

あづみ圭

Azumi Kei

# 月が導く異世界道中

Tsukiga Michibiku Sekai Dōchū

7



ALPHAPOLIS

アルファポリス

# **Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu**

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

**- Volume 7 -**

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**[ Reigokai: Isekai Translations ]**



## 主な登場人物



Mio

元は巨大な蜘蛛。  
真と契約して  
人の姿を得た。  
最近のマイブームは  
料理。

Root

「万色」と呼ばれる  
最上位の龍。なぜか  
男の姿で真に  
ベタベタする変人。  
冒険者ギルドの  
創設者でもある。

Jin

ロツタル学園の生徒。  
剣を巧みに操る  
真の教え子。

Tomoe

元は「蜃」と呼ばれる龍。  
真と契約したことによって  
人の姿を得た。  
亞空における日本文化の  
伝道者。

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。  
先生姿が板についてきたのだが、  
本業は商人。

Shiki

元は「リッチ」と呼ばれる  
アンデッドモンスター。  
真と契約したことで人の姿となった。  
ロツタル学園で  
真の補佐を務めている。

Illumgand

リミアの大貴族、  
ホープレイズ家の次男。  
正しき貴族の姿を追求するため、  
ロツタル学園に入学した。

# Chapter 119

## Various things locked-on

After returning from downstairs, Sairitz separated from her escorts and returned to the noble visitor's room.

A soft black rug is spread out in the room and the guests from various countries are divided in groups and amusing themselves with chats or in the balcony at the far back watching the events of the hall. Sairitz who came from Lorel Union, is one of the people in the highest positions. Before leaving the event, she returned to her assigned sit and a number of hyumans came to talk to her. While dealing with them in a skilled manner, she suddenly noticed something and turns her head to a certain direction.

Sairitz' eyes narrowed. In the place she felt a gaze, there was an unexpected person.

(The Empire's second princess Lily Front Gritonia. The being that backups the Empire's hero. After the appearance of the hero, she has left all her political power as if running away from it, and has been serving under him. Just that, as a person that has seen how she acted before, this was a turnover that brought suspicions. The vigilance around her surroundings has actually grown tighter than before the hero appeared, and investigating her current status is giving us a hard time. It can be said that it is an abnormal vigilance. For now, there's practically no interaction between me and her though. We haven't made any unnecessary contact with the hero at their side, and currently there's no plans to do so) (Sairitz)

After finishing one round of chats, Sairitz apologizes to the people around her and approaches Lily who is close to the balcony. Lily wasn't looking at Sairitz anymore, she was looking at the situation of the lower floor.

(They came huh, Lorel. I was thinking of ignoring them for a while since Tomoki's power didn't work on their priestess, and yet, they are unnecessarily increasing my work load. To think that they would come in contact with the Kuzunoha Company. Don't joke around. Since the warning of that woman named Tomoe, even if she is just an employee of the company, it didn't sound like a joke. Tomoki who is preparing to invade, is infatuated with that woman, so I can't just ignore Kuzunoha Company completely. That unsightly man seems to be the owner Raidou, but there's the

possibility that he is also the master of Tomoe. It is actually a time where I have to be acting together with Tomoki and the others, but if they are doing business so close by, I can't help but be interested. It would have been good if they just obediently stayed in Tsige. On top of that, you are telling me they have connections with the secrecy-filled Lorel? Geez, they are truly in the way. Such a hindrance, hindrance, hindrance, hindrance!!) (Lily)

On the other side, Lily knew of Sairitz approach. The reason she is looking at the lower floor is not a feint to Sairitz. She was checking out the state of Raidou who had returned to the hall.

For Lily, the Kuzunoha Company and the owner Raidou are a part of the reason she came to Academy Town. Tomoe, the strong swordswoman they met close to Limia Kingdom. That existence, not only became a big crack in the heart of the hero who is the strongest pawn of the Empire, but also on Princess Lily. For him, that was the first time he was treated in a cruel manner, on top of that, she possesses a sword he cannot unsheathe, even when he is able to use any magic tools. Lily took Tomoe's warning to heart, so she kept down the investigation of Kuzunoha Company to the minimum and has not interfered in any way. She has been able to control the attachment of Tomoki to Tomoe, and the reason why he has not gone to action is also because of her. Tomoe's existence is currently Lily's seed of distress, and she couldn't help worrying about the reason why the subject of that trouble is coming all the way to Academy Town.

"Lily-sama. How's it going looking at the hall? Did you find someone that picks your interest?"

"Oh, this is, Kahara-sama" (Lily)

"Using –sama, I don't mind if you call me without any honorifics. You are the princess of the Empire that's fighting with the demon race at the frontlines after all" (Saritz)

"I have already resigned to my rights for the throne. Also, I am just a libertine person that has come to this kind of festival in this kind of time" (Lily)

"Just by supporting the hero you have enough dedication. I, no, we Lorel want to be lady's-" (Saritz)

"...Let's enter the real issue, Kahara-sama. Why did you, one of the authorities of Lorel Union, go through the trouble of going down and meet that man? I am interested"

(Lily)

Lily's words stopped Sairitz flattery. The folding fan was hiding the lower half of Lily's face and her eyes were gently smiling. But Sairitz was able to sense that it was because she was unhappy that she said something like that.

"Man... Ah, that was a personal affair of mine. I heard from my subordinates that there's a store in this town that sells well-working medicine and peculiar fruits. 'He is an incredibly characteristic shopkeeper, so you will be able to tell it is him at a glance' is what they told me half-jokingly, but when I saw him a while ago, I was surprised. It was truly at a glance, moreover, from afar. That's why I unconsciously went to talk to him without thinking about my own position. I probably did something troublesome for him" (Sairitz)

"Fufufu, true. Even from here you can tell in an instant that's him, Raidou-dono" (Lily)

Lily's eyes perceive Raidou. And then, after ascertaining Raidou, this time Sairitz was the one who showed interest.

"...Lily-sama also knows about Raidou-dono?" (Sairitz)

"Yeah. On my side it is mostly from rumors though. Things like, their employees being almost all demi-humans, and that he is working as a temporary teacher in the academy. It seems he is quite the interesting one. I would also like to talk with him" (Lily)

"...I see, talk. So he is a temporary teacher too huh. Also, he is close with demi-humans..." (Sairitz)

(...She doesn't know much about him? Is this a bluff?) (Lily)

Seeing her face as if it's her first time hearing about his relationship with the demi-humans and that he is a temporary teacher, Lily ponders.

(For now, the Kuzunoha Company doesn't have traces of being in any other place aside from Tsige and Rotsgard. And this woman leaving her country is something that rarely happens. In that case, Lorel and Kuzunoha Company have enough connection to have her leave the country? Within that factor of uncertainty, the Kuzunoha Company currently doesn't hold much antagonism towards us. Investigating about the other uncertain factor, the Devil, might be better. The Devil, possessing quite the battle

power and on top of that, holds connection with the Goddess. Moreover, no matter if it's hyuman or demon, it will kill them without distinction. Compared to that, the Kuzunoha Company is more of a neutral existence. Let's go with using a random country to investigate them thoroughly. If the Empire stands at the front, it might turn bad when Tomoe comes out) (Lily)

"If their medicine is really as good as they say, I was thinking about buying some as presents" (Lily)

"Ara, that's a good idea. If you want, can I ready Lily-sama's share too?" (Sairitz)

"There's no need to do so much" (Lily)

"There's no position as public as Lily-sama's after all. Also, I can't let a princess wait in that massive line" (Sairitz)

"...Understood. I will take your good will" (Lily)

(Is it because she doesn't want me to make contact with Raidou? Let's concede here for now. There's still things I want to hear from her) (Lily)

"Leave it to me. I will have it delivered to you in a few days" (Sairitz)

"I will be waiting. Changing the subject, can I please depend on that good will once more? Actually, there's something I want to ask Kahara-sama about by all means" (Lily)

"To me? Because of my position, there are many things I can't answer about my country, so if you are fine with that" (Sairitz)

(What does she want to ask? She already has several information gatherers infiltrated and all) (Sairitz)

"Of course. I know that your country has developed strong characteristic techniques. Actually, our country has recently been interested in gunpowder. I was wondering if I could ask you about Lorel's management of gunpowder and its way of use" (Lily)

"Gunpowder huh. This is my first time hearing that your country is interested in such a thing though. If it's that, I can tell you as much as I know" (Sairitz)

(Gunpowder. How unexpected. There are dangerous ways to use it, but that's something that is far inferior to magicians. Well, it does give the impression of being unnecessarily dangerous though, but why... Let's teach her things that will not be an obstacle. Things that she most likely already heard that is. I will probably have to warn the people in charge of that to be careful) (Sairitz)

"Yes. As you see fit" (Lily)

(The interest of the Empire in gunpowder, if they learn of it, of course they will be cautious. In times, cautiousness actually exposes the place for information. Don't underestimate our intelligence force. I will have you fall to the eyes of Tomoki and make you devoted like our girls) (Lily)

While listening to the gunpowder's use and value that she already knows of, Lily and Sairitz' smiling confrontation continued.



"Rembrandt, so you were here"

"Well well, if it isn't the shogun. If I knew you came, I would have come to greet you. If I remember correctly, the ones that should have come to Rotsgard are the Ryujin household though?" (Rembrandt)

"Umu, I didn't have plans of coming here. There's a campaign regarding Stella Fort's strategy you see. In our way, it was just right in the time of the school festival, so as a rest for the march, we are stopping here. And well, I saw you. Today the butler is not here?"

"Yes. I brought my wife, so I have left the store matters to him" (Rembrandt)

"No guards huh. The Don of Tsige can't do that"

"No no, as a substitute I have brought someone reliable. It's the novice merchant from Kuzunoha Company I told you about before. Today I came with him" (Rembrandt)

Without denying that he is the head of Tsige, Rembrandt now understood the reason of why the Shogun made contact with him.

"...Fuh, I was going to advice you about that matter though. I see. You have tamed him

well. I have heard that he is the type of guy that made this place his base and didn't want anything to do with my country after all"

'Are you holding the reins of Kuzunoha Company?' Rembrandt, who thought that was the reason why he came so suddenly, seems like he was right.

That's why he didn't deny the Shogun's own image of him being the head of Tsige, and while at it, tell him that he had Raidou come with him so he would misunderstand the power relationship between them.

The success of this can be understood from the answer of the Shogun of Aion.

"In the end he is a youngster. And actually, right now he is renting a space in my company and Kuzunoha Company is also in Tsige, so be relieved. Ah right, Shogun likes alcohol right? There's a woman there that brings pretty delicious alcohol. Well then, please hang around with me for a while. Come come" (Rembrandt)

"O-oh. Rembrandt, don't urge that much. Sorry, madam. I will be borrowing your husband for a while"

"Don't worry. After that, please do accompany me in one tune okay? I will be waiting" (Lisa)

Rembrandt's wife, Lisa, sees off the two men that disappear into the crowd. With a full smile, she looked at the back of the Aion Shogun as it disappears. From the mouth of that madam, a small sigh leaks out. A small sigh that the people around wouldn't be able to notice. Her field of view is now only of the other guests, and she doesn't know anymore where her husband and the man, who called him out, have gone.

(Tamed him well, huh. A stupid one who doesn't even know who's the one being tamed. He even acted as if he didn't notice me. He probably doesn't even notice that he was dragged away so that he doesn't point that lecherous gaze to our daughters) (Lisa)

Lisa didn't exchange a single word with her husband, but she understood the conversation a few moments ago and the reason of her husband's actions. Even when he is in one of the highest positions of Aion, he is actually an idiot that got his position by heredity. On top of that, he finds women here and there and makes them his wife.

(I am confident in my ability to hide my feelings in my face, but even I showed a

dumbfounded face at that time. Seeing his son courting Sif, he also tried courting her and making her his wife after all. So shocked. A father and son fighting over a woman, how disgusting) (Lisa)

Lisa remembers a past memory. In the time when her daughters Sif and Yuno were healthy, there were quite a lot of marriage proposals. When they became students at the academy, the amount increased even more. The son of the man that called out was also one of them. It is one of the memories she wants to forget.

“Eh? Only mama is here? Where’s papa?”

“Yuno, say Oka-sama or mother. Be careful with how you talk. If you are unable to do that, I will have to discipline you at home as well, got it?” (Lisa)

“Ugh! I will be careful, Oka-sama” (Yuno)

“Good” (Lisa)

“Oka-sama, the one just now, if I remember correctly, that’s Aion’s...”

“That’s right, Sif. The parent and child that proposed marriage to you. It seems he stopped here to rest while in their march to Stella. Right now when he is being kept away its okay, but be careful” (Lisa)

“...Yes. By the way, where’s Raidou-sensei?” (Sif)

“He was led that way by Lorel’s... probably an important person related to the priestess-sama, but he most likely returned already. Even though you did your best dressing up, too bad. It seems Raidou-sama is not used to this kind of places” (Lisa)

“Yeah. It is true that Raidou-sensei hasn’t been taught etiquette and dancing after all” (Yuno)

Yuno says this words with a wry smile. Even she, who is normally vigorous, is wearing a dress, done her hair, showing her nape and having a complete change in her atmosphere. Her light manner of speaking actually gave an out of place sensation instead.

“Fufufu, he did see it, so ask him his impressions later. That’s kind of an advance for those type of men. Also, Yuno and Sif” (Lisa)

“What is it?” (Sif)

“What?” (Yuno)

“It seems you girls have been playing around in the Academy in quite the flashy way huh? The Rembrandt’s name doesn’t have that much of a good reputation around here you know?” (Lisa)

“?! Y-You investigated?”

“Of course. With just your grades, I can’t tell how you live here after all. It seems that you have become obedient when you returned, but looks like in the past you were quite the pair” (Lisa)

“Uuh”

The two who gathered the attention of people, curl up and make themselves small.

“...Maybe I should tell Raidou-sama” (Lisa)

“Stop!”



Sif and Yuno's voice splendidly overlapped. Their grim expression also matched.

"Then that bad reputation, turn it around by the time you graduate. Got it? Turn it around okay? Turn around your bad reputation. This is quite hard to do. People like to look down on others more than they value them after all. This will definitely help you in the future as well, so do it to your utmost. Come on, if you understand, hurry and go back!" (Lisa)

"Y-Yes!"

The words of Sif and Yuno's mother pushed the back of them, and they returned to the brilliant place. The two of them share the same feelings. The first is of course, the embarrassment of having Raidou learn of their past behavior, and then, the fear of Raidou knowing that and doing something incredibly scary to them in order to correct them. For some reason, in their minds, there's no thoughts of him abandoning them, get scorned by him or things like that. More than that, their fear of him doing something to them might be prove of their trust to him, or maybe his classes have numbed something inside them.

Lisa looks at Raidou who is casually leaning to the wall. As if he were thinking about something, and at the same time not thinking about anything. Seeing the figure of her unpredictable benefactor, the madam unconsciously smiled broadly.



"Thanks for today, Raidou-dono. Thanks to you I was able to bask in the figure of my dressed up daughters"

Rembrandt gives his gratitude to Raidou with a smile.

In the way back, the night was still at its early stages. It can be said that the festival's night has only just started. About now, the students that were participating are most likely hearing their grades and rejoicing or despairing. That they are able to smilingly return must be a privilege of the invited. About his daughters, they have been given a new task by their parents and have been rendered unable to return with a smile.

[On my side as well, I was able to meet a lot of people. Thank you very much]

"How were my daughters? Were they able to make your eyes rejoice?" (Lisa)

The madam asks Raidou about his evaluation of her daughters' appearance.

[They were incredibly beautiful. They were totally different compared to the times in my class, and more than rejoice, it surprised me]

"Hahaha! A beauty that surprises. Raidou-dono truly gets it!" (Rembrandt)

Just like an over-doting parent, Rembrandt puts extra meaning to Raidou's words and praises his daughters.

"Dear... Those girls as well as Raidou-sama would be looking at it, so I seriously selected the outfits. As a mother, I feel relieved" (Lisa)

[Those words are wasted on me, madam]

"By the way, Raidou-dono, I haven't presented you to him but, actually, the Aion Kingdom's Shogun came" (Rembrandt)

The smile disappears from Rembrandt's face and the merriness in his voice is gone as he talks to Raidou who is walking at the front.

[The Shogun-sama of Aion Kingdom is?]

"Yeah, it seems he is in the middle of his march to Stella Fort. He asked me about you, so I told him that I have tamed you well. You are a popular one huh. Looks like Lorel Union has taken an interest in you too" (Rembrandt)

[Thanks. You were watching that. It seems they heard about my popularity with medicine and asked me if I wanted to open a store in Lorel. Right now I have my hands full with Tsige and here, so I declined]

"How impressive. Just the fact that you already have an offer for your next store. But in those cases, be careful of your footing, there might be a pitfall" (Rembrandt)

[Thanks for the advice]

"Dear, Raidou-sama has Tomoe-sama and Mio-sama, and also the one called Shiki-sama as well" (Lisa)

"Oh right. I unconsciously said something unnecessary. Sorry for being so nosy,

Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

[No, don't mind it. I am truly happy to see your care]

"...Raidou-dono, you see, lately, I have been witnessing the progress of Tsige every day. What I am going to say isn't just from my feelings of gratitude. In the future, no matter what kind of enemy you make, I will stand by your side. As our benefactor and as a merchant as well. That is my decision. That's why, when you are troubled by something, don't hesitate to say it. I will become your strength" (Rembrandt)

When Rembrandt finished what he said, Raidou who was walking in front of him, stopped his feet.

