silent pressure telling me to gather more residents?

I did ask an excessive request like making a miniature town for the sake of having adventurers come in, and yet, a part of it is already done. I think that's quite impressive. Talk like "Being here and at long last reaching this point" may sound simple, but I feel like it is the best answer.

The agricultural field seems to have increased its efficiency a lot since Shiki came and did various things to it. If we talk about the things I have suggested in the agricultural field, it would be a simple way of making a paddy field, segmenting the field to use in turns and cultivate depending on the season. All things I learned in school and in field trips.

Moreover, there are things I'm probably wrong in. I am not specialized in that area, so I don't know what's most important.

That's why I think Shiki is clearly being more useful than me.

Of course, the orcs at the fields have been working on fields for way longer than me, so since they have experience, there were lots of things they already knew. Like, it isn't good to cultivate the same crop on the same field several times in a row. Repeated cultivation disruption, or something like that?

They are people that somehow managed to farm in a barren land. They are more reliable than me in that area.

"Now that I think about it. Ema, even though Shiki tinkered with the earth, are things like astragalus and white clovers still being grown in the dormant fields?" (Makoto)

I taught them about the astragalus and white clovers that are used to fertilize the earth, and suggested them to try growing those in fields that are lying fallow in the cycle.

If they are now able to reform the soil, then I think there's no need for it though. But it isn't that simple of an issue huh. If it's a potted plant, one ampoule would resolve most of the issues, but horticulture and agriculture are subtly different so talking imprudently might not be a good idea.

"Yes. The plants in here tend to grow extraordinarily fast, and there's also the issue of not being able to follow the seasons, so we are doing the cycles with the number of cultivations. After consulting Shiki-sama, he said that there's sufficient merit in having them rest so we continue doing it. It also looks beautiful, so it serves as a playground for the kids that are in the middle of work, that's why there's some opinions saying that it would be a shame to not have them around. Luckily, in the present condition we are still able to fill the emergency stores with the amount of harvest, so I don't think there's a problem" (Ema)

A playground huh. In the time I was in Japan, it was a scene I have seen only a few times, but it is certainly true that looking at small flowers like astragalus and white clovers calm one down. To have them stay because of that reason might be good. Or is it too naïve?

Ah, that's right. In a situation where we can't count on the seasons, things like cycles are kind of pointless. I ended up talking about vague memories I had of when I read a history book. The growth rate is fast so they are probably managing somehow. Ema-san also said that the amount is plenty enough.

If I remember correctly, there was a time when we planted soybeans and in about 1 month it was green and ready to harvest. When I said some vague words like: "If there was a way to adjust the temperature and amount of light, we would be able to speed up the growth" and just like that, a system to harvest them in one month was created. I was seriously surprised. I felt like I saw Tomoe's ability when she is serious.

"Ah... seasons huh. In that part, please wait for a bit more. We are currently investigating" (Makoto)

"Ah, no! I didn't mean it like that..." (Ema)

Tto, damn it. I didn't intend to blame her or anything.

"From the previous explanation, it seems like the amount made has increased decently" (Makoto)

"Yes. Following the instructions of Shiki-sama, we adjusted some things and are now able to harvest in about 2 weeks" (Ema)

2 weeks?!

To take 2 weeks after planting the seed. Even though 1 month was plenty fast. In that case, there won't be any problems with food and soil in Asora. I have been receiving several reports of people from the wasteland wanting to migrate here. It might be time to increase the amount of residents.

I look at Shiki as if looking at an abnormal-, I mean, at a genius.

"It wasn't much", is what his face was saying.

"I just used what Waka-sama said as a base, arranged the elemental spells that could be used, and told the orcs in an easy to understand way. The arable land is currently sufficiently self-supported, but I plan on thinking up more things to improve it for future's sake. I think I will be concentrating mostly on the product improvement" (Shiki)

It is already to the point that one could find food just by walking around normally, so it should be okay to not push yourself so hard.

There's still some places that are not cultivation fields yet, but there's plans to do so, so it seems like by increasing the area and gathering numbers, it will be totally fine.

"...Shiki, I am happy that you are ambitious but, try to get enough sleep okay?" (Makoto)

"Even if there are times when I want to sleep, it won't affect my body's health even if I

don't, Waka-sama" (Shiki)

"Don't joke with such a straight face please" (Makoto)

Shiki may be saying it seriously, but I just push it as a joke. Look, even Ema is making a wry smile.

"U-Uhm, you see. Waka-sama, as you can see, there isn't much problems with the cultivations and paddy fields but..." (Ema)

"Yeah?" (Makoto)

"There's something... I want to consult you about" (Ema)

Saying that, she presses me and Shiki forward.

What? Did they find a new plant and are having problems?

We left the vast field that stretched out in front of us.

The orcs that were working and the ones that were in break, all lowered their head and saw us off. We both followed after Ema.



The place where Ema guided us, had several plant stumps growing. They probably found them and brought them here with stump and all.

A big plant of 2 meters, no, about 3 meters. Its form makes me think of tropic but, this is...

Looking at it to see what was its identity, I found a familiar fruit growing from it.

Ah, so it was this.

But why are the Forest Onis here? Are they helping in gathering as well? For some reason Komoe-chan is here too. She would normally come running to me, but right now she is beside the Forest Onis and looking at the plant in question.

"This is a banana. So there's even this here" (Makoto)

I am surprised that it was able to grow so big in a place like Asora. This is my first time seeing it growing from its tree. Maybe the bananas are unexpectedly tough.

That they are yellow might be because they are ripe already. If I remember correctly, they should be green at first.

“Yes. According to Waka-sama’s memories, this is supposed to be the fruit called banana that grows in hot places, but...” (Ema)

Ema seems to be bewildered. When I look, the forest Onis and Komoe-chan are fidgety and unable to calm down. What is it? Maybe because the Forest Onis have the image of always being wringed out by Tomoe, seeing Komoe-chan acting the same as them makes me feel uncomfortable.



“Yeah, they seem to grow in places with hot temperature like the current Asora. So?”
(Makoto)

“We checked the reference book and it seems that the banana grows black seeds inside it. But in the stumps that the Forest Onis checked, they couldn’t find any such seeds”
(Ema)

Reference book. She is probably referring to a plant reference book. I did read a book like that in the past.

But, did bananas have seeds? I feel like it didn’t have...

Ah, could it be...

“Ah, maybe it’s because they originally had them” (Makoto)

“Had them? If they don’t have seeds, we won’t be able to cultivate any new ones. How do they propagate?” (Ema)

“Uh?! Uhm, there are fruits that are modified according to the people’s convenience, so maybe for some reason the bananas began to grow with that kind of trait” (Makoto)

It’s Asora, a place where one can suddenly be able to harvest delicious radish, carrots and tomatoes. Those are also in the shape after being altered. The apples, pears and even the peach are like that.

That’s why I thought that them being modified was not anything strange.

This is bad. It doesn’t answer the question of how to propagate them.

“If I remember correctly, it is possible to peel the skin easily and eat it, moreover, it is incredibly delicious, however, in that case, it means that when this batch runs out, they will go extinct” (Ema)

Hearing the words of Ema, the Forest Onis make a grim face. Even though you guys are the ones that discovered it, why are you so sad about it?

Tears are welling up from Komoe-chan’s eyes?!

“T-That is troubling!!”

“Uwu~”

Even if you tell me you are troubled with a serious face...

“...Actually, when the Forest Onis first discovered this and brought it here, they uhm... seemed to have liked it quite a lot” (Ema)

So it turned into their favorite food?

When I turned to the Forest Onis to confirm, they nodded their head up and down like a broken toy. Komoe-chan is the same huh. I thought she had the same taste as Tomoe, but she has a young outward appearance so she probably has a different thought pattern.

“We don’t know of anything that tastes so good. When we ate this banana for the first time, we learned that there’s nothing that can compare to it in this world!”

“Bananas are delicious. I really like them. I always eat this after training” (Komoe)

...They are talking like they are doing drugs, oi. Saying “in this world!” makes me want to draw back. Komoe-chan unusually requests something of me. She is an unexpectedly shy girl, so it is quite a rare scene.

It’s just that in times of practice her bashfulness disappears and she silently punishes them. Sometimes, she is scarier than when Tomoe and Mio are there.

“I-I see” (Makoto)

“That’s why! We tried our best to bring it here without hurting it and investigated a lot, but we weren’t able to find anything resembling a seed. A-At this rate, we will lose the bananas!”

That means, they were only able to find a number of banana trees in the exploration area?

Withdrawal symptoms huh. That’s what one would think seeing the Forest Onis trembling and clinging onto the closest banana tree they had. It is funny, but it has turned into a picture I can’t laugh at. Their faces seem to be serious and look like they are about to cry. So after training, Komoe-chan has been steadily consuming the low amount of bananas huh. The Forest Onis are probably feeling a great deal of fear.

"I remember now. When the bananas grow, after that they will wither-" (Makoto)

"?! U-Uwaaaaaa?!"

"?!!"

An incomprehensible scream. They are holding their heads and grieving. They even cut off my words just to scream that? The speechless Komoe-chan looks kind of cute.

But, is there are way aside from seeds?

I look at Shiki.

However, he just shakes his head. Well, that's natural huh. He is specialized in earth, but that doesn't mean he is knowledgeable of plants. He did say that he began agriculture and earth magic when he arrived at Asora after all.

How should we do it?

The pineapple for example, they cut off the suckers and plant it to have them reproduce that way. But there's no assurance that bananas are like that too. By the way, that's information from tv.

They give the same tropic feeling, so maybe it can?

Umu...

"So it really was a tree that would wither within a year huh. There were opinions around that said the same" (Ema)

Ema also looks sad. It may not be as much as the Forest Onis, but it seems like she considers them tasty.

It is surprising how they can tell it is a perennial plant or a 1 year plant just by looking at the tree. Are there pros in the orcs?

I want to do something for them though.

...I am not sure if it would work the same as with suckers, but there is also grafting which is a method that doesn't need seeds as well. There's the problem of

compatibility, so it is something that it is not certain will work and I only know a few kinds. Well, it is a technique that's worth mentioning.