There's two reasons. The first is because of the gratitude he felt from the words of Rembrandt. And the other reason is because of what was in front of his vision. Several students in their uniforms. They were clearly showing hostility. And it was precisely directed at Raidou.

Rembrandt also noticed that abnormality and stopped his feet.

"Oi, Raidou"

[I don't remember giving any student permission to call me without honorifics. I am certainly Raidou, but are you calling me in that way fully knowing that I am a temporary teacher?]

"Of course. I won't let you say you have forgotten about me. I, who was almost killed by you"

Raidou tilts his head. Because he is a student he doesn't remember at all.

If he said almost killed, he thought that maybe he was one of the students participating in his class. But when thinking about the students that are currently in his course and the students that have been injured in his class, there wasn't anyone who had any wrath.

[Sorry. I don't know you]

"?!! Don't joke around!"

[I'm not joking. I don't have a single clue. But, if I did something, let me apologize. I am sorry. As you can see, I am in company right now. If you have complains, I will hear them tomorrow at the store. Well then]

"You!! Do you really not remember me?!"

[Are you a student that came to my class? I don't think you were there though]

"There's no way I would go to your class!! I see, class, the class! Your class, right now there's only seven left right? Also, there's no petitions to join right? It's because I am putting pressure, so that's obvious though!"

Raidou was troubled.

The man in front of him was emphasizing the matter so much to the point he was foaming. If he really was close to dying, there's no way Raidou wouldn't remember it. But, it is true that he remembers a bit of him. Actually, he even feels like this isn't their first time meeting.

Also, about the class, right now he has been receiving a massive amount of petitions. Just that he is not accepting them. He was thinking about letting the seven teach the newcomers when they are a bit stronger, but in a long term perspective it would take time, so he doesn't intend to increase the number of students right now. And that's why there are seven. He really didn't understand this man more and more.

[I told you I will listen to you tomorrow. Let me tell you something. These people are one of the guests of honor. If students put a hand on them, you know what will happen right?]

Exchanging looks with Rembrandt, Raidou passes to his side. Maybe the warning worked, they didn't show signs of putting their hands on the couple.

"...I can't forgive you! I will definitely make you regret making an enemy out of me! In the tournament tomorrow, I will first crush the bunch that are taking your classes. No matter the way! It will spread in an instant the fact that you are incompetent!"

[I see. Do whatever you want]

Raidou continues with his back turned, writing to the man that is still clamoring. The jeering continued, but Raidou didn't listen to him anymore.

"R-Raidou-dono. The students just now, I think they said something about hurting my daughters though" (Rembrandt)

[Yeah, it seems so. Please don't worry. This is instead going to turn into good training for them. Also, there's not a one in a million chance they will be hurt]

Calming the couple, Raidou guided them to their lodging.

No matter how hard he thought of it, he couldn't remember who in the world he was. There's no doubt he met him in the time he was in Academy Town, so when Raidou returned to the company, he talked to Shiki about it.

In the small space of time Shiki was thinking, he stayed silent.

"Waka, maybe it is that?" (Shiki)

"Did you remember something? I don't remember at all" (Makoto)

"Yeah. It was something that happened soon after we arrived here. The students that were messing with Ruria from Gotetsu, and we punished them" (Shiki)

"Oh, now that you mention it. I saved her on a whim. But he said he was almost killed you know? I think that was only on the level of scaring them a bit though" (Makoto)

"They were falling at that height and down was stone paving, so there was a slight chance to die. Most importantly, none of them were able to float" (Shiki)

"...Right. So it is that. That is the 'almost killed him' huh" (Makoto)

Raidou droops his shoulders heavily and sighs. Because he was exhausted after realizing that guy was making all that racket and calling it 'almost dying', how exaggerated. Compared to what he experienced when he came to this world, that was nothing.

"Just in case, I will investigate about those students tomorrow. I did promise Jin to accompany him after all" (Shiki)

"I see. The raffle of the tournament, was it? I will also peek at it with Root. At that time, can you please make some time with Jin and the others? I have to warn them that they might get harassed" (Makoto)

“Warn them?” (Shiki)

“Yes, warn them. If they are unable to deal with those kind of things on their own, they can't be relied on after all. In the staff room, people have told me several times if I wanted to increase my number of students. I don't have to abide to that, but it has turned into being stuck between a rock and a hard place, and I feel a bit of pity towards the staff members. When those seven grow to a certain extent, I plan on using them to educate and it would save some trouble” (Makoto)

Shiki nods silently at Raidou's words.

(Well then, let's go to the store where Tomoe and Mio, as well as the unnecessary extra, Root, are waiting. I have to ask them what they have done today after all. They must be planning on drinking loads, and tomorrow I will be together with Root. There still much more to go, let's psyche up!) (Makoto)

It was a long day. Raidou leaves the company while smiling wryly.

# Chapter 120

## The mini-storm before the storm

We are standing out.

Tomoe and Mio wearing kimonos, and also the beautiful youth Root wearing a pure white suit. No well, in public he is calling himself Falz it seems. Oh well, no problems if I just call him Guild Master.

Anyways, being with three people like that, even I stand out more than necessary.

I am aware that people are not thinking about a double date when looking at this composition of two men and two women. First of all, Root is perfectly beside me, so the composition is slightly strange. And because of it, Mio, who is walking a bit further behind, is quite angered.

It seems she lately, not only screams or tries to attack, but has learned to also get angry in silence and watch with cold eyes. I don't really need a growth in the variations of anger though.

The four of us are heading to the event that is grabbing the attention of everyone, the raffle of the martial arts tournament.

Right now it is not the main part of the event today, and yet, the number of people is incredible. The path I normally thought of as wide, right now, it is taking me my all just to walk.

The tournament is actually beginning tomorrow. Thinking that way, I can tell that the number of people will increase even more compared to today, which is only to debut the students participating in the tournament.

Quite the ability to attract customers. I can understand why placing a selling cart here costs a lot more than in other roads.

Looking at this amount of people, I honestly thought that it was great the Kuzunoha Company didn't put a selling cart as well. Seems like I still need that resolve as a

merchant huh.

"This is quite nice. Walking alongside the person you like, like this"

"Please lay down the pervert remarks, Master-dono" (Makoto)

"How cold~. I was sincerely confessing my feeling though" (Root)

"Also, the eyes in the surrounding hurt, so can you please stay further away?" (Makoto)

"This is a due privilege. I don't have any intentions to give it away or withdrawing it. Today I have all morning free, so it is fine to look around with whoever I want" (Root)

Yareyare. Maybe Root has been accumulating stress for being called here and there every day by guests.

Last night, when I returned, the three of them were splendidly drunk. I was wondering this at that time in Gotetsu but, why is it that every single one of them gets drunk in the school festival? Root should be immune to alcohol as well, but he had a slightly red face and was laughing. They were practically drinking till morning, and it seems that they were having a match on who would be beside me.

It would be quite the problem if they fought upfront, so even if I say match, they decided on a peaceful way. At first, I thought about deciding it with a \*rock, paper, scissors – hit and put on -\*, but the part about hitting worried me, so I changed it to 'look that way'. What a great choice of me. And so, the winner was Root. It is certainly true that his privilege is justifiable. The two that loss are walking behind us, alongside each other.

And yet, for some reason, when I clear my ears to listen to the surroundings, I can hear people saying that Root is bringing along two girls to watch the participants, and that he was forced to have me accompany him. What false accusations. Totally false accusations. Are you telling me the difference in appearance is so big that they are ignoring the fact that he is walking alongside me? Fuh~, I can't handle the hyuman's messed up sense of value. They should look at the situation more honestly.

"So, Lorel really has learned kanji? In that case, maybe they know Japanese to a certain extent" (Root)

"They call it 'the writing of the wise'. It seems they have some part of Japanese

inherited, but it has changed quite a bit and can already be called something different” (Makoto)

“A change on the level of a dialect?” (Root)

“Not on that level. Ehm, a right, there’s a good example. Like the Latin language we have in Earth” (Makoto)

“...What is that?” (Root)

“It means that it works for a certain part of people, but it is normally considered the language of scholars. When writing it in a document, there’s the chance a part of the people will understand it” (Makoto)

“...That’s a word I totally don’t know of. You, just what kind of Japanese did you make contact with?” (Root)

“Well, I am always told I am normal, including you” (Makoto)

Uh, I am really supposed to be in the normal category though. About Latin language, I only know of the name. That should be normal.

“And in conclusion, is there the chance that they understand Japanese if it’s spoken to them?” (Makoto)

“So you decided to stop thinking about it again huh. You better fix that habit of yours. Think about the questions properly and find your own kind of answers. Leaving aside if it’s correct, the regrets are few. About the Japanese you are worrying about, there’s no problem. As long as the heroes don’t teach it, there’s no chance for this world to learn Japanese. Lorel is using a special thought transmission to talk with guests of another world after all. Also, in most cases and in a short amount of time, they are able to use common language with the blessing of a spirit” (Root)

“A special thought transmission huh” (Makoto)

Have they been living with Japanese to the point that they have developed a technique of it? If you are thrown into an unknown world, you won’t know left from right. Having a place that welcomes you is a good thing that’s for sure but...

“By the way, the knowledge of Lorel’s magic is being used as a basis for the highly

efficient thought transmission of the demon race. Since you made contact with a demon general, as expected, you are interested" (Root)

"Y-Yeah" (Makoto)

Is that so? I was thinking about something totally different though.

But well, it seems he really does know quite a few things. And he hasn't told the hyumans about it. He is probably leaking a bit of information, but as always, he is one person I don't understand his objective.

He said he treasured the world, so he made the adventurer guild. But he said he 'treasured it' in past tense. Might just be how he phrased it though, however, strangely, it still remains in my mind. The question of, what is Root treasuring now? If I asked him, I feel like he would answer with a: "It's you", so I don't have much expectations though.

"Talking about something in my mind..." (Makoto)

"Waka-sama! This, I just picked it up, but it is delicious. If it's okay with you, please try it"

Mio. She was walking and eating as if she had 8 hands to hold everything, but if she selected a specific one out of all, I am interested. Well, she did go through the trouble of bringing it to me, so let's accept it.

"Thank you Mio. Your recommendations are always jackpots, so I am happy" (Makoto)

"Yes!" (Mio)

She happily gives me a stick-shaped wrapping. In the reverse triangle container, there were a lot of orange colored things the size of a thumb. There's a fragrant scent of oil. Deep-fried huh. I bring one that has a toothpick to my mouth.

In the crisp outside coating, there's meat inside. The light fleshiness is close to that of white meat. A good tasting meat juice and a characteristic meat sensation. Maybe they minced several meats together? From the coating, I can smell several spices, and it complemented the taste of the meat. And then, the exquisite balance in the salt sprinkled over.

This is delicious.

For me, I thought it would be better if they put lemon juice, or some kind of juice to accent the taste. The taste is good as it is, good enough to call it one of my favorites though.

“Heh~, looks tasty. Mio-chan, where’s my share?” (Root)

“No way I have it, you pervert. I don’t remember giving you permission to call me with -chan. AAAhh!?” (Mio)

“Ah, Raidou-dono, I borrowed your toothpick. Fumu, heh~, this is... the meat is common, but this is the first time I have tasted this method of cooking. Yeah, it’s delicious” (Root)

“...Do you want to die this instant? Or do you want to die this instant?” (Mio)

Mio, you are saying the same thing. The toothpick I had was taken by Root in one breath and he stole one of the meats that was inside the container. What quick work.

“It has such a nice smell, so forgive him for taking only one, Mio. Thanks to you I have been able to find another food I like so much after all” (Makoto)

“You like! Then, next time, I will be lining it up in the dining table as well. I will show you that I can-desu wa!” (Mio)

“I will be looking forward to it. Ah, at that time-“ (Makoto)

“I will try using lemon salt or juice to put on scent to it. That’s how you like it right?” (Mio)

“...Yeah” (Makoto)

How did she know? Did it show in my expression? I’m a bit embarrassed.

“...”

“Master-dono, what are you staying silent for?” (Tomoe)

Tomoe, who was munching all this time, voices out. Is it because Root is unusually

silent? Tomoe has been 20% eating and 80% drinking. Today again, she is already drunk. Her time here has been drinking in the morning and finishing the day with more drinking after all.

Great to see she is enjoying it.

The composition of two in the front, two at the back has now changed into Mio, me, Root and Tomoe.

"I was just remembering something. A long time ago, my lover told me that he wanted to eat fried white meat. There was a time I used this meat to painstakingly cook. He praised me saying that the taste was really similar... It pained me" (Root)

"He praised you right? Then, weren't you happy?" (Tomoe)

"I was aiming for the same taste. I was unable to fulfill his wish. It pained me. You also wouldn't want to be called 'samurai-looking' or 'samurai-like', but 'a samurai' right?" (Root)

"...I see" (Tomoe)

"Ah, Waka-sama. That cart, want to check it-" (Mio)

"Okay, that's as far as you go. The losers shouldn't steal the march on the winner, Mio-chan. Tomoe also, step back. Today, I am the one beside him. Even in the venue, you two should understand your standing" (Root)

"Ku"

"Tch"

We already arrived at the venue huh. Shiki is supposed to be here already. When I am together with this three, the time passes fast.

I was also able to see a fun combination play of Tomoe and Mio. Last night and today, Root hasn't made a pass on me yet. I pray that he doesn't do it because he thinks about the place and the members Tomoe and Mio.

In the venue, there might be people that know of Root as the Guild Master. Today he isn't coming because of his standing, but for private matters. Even if they ask, he can

just introduce me as a friend or something.

I am interested in how my cute students are doing. I don't think they are being too hyped up in just the raffle of the tournament.

Well, if on the contrary they were un-hyped, I can meet with them for the sake of hyping them up.

And so, we enter the venue.

# Chapter 121

## Conditions and follow-up

“Hohoh~ so these are Waka’s students. Oh, those two there, I have seen you in portraits. You must be the daughters of Rembrandt-ja na” (Tomoe)

“Y-Yes! Nice to meet you. My name is Sif Rembrandt!” (Sif)

“I’m the little sister Yuno Rembrandt! Nice to meet you!” (Yuno)

“Nice answer-ja. As expected of the Rembrandt household-ja no. This is our first time meeting face to face, but we are-“ (Tomoe)

“Kuzunoha Company’s Tomoe-sama and Mio-sama right? I have heard about you from father. I am honored to meet you” (Sif)

We entered the venue and asked Shiki the place where Jin and the others are and headed there.

Root originally planned on coming with us, but he used the excuse that he forgot work he had to do and that he would be yielding me to Tomoe and Mio. Even I can tell that he was lying. He clearly found someone, and to meet with that person, he separated.

That guy, he has some objective. No doubt that’s one of the reasons why he is talking to me. But there’s clearly other reasons he hasn’t told me about.

If I am able to ask the core of the matter, he might tell me. On the contrary, if I were to ask him what he is planning, what is his objective, or vague things like that, he would definitely not tell me.

Anyways, after separating from Root, I brought Mio, who is at my left, and Tomoe, who is at my right, to where Shiki and the students are.

And so, Tomoe is looking at the students I give classes to in an amused way.

The seven, no, excluding the Rembrandt sisters; the five probably felt uncomfortable

by the gaze of Tomoe. This is their first time meeting Tomoe and Mio after all.

"I hope he didn't call me greedy though. But I am happy that you know my name. Leaving aside Mio, I am not in Tsige that much" (Tomoe)

"Father said the two of you are the pillars that support Raidou-sensei and the Kuzunoha Company"

"That man, he does get it huh. Leaving aside that I am being put in the same standing as Tomoe-san, he understood that we are the two pillars, so I will let it slide" (Mio)

Mio, what a visible antagonism there. Or this is some new kind of bullying to Shiki? She seems to be looking at Shiki for some reason after all.

"Compared to the two, I am still inexperienced. It's because Mio-dono is managing the administration in Tsige and Tomoe-dono is doing the foreign businesses that I am able to study under the tutelage of Raidou-sama. I am grateful" (Shiki)

Shiki talks as if answering to Mio's gaze, and lowers his head with a smile.

Mio has made Tsige her base and every day she is been going back and forth from there to Asora while learning cooking. And she is just supporting the adventurers at whim. I haven't really heard about her actually being involved in the company work.

Tomoe has been going here and there looking for the four seasons. Well, she does gather information of the various areas with the Forest Onis but... foreign business?

In my opinion, regarding the company's administration and decision making, there's actually more times that Shiki ends up teaching me.

And to say that Mio is doing the administration in Tsige, Tomoe is in charge of foreign business, and I am the one teaching.

Shiki, you don't have to go so far to mind us. If you don't release all that pent up stress, you will end up exploding like the time with Lime. Let's be careful.

Ah, now that I mention information gathering. The winged-kin said that they wanted to do what the Forest Onis are doing as well. The Forest Onis are doing well, but the numbers are lacking. Also, the winged-kin –just as the name implies- can fly, so they have the plus that they can go to places the Forest Onis can't.

If there were only plusses, there would be no wavering in having them help, but the problematic point is that they have lower specs compared to the Forest Onis. Also, the fighting power is currently higher on the Forest Onis.

The general purpose of the previously mentioned can be liquidated by dividing the works. The winged-kin, in exchange of being able to fly in the sky, are not that suited for places like seas, watersides and wetlands. It's not to the point that they are unable to enter them, but their abilities are clearly restricted. Also, in the depths of the forest and the insides of mazes, the Forest Onis can move a lot better. On the contrary, in wide spaces like plains and mountainous areas, the winged-kin are better.