"Uhm, you see. It is not a sure method but... there's a technique I know of" (Makoto)

I explain about suckers and grafting to Ema and the Forest Onis.

Ema seemed to be interested in the grafting but the Forest Onis spiritedly heard both of them. It is somewhat fresh to see the Forest Onis listening to me seriously. Komoe-chan is also nodding, but it is probably on the level of "I see~"; In the case of this girl.

Don't let any word slip by, that's what one could see from the determination of them. When the explanation ended, Ema asked me for cooperation on grafting. The Forest Onis ran off to the place where the banana trees came from to check if there's suckers there. Komoe-chan also followed them.

"The image of the Forest Onis is a lot different from the time they came here" (Makoto)

"Tomoe-sama and Mio-sama, as well as Komoe-sama have been raising them quite a lot after all" (Ema)

"Ha...ahaha..." (Makoto)

"Waka-sama, thank you very much for the incredibly interesting information. Grafting sounds like it will serve us a lot, so I think about trying it out" (Ema)

"Go ahead. Even so, were suckers not in the reference book?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. Even if we call it a reference book, it is a book that is based off of what Waka-sama passed his eyes to after all. It isn't like it is the exact book but a recreation of the book, so it is a given" (Ema)

I see.

Certainly, if it was taken from my memories, leaving aside the parts I don't remember, the parts I didn't see would be impossible to recreate.

Even so, the Forest Onis, to think they like bananas. It is probably something that only exists in Asora, but what are you doing by increasing your weaknesses.

I can already picture Tomoe taking their bananas and having them train while crying. Just how pitiful can they become.

I don't think it will be a solution, but let's have Ema give Mondo some bananas.



It's really been a while since I have come to the workplace of the dwarfs.

Even though their tasks are not all about using fire, it doesn't change the fact that this place is hotter than anywhere else. My legs can't help but recede when there's no business here.

Lately, most of the time I have come here only to receive reports.

"Oh Waka. Last night you took care of all of us and we all passed a fun time. Thank you very much"

"I am happy that you enjoyed it Elder" (Makoto)

"Each time we receive invitations like that, the ingredients and food variety increase so I can't help but walk there every time. I was surprised to see that last night the home cooking of Mio was the main. I was astonished"

"It seems like she is doing it because she likes it, so if you want, please do accompany us in the future as well. At some time, Tomoe might begin a sake tasting contest, so I think that the dwarfs might find that more to their liking" (Makoto)

"Oh! Sake huh! That's nice, I am looking forward to it. We will have to increase our work a step higher in preparation for that time"

"Ahahaha, do look forward to it. And so Elder, do you have an urgent business today? I heard it from Ema" (Makoto)

The eldwas Elder's look is that of an advanced age old man. To the point that instead of a dwarf, he looks more like a short build demi human.

Just as his looks tell, he is a good-natured person, but even with those looks he is still able to handle a hammer that easily surpasses his stature, so there's no mistake that he is the dwarfs' elder. They are all tough with their tools huh.

No matter what, I always end up talking politely because of his seniority. Just this point, I just can't help but doing it instinctively. It is carved in my mind after all.

"So that's why you went through the trouble of coming here. No well, it is about the material that Mio-sama brought to us but, there's something that worried me. Ah, Ema-dono. About the requested equipment, we have been able to make part of it, so could you please take a look. It is on the usual workplace"

Saying so, the elder gives me something. Ema nods and lowers her head to me.

"Waka-sama, I can go there for a bit?" (Ema)

"Of course" (Makoto)

"Then, please excuse me" (Ema)

Seeing her off, I return my gaze to the Elder. When I do that, he had a material in his hands, or more like, he put the wreckage on top of the desk.

"!! This is..." (Shiki)

Shiki reacts to it. He seems to be incredibly surprised.

"This is something that Mio-sama brought when her kimono was damaged"

"Mio's kimono was?" (Makoto)

Was there such a mamono walking at the entrance of the wasteland?

It damage the kimono? If I remember correctly, the only ones able to do that were the Size Ants that came out in mass from a hole and were able to slightly tear it.

"Yeah, the back was completely ragged. Fortunately, her body had no injuries"

"?!"

Wa?!

An enemy that could damage her from the back?! Shiki is also quite surprised. Well that's obvious, if Mio doesn't lower her guard, her defense and perception are top

level.

Tte, wait. No injuries?

“...Yeah, no injuries. It made us the craftsmen feel quite powerless”

“That means, only the clothes were damaged?” (Makoto)

He probably noticed my question from my expression. The Elder-san explains to me while placing a finger on his temples as if enduring a headache.

“We didn’t hear if she just regenerated or if she hadn’t received any injuries to begin with, but Mio had no injuries. If she didn’t tell Waka-sama, it is probably because she really didn’t receive any injuries and deemed it as nothing important. And so, we have been thinking about increasing the capabilities of the equipment in order to create articles that can protect you respectable ones, but this material that’s the very thing that damaged the kimono... There’s some problem with it”

“Was it incredibly powerful?” (Makoto)

That Mio. Seems like cooking was more important. She most likely didn’t report because she didn’t receive any damage. Even so, does she really understand what armor is for? I will have to sermon her a bit about properly making requests for the craftsmen to make the adequate equipment. If she is satisfied just by the clothes having the same sensation, it would be too pitiful for the craftsmen. By clothes I mean everyday clothes, the ones that the orcs go through all the trouble to weave for Tomoe and Mio. I think that those are also hard to make, but what the dwarfs are making is armor. For the sake of protecting life. Armor that’s used to protect you from attacks is a whole different story.

“No, the thing itself is quite good”

Quite good. If Elder-san says quite good after looking at it, it should be quite the rare thing.

“...”

Shiki is staying silent. How unusual. Even though he likes materials and armor. He was really happy about that staff too.

"After hearing Mio-sama's story and investigating the material and kimono, we arrived at a conclusion. Most of the opinions said that it was just a mamono with high attack power and had grown big by chance. However, it ate a wind spirit, moreover, a middle class one in a very early stage. In the wasteland, there are a few amount of wind spirits and if we talk about middle class ones, then even I haven't seen them. Thinking about the original power of the mamono, no matter if the spirit was weakened, it is impossible to think that it would be able to predate on a spirit. This is just a personal opinion of mine, but I feel like there's some sort of underlying artificiality"

"An act? You are saying that someone did this with something in mind?" (Makoto)

That someone caught a spirit and had a suitable mamono eat it to have it evolve? What a dangerous talk.

"Mio-sama encountered it outside the wasteland. It seems to be a highway that extends onto Tsige. That means, it crossed the mountain range that divides the wasteland"

"You are saying that because Mio encountered it the fatal damage was low?" (Makoto)

"Yes. The Forest Onis investigated and the demons in the area didn't show any sort of movements that stood out. Without knowing the reason, I am feeling a bit anxious"

"Certainly. Having the feeling of someone doing something below your feet is not comforting after all. Understood, I will..." (Makoto)

Investigate it. Is what I wanted to say, but in that moment...

Shiki silently raised his hand.

"Shiki-sama?"

"What's it, Shiki?" (Makoto)

"...M-Me" (Shiki)

"What?" (Makoto)

"The one... who did experiments to that mamono... was me!" (Shiki)

“...Eh?”

The voice of me and the Elder overlapped.

“It was something that happened before meeting Waka-sama. In the time I was inside the body of a Forest Oni that was one of the many experiments I had done. I captured several middle class wind spirits and after weakening them to the point of not being able to resist, I made a mamono eat it” (Shiki)

“...”

“By eating a spirit, I thought that it may evolve into something like the spirit or a change close to that. But it turned into a failure that only increased the power of its scythe... and since I lost interest in it, I threw it away” (Shiki)

Threw it away you say, Shiki. What kind of dangerous thing are you doing.

“Oh, so Shiki-sama was the one who did it. Ah~, knowing the reason, the weight in my chest has lifted. With this, I will be able to concentrate on the creation of Mio-sama’s armor without any distress”

“I am sorry, Elder”

“It is fine. The material was used for the weapon of an adventurer somewhere, but it became good training for Beren. It seemed like he was worried that something similar would happen to Mio-sama again, but now he can have peace of mind”

“?! Could it be you are planning on telling Mio?!” (Shiki)

“...Ah, if I do tell her, Shiki-sama might be scolded. Waka-sama, what should we do?”

The Elder was concerned about Shiki’s wellbeing and passed the decision to me.

“...Shiki” (Makoto)

“Y-Yes” (Shiki)

“...Well, get scolded. It is true that the kimono was turned into rags after all” (Makoto)

“?!! Aaaahh...” (Shiki)

The writhing Shiki-san. It was an unexpected position but...

Well, I think you can still return, so do your best Shiki.

Giving a sidelong glance at Shiki who was having a face like it was the end of the world, the Elder and I nodded to each other.

Chapter 97

The temporary teachers' staff room

It feels like a long time since I have returned to Rotsgard. Well even if I say so, it's only been a few days though.

Because of Tomoe's hypothesis about the climate, the investigation has increased the time I am in Asora.

It seems like that genius samurai-wannabe's thinking was mostly correct, so after the day of the report, the climate of Asora constantly changed because of the experiments.

Well, we were using the hypothesis as our base, that's why we notified the residents beforehand, so no real problem occurred.

It seems like the last gate I opened is the one affecting it. It is practically certain.

By that I mean the remains of a gate that not only Tomoe and I can open, but Mio is able to use as well. Shiki said that he is almost able to use it. How reliable.

That's why if the gates are properly closed there's less chances of affecting the climate.

There's arias involved, but the only difference is that I use an aria or not to make the gate appear, so it doesn't inconvenience me. Changing the gate I open at the Academy as one that doesn't leave traces, Asora now has a gentle climate that's close to that of early summer. That it rains a bit often is one of the cons, but residents like the lizards were happy. It seems like they liked the tropic climate quite a bit, so I feel slightly bad for what I did. I hope they are not being considerate.

Tomoe went to investigate again. Giving out a number of points, she said that she would find places for all the seasons. The day that Asora has the same four seasons as Japan might be close. Unlike me, Tomoe seems to be able to predict the future results with the data gathered, so she is probably able to estimate the adequate places from the patterns in the climate changes.

Today is a lecture day. Asora seems to have calmed down, so there shouldn't be any

problems in me returning. I am thinking about making this place my center of actions again. The person that is teaching Mio cooking seems to be there for a limited amount of time, so since time is precious, she has been staying in Tsige. I don't know if she is staying there or doing all-nighters, but there seems to be days when she doesn't return. If she is interested in something she will do it to her best, that's truly Mio-like. I don't know what kind of cooking she is learning, but I think one day she will serve it to me, so I am looking forward to it.

"Raidou-sama, regarding the several days of business, it seems like there wasn't any remarkable problem and has been going smoothly. They are also growing properly" (Shiki)

Shiki does a report of the sales in the time I was in break, and talks to me satisfied. He returned to Rotsgard several times, but he was mostly in Asora. And yet, the shop didn't have any problems, so he must be happy about it. I am happy too.

"You are right. If we were able to rotate the people working and have them able to teach the newcomers, it would make things a lot easier. Hey Shiki, about Rembrandt-san and his daughters..." (Makoto)

"Ah, the case where you left a letter with Mio-dono right?" (Shiki)

"Yeah. Thinking about the day they left Tsige, I think they will be arriving here soon but, did you obtain any information?" (Makoto)

"Not really. Most I could get was that they would be arriving at the Academy soon. They are daughters of an influential merchant, so maybe they have orders to stay silent. Lime was also unable to gather any information in town" (Shiki)

"I see. Well, when they return to the Academy, I will give my greetings. You already gave the report of the things that are needed for today's lecture right?" (Makoto)

"Yes. I have already received permission beforehand, so I don't think there will be much problems" (Shiki)

Shiki really acts properly. If he makes a mistake this time, I will turn a blind eye for him.

He was a bit bullied by Mio because of the mamono incident after all.

Let's see, after today's lecture, let's invite the students that have free time to Gotetsu. Jin seems to have liked the nabe, so maybe the other students will also be happy. I am not thinking about reeling them in with food, but I have to be kind from time to time.

Before going to the lecture, I go to the desk I was given and check if I have any urgent messages. It's like a staff room for temporary teachers. Maybe they have extra space, when I requested for Shiki to accompany me, they also put up a desk for him.

It's a place I use only when I am looking for shelter in lecture days and in days where the library is boisterous.

“Otto, this is...” (Makoto)

My voice reflexively comes out. On my desk there were quite the amount of documents and letters piled up. Even though I came here because I had some leisure time before the lecture began, with this, it feels like I don't even have enough time to skim through them.

“What an incredible amount. For now, I will sort them out, so will you look at the necessary ones?” (Shiki)

[Let's do that. I don't need the confession ones, so just dispose those]

“Understood” (Shiki)

Luckily, the desk of Shiki only had love letters, so I can ask of him without any worries. Just, the letters on his desk, there are many that seem to be done with a lot of effort. It makes me interested.

Oh, they are decreasing.

The chaotic pile of paper is being beautifully assorted.

I can hear the voice of admiration of someone. Well, it is probably a teacher who has lectures today too. Fufufu, you must be jealous right? But Shiki is ours so I won't be giving him.

As expected, the disposal corner is the one that has the most. To think that the absurd proposals would even come here, it is already on the level of harassment.

There seem to be a few documents that I should check, so I begin checking them.

Ehm, a request to accept a student huh. The ones I have are mostly like this.

Now that I think about it, the teachers did tell me. That after a while of holding a course, I would be able to select the students that I want to accept in my lecture. They also told me that this system didn't have much point unless you are a popular lecture and they are normally all accepted.

But I am happy for it. If they are clearly people that don't have the power and only have other objectives, coming to me would only trouble me. If I am able to reject them through documents, I am grateful.

...There are a lot of girls. Their main subject and specialty are clearly different from mine. I really don't need this kind of popularity.

Okay, trash. This, trash too. This girl, to the trash too. Ah, a man. Close enough, come back when you have trained more. From a third person's perspective, it looks like I am quite popular. For the teachers that are having troubles gathering students, my actions of putting the seal of rejected must look pretty strange. The number of students I have now are 5 so I am in the same boat as them.

N? Assistant teacher petition? What is this?

When I check the contents, it seems to be documents asking my presence as an assistant lecturer. I forgot that I can participate in other lectures as an assistant. Because I didn't intend to do it anyways.

The lecture's subject is...

Hand-to-hand art. I am a magician and merchant though. Is this bullying?

Axe art. It isn't like I am not interested in axes. The same as above.

Practical use of recovery medications. Something that Shiki might want.

Limia Kingdom history. Don't know the point.

Nothing decent.

Setting aside the requests of Limia Kingdom history and the others, I breathe out a sigh. Well, it isn't like I have seen the details, so for now I will take the assistant teacher documents back.

Another request to enter my class? Ehm, let's see, this time is...

Ah, found it.

Sif Rembrandt. Yuno Rembrandt.

These are Rembrandt's daughters no doubt. So they have already returned to the Academy. Rumors are so half-assed.

No, that's not it. Today those two will be returning. Then that means my lecture will be the number one lecture they will be returning to. In that case, should I make today's lecture lighter? I need to rehab after all.

But this time is a fun lecture I have announced beforehand. I did accept their petition, and there's only one other student among the petitions that I think has the requirements to participate as well, so let's just split the 3 new students and I will take care of them.

Looking at the information of the Rembrandt sisters, I think that the ability of them is pretty high compared to other students. Just like how Jin said, talented. Well, it is not sure if they still possess the same skills as before though. They did suffer a serious illness after all.

The older sister Sif is older than me huh. 19 years old. She seems to be a magician. Her element specialties are earth and fire. Heh~. To write two is pretty unusual. Also, the earth one has the divine protection of a spirit. She will probably be taught mainly by Shiki.

The little sister is 15. Oh! She uses bows. Also, spears? This is quite the rare combination. Bow and spear. Don't tell me she investigated me and Shiki beforehand, and wrote whatever came up. Her magic seems to be in basic level and they are mostly enhancing spells huh.

Rembrandt-san is aiding me, so I will accept both. Mixing public and private? No, in terms of ability there's no problems.

If I had to say something, it would be that I don't know if they were taking Shiki and me in mind and wrote lies. The older one wrote that she has a spirit's divine protection in her earth element, so I don't think there's a lie in that one though. But the part of her little sister using bow and spear is just... In the Academy's lectures I haven't used the bow once, so she probably heard it from her father.

The other girl. It isn't like I chose her because she is my type. In my lecture there's four men and one female. The lone woman Amelia grumbles saying that she wants more girls (even though she doesn't want other girls to get their hands on Shiki), so I think it will have a good balance of 50/50. Her motive and abilities are pretty high. It seems like it hasn't been long since she transferred here from a small country close to the Gritonia Empire. She is probably searching for several classes to attend. There's the probability that my class doesn't fit her and she leaves, but she is a scholarship student so I think her desire to improve is high.

"Raidou-sensei, can I have a bit of your time?"

I have Shiki take the papers for the student petitions that were accepted to the staff room. I don't know how much it will take to accept it, but by next week I will probably be able to meet the sisters face to face. If it's today, they will probably just think that it is a weird class. If they think it is weird in a positive way, there won't be any problems. Probably.

[What is it?]

Soon after Shiki left the room, one of the teachers stood up from his seat and talked to me. How rare.

"Actually uhm, it's about the injury medication you handle in your business..."

[Yes, I certainly do handle wound medications]

"From now on, in the time between summer vacations till the school festival, my lectures will have more dangerous practical trainings. So if possible, I wanted to ask if you could provide me with about 10"

Ah, so that's how it is. I don't know if it is dangerous because the school festival is coming, but instead of replenishing the 10 emergency medications every day, it would be better to just ask me to have them in order. Right now I have a number restriction when selling and the wound medications are not something the general public buy

constantly. If there's customers that want to buy in large numbers, Lime and the others are managing it. Well, if it's to heal the wounds of the students, I don't have any objections.

[Ah, I see. Understood. If you say that it is for the sake of the lectures, then I will happily prepare them. If you want to, you can come as soon as tomorrow to my store]

"Thank you very much! Ah, I'm so glad. The reputation of Kuzunoha Company had rose higher, so I tried it too, but it really has incredible effectiveness. I really wanted to bring them as insurance, but since it was so popular, it was pretty hard to get"

[I apologize for the inconveniences of not making that many]

Since the number restriction, the amount that have reached to different hands has increased, but for the people that are looking for numbers it is definitely inconvenient. I have received requests from several medical stores too. Right now we are in the middle of considering our options. If they bring out something like reserves for the Academy, it will trouble me. It may create oppositions saying that I can actually make as many as I want. It will be quite the big business discussion, so even if this type of talks come in the future, there will be people that would want to try crushing us. I don't think there's anything to worry about though.

"No! With that kind of effect, that's obvious. The price is clearly cheap. There won't be many situations where we would need to use that wound medication, so I think that with just 10 it will be able to last till the school festival"

[It can only maintain its outstanding effects for 3 months so be careful of that. We also have other things in sale, so please do pay a visit at our store again]

"Understood. I will certainly do!"

At the time he called me, he had a pretty stiff expression but now he is cheerful as he returns to his seat. If he says he wants 10 for insurance, he must be quite the popular teacher.

Just in case, I will have Lime check if he is actually using them for what he said he would. It would be troublesome if it is a new method for resale. Right, I did say tomorrow but let's push it to a few days later and investigate his background.

Shiki returned. Just in time too.

Then, let's go to class.

Chapter 98

The anticipated lecture and baptism

There were 8 people.

No, I wasn't actually confident that the original 5 would stay.

Next time we will be doing something interesting. That's what I said last week after all.