About the winged-kin, I am talking about their average capability, but it should be okay if I just appoint the elites. Just that, it is difficult to differentiate their merits. Dividing them just for the color of their wings actually brings inconveniences. Probably in the environment they have been living in, there will clearly appear merits, however, only looking at their abilities in that area will most likely bring the differences in unsuitableness... Yeah. Next time, let's have a detailed talk with them. In addition to having those guys do that boot camp as well.

[Jin, Amelia, Daena, Misura, Izumo. This is the first time you meet them. The ones I am counting on as both of my hands are Tomoe, and Mio]

“Tomoe-ja. Nice to meet you”

“I am Mio”

So short. Mio-san, that's not even an introduction.

Even so, the students answered the two of them with respect. Maybe they are just doing the same as Sif and Yuno, who introduced themselves first. They probably can't tell just how much power Tomoe and Mio have after all. There isn't that majesty when looking at them, and they are good at hiding their powers too.

“...Uhm, sensei. You said both hands but, what about Shiki-san?”

Amelia. Maybe because she idolizes Shiki, her tone is a bit low.

[Just like they said, Shiki is still in the middle of learning. Just that, in the business side, he is one of the persons I trust the most. But in terms of dangerous dealings, in other words, transportation and supply, where the fighting power and self-defense abilities

are taken into account, it is certainly true that he is lacking compared to this two]

“Fighting... power?”

“Shiki-san is lacking?”

“...This is a nightmare”

Daena-san and the other three of them seem to be imagining something scary.

Just that, it looks like they don't hold much doubts in what I just told them. Maybe that's the result of my unusual training.

“Well, it might be hard to understand quickly with your common sense. Even so, if you are receiving the teachings of Waka, you must know that the numerical value of levels is not what determines the victor, right?” (Tomoe)

“...”

The five nod. The Rembrandt sisters nodded a breath faster than everyone else. Ahaha, looking at this, Rembrandt probably told them about Tomoe and Mio's levels. In that case, maybe about my level as well. This is something that almost everyone in Tsige knows. The two of them are a lot more famous than me.

“Even at that numerical value, Mio and I overwhelm Shiki though. Well, what I am trying to say is, don't use that as your basis for strength. This isn't something that can always be relied upon you know? For example; in the things I have experienced, I have known a level 1 hyuman that has easily defeated two people that surpass level 1,000” (Tomoe)

“?!!”

“That's not a lie you know. Fufufu. I feel like I understand why Waka and Shiki mind you guys. How charming and amusing. I will be looking forward to your matches” (Tomoe)

“...Hah~. I don't understand it at all. No matter how I look at it, they are only chicks that have barely peeked their heads out of their eggs. The matches of these people, I think it will only turn into looking at their bodies though” (Mio)

"Yareyare, it would be good for you to learn the happiness of teaching. Tomorrow just go around the carts eating obediently. Don't go displeasing Waka" (Tomoe)

I feel like the happiness of bullying the Forest Onis is slightly mixed in what Tomoe said. But, I am happy that she understands the fun of teaching. Because there's less people that just look down on people that are inexperienced.

"There's no way I would do something like that!" (Mio)

Mio might also understand a bit, if there comes a time when she teaches someone. Right now, she is still being taught and is concentrating in bettering her skills after all.

From what I have heard of Ema, even if you leave the preliminary arrangements to someone else, the cooking is basically done by the person, or so it seems. When she helps and teaches, I feel like Mio might change once again.

[Don't fight in this kind of place, you two. Learn a bit from Shiki. Shiki, did you tell them about that matter?]

Feeling like they were about to begin something, I stop both Tomoe and Mio by calling out their names. Most of the reason why I came today was to warn my students. Since I told Rembrandt that there wasn't a million of a chance, I should warn them properly.

"Yes. From what I have investigated, that student was Limia's Hopelace household's second son. Hopelace has blood relatives of the royal family. In Limia, they are big nobles that can enter the top three. Because he is the second son, he doesn't inherit the family head, but since we are in times of war, he is being treated as the one who comes after the eldest son" (Shiki)

[Well, isn't that quite the big-shot. His actions didn't match that position though]

A household who has strong aristocratic power in Limia Kingdom, and big nobles huh. Moreover, the second son. If the head and the eldest son participate in the war, there's the chance they will lose their lives. In that case, he wouldn't just be a tool in political marriages.

Normally, it would suffice by just having the second son, third son and so on do the job, but because of pride, duty and ties of obligation, it seems they can't do that. The hero that went from the democratic principle Japan to the Limia Kingdom, might actually be having hardships. The usual things don't work like that there after all.

I see. So he is quite the big-shot huh. Limia's Hopelace household. If they are prominent nobles, they should just have them educated in their own country.

...I was thinking about having Jin and the others deal with whatever came, but it seems the situation has changed a bit.

If he uses something that has way too much difficulty, I will deal with it. Things like using money to employ a brutal assassin or using poison of some kind of rare plant.

"Raidou-sensei really gets involved with troublesome people a lot huh"

That Jin. Can you please stop those eyes of 'I have gotten used to this as well'?

[Jin. That unfaltering attitude is truly good. I think you have already heard but, the harassment that you receive, you will have to cope with it. Also, it seems everyone passed the preliminary contest but, I hope you didn't go all out]

"Of course no. We all passed with only half of our strength"

Oh. Everyone is pushing their chest out. I expected it, but it seems that they didn't have to fight with their all in the preliminary contest. The people that participated in it have quite the high level, but well, that's obvious.

[Splendid. Well done, everyone]

"..."

[What is it? Aren't you happy?]

"Normally, when sensei praises us, there's something else"

..."

They are being pretty cautious of me huh. I probably went with the same pattern too much since the Blue Lizard-kun. Well, even so, I can't suddenly change. I also want to watch how they fight in the festival and decide if I can add more students, so I should be a bit strict.

It is a bit sad to take this kind of attitude after praising them though.

[You have good intuition. Well, I have not been watching the other students in detail, so for the preliminary contest, I mostly heard about you guys from hearsay. Even so, I could clearly tell that you guys were being way too overconfident]

“...”

[And so, I have decided to establish a restriction on you guys. Shiki will tell you what point each of you have to follow by thought transmission later. Follow those and enter the finals]

In this school festival where there are a lot of visitors, they won't begin the tournament by doing the preliminaries of the people that want to participate. In the time of the preparation period, the preliminaries were already done. They first have to show their abilities to the academy in order to even be shown to the visitors.

In that point, Jin and the others were able to show enough ability and were able to advance. As expected, they wouldn't mess up in the first step, so I didn't go watch.

I had Shiki tell the students, in order, the prohibited points. In their stiffening faces, there were some who also ended up yelping.

But to show your all in a place that gathers this much attention isn't advisable, so this time, I will have them show me their way of fighting when bound.

“...Uhm, are you serious?”

[Of course. There isn't a single speck of joke. The matches from tomorrow on, I will be watching them. Looking forward to it]

I have done what I came here for.

Tomoe's suggestive smile and Mio's glance.

I leave Shiki to look after them, just like he has been doing. I want to confirm what kind of cards that big noble will be playing.

After Lorel and Aion, now comes Limia huh. At this rate, I feel like Gritonia will be coming next. I hope not.

I expected things would happen, but I didn't think things would happen every day. If

the four major powers line up, my stomach won't be able to take it.



"Shiki-san, wait!"

"Raidou-sensei was serious right?"

"He was serious. Those weren't the eyes of someone joking"

"Scary. As I thought, that person is scary!"

"Sensei could have said a few words about yesterday's party..."

"Just like what Oka-sama said. If we don't move ourselves, we might not be able to hear his impressions"

I agree with almost everything said. But, you two from the Rembrandt household. Aren't you lacking tension?

When I thought why the idiot Hopelace made such a sudden declaration of war the other day, Sensei easily told us that he had troubles with him, moreover, he told us to deal with the pressure and obstruction of a noble by ourselves. On top of that, he told us not to go all out in the final selection.

No, that's not it. He is telling us to do our best and not to go all out. He really is an unconventional person to the core.

Normally, people would connect the evaluation of the students in the tournament with the evaluation of the teacher. That's why, there will be people saying: 'win no matter what happens', but there's none that would go and put restrictions.

It's a tournament you know? There are cases when people even continue talking about it in the coming year. It's a tournament that has at stake the grades and credits as well as the employment.

Could it be, he is already being pressured by the Hopelace household and the Kuzunoha Company is already experiencing inconveniences, so as a part of that guy's harassment, he had Sensei put limits to our abilities?

...Nope, don't think so. This time's pressure and everything else, seemed as if he was looking forward to how we would deal with it. This might be... quite the critical moment. The critical moment which will decide the course I currently wish.

"Jin, what did he tell you not to do?"

"Don't 'dual-wield'. And Amelia?" (Jin)

"Don't 'add-on' your bow. Everyone else?" (Amelia)

Hearing mine and Amelia's answer, everyone replied in a low voice.

"They told me not to use the one I used in Zwei-san last time" (Misura)

Misura. It is practically his special attack. What a tragedy. The spotlight for the impenetrable wall will be lost, Misura.

"For me, it was that 'the second-phase' is out. Makes me want to cry" (Daena)

Daena, I can only call it pitiful. In essence, from the seven of us, at 1vs1, I think he and I are the strongest. And his ability that serves as a cornerstone has been...

"I had my 'maneuver aria' sealed. Even though I finally managed to rise it to a combat-ready level and was planning on debuting it here" (Izumo)

Izumo. Doing arias while mobilizing was hammered by Sensei and Shiki-san and was somehow shaped into proper form. What a severe restriction. He named the new aria forming method he learned, 'maneuver aria' and was valuing it dearly.

Well, it might be considered a blessing that he wasn't told to seal the aria language that Shiki-san taught him as well, but it looks like Misura also had the maneuvering aria sealed. Must be harsh for their spirit.

"They told me I am limited to using only one weapon. It unexpectedly has loopholes to that. Not like I will be using those said loopholes though" (Yuno)

Yuno. They are telling her to seal a part of that handiness of her. It is certainly true that there's a loophole that can be easily found, but who knows if it's okay to do it.

Raidou-sensei normally puts out the conditions straightforwardly, so he won't blame

us for every thing that has not been said or prohibited. But if we are talking about his evaluation, that would be complicated. Because I think we should honestly follow the conditions laid out to accomplish the objective after all.

“My ‘compound magic’ was banned. The combination of the earth spirit and fire magic has been... Even though I finally had the chance to show the usefulness of the earth element” (Sif)

T-The highest firepower has been sealed. Sif, how pitiful. Even with that, Sif still has enough firepower, and that's one of the amazing parts of her.

And so, the new battle styles that everyone worked on in the summer vacation (with the guidance of the Senseis though) have been sealed.

“Could it be, Sensei is actually being pressured by the Hopelace household?” (Izumo)

Izumo says the same thing I thought for a moment. Maybe a number of others also thought the same thing as Izumo and I, some of them had their expressions clouded.

“That’s not possible”

“Shiki-san”

With words filled of confidence, Shiki replies. Mine is just a thought and a denial without conviction. The denial of Shiki-san held clear conviction.

“Raidou-sama told you that you guys have been pretty overconfident lately. After all, you have enough leeway that you can do pointless talking with our employees” (Shiki)

Uh. I have no rebuttal for that. As long as they have seen us doing it, there’s no other choice but to earnestly apologize.

“Just think of it as a small test and cheer up” (Shiki)

Test? What a peculiar way of phrasing it.

“Uhm, Shiki-san. What do you mean by test? It intrigues me a bit” (Jin)

“...Oh, what have I done? I made a small verbal slip there” (Shiki)

Verbal slip huh. Probably not the case. They thought of teaching us something from the very beginning.

If it weren't for Shiki-san, we probably wouldn't have even noticed anything.

Sorry. Please continue spoiling us with that kindness.

"Does it have anything to do with what sensei said about restrictions and tournament?" (Jin)

There's no guarantee that he will answer, but I can't help it when it is in my mind.

I can already feel how my enthusiasm for this tournament is increasing more than before.

"Can't be helped huh. Keep this a secret from Raidou-sama okay? If you guys are able to show a good fight with the conditions stated, Raidou-sama is thinking about increasing the number of students after the festival ends. Do you understand what that means?" (Shiki)

New students?

If I remember correctly, I heard that the class of Raidou-sensei, even if you try to petition for admittance, you are unable to. In other words, the acceptance of new people will resume. What that means is... Could it be, the end of our lectures?! That's not good!

"Uhh... that you will give up on us?"

Daena-kun, read the damn mood before talking. What will we do if he nods?

"No way. In that case, there would be no need for a test right?" (Shiki)

"Then, something like, 'there's nothing more to teach you now'?"

"That's even more impossible. Fumu, it seems you don't understand. Raidou-sama is thinking that it might be a good time to enter the next phase of your lectures" (Shiki)

While showing amazement at our bad ability to understand things, Shiki-san told us.

“?!”

“For the sake of that, what you have to do isn’t to fight with your all and show all the cards you have in hand, but to impose limitations on yourself and be in a stance where you think about how to polish your power and skills even more, is what he told me. For example, something like hiding your trump card” (Shiki)

“...”

“If the seven of you properly finish this task, we will receive new students, and as a part of your education, we will have you review all the contents you have learned. On top of that, I want to go to the next phase of the lecture, is what Raidou-sama discussed for the future” (Shiki)

To be evaluated and accepted by the people who we can’t even see their shadows no matter how much we try...

There’s nothing as pleasant as that.

I slowly digested the words of Shiki-san.

Power begins to overflow in my body. The jaw of my shut mouth silently increases in strength. I can tell that the trembling originates from my chest and spreads to my whole body. I can’t stop my face from unconsciously bending into a smile.

“...Of course, I am also expecting much of you guys. About the acceptance of the attendance petitions, I will be arranging them in the staff office. Well then, from now on, you will have preparations to do, so I will go outside. Right, let’s see, for the ones that have time after this, please let me invite you to lunch” (Shiki)

Saying so, Shiki-san leaves while maintaining his gentle smile.

I already don’t care if there’s restrictions. That lecture has a next phase. We have obtained enough qualification to be tested.

Do a good fight. Do what I am able to... everything I can.

“I-I shouldn’t have asked. Now my tension is at its max and it’s already turning into very bad levels. I feel like vomiting” (Misura)

Opposed to the people getting hyped, there's Misura, who voiced out words lacking tension. No well, he is tense, but the content is just...

"Misura, I understand how you feel. Honestly speaking, I think there will be harassment and we will most likely be pressured as well, so I really understand your feeling of having your stomach hurt. After hearing that talk, the option of halfheartedly washing it away or giving up has cleanly disappeared. How rough" (Amelia)

On the contrary of Amelia's negative words, there's a battle-ready smile showing in her face.

"We can't show an unsightly fight. After going with Shiki-san for lunch, how about we all gather?" (Daena)

Just like Daena said. I am in the mood of doing whatever I can. In the school festival, the students that are merry are many, and we probably enter the category of quite serious. Just by desperately trying to reach them, our abilities increase. There aren't many things that can compare to this narcotic-like fun. I think that it can't be helped that we are serious about it.

"Onee-chan, not only Sensei will be watching, but Tomoe-san and Mio-san as well. Oto-sama and the others are coming too. Isn't this amazing?! I'm already so overwhelmed~~" (Yuno)

"Even so, the only choice we have is to do what we can. In a different sense, we are already in the path where we just have to give up" (Sif)

Looks like the Rembrandt sisters are getting crazy tense because of the onlookers. Before Raidou-sensei came, they were able to relax to some extent though.

It seems the big noble of Limia doesn't have much influence in Tsige, so the two who don't have plans on going to Limia after graduating, don't feel much pressure.

Thinking that way, these members, who are all scholarship students and don't have any connections with the Limia nobility, might be quite advantageous.

Ah, right.

"Hey, Sif, Yuno. There's something I want to ask" (Amelia)

“What, Amelia-senpai” (Yuno)

“What is it?” (Sif)

“The Tomoe-san and Mio-san that Sensei presented us, are they really stronger than Shiki-san? Honestly, this may be off the point since I don’t even know how strong Shiki-san is but, I don’t think there are many who have that degree of power you know?” (Amelia)

Exactly what I wanted to know.

The two of them silently nod at the question Amelia and most likely everyone had in their minds.

“If Raidou-sensei said so, then there’s no mistake. Shiki-san is not registered in the Adventurer Guild, so I don’t know his level, but those two...” (Sif)

Sif’s eyes were gazing faraway and were wavering.

“We were only told by Oto-sama to not be rude to those two, but those two are famous people in Tsige that everyone knows and...” (Yuno)

Yuno talks with an expression that one can feel passion similar to that of admiration. What is it? Is it at the level of Ace from the remote town?

For the close aides of Raidou-sensei, I feel like that degree is a bit too weak though.

While saying this should be kept as a total secret, the sisters look at each other’s face and do a big nod as if being resolute.

““Level is over 1,500””

“...”

The words of the sisters cleanly overlap. Silence took over.

The words that were said in a low voice so that only the ones here could hear were in the common language we are used to hearing, and yet, it didn’t register in our brains properly.

What did she say?

# Chapter 122

## The Interlude's footsteps

"You are making a scary face there, Princess Lily. It looks like the face of someone having business with me. Did I hit the mark?"

"Falz-dono, why iss the head of the Adventurer Guild involving himself with a merchant like that? Can you please tell me?" (Lily)

After separating with Raidou, the person Root met was Gritonia's princess.