That there are 3 extra people must be because the speed that the staff clears the documents is probably abnormal. Leaving aside the students' level, the system in Rotsgard is pretty impressive. I thought that not only the level of the students but the hyumans in general were plain.

But since at the top there's Sofia, they are probably impressive. Well, the middle probably isn't though.

[From today on, there will be 3 more people attending]

I wrote it simple and look at the three. Right now Shiki and I are facing the 8 students, but I beckon the three new students to come to my side. The Rembrandt sisters had pretty similar faces. As expected of sisters. Just that their hair style is different and their bearing differ, so they give different impressions. There was a time when our eyes met for a bit and they both smiled, but it was only for an instant. They soon made serious faces and reunited with the 5 students. They don't look that ill-natured to me. They seem to properly understand their position as students.

Just that looking at Jin and Amelia, maybe because they didn't expect that attitude from the sisters, their faces had a dubious expression. That they are not completely shocked must be because they are nervous about today's class. The Rembrandt sisters are gathering attention even when they are just standing still, just how much of a bad reputation do they have.

[You three, introduce yourselves]

In turn, first the sisters and then the remaining one. After that I will have the other five present themselves as well.

"It's a pleasure, my name is Sif Rembrandt. I have returned today, so there might be people that already know me. I was absent because of an illness, so until I recover completely, I may be a bother, but please do take care of me. My race, as you can see, is hyuman. My specialty is attack magic; elements fire and earth. I have a spirit's divine protection in my earth element" (Sif)

When Sif makes a last bow, her silky blond hair droops along with her. Her type of hair is straight. Looking at her long hair flowing, it is truly beautiful. The last time I met her, she practically didn't have any hair after all. She is practically a completely different person. The word young woman truly fits her. Conversely, I can't imagine her as a combat type. She probably doesn't do close combat.

"Nice to meet you! My name is Yuno Rembrandt. I am Sif Rembrandt's little sister and just like her, I have returned just today! The reason is the same, illness. I am still unable to move at my 100% but I will do my best! My race is of course, hyuman. My specialty is physical combat. But as you can see, I have a short build so instead of vanguard I am more of a center defender. My weapons are spear and bow; depending on the situation, I switch them. My magic is mainly enhancing but it isn't my specialty. Please do take care of me!" (Yuno)

Just like Yuno said, she has a short build. She probably is around 1.5m. It makes me doubt her use of spear and bow even more. The bows in this world are mostly big after all. But since she not only wrote it in the petition and actually said it in her introduction as well, it is probably not a lie... Yeah.

Could it be that she matches them with the party depending on the situation? It isn't like she can walk around with both of them, so that must be it. She is skillful, and seems to be an energetic one. She has the same blond hair as her older sister, but just like if displaying her personality, her hair is cut short enough so that it doesn't reach her shoulders.

"Nice to meet you. I have transferred from Fosk Royal Academy, my name is Karen Frost. It hasn't been long since I transferred, so I would be glad if you teach me. My race is hyuman. My specialties, I don't really have any; I am a jack of all trades. In terms of magic, earth is the one I am the best at, but I can use the other elements decently. Please do take care of me" (Karen)

...

Hyuman huh.

While hearing Karen's self-introduction, I check the reactions of the other students. There wasn't that much difference compared to the Rembrandt sisters. Actually, at the time of the sisters, I could see that the five of them looked more nervous. It is probably because of their previous reputation of having a bad personality. Jin, it may seem off-putting for you, but that expression is rude to the sisters you know?

Even so, this Karen girl...

She is using magic to change her appearance. That's why she is being accepted by the other students without any discomfort. In my eyes, her appearance is completely different from that of a hyuman.

When I looked at Shiki, he seemed to have noticed my confusion and nods. Shiki and I can tell, so that means it is practically without a doubt an illusion type of spell. I don't know if she is using it herself or is the effect of some sort of tool though.

Even if I question Karen here, it will only be a waste of one class and it isn't like I am being troubled by it right now. After the class ends or if she is unable to, I will just ask her if she has some time today after all her plans are done to have a detailed talk. If she just wants to honestly take my class then I have no problems. It will probably be something troublesome though.

[And that's how it is, do treat them well. Also, Rembrandt sisters, let me tell you this first, just because I am friends with your father doesn't mean I will go easy on you, so take that in mind]

After the other five introduced themselves as well, I have the three of them return to the group. It would be a matter of time for them to learn that we are acquainted, so I will just tell them straight. The two of them answer me clearly in return. Yeah, they are nice girls, I think.

[Now then, as planned, for today's lecture I have an enjoying subject. But, as expected, the stimulus would be too high for the three new students. That's why we will be splitting the group in two. Now then, Sif, Yuno and Karen stay here in standby. The others come here]

I leave the explanation for the three to Shiki and I lead the five to a place a bit away. I will leave Shiki in charge here, but at the end I will have to take lead.

The expressions of the five are stiff. Tense and concentrated.

“Sensei, what are we doing today?”

It's Jin. Even though he says that everything is set by one's ability, he seems to have a personality that attracts people and is the one that's acting as leader. His way of talking is severe, but in the end he is an attentive person. Our ages are the same, so if our meeting was different, we could have become good friends.

[Its real combat training]

“Could it be, against sensei?!”

The face of the five magnificently cramp.

[No. I will have you fight with a summoned being. Don't worry, if you go at it with the desire to kill, you won't die. Life is unexpectedly that way. In the worst case scenario, Shiki will heal you so be relieved. Depending on the number of times you are defeated, the penalty will increase]

“S-Summoned?”

[Yeah, I actually am able to do summoning]

Desperate words of “Isn't this abuse?! Something like a lecture we will be defeated several times” and “Will I have to skip all the other lectures that I have next?” How rude. There's no way I would do something that would bother the other teachers. Everyone will be able to attend to the next classes with your body healthy!

By the way “if you go at it with the desire to kill, you surprisingly won't die” are the words of my sensei. The word surprisingly has passed through my mind several times. Now it has become a funny story... I have survived after all.

And so, after saying random words, I summon a mist gate and a hazy shadow appears inside the mist. A single mist lizard appears.

I can tell that the students are gulping their breath. Even low grade lizardmen are said

to be a threat when in group. This one clearly has beautiful blue scales that are out of the norm, armed with a sword and shield along with light armor. They must have noticed that this lizardman is a strong foe. I am already used to seeing it, but those scales that shine with the light are truly beautiful.

“Uhm, this lizardman, I haven’t seen it anywhere before. Just how strong is it?”

N, the dagger boy. For him who has to fight the enemy in close combat, the opponent’s information must really interest him. But I refuse.

[It’s a secret. After you fight him, each one of you will have to write a report of the information you managed to grasp. I will approve consulting with other classmates, but the wrong answers will return to you as minus points okay? Don’t forget that the answers you submit are your own responsibility]

“Uhm, at least name of the race...”

The bow user Amelia. There’s no way I will tell you right? In a school that has such an excellent library. There’s probably no one who has seen the mist lizardmen, but that’s not all there is to it.

[It’s a secret. He is my friend, Blue Lizard-kun. Then, begin. Until Shiki returns, you can’t go dying or no one will be able to save you, so be careful]

“I am counting on you today. Blaze is prohibited. Fight with them at 1% of your power please. It is okay to not hold back in the technical areas” (Makoto)

When I pass by the mist lizard, I whisper in his ear. He nodded slightly.

Leaving the sounds of life and death struggle of the students as BGM, I return to where Shiki-san and the other three are waiting.

[Shiki, how is the explanation going?]

“I have finished explaining the basic objectives of this class to those three and they are currently in standby. Now then, I will be heading over to that side” (Shiki)

[I leave them to you]

“If I don’t hurry they might get seriously hurt, so I will excuse myself now” (Shiki)

Shiki makes a wry smile as he heads to the place where the life and death, no, the enjoying lecture is taking place. I won't be doing that to you three yet, so rest assured.

[Now then. About you three who are participating in my classes from today on, I think you have already heard the explanation from my assistant Shiki. I will be brief here, increase the amount of elements you can use. Learn to activate spells faster. Learn to use those points efficiently and do the correct decisions in the correct time. That is the objective of my class]

"Learn to be skillful, is what you are trying to say?"

Karen summarizes what I said. Well, in short that's it. But the word skillful is pretty broad.

[That's right. I am not telling you to get rid of your strong points and become skillful, I am talking about improving your weak points as well as your strong ones. If it's Sif: water, wind and darkness elements are the current tasks. In the case of Yunno, find easy to use elements and increase the amount of non-elemental magic. Karen, you say you are a jack of all trades so, everything. Obviously, increase the ability to use all those points effectively]

It seems like the three understood what I was trying to say, they tensed up immediately.

[Today, you three will form a group and fight against me. Even if I say fight, it will be just you attacking me though. You are free to do whatever you want. In the middle of that, I will be giving you combat advice and tasks. As you can see, I communicate with writing, so make sure not to miss it. If you don't improve on the things I point out, I will break your attack on that second miss. Keep in mind that you will be wounded. Then, we will begin in 5 minutes. Prepare]

This is something the other students did as well. At the end, they made faces filled of despair. "Fix what I have pointed out" is not something that one can do as soon as they are told. After a while, they will not be able to do the same attack of what they weren't able to fix and slowly their cards will decrease to the point that they are zero. Predicting my students' attacks, the battle time and calculating the remaining time of the class is just... hard.

After 5 minutes.

Well, that's obviously how it would be. The position of the three are just as expected. No vanguard. If I won't be attacking anyways, there won't be anyone set in the vanguard because there's no one specialized in it.

[Come]

The short writing worked as the signal. From the three, Karen and Sif's arias begin. Their voices are loud. I can already predict the scale of the magic they will use. In exchange for power, they really sacrifice quite a lot.

Yuno quickly does the first attack. She shoots an arrow at me. So instead of the spear, she decided on the bow huh. She must have taken into account the chance of being caught in the magic. If the opponent were to counter attack, she would have probably chosen the spear to protect her sister.