Not as the head of the superior dragons, but as the head of the Adventurer Guild. He made contact with Gritonia' princess, not as the myriad color dragon, Root, but as Falz.

After the two exchanged something resembling a greeting, Lily takes out Root as if urging him, and brings him to a place with no one around, on top of that, by making probing eyes, finally, the real conversation began.

"Heh~, you know that he is a merchant? Raidou-kun, the head of a company that opened a store in this town. It has been one of my favorites recently" (Root)

"I won't ask you to correct that rude way of speaking this late, but that doesn't mean I will also permit lies. Falz-dono, what is your real relationship with that man?" (Lily)

To the broke down words of Root that one wouldn't be able to imagine were directed to a princess, Lily shows her displeasure in her face while inquiring his true motives. Her way of speaking is also one that can be scolded upon when using it on someone that has the power to affect the whole world. Maybe it's because they can act this way and no one else would know cause of their current location, or it might be because the relationship between Root and Lily was originally like this, who knows.

"It is true that it's my favorite though" (Root)

"Is Kuzunoha Company using the guild as backing?" (Lily)

"No way. The Adventurer Guild doesn't belong to any country, power or noble. It's an

organization that provides support to everyone that is accepted as an adventurer” (Root)

Root speaks out one of the basics of the Adventurer Guild. Of course, there were no lies in those words.

“The woman in that company whose name is Tomoe, the hero of our country is interested in her. She also possesses strength I can’t ignore, and personally, when it comes to his wishes, I have a hard time refusing. In this occasion, I don’t mind if you just tell me information you are able to disclose. That place... is there a need to crush it?” (Lily)

“To think that your mark was Tomoe. The Empire’s hero is also an interesting lad huh. The answer for your question is: nope nope. For now, those guys don’t have interest in the general situation of the world. And while I’m at it, let me tell you something. Fighting with the Kuzunoha Company will be like waging war with demon races on both sides. Even if it’s the major power Gritonia, I don’t recommend it” (Root)

“They have connections with the demon race?!” (Lily)

“Just a way of putting it. It is certain that they are able to be at least that much of a threat after all. Regarding your objective, you have already gathered plenty enough cards. I can’t admire sidetracking that much you know” (Root)

Root gives little information of Kuzunoha Company to Lily. He probably felt something in those words of her, that ‘tell me information you are able to disclose’.

“I thank you for your warning. Even so, to ignore what’s in front of my eyes is just not fit for me. I see, so Kuzunoha’s fighting power is, as I thought, not only Tomoe...” (Lily)

While actually knowing that they have connections to the demon race, the contents of what Root said, didn’t answer the query of Lily directly. Lily also doesn’t think that the head of the Adventurer Guild is honestly cooperating with her. She wants to deepen her information even if a little bit.

“More importantly, is it okay to be here in this kind of times? It is coming soon right? For the curtains of the war festival to open” (Root)

“...You know that, and yet, you haven’t used that information as a base to move or haven’t left traces of it. Falz-dono, you might actually be pretty similar to me” (Lily)

"Ahaha, me and the princess? I am not a slave of revenge like you. Just that, I also have something I am aiming for. And in the path to reach there, at some point, the paths you and I walk will cross, that's all" (Root)

"...Objective. I don't think that's just a simple ambition. In my opinion, I don't want to turn into an enemy the person that gave me the information of Sofia's rebellion and the demon race's ring beforehand. And, it may be irritating to say so, but I don't even know how much information of the Empire you have in your hands. If possible, can you please tell me that objective? There might be something I can help out with" (Lily)

Lily's words were her true feelings. This Guild Master with a bold attitude, even when he spoke out the basis of the Adventurer Guild, he has been cooperating with the Empire's princess. At times, giving important information or warnings. There have been several times where she has been saved by that. Just that, he is not a subordinate nor a close friend. In this current state where she doesn't know his objective, it just gives Lily an inexplicable amount of anxiety.

But he answered by shaking his head.

"When there's the need to, I will. It is fine for you to just continue aiming for that ideal world with the hero. As long as you are accepted as an adventurer, I intent to continue the relationship we have had till now" (Root)

"As long as I am accepted as an adventurer huh"

"That's right. No matter who and from where, as long as that person is accepted as an adventurer and receives the guild, I will be that person's collaborator. Well then, we probably will meet again soon but, see you later" (Root)

Without destroying the barrier that would repel several intruders at once, Root walks normally through it. Lily, who he interacted with as the Guild Master, only looked at his back with surprise.

The words of Root as well as the meaningful smile he left, changed the expression of the princess.

"No matter who and from where, he says. Not just the empire, you aren't even the ally of the hyumans only huh. No matter if it's demi-human or demon, as long as they are accepted as adventurers, you are their collaborator. Is that what you are trying to say?" (Lily)

Lily bites her lips.

She thinks that her interpretation of the words just now weren't wrong. That's why he holds information of several powers, is what he probably meant, but there's no way of knowing.

No matter which, it is trouble, is what she thinks.

"...From the very beginning, he grasped almost every objective I had. On top of that, he told me about the ring that suppresses the power of the Goddess and the betrayal of the Dragon Killer" (Lily)

Thanks to that, the empire has been able to steer the war better than other countries, is how Lily thinks. From his position of assisting the adventurers, the act of leaking the movements of Sofia would go against what he said, but the words of him, the Guild Master, were that the actions of Sofia are a big betrayal to the Guild. She is a target of punishment, so she is not under his protection, is what he explained.

And in reality, the Empire, or more like, a country which has influences with the Empire, investigated and discovered that Sofia has not used the guild a single time since Falz explained to her. That would at least mean that one of her backings disappeared.

It is true that in the past she was opaque and, of course, wasn't someone trustworthy though.

(It's certain that bringing down Stella is our number one priority right now. If there are no outstanding talents by the time I am here, I will return to the Empire early. Currently, I should look at the contact of Raidou and Falz as a plus. If our interests still match, that means it would be bad to put a hand on the Kuzunoha Company. That's why he gave me information. And also, right now I have no leeway to fight anyone other than the demon race) (Lily)

This time for sure, we will attack and succeed.

In the princess' eyes, there was a clear strong spirit.



“Yo, have you woken up?”

I pour water on the man that is bound at the seat to wake him up.

I have the all-purpose skill called magic, so there's actually no need to tie him to a chair or urge him to wake up by pouring water, but Shiki and Lime say that this should be the pattern.

I originally didn't have plans on making contact with him in this kind of way, and yet, here I am doing it. Maybe I am getting influenced, and also, probably have pent-up stress too.

“!!”

“I think you have already heard from Rona-san but, I am Raidou. Nice to meet you”  
(Makoto)

“This is... Kuzunoha Company's basement room huh”

The blue skinned man splendidly guessed right his current location. He knows that I am Raidou, and moreover, he knew of the existence of this room beforehand. Meaning, it was a perfect guess to the right answer, but... intelligence. As a group member, that reaction was a major fail. I'm glad. If all the intelligence members of the demon race were like Rona-san, I feel like it would scrape away my nerves after all.

“And you are a demon, right?” (Makoto)

“Why... are you getting in our way? We have received orders from Rona-sama stating that we should not put a hand on you guys, and if there's a need to, cooperate. At least there shouldn't be any reason to receive this kind of treatment”

“No need to be scared. In the times I am here, the things you think don't happen that much” (Makoto)

If I am not here, the danger increases in an instant though, the basement room. Maybe it is because he knows dangerous types of information, the young man with a fit body despite his small build, had his eyes blurred with fear. Even if he is a subordinate of Rona-san, he is a newcomer huh. He doesn't give me that uncomfortable feeling that

Rona-san gives out.

So he was told that by Rona-san huh.

True.

Since the time she left the academy, no matter if in public or in the shadows, there was no instance where the demons did something to us. That's why, even when I noticed several presences of demons, I tolerated them since they had no evil intent. That thinking didn't change even when I saw the infiltrated demon escorts of the big-shot of Lorel, Sairitz.

"What do you plan on doing to me?"

"I want you to hear my request. It would have been fine to call Rona-san for that, but I was in a bit of a hurry. I apologize for my rough method. One of our employees got the meaning of 'politely' wrong you see. Sorry" (Makoto)

"Request? A request for cooperation?"

"In the time of the tournament and until it ends, I want all the demons in this town to leave. Just that" (Makoto)

"?!! I can't decide that on my own discretion. Also, you said all, but in this town there are several demons that have different views from us. It is impossible to bring them as well"

...

Maybe it is the truth or a lie. If it is a lie, this is probably a means to make it look as if some of the others are outsiders with different affiliations, in order to leave several comrades here.

For now, I should have all the ones posted on us depart, and the ones who are remaining, it is fine to just be cautious. For the meantime, it is okay if the demons affiliated with the demon lord just refrain from doing anything on their own convenience.

I look at Lime. Maybe he understood what I was trying to say, he looks back at the demon.

“Waka thinks that it is fine to just have the ones posted around us withdraw. We infer that there’s 13 comrades of yours out there. That’s the amount of comrades we want you to at least withdraw” (Lime)

“?!!”

“You said that this can’t be decided by your own discretion, but please decided it. Right now, we don’t want to have troubles with you guys. I don’t know about the future, but right now that’s the case. If you acknowledge it, we will soon release you” (Makoto)

The intelligence member retains silence for a moment after seeing my attitude.

It took a bit after before he folded to our ‘request’ and promised that he would get in touch with them.

“It is effective when you threaten them with force, Waka-sama”

“If I knew this would happen, it would have gone smoother if I just brought the talk to Rona-san. Well, I didn’t want her questioning me so I chose this kind of method though. Hah~ why did it turn out this way?” (Makoto)

“I unintentionally said something out of my way like ‘who would be able to incapacitate him the fastest and restrain him’ and we ended pumped up. I am sorry” (Lime)

Stalking boasting, no, capture boasting? A conversation of intelligence members huh. I can’t understand how that conversation made them pumped up. It seems this time Lime won. What was wagered was the payment of a meal, how peaceful.

Since it turned out this way, I should at least contact Rona-san to say a few words.

“Shiki, I count on you for the preparations. Make sure to makes it in time by the tournament. I will go talk to Rona-san for a bit” (Makoto)

“Understood” (Shiki)

I return to my room and finish changing.

Last night I slept early and woke up early by the time it was still dark, so my consciousness is still clear. After taking a light breakfast of pan, I should talk with

Rona-san, is what I thought while passing some time troubled.

Ei, not the time to be saying I'm not good at dealing with her huh.

The improvement and analysis of the Kuzunoha Company style thought transmission is now useable, but I use the thought transmission that Rona-san gave me in a memo just like it is. Until the connection is established, I have no choice but to wait soundless. By the way, the Kuzunoha Company's thought transmission has a 'purururu' standby sound. This is probably also a beauty pattern in a sense. Since this has practically nothing to do with security after all.

(Raidou, I am happy to receive a call from you. Is there anything we can help you with? Or could it be, you only wanted to talk with me?) (Rona)

(Both, is what I want to say, but this time I have a request) (Makoto)

'He wants my cooperation in something, right?' She probably already received the report from her subordinates. Even so, she still plays as if she doesn't know huh.

(I will listen. Say it~) (Rona)

(For a brief amount of time, until the tournament finishes is fine, I want the subordinates Rona-san has hidden in Rotsgard to withdraw. Until now, I have been able to tolerate them without problems but...) (Makoto)

(Can I ask the reason why?) (Rona)

She would obviously ask. But, what would be a good answer? If I said something about the Limia noble, there's the chance Rona-san would take some kind of action. Well, thinking that way might be a bit conceited of me though.

(If possible, I want you to please not ask) (Makoto)

(I see. But to do it by today would hard...) (Rona)

(I can't talk about it in detail, but part of it is for Jin and Amelia's sake) (Makoto)

(Ara, it might have been a short time, but they are acquaintances that took the same class as me. If that's the case, I will push myself the most I can. The payment will be meeting the demon lord once, how about it?) (Rona)

(...Got it. Someday, at a time that fits your convenience) (Makoto)

(Ufufu, I will do my best to create some time, okay? Well then, I will have all my subordinates in Rotsgard, uhm, it was somewhere around 10 right? Until the school festival is over, I will have them take a holiday) (Rona)

(13. I'm counting on you) (Makoto)

(To mess up the numbers, I am a failure as a superior. Please keep what happened here a secret from my subordinates okay? Raidou-do-no) (Rona)

(Understood. Well then, with this...) (Makoto)

(Call me again, anytime you want, okay? I will be waiting) (Rona)

...Hah~, just as I thought, this is tiring. After the thought transmission was cut off, fatigue attacked my body in an instant.

Having the conversation proceed strangely smoothly was unpleasant instead. It felt like she was appealing that 'I am good willed you know~' and trying to sound out my intentions. I don't like that.

But with this, I can concentrate in the follow-up of the students. I wondered what would happen if I brought out the name of Jin and Amelia, but it seems it went better than expected. Maybe the demon race didn't plan on doing anything in this period of time?

If it's just meeting the demon lord, it isn't something I can't pay. If I meet him/her and it's a crazy good person, I even think I wouldn't want to make him/her my enemy.

What's left is the Hopelace household huh. Limia is the country where the hero is, so it is hard to do anything rash. Luckily, the king himself came here, so I want to believe that he won't do anything crazy. Please restrain yourself to a level where we can resolve it in a peaceful manner. At any rate, Hopelace huh. I feel like I have heard that before.



"To stand up in the middle of a strategy meeting. You are beginning to resemble Sofia, Rona"

“Don’t joke around. Can you please not put me in the same category as that traitor and battle-junkie? More importantly, the preparations on your side are proceeding right?”  
(Rona)

There’s an important meeting that’s being done all morning. This has been a regular scenario in Stella Fort recently.

The demon general Rona left her seat, something she normally doesn’t do, and just like that, without returning to the meeting, she placed an elbow on the ramparts of the fortress and looked faraway as if thinking about something.

In the top edge of the fortress walls, the place where the archers and magicians are located to attack, is also normally used as a place for the soldiers to rest. In this time when they are training, it is also a place that no one is in.

Rona has been here for quite a long time, and it is because that man has been basically living with her in that place that he was able to know her location.

The other demon general stationed in Stella Fort, Io.

After the meeting finished, he came to this place and called out at Rona’s back.

“Of course. And, it seems you were in thought transmission though?” (Io)

“How sharp sighted. Men that mind the thought transmissions of women are hated you know? It was from the person I reported before, Raidou. I thought he would have a bit of troubles in Rotsgard, but it seems that’s not the case. Rotsgard and Raidou, I couldn’t ignore those” (Rona)

“My life is devoted to my lord and the nation. I don’t care what women think about me. Will it affect the strategy?” (Io)

Hearing the name Rotsgard and Raidou, Io’s expression clouds. He is the person that Rona said in her report to be careful of, and in the upper stratum of the demon race, he is pretty known already. It was hinted that there’s the chance he could become a powerful cooperator, so a prompt decision was made that they shouldn’t show antagonism towards them.

“None. At most, I was a bit angered by the fact that he knew the exact number of people concealed. Also, the incompetency of my subordinates. I have already finished what I

had to do, so there's no problems in having them withdraw" (Rona)

Turning around her body, Rona leans her back in the place where her elbow was placed, and looks at Io face to face.

"He requested the withdrawal of the personnel in Rotsgard huh. Could it be he really noticed something? Also, it seems you accepted those conditions, but if things continue, it would go against his request, right?" (Io)

"That boy doesn't have means to gather information from the demon race camp. Also, he only asked me to withdraw my subordinates. Even if I am here and do something, it wouldn't go against my promise with him, right?" (Rona)

Narrowing her eyes, Rona lifts the corners of her mouth and laughs. The expression of the woman that thinks up schemes, a portion of people would find her charming, but in the eyes of a military man like Io, it wasn't a likeable face.

"...What an unpleasant woman you are. I pity that young man called Raidou" (Io)

"I will take that as a compliment. I think you already understand this but, this will decide it" (Rona)

"No need to tell me. It's only been half a year. I am not going to underestimate them. No matter how much Hibiki, the Limia hero, has grown, I will just crush it" (Io)

The four armed giant has an expression as if anticipating the growth of his enemy that he hasn't met for half a year.

"And the ring?" (Io)

"Of course, it has been changed from the early stage prototypes to the middle stage prototypes. It's about that Goddess. With this, we will be able to seal their powers again. And so, after a few steps more..." (Rona)

"The hyumans will steer clear from the wastelands for certain. By the plans of Demon Lord-sama. After obtaining the divine protection of the spirits and a rich land, we will finally be able to receive the spring of this world with enjoyment" (Io)

The ring that seals the powers of the Goddess was already perfected by the hands of the demon race. Just that, after using it once, there's no guarantee the Goddess camp

will not counter it. Because of those fears, they first manufactured a small version to seal the power of the Goddess and check if it worked. When the Demon Lord confirmed the results, he told this to the demon generals and acknowledged the development of a middle stage prototype that will negate the countermeasures for the early stage one. It is a tactic that was born by the information of the Goddess countermeasures for the early stage rings, provided by the high spirits of fire and earth.

On top of that, to make sure that they make a countermeasure for the early stage prototype, they leaked out information of the ring to a part of the hyumans beforehand and manipulated it in a way that it would reach the ears of the Goddess as well.

The trap of the meticulous demon race was about to bare its fangs.

# Chapter 123

## Noble's way of fighting

The guest seats are lined up as if enclosing the round stage.