The arrow flies to my collar. Her gaze was directed at my chest, so... that's quite the aim she has. It was only off by a bit. However, maybe because her physical strength is lacking, the power is low. Also, because it is a projectile, it isn't enhanced that much by magic power.

Of course, the arrow is stopped by my barrier and it didn't hit me.

“Eh?!”

[The power is weak. Not even worth the words. Put more strength in it. If you are aiming at my chest, don't miss at such a distance]

Well, the attacks of her are arrows, so even if she does the same thing, it's just going to be stopped by my barrier. Let's try baking today.

The second attack. The strength increased, though it is still low. It seems there's a need to strengthen her muscles. Looks like she is being desperate in imbuing magic power to the arrow, and because of that, the strengthening in her body is negligent. Like that, it won't work in the wasteland. Well, just because her house is close doesn't mean that the princesses of Rembrandt will be fighting in the wasteland though.

She shoots again.

“Uh?!”

[Think of body strengthening and magic power imbuing as a set. In the next one I will burn]

Before the magic is shot, Yuno's cards might be gone. In that case, she would probably have to use a spear.

Oh, magic. Sif and Karen huh.

It looked like Karen would be able to put together the magic faster, but maybe she matched her speed with Sif's on purpose. Simultaneous attacks are harder to deal with after all. Of course, the spells interfere with each other, so I can't say it is always good.

If she aimed for that when she shot it, she must have quite the confidence in her skills.

“Ray!”

“Frost Break!”

Fire and water huh. Karen, if you did that aiming to match, then you are quite the challenger.

However, both magic's mechanism and composition are practically confirmed, so I can tell what spell they will use.

The one Sif released is a heat ray, I think. This spell's objective is most likely to pierce the enemy. And even if stopped, it looks like it would explode.

Karen's magic probably freezes a radius around its target and breaks. This time she activated it after Sif spell huh. What's gathering around me is most likely the chill from Karen's spell.

I receive Sif's spell with a barrier. I can tell that it is accumulating power. Explosion. Just as expected. The wave that was on the level of soft wind caresses my face. When blocking with a partial barrier, there's no helping that I will be hit by the byproducts.

Karen's spell is completed in the perfect timing. Splendid! It's like this isn't the first time they have matched their spells. She has good sense.

With a high-pitched noise, I get enclosed in a case of ice.

To be more precise, I was wrapped by ice after I took a little distance from it. When I look, I see that Yuno is drawing her bow close to the limit and holding off shooting. Good. She is trying to aim the best she can so she doesn't waste the shot.

[Well done. The timespan is Karen's sense huh, quite impressive. You took into account Sif's explosion and used it as blinding, nice thinking. About the task, it would be Sif's speed]

Even though I was in the middle of explaining, the cage of ice reacted to Karen's voice and broke flashily.

[About Sif, it would be speed. It would be good if you can increase the speed of your heat ray, or make it pursue. About Karen, it would be the change in the surroundings that tells the enemy of its activation and its power. If that's something that's not activated directly to the target but in a space where the target is, it would be hard to hit. And even if you manage to hit, the power is just low]

"To block everything with that small barrier!"

"...Even though I hid the change in the surroundings and the power was also good"

[Yuno. I did say that I would destroy the attack that I have already pointed out right? If you can't do anything else anymore, just bring out the spear. If you prepare properly, you can also attack me from the back]

I burn the arrow that Yuno shot thinking I was open. It wasn't blocked by my barrier, it just burned in the middle of air.

"N-Not yet!"

"Next time for sure!"

"Maybe I should get a bit more serious"

It will probably be a complete defeat for Sif, Yuno and Karen. But I think that setbacks are best to be experienced early and recovered.

If you are motivated to do it again, come back next week.

Without holding back, I continue to block the attacks of the three, destroy them and

point out their faults.

Chapter 99

Lunch together in Gotetsu

[Now then, today's lecture ends. Make sure not to be late to your next class]

I announce the end of the lecture to the 5 corpses and 3 cripples. Iyaaa, we really messed them up today~. In my side, at the last 5 minutes the three of them were in a state where they could practically do nothing.

In the side where Shiki was watching, the mist lizard left them completely beat up. It has to do with their inexperience in real combat, but I received a report that they were wiped out 4 times. That means they stopped the fight 4 times and had to do it again, and even with that they were still beat up. I hope Blue Lizard-kun has not become a trauma. I will have him release his limiter in the future and have them fight him occasionally. Do your best. There's still more than 10 battles left with Blue Lizard-kun.

[Ah, Karen Frost. I have some business with you. I want to hear what plans you have after this]

"T-Today I only have sensei's class"

Even when she is tired, she didn't make me wait and answered quickly. So she is finished for today huh. To have only one class in the morning, how refined. But that's convenient. In the morning I thought about calling out the students that had free time and have lunch with them, but this time let's just invite Karen, and along with Shiki, we three will have lunch together. About the Rembrandt sisters, it's fine to just call them to my office to greet them.

[That's great. There's one thing that's been in my mind you see]

"T-There's still more?!" (Karen)

[Yeah. Luckily, it seems you have time as well. Keep me company]

"...Y-Yes" (Karen)

Good.

After confirming her will, I left the field dragging Karen along with me. Normally, after the reflection meeting, it would be tempering until the last minute. Today I finished a bit early.

The group of five are pretty weakened after all.

Saying it like this is probably not the best way, but I think that they want to gossip. I could somehow tell from their eyes. Actually, the supposedly kind Shiki reports everything to me.

Well, complain as much as you want. Next week will be fun lecture again after all.

Karen probably noticed the smile that appeared in my face. Her body trembled.



“Shiki-san! Geez, I thought I would finally rise to heaven!”

“Lizardscarylizardscarylizardscary”

“What is that Lizardman?! He avoids like crazy, is fast, strong, hard! In the report shouldn’t I just write that everything is awesome and that’s aaaall?!”

“That’s already... a dragon”

“Then is that person a dragon summoner? No, it isn’t at that cute level. If I were asked which I want to choose as an enemy, I would not hesitate in choosing a dragon summoner”

“Oane-cha~n”

“Yuno, don’t make such a pitiful voice. This was outside my expectations... Probably because it is Raidou-sensei!”

Yareyare. It has become exactly as Makoto-sama said.

Seeing the students, I sigh internally.

From what I saw, the mist lizard was holding back quite a lot. His equipment was not what he usually uses and its water blaze was not used either. There wasn't even a shred of that quick-wittedness they normally use. Their strongest point which is group battles is, of course, not there either.

Bluntly speaking, he was on the same level as the weak mamonos in the wasteland. And yet, 5 young ones that are said to have bright prospects came at him with all five and were wiped out 4 times. Seriously, how deplorable.

Makoto-sama had already predicted that they would be completely beat up, but even if not to the point of suddenly clearing it, I actually thought that they would put up a good fight at least. It seems that, even if it was an order of Makoto-sama, as I acted kind in front of them, I ended up being too lenient in my assessment of them. I have to reflect on this.

It seems that Mio-dono is taking longer than expected in her investigation on counter-measures for forced summoning, so I have to lend a hand in that area, and yet, what a troublesome bunch are these kids. Regarding Mio-dono, our current state of affairs isn't that favorable. I-I don't want the skin peeling punishment anymore... Even talking about it is scary.

"Well, calm down. Even with that, Raidou-sama is actually holding back quite a lot you know? It isn't set as a wall you wouldn't be able to overcome. I assure you of that" (Shiki)

"That's definitely a lie! Shiki-san, no matter how I think of it, Raidou-sensei is definitely having fun with this!" (Jin)

"Jin, you say so, but the moves you showed were not the same as usual you know? The enemy is a monster, moreover, one that possesses strength superior to most. Weren't you pretty nervous there?" (Shiki)

Nervous, or more like withered. Even though the Mist Lizard didn't use his coercing shout. How inexperienced.

"That is... certainly true. That may be true but..." (Jin)

"Well, it is true that Raidou-sama is strict. That's just how much he is expecting of all of you. For me, seeing how he treats you all makes me a bit jealous" (Shiki)

"Shiki-san, you were the type that gets heated up when bullied? Then I too..." (Amelia)

"That's not it Amelia. It's just that, it's been a long time since that person has expected something from me. Seeing how he presents tasks to you kids continuously, I was probably feeling a bit of envy" (Shiki)

He always gives words of thanks to me, but the amount of tasks Makoto-sama has given me are low. If I was told that isn't the kind of connection we have, that would be it, but seeing my master interacting with the students, there are times when I feel a bit jealous.

The complains that come from everyone's mouth about Makoto-sama's lectures, I in times scold them, correct, soothe, sympathize or comfort them, while healing them. I have already gotten used to this work. Today is a lot more prominent than usual as expected though.

However, from the Rembrandt sisters that have joined us recently, I haven't heard any such complains. They should have been driven the feeling of frustration by Makoto in their first participation though?

The two of them have calmed their breathing and were now inspecting their equipment.

"Sif-san and Yuno-san. How was it? Do you think you can continue?" (Shiki)

"Ah, ehm. Shiki-san, was it? It's okay. Yuno and I will be coming again next week" (Sif)

"Yeah. It begins from now on after all! I am definitely continuing!" (Yuno)

Oya, how surprising. It seems there's no need for a follow. "It seems that Makoto is strong" Is what their eyes are telling. Their will has not been broken. Anyways, if they don't have a lukewarm personality, then it will be more comforting for me.

Umu, the rumors said their personalities were troublesome, but that just can't be relied on huh. Like this, it seems like it will be worth teaching them.

It might be in a future, but there will probably be a time when Makoto-sama and I will meet these girls as the daughters of our partnered company, so I think we will be able to create a good connection. Ah that's right. It would be a good idea to know the place those two are living. Makoto-sama probably went directly to Gotetsu.

When I check, the five of them were already gathered up and began the analysis of their opponent. What troublesome kids. Looking at this, I feel like they are totally planning to not come to the next lecture.

“I also want to hear Sif-san and Yunoo-san’s opinion. Is that alright?” (Amelia)

Amelia invites the two. Even though they didn’t fight him directly, she probably wants to know about the impression the mist lizard gave from a different point of view. She is not thinking about how it is a bother for the two, but well, I welcome ambition.