To think that this is the way I would see a coliseum which I have always thought about visiting once. You can't predict what life will bring you.

It isn't the famous Roman type though.

At the outskirts of the academy, there's a giant arena for the tournament. It surprises me to see this enormous construction, which could pass to history in the future, as a facility of the school. When looking at the conduct of the students and the teachers of Rotsgard Academy, there are times when one would think that this is a second-rate institution you could find anywhere. Even so, when looking at the facilities and its scale, it reminds you that this is the highest academic center of the hyumans.

"What was Rembrandt-san hesitating in saying?" (Shiki)

"His daughters' safety... is most likely not. It looked like he was heading to the merchant guild today regarding that case. Might be a considerable problem" (Makoto)

"The Hopelace pressure?" (Shiki)

"It could be" (Makoto)

I was completely underestimating the stratum called noble.

It may have been for only one night, but just in case I had Shiki posted. In the meal of the store that they first went to, there was poison that would make them lose their sense of balance; in the water that the waiter provided at the dormitory, there was poison that induced diarrhea and stomachache; at night, there were several assassins. It was truly a full-course of actions to obstruct their participation in the tournament. Listening to the report, while it was in the range of my expectations, it still amazed me quite a lot.

At the appointed day, or so to say, today, I thought it already finished and was feeling relief.

And then, this time I received a sudden call from Rembrandt-san. It seems the Merchant Guild said something happened regarding me. He said he would head there and see what he can do. Since his wife also accompanied him, today Rembrandt-san isn't here to watch. I do feel that this also has to do with the obstruction of the big noble.

'Do nobles go that far?' Is what I thought.

This is a school, and no matter what his family is, he is still one student. In other words, the methods of poison and assassins that I made a guess of, were the worst methods. Because you know, even if it is a tournament, it is just one event in the school festival.

"I am surprised he could go this far..." (Makoto)

I look at the chart of pairings in my hands.

There, I have a paper that has written 'tournament chart' in it. A pamphlet of the tournament.

The warrior category and the magician category are divided the same. After several steps, it is made so that the categories clash at one point.

From my class, there's: Jin, Misura, Daena and Yuno in the warrior category; Amelia, Sif and Izumo in the magician category.

And the ones participating are the ones that passed the preliminaries, in total, there are 40. By the way, after the individual battles, there will be team battles, so there aren't many people participating in the individual battles.

This most likely means that there are more students better suited for team battles. Probably because instead of having a crushing defeat in individual fights and leave good results in the team battles, it is better to just participate in the team battle and leave only good results, is what I suspect. Because it is plenty possible to leave good results by the abilities of the people around you after all. The people that didn't watch it directly will only see the final results that will be remaining.

The students that are only participating in the team battles can put a front saying that

they are scared of injuries that might happen in the individual battles, to pull back from participating. How well done. Tte, I unintentionally ended up thinking about it in the bad direction.

By the way, Jin and the others will be participating in both. And the second son of the Hopelace household will be as well.

"The first matches will be Jin vs Misura, Daena vs Yuno. The winners will be clashing later. In the magician category: first match is Amelia vs Sif, and the winner will clash with the seeded, Izumo. So he can even manipulate the tournament chart..." (Makoto)

"Meaning, it will be a battle between Waka's students. I am looking forward to it" (Tomoe)

"Tomoe... What an incredibly positive way of thinking. I am simply surprised. Isn't it an 'everything goes'? He can even put his hands on the rules" (Makoto)

Maybe Tomoe doesn't understand what this implicates, she speaks something out of point. What I am trying to say is that the rules are futile to nobles. Even when he is still a student, he is still able to push this much authority.

This is too incredible.

"It seems the Hopelace household has more authority than I thought, and the academy is not a place of fairness huh. That bunch over there too..." (Makoto)

I look at the people sitting on the guest seats that are far away from the general seats of us.

There are several faces I have seen before lined up. Proof that my surroundings have become even messier than before.

There are several people close to the Academy principal, whose only thing I know of is his face. They are probably people from the four major powers. In other words, Limia or Gritonia. Sitting in a place a little away, is the Adventurer Guild's head, Root. In the line of people related to the church, there's the priest I met before, and there's also the big-shot of Lorel, Sairitz. They most likely don't know that this matches were fixed by a mere student. But my students have suffered damage from it, so in my eyes, they are reflected as having the same offense.

In those people, there is one that I had no choice but to have connections with because of my thoughtlessness, and there's also another that locked me because I am an otherworldler.

...Now that I think about it, since the time I came here, I have been lying a lot. That has been piling up bit by bit, and I feel like it's beginning to turn troublesome. To protect the lie, make a lie. There's no end.

“Waka?” (Tomoe)

“That is... now, after all this time of moving around huh. This is probably the limit. Hey, Tomoe” (Makoto)

“Y-Yes?” (Tomoe)

Why are you stuttering Tomoe? Is it bad for me to do a serious face?

“Do you want the four seasons in Asora?” (Makoto)

“! Of course!” (Tomoe)

“...I see” (Makoto)

“Waka-sama, I found something interesting so I bought it-desu wa~~, just in case, I bought enough for three” (Mio)

“Thanks, Mio” (Makoto)

“You are now capable of being mindful huh, Mio” (Tomoe)

When I take the paper bag from Mio, a scent resembling basil tickles my nose. Today's priority is scent? The heat transmits to my hands and tells me that this is a warm food. I'm looking forward to it. I hear a low ‘That's unfair-desu’ from Mio while she bites her lips. I decide to act as if I didn't see it and look at the stage. Now that they have come this far, Jin and the others just have to do what they can. There's a lot of things to think about, however, I have no choice but to watch over it.

A voice announcing the beginning of the tournament resonates.



“Now then, the next match is between two of the highest levels participating in this tournament! Both of them are level 97! First, Jin Roan! While being a high grade department’s second year, in terms of practical skill, he is a prodigy that has already entered the highest ranking of all! Especially in his sword techniques, there are many that are paying attention to it! On the other hand, we have Misura Kasper! The vanguard that is the highest rated by magicians! His defensive power that can be called impregnable fortress, and the skillfulness in his ability to utilize even healing magic. He is a swordsman that possesses both of this!”

The high-tensioned voice clearly resounded.

But the expression of the two that walked up the stage were as if they chewed a bitter bug. What a bad face they are making. Even I can tell the reason why. The weapon in their hands, and also this pairing. I don’t know the specific quality of the wood, but Jin and Misura have a wooden sword in their hands.

A wooden sword that has a general size for one hand.

The other students had metal-types. I could tell that each of them brought the weapons they liked the most. Some of them even got victories because of the specs of their weapons.

I didn’t give any instructions about fighting with wooden swords, and of course, this is most likely not their will. When you receive a different weapon from the one you originally had, it is understandable why they would have that kind of face.

“First of all, a word to everyone. This season’s tournament has several participants that have achieved levels over 90, so for the sake of making a balanced evaluation with the other students, a number of restrictions have been established”

Then just make a grade system for levels from the very beginning like the ones in judo and boxing to divide the ranks before doing the tournament.

If they talk about level difference and all that gibberish, they should have considered adding restrictions to the weapons and tools utilized.

Ah~, my head is rotting.

"The equipment they possess is only that one. It is in consideration of the other participants. Well then, before beginning, we will confirm the rules! The time limit of the battle is 10 minutes. The damage will be transferred to dolls and will substitute for the injuries the person itself takes. The destruction of this doll denotes incapacitation in battle, and at that moment, the battle will end. Also, in the battles of the warrior category, the use of attack and healing magic are prohibited, and the only ones that can be used are self-support related magic. In the case that someone steps out of boundaries, it will decrease points, and if the battle is not decided in the time limit, it will affect the verdict greatly"

'Doll', if it is prepared beforehand, this convenient item will shoulder the damage you should be receiving. It looks like a matryoshka of around 1 meter height. In this kind of tournaments it is sometimes used and it is extremely high priced.

I thought this was a tool that might increase in effectiveness when used in real combat, but for the doll to be useful, there's the need of adjusting the place, and in terms of the effective time, it has a lot of restrictions, so it is in essence impossible to use in real combat.

In this case, they prepare the high priced doll and make a connection with it and the arena that will be serving as the stage, and while at it, they do the procedures between the students and the doll. And by doing that, it seems it is possible to shoulder the damage for around 15-30 minutes.

In the case that there's surplus of damage, an overkill, the remaining damage will return to the person itself, so just in case, there's 3 dolls prepared for each person in each match. The vivid depiction of a bourgeois academy. In other words, if only one of those are destroyed, it means you lose.

At any rate, this rules are like bullying Misura. Don't use healing magic; finish the fight fast. Both of those are heavy constraints for Misura. In comparison, Jin practically doesn't have anything binding him. Also, Jin is not the type to be merciful, so it will be a fight with him on the offensive till the fight ends. The verdict will also turn to, obviously, Jin.

"Well then, Jin Roan versus Misura Kasuba, battle start!"

The spectator seats were slightly quiet, but when they received that signal, it changed into a high volume roar.

With the improved eyesight I wouldn't be able to fathom in my previous lifestyle, I can tell that the two of them are doing some kind of talk.

Jin immediately closed the distance and swings downwards at Misura. The unreliable wooden sword that is several times thinner than what he normally uses, was stopped by Misura. As expected of Misura who has the highest defensive ability, he didn't break his stance even with the sudden attack. A combo of attacks that are fit to be called a rush were coming one after the other with low amounts of intervals towards Misura. Just as expected, against Jin's swift attacks, Misura can't throw an effective attack and is being forced to just defending.

The conversation probably went: 'This is also a part of luck, don't think badly of me', and 'Even so, I won't slack'.

"Well, what to say, this is quite the simple and one-sided match huh" (Tomoe)

Tomoe looks at the development of the fight with bored eyes. There's no doubt that this isn't a show one can consider interesting. But, in terms of technique, the people that specialize in swordsmanship and close combat should have something to look at. The way of chaining attacks, way of blocking; those kind of things should make minute differences.

"...In terms of body, I will take back what I said, but as I thought, if I was told this is something a lot of people gather to watch, I still wouldn't be able to understand-desu wa" (Mio)

Sadly, it looks like it showed as a boring exhibition for Mio. Misura's fighting style is centered in defense. A plain style to the taste of professionals. That she took back what she said, must be because she got a bit of a better opinion regarding their technique.

Compared to the time they began taking my lectures, it was clear that the two fighting right now have a more polished thought process, and in my eyes, it is actually a pretty worthy watch.

Shifting their bodies, opening the distance; Jin and Misura are truly fighting while thinking thoroughly. They are probably better than me at instant decision making already. They have incredibly good wit after all.

In the eyes of the spectators as well, they can tell that the speed of this fight is several times faster than previous ones, furthermore, the movement of their body is smooth

and varied, so at the beginning, there were quite a lot of cheers. But the attack turn of Jin isn't ending, so it slowly turned into booing directed at Misura. This is pitiful.

Misura is a boy that has the ability to even handle Jin using dual swords. Moreover, even in lectures or in his free time, he is doing mock battles. In terms of swordsmanship sense, he is without doubt higher than Jin. The experience is clearly defining his abilities and he is able to defend.

For example, when there's a combo of more than three attacks, Misura chooses one of the attacks accurately to repel it. In that framework, in that flow, his eyes that are able to see through the core of the attacks can be considered one of his strongest weapons. He also learned how to parry strong attacks in the fights with Zwei-san. A discreet stock in his growth.

Misura is properly killing the momentum of Jin with the way he moves his body and the way he takes his distance. Even with that much flow and momentum killed, the attacks still continue probably because it is Jin. That guy<Jin> also has the wit and instincts of a beast, and he mixes both to push his sharp sense of the sword. Well, if I had to evaluate with only this match, I would praise Misura.

Both of them can't do a winning move, so they have no choice but to clash a lot.

The booing towards Misura gets higher. The match is already not about victory or defeat, and has changed into something similar to military exercises where both fighters confirm each other's movement, power and techniques. There are several people that have already noticed this.

The moment Tomoe noticed that change, she narrowed her eyes and let out a 'Hoh~' as if in admiration. Looks like she sensed it. Even though it is an incredible fight, there's something out of place. The impressions of the many people around are just as it looks. Those harmonious movements that give a strange out of place sensation are probably noticed only by people that have seen military exercises before and people like Tomoe, who have a decent amount of technique. By the way, I am of the former type. I have seen several serious military exercises with swords. Jin and Misura are giving the same kind of atmosphere.

I feel like Mio is also able to tell. She is watching the match with a bored look. The fast food in her hand and the match; her interest is probably divided 80% on the food and 20% on the match. Even so, the reason why I feel like she might respond with the right

answer if I asked, is because Mio's intuition has a scary rate of striking home.

"Hm, the match is over huh. Like this, the winner will be Misura" (Makoto)

"Right. In the end, there were practically no effective attacks. Jin, who has been in the offensive, will win by verdict, but in terms of the fight, Misura is the winner" (Tomoe)

"Winning the match but losing the fight huh. And yet, the venue is treating Misura as a coward. Ahaha, that Jin, he is making a pretty easy to understand face. Misura is also showing his sense of achievement through his face" (Makoto)

"Well, compared to the idiotic matches until now, I have enjoyed myself a lot more. As expected of Waka's students. After all, the ones until now have been mostly: prepare their stance, attack, block or evade, fix their stance, counter-attack. Their actions and the execution of their next movement was so obvious that the stupidness was shooting out full-throttle. Honestly speaking, with that level of skill, just by having a good weapon, the match is decided. In a sense, I was watching with opposition" (Tomoe)

"Exactly. Jin and the others said that recently it has become hard to hide their strength in the other classes. I understand the reason why now. If they were to make those kind of movements in those classes, they would definitely... stand out. It seems they were taking me into consideration. It makes me happy to have good students" (Makoto)

"That's a good thing. Fumufumu, for the time being, I will think of a reward for Misura. A bout, a bout, a bout... Well then, who should it be~?" (Tomoe)

...You are rewarding him with a slap.

Just as expected, Jin won by verdict. Contrary to the results, Misura walks out from the arena with a satisfied expression. It was a match that had impact. Even if he will be involved with Tomoe, no doubt it will turn into good experience for him, so when the school festival is over, let's make some time for that.

The next match that my students will appear in is the magician category, first match and in the next match of the warrior category.

It doesn't feel like it will be taking that much time, so maybe I should just stay watching like this.

# Chapter 124

## Amelia vs Sif

Honestly, the magician category matches were worse than the warrior category.

Chant aria, release.

Chant aria, release.

That's all.

Every single one of them didn't do any decent moving. They activate the barrier tool that they brought in advance, chant arias, and release it; everything else the same. If your spell's power is strong and it manages to pass through your opponent, it is practically your win. The one who received the spell will not be able to properly concentrate, and since the aria won't be able to finish properly, that person will just sluggishly escape.

I felt like I was watching a speed-talking contest. Seeing this, I can tell that Sif was pretty competent the first time she participated in my lecture.

This is an academy that gathers the excelling warriors and magicians, right? Please try to be more decent, like, seriously.

Like, both Tomoe and Mio laughed out loud.

At the first match, they went silent; at the next one, they couldn't hold it in and bursted out, then, they held their stomach and laughed. As the matches continued, they even made eyes as if questioning the sanity of the participants.

“Uhm, Waka. This is a fight where magicians compete with each other, right?” (Tomoe)

“...Most of the kids look like they are somewhat serious-desu wa. They are doing it seriously, right?” (Mio)

“It looks serious. It doesn't even amount to a show, but the surrounding guests are

really happy and cheering" (Makoto)

My head hurts. In other words, it's not that this year is especially bad, but that this is the average level each year. I don't want to believe that there's a person wanting to employ anyone of them after looking at this. If it were me, I would have failed every one of them after 5 minutes of beginning.

"Could it be... Waka's students will also be like that?" (Tomoe)

"I can't bear to look at it. It is so bad that I even forgot the taste of what I am eating for a second" (Mio)

Even if they are people in charge of providing firepower from the back, this is just...

The sound itself is flashy, but it feels like I am watching a command-style battle. The warrior category is at least better than this. This is just spectating batteries.

In terms of what's fixed and manual procedure, I thought this kind of things would be criticized. Well, there's the plus that it provides stability in quality though.

"Oh~, they moved!" (Tomoe)

"Finally, it seems we will be able to watch a decent magician fight-desu wa" (Mio)

The fight of the two began.

Amelia and Sif. Sadly, the winner is already settled. With this stage and rules, and also thinking about the capacity as a magician from the two; even if a miracle occurs, Amelia has no chance of winning. In the first place, that girl hasn't brought her main weapon which is the bow. Because aside from the staff that magicians use as intermediary, they can't bring any other weapon.

Also, Sif's power is purely in a whole different level. If Rembrandt-san were to come and see it, he would be relieved and be able to continue spectating without worries.

The grounds turned silent in an instant. Well, no surprise there. They thought those two would activate their barriers, but Sif suddenly pointed her staff at Amelia, and Amelia faced Sif and charged.

Sif's staff is not the one she brought from home, but a thin wooden staff that screams

'I am a practice staff'. At least it does have a jewel at the tip that serves to control magic power (not that good though).

I think that Amelia's charge is a good decision. If you think about it even for a little, it is obvious that you can't beat Sif in a normal fight. The specialty of Sif is firepower. She can also do support in the battlefield by using the earth spirit, but normally she uses the fire element, which she is more compatible with. The fire element has a lot of attack methods for single targets and area of effects to begin with, but in the present where she can combine it with the earth spirit magic, that firepower is something to watch out for.