The coiled up feeling those five had before the lecture was now gone. One reason may be because they were beaten hard. I don’t think this will open up their hearts completely, but it could be a trigger to fortify their connections. To prioritize what they currently require instead of doing bad gossip is most likely something that comes with youth.

“Yeah. If we are okay for you, then certainly!” (Sif)

“It’s great that we left the next slot of time open just in case right, Onee-chan!” (Yuno)

I see, so they prepared a counter-plan for the lecture that is rumored to be harsh. But really, they are truly straightforward that is funny. If they are still evil people after all this, then I can only consider them as the best actors of all. It is probably the rumors that are wrong.

The real discussion of Makoto-sama’s fun lecture began. Makoto-sama told me not to give them advice, so I can only stay silent. To be ambitious is something I think is likeable in a pupil. Seeing the hatchlings trying to look at what’s above is praiseworthy.

If that’s the case, it can’t be helped. Even though Makoto-sama cautioned me about it, I will turn a blind eye this one time. About the participation in the next lecture, I will leave it as if I didn’t see anything either.

Without saying anything, I leave and finish my business in the staff room before heading to where I would be meeting with Makoto-sama.

From here on it will probably be an unsavory story. Even I can tell that I am trying to make a strong smile. That woman, just what kind of objective did she have when she came to this Academy?



[It's here]

I lead her to Gotetsu. Because it has just opened, there are no people here yet. At 1 o'clock people that are coming for lunch will begin to flow in here, so this is like the calm before the storm.

It would have been fine to take her to the Kuzunoha Company, but since it is like a base of sorts, I didn't want to just suddenly bring an unknown factor. So I decided to bring her to Gotetsu which is the place we previously planned to come eat lunch.

When Shiki finishes his follow up with the students and investigates the address of the Rembrandt sisters, it will be exactly lunch. Nabe changes its taste as time passes, so let's pass on ordering until he arrives here. If we finish eating before he comes, it would be wrong.

I use [Sakai] to set up a soundproof area. With this, there's no fear of our conversation leaking outside.

Hmph~, it seems that she didn't notice that I deployed a [Sakai]. I see, so she can't detect [Sakai].

This woman student, I checked her documents again and have confirmed it. As expected, she is suspicious.

"Raidou-sensei, please begin talking about why you brought me here. Did you find a point you were interested in?" (Karen)

Karen had a face full of exhaustion, but right now she has a calm mask that one wouldn't be able to tell she is exhausted and is looking straight at me. It is actually impossible to recover from mental fatigue in such a short amount of time, so it is clear that she is pushing herself. Maybe she just has that kind of skill trained in her body unlike others of her age, I think.

Also, the skills of her. Comparing her to the people I have met in the Academy, she is top class. No, thinking of her as a student is just too weird. That coordination with a person she is still not used to, and the power of her spell and speed. I tried bringing it out while I crushed and provoked her, but she probably hasn't shown me everything. That is an awfully heretic attitude to Jin and the others who I am teaching to and this

Academy. The fact that she is “hiding her true strength”. Shiki also threw me a short thought transmission saying “be careful”. He probably knows something about this girl.

I think that I brought out a decent amount of her skills in that lecture. At the latter half she seemed to have become a bit worked up. She set several things up while making sure it wasn’t noticed by the sisters. Even in a state where she was trying to hide her true strength, she let a part leak out.

[Actually, I can’t help but feel like your real ability is unnatural]

“My ability?” (Karen)

[Yeah. It isn’t in the level of a student. Not only that, the magic was clearly used in a manner accustomed to real combat]

“I am a military magician at my country. I have participated in several subjugation missions. If you doubt me, you can ask the details to a related party” (Karen)

Without hesitating, Karen talks about her personal history. She talks of the kingdom army that has an unnecessarily long name with a pride filled voice.

Her personal history itself may actually exist for real. She talks of it with so much confidence after all. It depends on how long she has been planning this and at what scale it is though.

This is what I think but, probably, the personal history of the one called Karen Frost is already not in this world anymore. And that maybe she is impersonating her by using her appearance.

Replacing.

Infiltrate into the country, get promoted, enter Royal Academy, become a soldier and transfer into Rotsgard. Instead of creating such a personal history, I think it would be easier to just replace a person who has that kind of history. Especially when that person is from a faraway place.

[I am doubting that you are really Karen Frost. I have read the personal history of Karen Frost. Just as you said, because of a sudden situation, you have experience in the military and that you hold that position even in present]

"Even though you know that much, why are you doubting? I am the genuine Karen Frost. Ah, could it be, sensei is saying that to try and learn a lot about me? If that's the case then I..."

[As expected, strange. Would someone normally act like that after being doubted? Wouldn't they show more anger?]

I ignore Karen's words. It isn't like I care about the life of a single hyuman. It's just that having her act that way in that appearance feels just like she is mocking the deceased. It makes me feel a bit angered.

There's the chance that all my conjectures are wrong. But the attitude of her is practically in the black.

"It's just that it is such an absurd thing to say that I don't even feel like getting angry" (Karen)

[A sudden campaign deploy. Did you get involved with Karen Frost at that point in time?]

"Fufu, sensei. Your strength was certainly strong, but I didn't think that you were the type that keeps talking about incomprehensible things. I won't be coming to sensei's class anymore. I don't need lunch either. Excuse me" (Karen)

While holding a calm expression, Karen stands up from the opposite sit.

[Karen, are you not interested in why I doubted you of not being the real person?]

Wouldn't one normally want to know the reason why someone has doubted your identity? Would they just leave without asking? And yet, she not only didn't pursue the subject, but also tried to avoid the topic in itself, is what I feel. Even now she is trying to escape.

She doesn't seem like she is angered one bit and her face could be taken as vague while trying to smile. She was lenient at first, but this may be a technique in negotiations.

"...Certainly. Thinking that I am a completely different person just because my skills are unnatural does feel pretty rash. Are you going to tell me the reason?" (Karen)

Of course. I was intending do so since I went through the trouble of inviting you to

lunch.

[Because the appearance you are trying to hide is completely visible to me]

“Fufu, you see the real me? Are those love words?” (Karen)

[It means exactly what I am saying]

“Sorry, you may have taken the trouble to, but I must refuse your confess-” (Karen)

[Even if you don’t have a horn, that blue skin, just what business does a demon have in the Academy?]

Karen’s words stop mid-sentence. Because of the surprise, she instantly opened her eyes wide. That she soon made an enticing smile must be to smooth it over. In Tsige and Academy Town there were actually several times when spies wanted to try entering our Kuzunoha Company. At that time, Tomoe-sensei and Shiki-sensei taught them various things in practice. Even now, when I am receiving a friendly smile like this, I feel like there’s some sort of ulterior motive. This is something I myself think though. It seems to be because they don’t want the target to notice their agitation and are trying to compose themselves secretly.

G-Great. She probably won’t be escaping in the middle of it now. It seems like I can buy sufficient time for Shiki to come. It would have probably been better to have obediently eaten first. I was pretty nervous inside.

“Please don’t joke. What part of me looks like a demon?” (Karen)

Karen makes a turn to show me. But as long as that spell isn’t affecting me, she will still look like a blue person.

[Everything. Your blue skin, red eyes. Hair is blond. Semi long. I don’t see a hyuman at all. Let me say this first, half-assed illusions don’t work on me]

“...”

[You killed Karen and replaced her. Is that how it is? Hornless demon]

“...”

Without saying a word, Karen reacts slightly to the latter half of my writing. The muscles in her face trembled lightly, or so it looked like. In that case...

[I want you to answer my question, hornless demon]

“...To think that I would be found out this fast... moreover, so straightforwardly. Raidou huh. What a strange teacher there is” (Karen)

[You admit it right?]

“Yeah. I don’t intend to tell you my objective, but I am not Karen Frost. You are right. But...” (Karen)

[What?]

“Don’t call me hornless ever again. I will kill you” (Karen)

The woman demon that had taken off the mask of Karen, I could see something slightly blurry coming out from her contours. She probably stopped her camouflage. And an intense killing intent was shot out. It is somewhat easier to take than Sofia’s, but well, I think that I am just not good at dealing with the anger of a woman.

I was raised in a family where the women were strong, so my weakness isn’t something I can correct at this point in time. I can’t just push it away, so for now let’s just ignore it.

[Is Karen already...?]

“Yeah, just as you have inferred. But the one who did it wasn’t me. This was the deed of the companions of Karen. I just found the personal history of her convenient so took the chance” (Karen)

[I see, her companions. Karen Frost is a pitiful one]

I actually didn’t have that much interest in how that girl died. It was just as I deduced, but I am not even acquainted with Karen anyways. For hyumans to kill other hyumans isn’t something that unusual. In the modern times it was pretty much the same.

There was no need to ask. I can imagine why the demon in front of me was at a place like that. Hyumans and demons are in war after all.

“Ara, you are unexpectedly cold. Well, the girl called Karen was called a prodigy, but on the other hand, she seemed to have stir a good amount of grudges. Ne, can I ask you something as well? Are you hyuman?” (Karen)

[I don't know the reason for that question but, yes, I am indeed a hyuman]

“Heh~ hyuman huh~... Well, there are a lot of types. But how unusual. After seeing a demon you guys would normally stare at me with bloodshot eyes” (Karen)

[I...]

Aaah, how bothersome!

“I am in the side that's against racial discrimination. Even if they have blue skin it doesn't matter, as long as they can exchange their thoughts it isn't any different from a person after all” (Makoto)

“?!! You... can use the language of demons?! But, the word ‘racial discrimination side’ is a word I first hear. Judging from your words, you mean that as long as you can exchange a conversation the outer appearance doesn't matter, right?” (Karen)

“Well, yeah, something like that. And so, how should I call you? Please spare me from the name Karen. That's the name of a deceased person after all. I still want to hear a few things more, so please give me a name” (Makoto)

“There's... no need for that”

The woman narrows her eyes looking a bit sad. It can even be seen as pity. From her sudden change of expression and her lowering of shoulders, I unintentionally found that gesture as cute, in contrast to her usual seductiveness.