I can say for sure that the one who increased its single-attack firepower the most in my lecture is Sif. Things like magma, I honestly feel like that's cheating. The first time I saw a lava bullet, I even thought it was a meteor.

Amelia grasped that the aria of Sif was of fire element, so she charged, and that's why it's praiseworthy. If she closes the distance, restrictions to the firepower of Sif will appear. If the firepower is too high, there's the chance that she will get dragged into it as well, so those kind of spells would be out, and, this may not happen normally in magician fights, but thinking about Amelia's disposition, she is at an advantage in close combat. If this were earth element, the choice of waiting and seeing is not bad either.

Sif shoots out a standard-type arrow that's clad in red light. Well, instead of an arrow, it is more of a bullet. The speed in which the aria was finished was so short that it couldn't be compared to the matches until now. A big commotion occurs in the audience. Me thinking that this is still slow would most likely be strange for them.

Seeing her opponent finishing her spell, the running Amelia makes a brake and whispers a: 'What's going on?' She makes a step to the left, and once again, the staff of Amelia who's approaching Sif, shines a pale light. She finished her aria by the time she moved to the left huh. That Amelia, was she this fast in arias? It may have been in the spur of the moment... Could it be, Amelia can also use the maneuver aria of Izumo? He gave it a cool name and was treasuring it, but in other words, it is a combination of aria reduction and part-by-part aria.

I thought the fire arrow that was going straight would surely be avoided, but in the moment Amelia stopped her steps, Sif matched that and changed the direction of her spell. The steered attack magic that Sif showed only once. So she mastered it huh. Impressive. That single move threw Amelia into a disadvantage.

Cheers erupt once again.

Even though it's only been one minute since the match began, the developments are coming fast.

A spell with a decent amount of power hits Amelia!

No, she evaded it!

Pushing out her pale shining staff to the front, she changed the trajectory of the arrow. I remember that I have shown that move a number of times when fighting with Shiki. The one I did was cladding magic power to my fists and crushing the light-shaped spear with brute strength though. What Amelia did was not that kind of rough method. She pushed out her staff to a point that just barely touched the arrow and made a small explosion with the faint light to change the arrow's trajectory. What a skilled girl. It may be because she is someone that endows various type of magic to her arrows which made her able to think up this kind of method, but it is truly fearsome.

No matter how much steering potential it has, when you have to make your own magic pursue the target that's approaching you, the danger to the magician itself increases in an instant. There's still some distance between them, but this is an unfavorable development for Sif.

There's some sort of conversation between the accelerating Amelia and Sif. Maybe they are complimenting each other's strenuous efforts? Those two get along unexpectedly well after all.

Amelia's expression distorts. And then, for some reason, she stops her feet and looks at her back. What happened?

It was in an instant.

The arrow that Amelia deflected exploded close to her back. So Sif thought of the ending properly huh. And she announced it in that conversation just now. Or maybe it was a sign to make it blow.

There's quite the distance between us, so, as expected, I am unable to tell what the content of their conversation was. I can't lip read after all.

The blast from her back and the arrow's fragments attack Amelia. She probably judged

it impossible to evade, she deploys a barrier. Yeah, she is properly training. It was smooth. Amelia may not be that good at complex spells, but in exchange, she is really proficient at basic spells. I remember her asking me ‘What’s the point of praising me for that? What’s impressive about it?’ Strong points might be something that, unexpectedly, the person itself doesn’t notice.

Even so, Amelia was blown away, and to create distance, Sif runs away, no, she closed the distance?!

Amelia’s doll shoulders the damage and a part of it breaks. It didn’t break apart completely, but the left shoulder has been destroyed in totality. It determines that it was quite the damage.

With a thrust, Sif hits the stage once. The stone paving that’s spread out in the stage changed its shape and it’s reformed into a giant hand. Amelia, who still hasn’t corrected her stance yet, was seized and all futile resistance was stopped.

Being grabbed by the stone hand and lifted up to about two meters in height, Sif points her staff at Amelia and stops. The fighting eyes of the grabbed Amelia were being directed at Sif, but after some time, she closes those eyes and turns her head upwards. It is settled.

“Well, well, this was a good fight. A short decisive fight where both fighters knew each other’s ability. Inside those confined rules, Sif was in the advantage, but in terms of real combat, who knows what would happen. What an interesting pair” (Tomoe)

Tomoe makes a satisfied face. Well, it may have been the backlash of all the fights till now, but as a fight between magicians, this was good. It was a short way to the conclusion that took less than 3 minutes, but the two of them did well. It seems Tomoe was able to feel the competency of Amelia in real combat at this state where she is prohibited to use some skills. And in truth, not only can she do attack magic, she can also endow support and barrier spells to her arrows and increase the variety of tactics in a party.

“She is still taking time in her arias, but at least compared to the guys till now, she is a lot better-desu wa ne” (Mio)

Mio is bitter. \*In her case, the sensation of aria separation that was used in the offensive and defensive just now, was in basis different\*. Well, that’s the same for me

who's used to it.

A defeat declaration leaked out from Amelia's mouth. Along with the signal ending the fight, big cheers rained to the girls. With the match just now, there seem to be none who were booing Amelia. From the outside, it looked like even though she is a magician, she charged and showed that she was able to deflect the magic, but in the end, she was blasted and lost. Moreover, in 2-3 minutes. Will she feel down when looking back at it later? Well, I feel like Shiki will be able to comfort her to some extent, so it should be fine to leave it be. I wouldn't want to be hated for intruding on her after all.

The rock hand liberates her and puts her down on the stage. The hand that has accomplished his job returns to being a part of the stage. Spirit magic has short arias to begin with, so if you are able to use it, you will have an easy advantage. And in truth, almost all the people that are able to use spirit magic have won and advanced. By the way, our Amelia can easily win against the other spirit users. Regarding Sif... in the magician category, she will probably win easily.

While watching over those two walking down the stage, I couldn't help but pity Izumo who's going to be fighting Sif next.



The guest seats were beginning to fall silent.

Just like in the first round's last match of the warrior category.

Amelia Hopelace and Sif Rembrandt's match. This is the reason.

Kuku... kukuku. Those prior warrior kids as well; counting those 4, all 6 of them are Makoto-kun's students. Just how much does he intent to entertain me?

As the master of the Adventurer Guild, I am watching the tournament in the guest seats. For the most important event that just takes three days, scouts come here from many countries. This is also a chance for the students to appeal for a place of employment.

...Well, even if I watch, it won't be interesting. It is also because of the fighting style of the hyumans, it is a truly boring tournament. In the first place, having dolls substitute

the damage makes the tension dilute. Every year, every year, it is practically torture. My work as a master is also a harsh one. No, it was. This year, thanks to Makoto-kun, it is truly fun.

When talking about employment, at Makoto-kun's world, there's a fierce war called job-hunting, and it is an act where they have to show their own strengths and abilities to the nation and company. A fight where humans like Makoto-kun clash in a serious battle. There's no doubt that it would be more fun to watch than this stupid show here. That's something I have earnestly wished to see even if only once. The humans that taught me this haven't participated in that fight yet, and before they participated, they ended up in this world. They sincerely talked about how glad they were, so it must be quite the harsh and serious fight.

The first round of the warrior category where it is a 'can you push your attack, can you defend against it?' In that fight, the defending boy was truly good.

There was the advantage that it was an opponent he already knew, but he was able to defend for 10 whole minutes the attacks of the boy that was clearly talented. The most he had were small cracks in several places of the doll, but in terms of a fight, it was the win of that defending kid. In the middle of it, it turned into some sort of dance performance where they confirmed each other's ability. It's been a while since I have watched a fight of swordsmen.

The next fight of warriors was a match where speed and handling stood out. The dagger boy tried to bring the fight to close range, and the spear girl handled him in a way that she could open the distance. <*This is between Yuno and Daena. And yes, there's no chapter of this fight, I checked*> Just that, the spear-wielding girl didn't go in the defensive, which is the difference between the previous battle. The difference between the distance of a spear and a dagger, it was a fight to see which one controlled that space, but it was pretty enjoyable. The highlight was the moment the handling was overwhelmed and the spear distance became dagger distance. The girl changed the way she held her spear in an instant and rotated the spear to escape from the predicament. At that time, I unconsciously leaked out a gasp. It was an amazing way of thinking and ability. In terms of handling, the boy was better, but it seems the instantaneous strength of the legs was better on the girl, so she created distance again and the battle of distance continued. By changing the way of holding the spear, one can adjust the length. It may sound easy when just saying it, but it was impressive that she was able to put it in practice.

In the middle of it, maybe he grasped the attack patterns, the boy's handling got better and began to push the girl. It was a difficult turn, but at the end, that girl used her own spear as a bait by letting it go and changing to bare-handed fight. I am surprised a girl of that age can fight that well. But of course, it was a gamble where she had to enter the area of the dagger. And in truth, the boy countered the kick that came from his back and got the better of the spear girl. Well, it was a good fight that made me gasp at the end. <*Daena won*>

And then, this time.

It was a fight between girls, but a girl suddenly charged in and the other girl begins doing an aria for attack magic. The fight began with an unconventional development. The set pattern of using a barrier and then unleashing your best magic was broken. An unprecedented start.

The one who ran had speed that could be comparable to that of the warrior category. Even so, the one who was doing the attack magic aria was able to finish it by the time half of that distance was closed. Fast. Too bad I wasn't able to hear the aria and the language clearly from the guests' seats where I was, but it was obvious that the aria itself was arranged, and it was a speed where she was aware to a certain extent the power of the spell and its success rate. Splendid. Students that have not even experienced real combat properly are able to reach the way of thinking that only a few adventurers are able to reach, moreover, able to apply it in battle. I don't want to see pretty robed magicians lined up and chanting the same aria in the battlefield.

It seems what was shot was a fire arrow that you can see anywhere. The speed was also normal. It's enough to give a passing score in a test.

When the running girl confirmed the activation of that spell, she soon stopped her straight path and changed into a charge to the left. There wasn't much waste of movement in her steps. She may be the type that can do many things skillfully. In that case, she would have to fight against a pure magician. I thought it would be something truly difficult.

The fire arrow was not the normal kind that I thought it was. Matching the change of direction, the arrow changed directions as well. I was surprised, truly surprised. To think that she would include a pursuing trait. But the surprise didn't end there. The girl that was supposed to be in a desperate situation had her staff shine a pale blue light. I didn't notice it at all. On top of that, she matched the trajectory of the arrow

and pushed out her staff, then released the light to explode and was able to defend against it. And then, she tried to resume her approach.

There, a conversation was exchanged between the two. The arrow once again pursued, and it suddenly exploded at the back of the running girl. In this fight, this was the first thunderous sound that resonated in the grounds. The power was decent. Iya~, truly impressive.

The girl that was blown away by the blast had her doll damaged heavily. Maybe fragments hit her, the girl that activated the explosion approached the girl that had her posture broken and finished a short aria. Spirit magic huh. Having that much ability in attack magic, and to sum it up, a spirit magician huh. There's no doubt that she is the most complete participant of today.

Being grabbed by a stone hand, she declared her defeat and the match ends. And so, it connects to the silence that's currently occurring.

“...Counting the warrior category fights a while ago, this is truly discomforting”

“R-Really! Persisting in only the handling of the fight, a fight where it looked like there was no intention to win from the very beginning and only focusing on defending. And in the magician fight just now, there was one that can't even use magic properly and a magician that struggles by using petty tricks. To think that I would witness such a fighting manner, just what is the academy thinking?!”

“The student that won is the ill reputed Rembrandt daughter. Even though she is not even a noble, she lives in the noble's dormitory, a wannabe. She must have bought a tool that reduces the length of arias with her gold”

When I thought they finally opened their mouths, they began criticizing those splendid fights between the students. With those words as the fuse, more criticism came from others. Those are... the nobles of Limia. How stupid. Are they throwing the excuses that they thought up among them and their own henchmen? Including the bias in this tournament and the importance they put in weapons, these pigs truly have no saving. If they yield to gold and authority intervention, ‘he’<*the founder*>, who wished to make an independent education facility, will lose his footing, and yet, why is it that hyumans don’t follow the true nature of things, but instead put more importance in their greed and what brings benefits for themselves?

This time, it seems the one who did several secret movements was Limia's Hopelace. That was the reason why the Limia nobles were making so much noise. Makoto-kun, just how were you able to get in trouble with another household that's so far away? Even if their second son is attending here, this is a huge academy. There aren't many chances of meeting.

But the flow of these conversations are truly unpleasant. The kids that finally gave color to this spectating, let's protect their honor for a bit.

"Please stop, it is unsightly"

"Stop it, bunch of idiots"

Eh? I was beaten to the punch.

Princess Lily and... Limia's King? This is quite the unusual pair giving their opinion. When the noisy bunch were directed these words, the people related to Limia and Gritonia fall silent. Most of the people complaining were Limia nobles, so the criticism to the students soon stopped.

"Their fights were truly magnificent. For people that have levels over 90, they showed strength fit for that number, and trying a new way of fighting is something important. The usual way of fighting that can be seen every year like the ones the other students showed, it would only be destroyed the moment they oppose the demon race. I feel that they are promising kids that can hold the future of us hyumans. They should be praised, and in no way should be looked down upon" (Lily)

After their utterance, the princess and king look at each other and didn't say anything else, but when the king nods once, the princess begins to talk. And in response, the Limia nobles asked.

"But princess, that kind of fighting style is vulgar and cowardly. In no way is it a fighting style a soldier and knight should..."

"Then, what about our country's hero-sama that repels the demons by capitalizing maneuverability in the sky? Is that fighting style also cowardly? Are the knights and soldiers that had their lives saved also cowardly? The foundation of your words itself are wrong. Including the match of just now, they thought properly and are increasing their own strengths, that's it. That's not vulgar nor shameful, and not to mention, cowardly by no means. Why is it that you can't understand that, no matter if it's slowly,

the empire's army is learning a certain new way of fighting, and that's the same that's happening here?" (Lily)

"?!! Princess, what you said-"

"Is related to secret intel? How stupid. The kingdom that is fighting alongside us, the empire, have already learned how much of a threat the demon race is with our own bodies. If we are changing tactics to cope with them, it shouldn't be secret intel, but information that all hyumans should be sharing. You and the people that were making stupid talks as well, revise your way of thinking. Limia King, I am sorry for disturbing you when you spoke" (Lily)

Saying things you don't actually feel. If the arrival of the hero were a bit faster, maybe those words of the princess just now would actually be from the bottom of her heart. Ah, but he is no good huh. If the perfect hero of Limia would have met the wild group of the wasteland... Well, Princess Lily is already in a spot she can't come back from. It's already too late.

In times, the madmen's words sound more upright than any other. Just like hers just now.

"No, I was thinking almost the same thing. Don't mind it. Listen well, formality and tradition won't reduce the number of casualties in the battlefield. We can't protect both. Don't mistake the things we really have to protect and the things we don't have to protect. The three matches you repudiated, were all matches that stirred my heart. I unconsciously thought of the fighting style of our country's hero-dono. The utterance of you bastards can be taken as insults to our hero-dono. They were truly unpleasant words. An insult to the hero-dono that is exposing herself to danger in the vanguard. Even if you are nobles in our country, no matter how much time passes, don't go changing pride for arrogance"

There were no objections to the king's words huh. The Limia nobles have all turned stiff.

Nevertheless, what an unexpected speech. The church related people and the people from Lorel that were listening also looked surprised.

From what I remember, he himself should be the old type of king that sticks to pride. He did look like he was extravagant. That perfect hero, it seems she also changed a bit

the way the king thinks.

Well, I don't think she would be able to make him have doubts of the monarchy system, but seriously, can't underestimate that hero's influence. Is the ideal she is aiming for a democracy government? Most of the humans that fall to these world believe that this is the best type of government after all. I don't understand why they have that way of thinking. Maybe they receive that kind of education. Let's try asking Makoto-kun next time.

Well then, it turned silent.

I should say something as well or it will give a bad impression to Makoto-kun. In his case, I can't predict with whom or what he is connected with after all. In this time where the tournament has begun, I am busy most of the time, so there will be less chances for me to help him.

"...It may be rude of me to say my part after the king and the princess, but I also want to say it. I can't help praise the way they fought as splendid. I am of course a devout follower of the Goddess, but the power and technique they showed, and also the magic; people that use to their utmost every strength they have and improve it, for me, I even think that they would be able to easily defeat people that have only received the blessing of the Goddess. If those kind of people were to receive the blessing of the Goddess on top of that, they might be able to show a fight that would put the demons in the dust. But well, in my case, I would want them to be the next era of adventurers and play an active role in it though" (Root)

"...I don't consider that Falz-dono is denying the Goddess at all. I can tell that those words are purely from your expectations of them. Just like what you said, if they were to obtain the blessing of the Goddess, they would be able to increase that power even more. I am sure of it. This is my first time seeing students fight in this kind of way, so I am unable to evaluate them right this instant though"

The archbishop of the church that is close to the Limia King provides some cover for me, while advocating for the students and basically taking a position of being in favor.

When I follow the gaze of him, there's the Rotsgard Bishop. I see. He is asking the reason why they didn't know the existence of those students huh. They have been appointing new people a lot lately, so that responsibility should go to the previous bishop that's already dead. That woman, so misfortunate. She will probably get

scolded. And, that said bishop was eliminated in Makoto-kun's place. Well, the previous bishop was the one who dealt with the management of 'that organization' in Rotsgard. It seems the other related party Brait-sensei that was in the academy was eliminated as well.