“...”

“For a hyuman to talk normally with a demon is quite, no, incredibly interesting for me, but, you can tell right? I have to eliminate you no matter what. You will get in the way of my work after all. That's why there's no need to tell you a name”

“That woman's name is Rona. She threw away her family name. She is one of the demon generals of the demon army, Raidou-sama”

"?!!"

"Shiki huh" (Makoto)

The killing intent that was filling up the room was erased by the voice of a third party. Just like dispersing the heat of summer by sprinkling water. That it was in an instant as well made me feel like it was exactly like sprinkling water. Rona who had confirmed Shiki's presence and words, quickly took a battle stance.

That was too late. But with this, it seems like we can finally talk about a lot of things. That Shiki, he really did know her. Rona huh. That she threw away her family name and hornless, gives an impression of a mysterious woman. Wearing a school uniform with an adult body, I honestly can't see it as anything but cosplay and it makes it hard to fix my eyes. She is wearing it slightly pulled down so it makes me think that way even more.

And also, a demon general huh. This would be the first time I am face to face with a demon of the demon camp.

As expected, it was something troublesome.

In the room that has been filled with tension for a while now, Shiki's steps resound and he takes a sit. I was still in my sitting position. And Rona-san who tried to leave the room in her Karen form, is still standing.

Just as if she ran out of patience looking at Shiki's gaze, she makes a small sigh and takes her seat once again.

A strange lunch began in Gotetsu.

Chapter 100

The request of the demon

“Kuzunoha Company... If I remember correctly, that’s the miscellaneous store that opened not too long ago. And it has a store in Tsige as well, no, a sub-branch right?” (Rona)

“You know well” (Makoto)

“Heh, so you say. Raidou, the image you give right now is really different from when you are using written communication you know? Which one is the real one?” (Rona)

“This one. Shiki, I am sorry but could you please put that Nabe a bit further away? The sweet smell is even reaching here. And so, Rona-san. What do you mean by “so you say”?” (Makoto)

“About knowing well. Even though my name is only known to a real few number of people. How can a company that was just made have higher intelligence gathering than a nation? Wa, this is delicious” (Rona)

“Oua!! Rona, you bastard! That was the one I was cooking up to eat!! Demons shouldn’t be eating blue things, that’s cannibalism!” (Shiki)

“Could you please not call me by my name so familiarly? Also, saying that eating blue things is equal to cannibalism, that’s a first. Ah, I will be taking this one too~. N? Deliciouuuus!!” (Rona)

“It’s not like being red makes it okay!! Ooooh... You bastard, do you want to make this your last meal?” (Shiki)

“Well well, calm down Shiki. It’s okay to just order more. Ah, Rona-san. The bird meat over there is also ready to eat” (Makoto)

“Raidou, you really know your stuff. The seasoning is also the best~! Maybe I should learn how to make this before I return” (Rona)

“Raidou-samaaa...” (Shiki)

The Gotetsu private room is pretty chaotic.

Rona-san who obviously doesn't know the etiquette when eating Nabe, seems to have taken a liking to Nabe cuisine. Even so, it looks like Shiki and her... are not compatible. Shiki, even though you took the initiative and proposed to order and eat while discussing, why is it that you are the one suffering the most?

Even if you come crying to me, I can't do anything for you. It's okay to order more, so don't make such a pathetic voice.

Shiki seems to know Rona, but maybe because he doesn't want to reveal his identity, he hasn't told her what he was previously. In her eyes, Shiki is probably reflected as an enemy to be cautious of. That she is not showing it in her face is as expected.

“Haaah~ I ate well! It's been a while since I have been completely satisfied!” (Rona)

“Then, let's continue with the conversation” (Makoto)

“Conversation huh. You say so, but even trying to kill you would be hard in a 2 against 1, so aren't I in a disadvantage? First of all, I probably want to more about Kuzunoha Company~” (Rona)

“Discussions that begin with both at the same standing are not that many you know? Moreover, Rona-san, you are used to it right?” (Makoto)

“Nomnom, that's right Rona. Things like strategy, conspiracy, traps, tricks; aren't those your areas of expertise?” (Shiki)

Shiki, so he finally got the chance to eat properly. He is not reading the mood though. The Nabe in Gotetsu is his soul food. Let's consent for now.

“...Really, just how much do you know? You said we have a sub-branch in Tsige so... that means you have someone posted there?” (Makoto)

“Heh~, the demons' plan has already advanced all the way to the wasteland? That's something I have heard for the first time too” (Shiki)

Anyways, that we know the name is only because Shiki knew it and it isn't like we have

constructed our intelligence gathering power at that level. Tomoe seems to be doing some undercover stuff, so in the places close to the store, we are able to get a decent amount of information.

“Is the Kuzunoha Company an information organization of Aion?” (Rona)

So no comment on what we said huh.

Ah, Tsige was in outline a land affiliated to Aion right. The government officials that were dispatched every time were all so incompetent and the land was practically a self-government of merchants, so I didn’t really remember. I felt like that place was ruled mainly by the merchant guild and the adventurer guild.

“No way. We are not affiliated to anything. Not to hyumans nor demons” (Makoto)

That’s why I thought of making a store in Academy Town. This is the first time I have said this huh. I haven’t talked to any demon related to the demon camp before, so the only thing I have said is that I have been doing business without being attached to any country. Rembrandt-san is probably more on the hyuman side. I actually sell to anyone and I don’t think of making any differences depending on the race.

“You are hyuman, and yet you are not affiliated to hyumans? Do you understand what you yourself are saying, Raidou?” (Rona)

Rona-san showed slight bewilderment as she matches my gaze to search for my real intentions.

“You already have several hyumans following you on your side right? I don’t think it is something to be so surprised about. It’s just that I am more neutral than them though” (Makoto)

Several hyumans is a lie. I only know of Sofia.

“...Really, I give up. To think that a power already had more information than us, I didn’t fathom that possibility. So in the hyumans there’s also people who think about strategy, tactics and plans huh. I thought it would take at least 50 years for you guys to understand the importance of information” (Rona)

50 years you say. Rona-san, hyumans are not monkeys. The war would already be over if that were the case.

From the times I read books in the library, I sometimes had the same kind of thoughts as her, so I can't refute her words completely.

"Hyumans come in many varieties. And so, to do business more freely and in this land where our first store is located, I wanted to know your objective for infiltrating here. I definitely would like to know" (Makoto)

"Raidou, please don't do such a scary face. Honestly, at this point in time where our information is at a disadvantage, I just don't have the will to oppose you anymore" (Rona)

Completely taking off her combat mode, the school uniform cosplaying Onee-san places both elbows on the desk.

"You say that with a laudable face, but you are a fox woman that would not hesitate using charms, seductions or even drugs and dangerous magic. So Raidou-sama, don't let your guard down. Hm, tasty tasty. Even half-cooked can't be underestimated. What a true discovery" (Shiki)

"...Really. How hard to deal with. What? Does Kuzunoha Company have my personal history gathered up?" (Rona)

"I will leave it to your imagination. And so... well, I don't have any proofs, but I am probably not an enemy of yours" (Makoto)

"...Just now you said that you were neutral right? I don't think this is the case but, could it be that you are intending to become a merchant that will provide support to both hyumans and demons in the war to occur?" (Rona)

Rona-san's eyes become a lot sharper. The blood thirst that had disappeared is once again lurking in the room. I see, a demon general huh. This woman is without doubt a general serving the demon lord. Leaving aside her behavior, loyalty to her own nation is something I personally like. My interest in the demons serving under the demon lord is welling up.

"We are not planning on providing weapons in the war" (Makoto)

Currently. Well, it's not just that I don't have plans to, but that I don't really feel like doing that.

“I see” (Rona)

Nodding her head lightly, Rona, while leaving her elbows on the desk, intertwines both hands on her face, hiding her face as she lowers it.

The conversation stops. The sound of Shiki poking and eating Nabe is the only sound that rules the room.

Is she thinking of our relation in a positive way? Though it probably doesn't go further than us being usable. Even so, I think that she is a woman that's easier to talk to than Sofia.

In this situation where she is misunderstanding our power is the best chance. Honestly speaking, I don't have the talking skills and abilities to properly negotiate with a person whose main occupation is being the head of information gathering. If it turns dangerous, I intend to tag Shiki.

I can only wait for her decision.

“...Fuh~. In short, Raidou also wants to sell things to the demons right? If I can become that foothold, I would be happy. But if I am planning to do something here, it would tarnish the business that has been going favorably. That's why you want to learn my objective” (Rona)

Exactly. Well, there's no hurries in selling things to the demons. I think it doesn't need to be in this occasion. What's important is the latter half. I don't want them to hinder us.

“Yeah, that's right” (Makoto)

“So that's really it huh. You don't care about the direction of the war or the damage to the country, only about being a hindrance to your business, right?” (Rona)

“...Right” (Makoto)

“I understand. I still can't believe you completely, but I have understood your intentions. Then right now it is important to first learn about each other right?” (Rona)

“Learn? But the information...” (Makoto)

What does she mean?

“Let me tell you this first Rona. If you connect bodies with Raidou-sama, you will regret it for the rest of your life. This is an honest warning thinking about your wellbeing. The catastrophe will probably come bite me as well, that’s why I will do my all to get in the way, so do take that in mind” (Shiki)

Shiki stops his chopsticks and looks at Rona-san with a dead serious face, telling her slow and detailed instructions.

Connecting bodies? Ah... so that's what she meant by learning about each other.

“You intend to thoroughly continue calling me without honorifics huh, Shiki” (Rona)

“You have no reasons to call me without honorifics” (Shiki)

“I return those words right back at you. Geez. When I talked about learning, I didn’t mean our bodies. If that’s your wish, I don’t really mind though. I want to know about your strength and way of thinking, if only a bit. If the lectures are like that, it wouldn’t serve as reference right?” (Rona)

“Hah~. For you to not even notice a part of the abysmal power of Raidou-sama. Are you sexual frigid, wench?” (Shiki)

“Concretely speaking, what do you want us to do?” (Makoto)

I decide to just ignore Rona and Shiki’s comedy play.