Even if they haven't gone to the light yet, it would still create sparks, so I think that Makoto-kun is doing pretty well in his commitment to dealing with troubles.

"It seems the second round will be beginning soon. I am also looking forward to lunch, but I am truly looking forward to the tournament as well" (Root)

I say some light words to disperse the heavy atmosphere. As expected, I want to spectate comfortably. More so because I know that it will be worth the watch.

If possible, I wanted to sit together with Makoto-kun in the general seats and enjoy the show, but well, that's impossible.

Fufufu, at this rate, I can expect a lot from the third round as well.

If the students in this academy learn, even if a bit, from the fights just now and get their mindsets reformed, the founder of the academy would definitely be happy.

I remember the face of my past friend and narrow my eyes in nostalgia.

# Chapter 125

## Champion

Love is blind, love is darkness, the ups and downs of love show no discrimination. The people that disturb the love of someone else should get kicked by a horse and die, huh.

It was great that I didn't go to comfort Amelia afterwards.

Looking at the girl entwining her arms around Shiki's right arm, I honestly thought this.

Most likely, nothing special happened, but for her, there's no doubt that she passed a sugary time.

Shiki has a troubled expression and is worrying about how to deal with Amelia. While at it, I also entrusted the follow-up of Jin and Sif as well.

When I tell him to help the ones who have lost as well, Shiki does a bow and leaves the sit with Amelia.

Including the meal, the afternoon time passed safely and it is already the climax of the individual matches. In the warrior category, Jin defeated Daena, and after that, he heedlessly defeated the others with ease and continued advancing.

Disarming the opponent from his weapon, he attacked several times with light hits, and then, smashes an attack that breaks 2-3 dolls.

Instead of calling it docile, it was more like he was patiently holding in something while doing work. It was an unpleasant way of fighting. Dolls cost a good amount of money, so it seems he isn't thinking about the damage it is causing. That I am thinking this way makes me feel like I am becoming more merchant-like.

Even though he is only holding a wooden sword, that's pretty impressive. He uses body enhancing magic in a peculiar way, where he activates it the moment an attack connects.

Maybe the effect increases by only activating it for a second? From what I have seen, the attack power has increased more than when Jin uses attacks that are already enhanced.

But he hasn't used it in this kind of way until today.

...Did he grasp something in his fight between Misura?

It is hard to think that he left it as a secret weapon for the sake of this day after all. If that were the case, he would have used it in the fight with Misura. I haven't seen it in the mock battles with the Mist Lizard either.

I can only categorize it as an abnormal-level of sense and just accept it huh.

Tonight, let's try and see if I can do it as well.

Enhancing magic in itself is one of my specialties, so I feel like I will be able to master it to a certain extent. Seriously, I really have talented students. The things that have to be done, to learn, I am the one being taught after all.

What's left is the finals of the warrior category and magician category, and then the champion battle between the winners of both categories. It seems the winner will receive the cringy title of champion<*supreme ruler*>.

...In other words, Jin or Sif.

Well, it will most likely be Sif.

Leaving aside the question of whether Rembrandt-san will like that kind of title for his daughter, as a teacher, having both of my students as winners in both categories makes me happy.

My students are wiping the tournament in both the warrior and magician category, but Sif, who fought Amelia and Izumo in the magician category and got a practically flawless victory, is truly the very meaning of matchless.

Izumo also sprinted from the beginning, and while evading the spells of Sif, he tried to attack her with short aria spells. But Sif soon created a stone wall around her surroundings with earth magic, and so, Izumo had no choice but to destroy that wall first.

On the other hand, Sif is in a stage made wholly of stone, so even if she can't see her surroundings, she is able to sense them with her earth spirit magic. In a stage filled with advantages for her, Sif was able to accurately target Izumo even when she can't see him.

It may be simple, but it is a literal location advantage.

...You put up a good fight, Izumo.

Even in the face of the stone walls that were continuously regenerating, your unbreakable courage must have definitely given you points.

"Fumu, Sif is being completely favored by the rules. Fit for your pants is truly how this situation can be described. The chances for Jin to win are just..." (Tomoe)

"Impossible-desu wa ne. If he were able to shoot his attack with the sword to some extent, he might have had a chance, but even if he is able to, because of this rules, it feels like it would be seen as an attack magic and treated as breaking the rules. In terms of uses on the outside, a stone paved stage is improper. Moreover, in this situation where the warrior side has their close combat limited considerably, the element of Sif is overwhelmingly advantageous-desu wa" (Mio)

Tomoe and Mio also think that Sif's victory has already been settled.

Just like me.

Having the circumstances itself as your ally, is a truly fearsome power that the winners possess.

It is sad, but no one is thinking about the final round opponents of Jin and Sif.

Sif's opponent is a battery that is relatively resistant and packs decent punch. In other words, there's no problem.

The match will end before he even charges.

Jin's opponent is him, Hopelace's 'I will inherit this family'-sama. He clearly had a weapon of a whole different level, but his techniques were also not that bad.

Compared to the participants until now, his abilities were actually in a level that I

would consider favorable. Just that, the sword that seems to have been brought from the warehouse of his house, is an excellent sword that can't even be compared to a wooden sword, and in his hands it is just a waste of a good sword.

The fighting style of the Limia nobles that adhere to tradition and formality is also extravagant, no, it can enter into the actual combat type.

So he wasn't just a simple pompous child huh. But that just makes it more disappointing.

Jin probably intents to crush him completely. What he was trying to hold in will most likely be released in the fight with Hopelace. Even though he says he doesn't care what happens to him, he cares about his comrades. A person that no matter what he says, he just can't abandon the people that rely on him.

And well, that brings us to how it has turned out.

In the tournament everyone was so psyched up, a noble interfered with it, and as a result, their evaluations have been severely affected.

I think he is shouldering all their regrets.

"Waka? Is there something bothering you regarding the warrior category finals?"  
(Tomoe)

"Don't be stupid. There's not even the need to watch it. The results are obvious. Waka-sama, more importantly, how about we go eat some snacks while we wait for the next match? Should I add something to drink as well?" (Mio)

"Mio, the food is fine. If you want it, buy it. There's nothing bothering about the match. I just thought that 'it is Hopelace huh'" (Makoto)

I respond to the words directed at me.

Other people might not have expected this development. But for me, Tomoe and the others, it was a pretty obvious result.

"Ah... That Limia boy. To think that a mere noble's second son tried to meddle with Waka. Honestly, I pity him" (Tomoe)

"Well then, how will Jin settle it? I wonder if Hopelace-kun will be able to participate in the team battles tomorrow. That's the question... hehe" (Makoto)

I don't know why he hates me that much, but he came at me this persistently, so I hope he shows a decent fight. A wish that if the two people at my side hear it, they would smile wryly.

I hear the voice of the announcer presenting the participants of the warrior category finals and I turn to look.

3 matches left.

The first day of the tournament is finally nearing its end.



"Winner, Sif Rembrandt!"

The Hopelace idiot is buying time huh. Maybe for the sake of preparing another dirty hand.

The warrior category that was scheduled to begin first was changed and the magician category happened first.

The winner was Sif, just like how it was announced just now.

As expected, with this rules, her strength gets emphasized. If only the earth element wasn't spirit magic, there would still be a chance to fight back but...

Her opponent is someone that is one year higher than us, and it seems that after graduating he would become a sword serving in the imperial court as a researcher. And that said person is currently sticking out his head from the stone paving with his body buried and crying.

Before the match began, it seems they exchanged words. The contents of that conversation probably got on Sif's nerves. And quite a lot at that.

A bit after the match began, the swept-back haired man that confronted Sif -self-proclaimed the highest firepower in history- fell into a hole that opened in the floor. Or so I thought, but everything above the neck stuck out and that hole soon closed.

She should have been able to settle it all with that one move, but maybe Sif was controlling the pressure, she only used that spell as a restrain.

Losing his staff and barrier in a second, he could only watch the woman's feet as she approached. In his field of vision, he must be looking at the smiling face of Sif. She grabs the staff in her right hand and after turning sideways, she taps the tip on her left hand, resembling the gesture of what a teacher would do when explaining to a student. An appearance filled with composure.

When the distance of both was reduced to about 1 meter, Sif points that staff to her opponent. He should have just surrendered as soon as possible, but he just seemed to be shouting something and was not surrendering.

That thing is actually a senpai. Makes me laugh.

With the sphere at the tip of the staff, she lifts his head up by putting it below his jaw and pushing up. And then, after looking down at him, Sif turns to the referee.

'Still not going to turn the verdict?' is what her looks told.

There was no reason to judge that the winner was not decided yet. It was clearly the win of Sif, so it should be fine to just announce that. Even if they prolong this more, it would just be her doing a finishing spell and further hurting the pride of the opponent.

Sif sighs and narrows her eyes. A short aria leaks out from her mouth.

What a foolish fellow.

Maybe he saw the reformed Sif after her return and has misunderstood her for a kind high-class lady that wouldn't do a finishing move, or maybe he still has some sort of method to win. I don't know, but whichever it is, he is a fool.

The eyes of the man open wide. And then, in the moment his mouth was probably going to announce his surrender, a red light converged into a ball and was silently fired at the floor just in front of the man. I thought 'It is that'.

And yes it was.

In front of the man, heat and fire exploded in an instant, and that red light of the fire made the already bright venue into an even brighter one.

H-Heartless.

Instantly, the 3 dolls blew up and an unbearable scream resonated from the man. Looking at the scale, she held back. But that was still enough to destroy all the dolls huh. In terms of holding back, magic definitely works differently from swordsmanship.

That magic as well. The spell that Sif created to counter the approach of Zwei-san, flare pillar. An arranged spell based on the fire pillar spell.

Setting the activation point somewhere slightly below the ground, charging it and by lowering its effective time, it increases its explosive power. An oblique mass of fire spouts from her opponent's feet.

To get hit by that right in front of you, I can't see it as anything other than torture. As I thought, at that moment, I was sure that woman's true character hasn't changed.

Maybe sensei felt something from that as well, he seemed to be whispering something.

The effective time was low, and before the screams of the man disappeared, the fire did so first. She used the man's head as the indicator, and by using the dug-up stone paving of the stage as a gathering point, she was able to control the range of her spell.

In truth, the further she is, the lower the power it has, but the impact it left is plenty enough.

The guest seats gave big cheers.

There were scalds in the cheeks of the man, and a part of his hair was burned. His whole face was trembling, and there was not a single trace left of the confidence he had when the match began. That level of scalding can be easily healed by receiving treatment in the waiting room.

It shouldn't leave any scars.

Just that, the wounds he received in his heart might leave a mark.

After the referee announced Sif's victory, she bend her knees towards the 'severed head'. The weak-looking slender arms take ahold of his neck, and just like that, she stands up and lifts the man as if nothing happened. A strange scene of a female student lifting a male student with one hand.

The man simply stood still with a frightened face, and after that, without meeting eyes, Sif bows to both sides of the spectating audience and leaves the stage.

“Well done”

I call out to Sif who was returning to the waiting room. Seeing that overwhelming victory, I couldn’t think up any counter-measures. It’s honest admiration.

If possible, I want to get the title of champion though...

“Thanks, Jin. It would have been fine to finish it faster, but that man, it seems tomorrow he will be in the team of Hopelace, so I scared him a bit” (Sif)

“That wasn’t a bit. Even Sif is angered by this tournament huh?” (Jin)

“...I will let you guess. But I am jealous of you who are in the warrior category. That’s as much as I will say. Jin, I think you understand what I mean” (Sif)

“Yeah, of course I do” (Jin)

“Great. When being shown just how much the power of money and authority can do, I also feel like I have to reflect as well... Well then, I will be thinking up a plan to get the title of champion with relief okay? I will be watching so, I wish you luck” (Sif)

In the middle of the conversation, Sif makes a face as if scoffing at herself, and after finishing her conversation with me, she disappeared into the corridor that leads to the waiting room.

Maybe she was feeling self-disgust towards her past-self that resembled Hopelace.

...Well, it is true that there wasn’t much difference. Not like I can speak that out of my mouth though.

I do feel anger at those unreasonable actions. And also, I am feeling the weight of defeating Misura and Daena. I haven’t fought her directly but, Yuno as well.

This is the individual battles in the tournament. Of course, I was expecting to fight my own comrades. But I didn’t imagine that I would have to clash with them so fast, and to not be able to show my own strength to the audience and, more importantly, to those people. Well, I do feel like I was able to show some of it when we fought with

each other. But, the only ones who were able to properly show it off were me and Sif.

Even if they speak nonchalant words, cheer for us, or don't say anything at all; when thinking about how I would feel if I were in their position, I end up understanding how they feel.

Well... this trouble is related to sensei though.

When I had a connection with sensei, I was prepared for a certain extent of trouble... but to receive interference from an outsider that nobody cares, I don't like it.

I just don't like it.

Ilumgand Hopelace.

"Jin. Jin Roan! The finals are beginning. Hurry up!"

An official in duty calls me out.

I see. It's time huh.

I will finally be able to fight against him.

"...I will soon go" (Jin)

Turning my body, I hurry to the corridor that connects to my entrance side.

Walking in the corridor that continues straight, I could tell that there were several presences I recognized. Lately, there have been moments this has happened.

In the times I am concentrating to my maximum, I can slightly grasp the situation in my surroundings. Nice. That means my condition is at its best.

Shiki-san, Amelia, Misura, Daena, Yuno, Izumo. They are probably guarding the surroundings to prevent any dirty tricks. So that's why they didn't show themselves.

Above, there's sensei and what seems to be his two close aides. I can somehow tell that they are crazy strong. Like this, even if I put them as an objective, I wonder if it is even possible to reach their backs.

...Interesting.

Regarding sensei, I can't tell well.

Maybe I am still not in the level where I can feel anything from him. He gives off a presence that is thinner than even normal humans.

"Sensei, please watch" (Jin)

I silently voice my enthusiasm. It wasn't directed to anyone in particular, a simple whisper.

I reach the exit of the corridor.

My field of vision instantly turns brighter. In front of me, there's the stage. Maybe the excitement of the magician match still remained, the audiences' mood was already in its climax.

Each step I do it firmly, and after advancing one by one, I finally go up the stage.

"Jin Roan, please comply with the arranged time of the match. As a person participating in this tournament, your attitude is not the proper one. We will subtract points for that"

"...I'm sorry. I will be careful" (Jin)

I came as soon as I was told, and yet, I get this.

But, it doesn't matter.

Subtracting points only affects the verdict. No matter who the referee sides with, it is pointless in this fight.

I match my gaze with that bastard.

It's him. The intruding outsider.

There's no need to worry. I won't leave wounds in your body that would hinder your participation for tomorrow. In those two days starting tomorrow, we will be having you serve in our favor at the team battle competition.

Listen well, stop when the dolls are destroyed.

I don't know what that guy would say if there's damage transferred to him after destroying the 3 dolls.

I have already finished my training with all the matches I had until now.

I will precisely destroy 2 and finish it there.

"Oioi, this is a historic armor handed down in my family. In this kind of formal places and in the battlefield, the Hopelace household will always go with this equipment. Even if you complain at me with those eyes, it will only trouble me. The rules also accept it"

With an arrogant face, the second son is saying something to me.

Seriously, what an out-of-place misunderstanding.

I don't care if your equipment has become even stronger than in the semi-finals. And I don't care if the match was postponed because you were preparing the equipment.

I was just thinking about how to finish you.

"I am not complaining here. It is obvious to do your best. Let's make this a good fight"  
(Jin)

"...I don't like that attitude. Don't go giving up early and bore the audience, got it? Just think of this as bad luck for taking the class of Raidou and frantically struggle"

Audience.

I see. There were those people too.

If these were my past-year self, I would be concerned about the eyes of scouts I don't even know of and fight while minding them.

Right now, I don't care who and from what country is looking though.

"Let's both do our best"

Hiding his real self, he sends words he doesn't even mean and only maintains his righteous front.

Maybe he felt that the exchange was over, I could tell that his right hand strengthened the grip in his sword.

The referee nods at the signal of the second son and lifts his hand high up.

Hahaha, he is been totally bribed.

"Well then! Ilumgand Hopelace versus Jin Roan! The school festival tournament of the Rotsgard Academy, final match of the warrior category, begins!!"

So strange.

In front of me, there's a prodigy senpai with his whole body clad in incredible equipment I would have a hard time seeing in my life. And yet, a kohai like me, who only has one wooden sword in hand, am not feeling any fear at all.

Maybe the days fighting with the blue-scaled lizardman forged me this way. Or it might be because compared to the level 70 Hopelace, I am higher with my level that's over 90.

I place my right hand that's wielding the sword to the front and prepare the stance in my upper half.

The senpai approaches my location with light movements one wouldn't be able to imagine from someone wearing a plate armor. Those are movements that told that his whole equipment is endowed with weight reduction, body strengthening or enchantment magic.

But his moves are too obvious.

I can easily tell that he intends to swing downwards the big sword he brandishes with both hands.

Too slow.

It felt like I was watching frames.

If I wanted to, I could have cut him several times before he swung down his sword.

Along with a yell filled with fighting spirit, a brilliant giant sword is swung down.

I thought of evading it, but I soon changed opinions and do one step forward.

His left hand is just there to support, so I swing my wooden sword from below and hit his right hand which is wearing a much exaggerated gauntlet. Just like I thought, Ilumgand drops his giant sword that was being lifted mainly with his right hand.

The grounds fall silent.