“You are free to believe me or not. The reason why I came here is...” (Rona)



[And that's how it is. Lime, I am sorry but can you investigate?]

“With pleasure! I will quickly find information. It is actually a disgusting story. Well then...” (Lime)

Lime responds to my request immediately and leaves the room. Practically at the same time, two presences disappear. Must be the Forest Onis: Akua and Eris. It seems those girls will be joining the investigation as well.

“Doubting everything that woman says is the safest measure, Raidou-sama” (Shiki)

“Shiki. It seemed like you already knew her but, is she an acquaintance?” (Makoto)

“Yeah. She was mostly a person cooperating in information exchange with me. I don’t know how many times I have been used and dragged into trouble” (Shiki)

Shiki’s expression turns into one of anguish. Seeing him like that, he must have gone through quite a lot.

“Her type is probably similar to that of Mio-dono. I don’t know the details but it seems that she has a big debt of gratitude with the demon lord. She has sworn loyalty to an abnormal level. Her strength doesn’t compare to Mio-dono’s, but just think of Rona’s underhanded way of thinking as something close to hers. Ah, keep this talk a secret from Mio-dono please” (Shiki)

An underhanded Mio that has an incredibly good brain?

I would give up. My heart would break without a doubt.

The man called the demon lord seems to be a person with a bigger vessel than me. From the fragmented information I have, I can already picture him as an excelling ruler. He is most likely an able man. N? There’s the chance that the demon lord is a woman. Now that I think about it, I practically don’t have information.

Also, Shiki. If you are going to tremble all over, you should try using another example. Well, it was actually a pretty easy to understand example.

“Rona-san huh. In the end, it seems that until this one matter is over, Karen Frost will continue attending the Academy” (Makoto)

“She will definitely be moving sneakily” (Shiki)

“I did tell her that Kuzunoha Company is out of bounds. But based on what you said, it is hard to believe in her” (Makoto)

“Yes. That woman tells lies as much as she breathes” (Shiki)

What kind of woman is that? To give out that answer with no hesitation.

“Just in case, could you try and predict her movements at all times?” (Makoto)

“That’s what I intended to do from the very beginning. It seems like she already returned to her lodging for today. That wench. She is perfectly relaxing without knowing that she is being observed” (Shiki)

“...Make sure to peek at her in a moderate manner okay? It is okay to just know her current location for now. Well then, let’s get some presents and go greet the Rembrandt sisters” (Makoto)

“Tto, that’s right. I will guide you there. Is it okay to just bring cut fruits as present? How about a bouquet of flowers...” (Shiki)

Ah right. I haven’t even told them I was visiting so maybe it would be better to have flowers?

I was planning on bringing cut fruits like when bringing a fruits basket as present, but thinking about it, these are products I manage at my store. It would turn to plain publicity.

No well, the fruits have a good reputation so...

“Uhm, Raidou-sama” (Shiki)

“N?” (Makoto)

“If it’s fine with you, should I choose some suitable ones?” (Shiki)

“...Sorry. Please” (Makoto)

It seems like he instantly saw through what I was troubled about. Shiki, thanks for all.

After several minutes.

In the end, I brought the fruits and the bouquet of flowers that Shiki chose, and headed to their room.

“Hey Shiki, about the Rembrandt sisters’ room. Isn’t this inside the nobles’ dormitory?” (Makoto)

Moreover, a pretty high-class one. Rembrandt-san dotes on her daughter quite a lot.

"Yeah. It seems so" (Shiki)

"The people in the staff room told me a lot that "even if I am a temporary teacher, doesn't mean you can visit them". If it were a normal student it would be one thing, but..." (Makoto)

"...I did my best" (Shiki)

D-Did your best?

"You did your best huh" (Makoto)

"Yes. On the level that doesn't leave after-effects. It was a really bone rending task" (Shiki)

"..."

Let's leave it as if I didn't hear anything.

After revealing my position as a temporary teacher, I am standing at the entrance of the sisters' lodging with my permission to visit confirmed. Creeping in would obviously be a bad idea after all. It is only to celebrate their return to school and it is no surprise either.

The two of them live in the same room and it is already confirmed that both of them are there. I explained my reason for this visit to the people in charge. The landlady-san made a bitter face as we entered the nobles' dormitory and safely arrived in front of their room.

When I knocked, I heard some rattling noises and the steps got closer.

The door opened.

[Sif-san, Yuno-san. I am truly sorry about not being able to visit you when you were ill. I already introduced myself in the class but let me do so again. I am the merchant that your father is assisting, Raidou. That you are now completely healthy, allow me to congratulate you. It may be late, but this is a congratulatory gift from our part]

For now, I write what I was thinking of and congratulate them for their recovery, and also make a light self-introduction again.

They receive the cut fruits in a slightly big container and the bouquet of flowers from Shiki.

The two of them have already taken off their uniforms and are in normal clothes. The designs differ from each other. The two of them were dressed in a one piece that was probably made for both to have an opposite design. It looks expensive.

The sisters who received the fruits and bouquet with a full smile, strongly invited us to enter the room and we ended up intruding in their room. I didn't really mind. As long as I gave them what I came to give and gave my greeting, I didn't really need to enter...

“Raidou-sensei, your personality is totally different compared to when you are in class” (Sif)

“Yeah. That surprised me!” (Yuno)

When we sat down on the sofa that we were invited to, the two of them retort to me from the opposite side.

[Lectures are a place where one comes to study and gain power after all. I unconsciously become strict. I have always been helped by my assistant Shiki to appease them. That I am interacting with you two like this, please keep it a secret from the other students]

I can't tell them that I am doing the carrot and stick after all. And if they tell them to other people, it would be troublesome in a lot of ways.

“Shiki-san, right? I have heard of Tomoe-san and Mio-san from father, but have you been with Raidou-sensei since long?” (Sif)

“Yes. I have been serving Raidou-sama since a long time ago. It's just that the trip to Tsige was unexpected, so I was unable to visit Tsige” (Shiki)

Just like we previously arranged, Shiki tells them about the setting we created. Of course, we were expecting the two to ask Shiki, so we thought of it beforehand.

Luckily, they didn't pursue the subject further and the older sister Sif readied tea while the little one Yuno took out pastries.

The two of them are level-headed. Taking the tea offered, we have a brief pause. The two sisters look at each other and nod slightly.

"I am Sif the eldest daughter of Tsige's merchant, Rembrandt. Raidou-sama, to have saved our lives at that time. I can't find words to express my gratitude. This favor we will never forget and will edge it in our hearts. We want to repay you" (Sif)

"Same here, Yuno. Just like my older sister, it is thanks to Raidou-sama that we are here healthy now. If in the future there's something we are able to do, please don't hesitate to ask" (Yuno)

...

They are thanking me to a dangerous level! Even the little sister put in order her tone and said an incredible thing with a serious face!

Their fight against the deadly curse illness must have cornered those girls a lot. Even now I am having Lime find the people under curse illnesses and creating medicines. A curse that makes you ill and eventually kills you. I really think that's not something that can be forgiven.

[Okay then, you two. From now on you will live for the sake of happiness. That will be my repayment. Also, no Raidou-sama. We are student and teacher, so call me sensei or use -san]

"...Eh?"

I thought that they might be brooding a lot over that subject. That's why I thought of an answer just in case this happened. Since the time I was in Tsige.

They were finally released from the curse disease, but if they are tied up by responsibility next, it would be pointless. So I decided to tell them to live their lives happily.

I don't know if my answer was unexpected for the two or if my immediate response surprised them, but the two of them looked dumbfounded.

[Those are the words of your life savior, so please keep that promise. Don't underappreciate me just because my face is ugly got it? The two of you were pretty "that" when you were ill after all]

"P-Please don't touch that subject! We already know that sensei saw an appearance of us that is more embarrassing than being naked!" (Sif)

"Uh, that was certainly worse than being naked..." (Yuno)

They were practically ghouls after all. I remember that Rembrandt-san wanted to make a portrait of her wife and daughter while they were recovering in celebration. Even I thought that was insensitive but, just what happened to that?

[Now that I think about it, your father said that he wanted to leave a memory of the recovery of you three]

"...Sensei, father has already seriously reflected on that foolish action"

"...Sensei, he was punished along with Morris who made an error in your entry documents from student to teacher you know?"

Ah, how scary. These sisters are probably scary.

Their tone lowered. Just by hearing their voice, I felt a chilling cold.

My instincts told me that I shouldn't know about what happened, so I decided to not ask about the details of the punishment. His wife and daughters probably did something. But I won't ask.

I am also involved in it, so I better not touch on that incident. There are things that one can't turn into a laughing matter even if time passes.

[A... Ahaha. I see. Well, I don't really mind. Now then, Shiki. We should leave soon]

"Yes, Raidou-sama" (Shiki)

He didn't talk at all in the conversation and just acted as an assistant. For that I am grateful.

I give my thanks to the two kind girls who were sad that we were leaving already, and

left the nobles' dormitory.

"Raidou-sama, about those two..." (Shiki)

"What?" (Makoto)

"Even though they are wealthy among hyumans, I felt like they didn't have much attachment to outward appearance. I also saw that their gratitude for Raidou-sama is the real deal. And that kind treatment to guests, I feel like this is my first time seeing a normal hyuman" (Shiki)

Certainly. I feel like my current students only fear me, but you are already treating Lime who was influenced by Tomoe as abnormal?

"There was a time when their own outward appearance become terrible because of the curse disease after all. They probably changed their way of thinking and are now people that take more importance in what's inside" (Makoto)

"No matter which, it is something to be happy about. Those two will surely grow" (Shiki)

"Shiki-sensei's approval? They are rookies with a bright future" (Makoto)

While doing frivolous talk, Shiki and I return.

The next morning.

Contact with Lime Latte was cut off.



PtFF by: traktorA7EN