I turn my back and take a bit of distance. I turn, facing him once again, and take a stance with my wooden sword.

He doesn't pursue. He won't do it.

I will get rid of his 'fair and square' farce.

Maybe he understood what I was trying to do. He once again lifts up his sword.

His face was soon filled with anger.

Oioi, what are you doing by telling your opponent you are not calm?

Try hiding it... just like me.

"..."

Looks like he doesn't want to shame himself.

Your country's king and your relatives must be watching this match.

I wait for my match opponent to finish his slow body enhancing spell.

What. Is it already time for your special move?

What a hurried fellow.

Oh, right. That attack just now, the doll's damage is... doesn't look like it's much. Even

if there is, it would just be a small crack somewhere.

He has brought an armor with really high defensive power.

After his body enhancement, he does a low-posture dash. The moment his opponent enters the range of his sword, he does his special move, a horizontal swipe.

Ilumgand dashes just as the information I gathered states.

I didn't gather that much information about him, and yet, I have been hearing about his special attack and the patterns of that special move.

He is not trying to hide it, so that's an obvious result though.

Because the action of closing the distance and the action for attack are done in two different executions, there was a lot of time to interfere with it. If one uses body enhancement in the interval of the attack and does one step backward, it can be avoided.

Well, in my case, I can avoid it without enhancing myself though.

Even if the frame gets slightly faster, it still doesn't change anything.

In truth, there isn't that much difference in speed between me and Ilumgand. But maybe because my brain processes information continuously, I feel like my opponent's movements are slow.

It might be thanks to the fact that I am always thinking about how to do this or that in order to decrease the amount of delay in my movements.

“?!!”

A horizontal swipe approaches.

I hit the core of that giant sword with all my strength.

Once again, the sword falls to the ground.

It may be a good sword, but if the person holding it is this guy, there's no point.

He turns both of his hands, which were holding the giant sword, upwards, and just like that, his hands trembled.

Hahaha, in other words, his physical strength is on the same level as my past-self the first time I fought Zwei-san.

Holding back quite a bit, I present his open face with a swing of my wooden sword.

The doll shakes greatly and cracks.

The match is not over yet.

I once again take distance from him, take my stance, and wait.

“??!! Referee!!”

He calls out the referee, and while holding his face, he pointed a finger at me with his other hand while shouting: ‘what’s going on here?!’

If you are a swordsman, at least pick up your sword.

The referee nods several times.

Maybe he will say something like fight with your fists?

Well, I don’t care one bit even if I have to fight with my bare hands though.

“Jin Roan, I can see that you have been taking a stance of only waiting for your opponent to attack. Make sure to use your all your power to fight in an active way”

“Understood. I will finish this already” (Jin)

“?!!”

Ilumgand takes the sword in his hands once more.

His proud white skin has become red like someone drunk.

Well then, let’s go for the first and last attack.

The time I will leave you all beaten up will be in the team battle. In order to have you face shame in both of those tournaments, I will spare you with just this much in the individual matches.

In the first place, if I were the only one taking him out, I don't know what everyone would do to me later.

"Your name was Jin right?! Jin Roan! You bastard... You bastard, I won't forgive you!  
Wa-

Rules this, rules that, what a pesky tournament.

After properly confirming the referee gave the resume sign, I, for the first time, run forward and close the distance.

Maybe he didn't even expect such an obvious move, Ilumgand stops what seemed to be threats or whatever he was trying to accomplish with that, and leaks out a voice of surprise.

Seeing Ilumgand prepare his sword in a hurry, I close the distance to an even closer range than my sword, and kick his armor-protected stomach.

Because he was protected by his armor, there is no damage to his body, but the shock will still transmit, so he was blown backwards and fell on his ass.

I swung downwards to his head, but Ilumgand's sword managed to defend in time and the attack line to his head was intercepted. At this rate, the wooden sword will break in two.

I pull my upper-half and shift the trajectory of the sword, preventing my sword from clashing with his.

Passing the giant sword, the wooden sword reaches down and just like that, I changed to an upwards slash.

The attack aiming at his face beautifully connected, and the head of Ilumgand bends backwards greatly. And just like that, the back of his head hits the stone paving.



But without caring about that, I punch with the arm I haven't straightened completely.

When I thought Ilumgand's face caved in with that hit, the stone paving makes a dull sound and cracks, and the sound resonated in the grounds.

I throw away the wooden sword that's not even mine to the fumes of the stone paving that cracked and step back to where the referee is.

"Referee, it seems the three dolls have broken you know" (Jin)

I went overboard.

I just glanced at it for a bit, but not only did all the dolls get destroyed, it seems I ended up breaking his face lightly as well.

I can tell he is bleeding.

Well, it isn't a wound that can't heal.

If he doesn't take part in the team battles with only that much, we can just settle it outside.

But, he will participate right? He was made this much of a fool after all.

He plans on using more dirty tricks to take revenge right?

After overwhelming Ilumgand Hopelace and shaming him, I win.

In my victory, I didn't injure him that much. I think I was able to achieve my objective.

If I get the impressions of Shiki-san and sensei, it would make me happy.

As the winner, my name was called, and while I was thinking those kind of things, I left the stage.



This year's champion is Sif huh.

If the whole stage is turned into swamp, the current Jin won't be able to do anything after all. On top of that, Sif was one-sidedly floating on the surface and was making movements as if surfing.

The moment he repelled the exploding beam, I unintentionally let out a shout. Jin's highlights were pretty impressive as well.

Well, it didn't serve me as a reference for anything though.

Because you know, those kind of feats that are like a mass of instinct and sense, there's no way I can copy them.

In my perspective, the feat of changing the trajectory of a spell that Amelia showed looks like a more realistic goal.

Tomoe and Mio said it was interesting.

Those two probably see the technique Jin showed as something that can be realistically achieved.

The flare pillar that Sif showed in the match before, it seems there was no turn for it in this occasion. If there's no one drawing near, there aren't many chances of using it after all.

I secretly named that spell: Power Geyser.

The first time she activated that spell, I reflexively said in a low voice 'P-Power Geyser...' 'A memorable spell.'

Instead of calling it a spell that counters approaches, it is more like a technique that crushes approaches.

As long as it is a magic spell, she can move the activation point or change the effective time, so there should be many different uses for it, but luckily, it seems Sif has not thought that far yet.

That firepower can affect the terrain, moreover, if she were to combine it with land mines, she would be a stronghold.

This time as well, I whispered 'The Power Geyser? So ruthless'.

The two that were accompanying me have sharp ears, and while remembering the spell, they said:

"...Power... Geyser"

And their eyes were glittering. It made me have a bad presentiment.

I don't think this is a spell that's fit for you guys.



A dark room.

The poor-looking man that is sitting on the couch seems to be muttering something.

Before leaving, it seems a person came to give a report to the man, but after the messenger finished what he came to do, he soon left the room.

"I understand. I am not wavering. I understand it all. Who do you think I am?"

The voice that had remarkably increased in volume, resonates in the room.

The tumult of the night's festival didn't reach that place one bit.

The voice of the man that was hanging his head down didn't stop through the whole night.

# Chapter 126

## If it's Raidou, the chances of that development are low

"Sorry, Raidou-dono. My strength was not enough"

[Please don't worry about it]

After congratulating the students' good fights, I returned to the company and Rembrandt-san was waiting there with an apology.

It seems the call of the merchant guild was related to me, and the result was not favorable.

"Looks like your activities as a company are gathering attention to you. Most likely in the country level" (Rembrandt)

[Country huh. I don't remember doing anything to be disturbed for though]

I do think there are countries that have an interest in me. But I don't remember having anyone who would want to interfere with me.

"Just picking their attention is plenty" (Rembrandt)

But Rembrandt-san begins talking as if he read my mind.

What does he mean by that?

"At what country will Kuzunoha Company go, and also at which will Raidou-dono go; because they have an interest, they want to know. And because of that, they would obviously investigate. You know, those kind of movements the countries do, we merchants pick up that information in a pretty early stage" (Rembrandt)

Yeah, I understand that much. When there's friendship between the countries and the merchant, there will be times when they will hear information about it as a part of information gathering. Just like Aion Kingdom, there are some merchants that work as intelligence members as well.

"Up to this point it is still fine. But the problem comes after this. The merchants that obtain the information sometimes implant their own idea of things. For example, I participate in the government affairs of the Limia Kingdom and I'm in friendly terms with them, but in truth, it seems the Limia Kingdom is interested in the merchant named Raidou. And then I can say something like: 'By the way, that company has this strange point, can you please have the guild investigate and deal with it?'" (Rembrandt)

[Based on that example, it would mean that Limia Kingdom is feeling something strange from my store, so they had the merchant investigate about it, right?]

Rembrandt-san smiles at my opinion.

"That's not it, Raidou-dono. In this case, Limia took an interest in you and just wants to obtain information" (Rembrandt)

[But]

"The second half is just a personal intention of the merchant. That person doesn't think well of you. This kind of things are unexpectedly prevalent. They don't only get used by the country, but they also use them in order to bring benefits to them. Well, I also do that, so I am not in a position to say things of others" (Rembrandt)

...E-Ehm, that person is not lying, but doesn't intent to correct that misunderstanding, is what he is trying to say huh. Uwa, how dirty.

"The Merchant Guild also can't ignore the companies that are being denoted by countries as dangerous. Especially when many people say so" (Rembrandt)

[So that means the Kuzunoha Company has picked the attention of at least that many countries, and the companies that are in this town don't view that in a favorable way]

"Not all of them, but the amount of people that are like that is most likely not small. I also heard that the Church said something recently as well. And it is dubious if it was actually directly from the Church. The Church is receiving offerings from the companies, so they can't ignore their voices. In regards to that, I am deliberately pulling my distance though, so I am estranged in that subject. Tsige is a town that has a bit of problems with the God's religion after all" (Rembrandt)

[I want to coexist with the people of the same trade, but it seems that will be difficult

huh]

"It is a relationship where they steal benefits from each other after all. The closer they are, the harder it becomes. Even I, if you were to open a store in the times when I was troubled with the curse, I would have definitely done something" (Rembrandt)

Is that how it works?

"You should prepare yourself to a certain extent, Raidou-dono. Even if it's a competition between people of the same trade, if the battle is decided fast, the one who lost can recover. Luckily, in this land, there are many satellite towns. If they have the drive, there are decent amount of opportunities" (Rembrandt)

[Thanks for the warning]

"No, no, here I am saying something admirable, but I wasn't able to actually be of much use. Being thanked for that would trouble me. My daughters didn't receive any serious wounds in the tournament, and yet, they were able to bring the title of champion, the best result of all. I am always being favored by Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

[That was their ability. Please watch them tomorrow. I don't think I will be able to go after all]

"...The Merchant Guild will probably question you strictly about your company's circulation of goods. They are even suspecting that you have connections with the demon race. You should have some sort of proof, or prepare a fit amount of gold and calm it down with money; you will have to think about your counter-measure precisely. If there's anything I can do..." (Rembrandt)

Proof huh. Don't have anything like that. There's the method of having Tomoe or Shiki place hypnotic suggestions on them, but it won't solve the root of the problem.

Also, the circulation of goods in our company?

Not only the Gold Highway, we don't even use the normal highways. We use the route via Asora, a method that can't be obstructed.

But this world doesn't use teleportation as a general method of transportation. Because the success rate is low. If I were to say that we are using a teleportation mean that is 100% successful, they will obviously demand me to share the technique, the

aria of it. If that happens, then the country taking scene wouldn't be strange.

I remember the words I said to Tomoe when we were spectating.

[You are already doing plenty enough Rembrandt-san. It's alright. We will take care of it]

"I see. It was unnecessary worry. Well then, I will excuse myself. I want to at least congratulate my daughters before they go to sleep" (Rembrandt)

[Have a safe trip. Sleep well]

"Yeah, same for you. Good night, Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt-san returns to praise Sif and comfort Yuno.

Tomorrow is the team battles, so they are probably already sleeping. In that case, would he wake them up? I don't think he would.

"Lime, you are here right?" (Makoto)

"Yes" (Lime)

"Just in case, watch over Rembrandt-san's return. If there's any strange presence, shift with someone else, and follow it" (Makoto)

"Understood" (Lime)

I have left the students in Shiki and Akua's hands.

Yareyare, I am asking everyone work that's not related to the business huh.



It was a shocking tournament.

Several students that were not that much different from the others in the beginning of the year, showed power that overwhelmed not only classmates, but also upperclassmen.

A student that, even when she had ability, was absent from the Academy for a long time because of health issues and recently returned. A student that entered because of scholarship but was in no way top-class.

And those two fought for the place of champion this year.

When the school festival is open for exhibition, the library is closed. And of course, my work as a librarian is also in break, so I went to watch the tournament that is the main event of the festival.

I once again thought this.

Raidou, Kuzunoha Company.

It's that. That is the reason of this storm. And also, my hope. Currently, he is still not even marked by the upper stratum of the academy.

If he were to help, I am sure that the frontline Limia and Gritonia maintain would push north in an instant, and the recovery of Kaleneon would become a realistic objective.

He was able to make those students grow that much in such a short amount of time after all.

Soon after the individual battles of the tournament finished, I stand up from my seat and was about to return, but Raidou called me out.

He said that he wanted to talk with me.

I don't know what he intended, but if it is an invitation from him, I can't refuse. I readily consented and asked for the meeting time.

The time he set could be considered late at night.

At that time, I enter his store through the back door and head to his room at the second floor. He told me that he will be in his room, so I could enter whenever I wanted.

...No matter what he asks of me, I intend to accept it.

"Raidou-sensei, its Eva. Is it okay to enter?" (Eva)

After knocking, I wait for his response. Well, even if I say so, he can't speak in common language. The characters of 'enter' appear on the door, and the lock is opened with magic.

I enter.

My relationship with him is, honestly speaking, a relationship where I am in a pretty disadvantageous position. I am wishing a lot from him, and yet, he said that he didn't wish anything from me.

It was okay to stay seated when receiving me, but Raidou went through the trouble of standing and greeting me. Even though it would be acceptable for me if he acted haughtier.

[I am sorry for calling you this late. Today all my employees are out and I am the only one here you see]

Alone.

Those words increase my tension a bit. Could it be, he really called me with those intentions?

If it really turns out the way I am thinking, it would be a desirable development. I will finally be able to fulfill something he wishes for. I would be able to repay him.

"If it's Raidou-sensei that's calling, I don't care what time it is" (Eva)

[Please stop]

"Congratulations for the victory of your student in today's individual battles. After that it was pretty hectic you know? They were asking who the one who trained them was" (Eva)

[I just helped their talent bloom. It wasn't the achievement of anyone else]

"You are modest. And yet, the teachers that give them classes as well are all raising their hands and saying: 'It's me, It's me!' and causing much trouble. Of course, when they understand that they all have your class in common, the point of the spear will face sensei though" (Eva)

Even when I congratulated him for Sif Rembrandt's victory, he didn't show any pride.

He just said that it is the student's talent. It has been half a year since spring. In just that amount of time, they were able to show a growth that can't be considered just doubled, and there's no doubt that it was thanks to him.

If any of the four major powers knew of this, they would definitely come to recruit him. With a far better offer than being a temporary teacher. If Raidou were to accept that offer, my interactions with him will decrease. But, for some strange reason, I don't think that will happen.

He will most likely not affiliate with any country no matter what favorable conditions they put out. There's no definite reason for this thought of mine, but that's how I feel. It may be something borned from our short association.

[For the sake of avoiding that from happening, please try not to say anything unnecessary, okay?]

“Of course. I won’t do anything that would detriment sensei” (Eva)

[And well, about why I called you today...]

Here it comes.

With a composed smile, I wait for his next words.

[Before that, please keep this a secret from Ruria as well. Promise me that you will keep this just between you and me]

Even Ruria?

Well, I don't think this is something that I would be able to tell my little sister Ruria.

I nod.

[Well then]

“!!”

He beckons me, and as if being careful that other people don't see it, he writes in small

characters.

I involuntarily gulp.

That is...

The proposal that Raidou denoted...

Was a content that I was unable to predict, something that blew away everything I previously thought of.

It was a proposal that was so shocking that it almost made me forget about the madness inside of me.

“Sensei, no, Raidou-san. Are you serious about this?” (Eva)

[There's no joke here. I will give you a deferral of two days. I will hear your answer the day after tomorrow, at this time]

“The day after tomorrow?!” (Eva)

[Yeah. It would be the same even if you think about it for long right? It is also because of my circumstances as well. That's all the business I had. It is already late, so if you don't have any tasks to do after, please rest in one of our free rooms]

No way. Is he telling me to decide something so important in only two days?

Moreover, leaving it a secret from my little sister?

I was looking forward to tomorrow's team battles.

But I already don't care about it anymore. This is not the time to be spectating matches.

I even forgot about my plan of seducing Raidou if push comes to shove. I borrow one room and end up passing a sleepless night.



At Gotetsu's back store.

After lending a room to Eva-san, I went out to meet with her little sister Ruria.

Even in this late of a time, Gotetsu is still in business. As usual, they are also in operation today.

[Sorry for coming at this time]

"If it's Raidou-san, I don't mind. But sorry, because I have been working every day till late, the fatigue has been accumulating a bit. Is it okay if you make it short?" (Ruria)

[Yeah, I will finish it fast. Ruria, keep this a secret from Eva-san. You definitely have to. There's something I want you to decide on]

.....

"E-Eeeeehh?!" (Ruria)

[The day after tomorrow, I will come to hear your answer. I am sorry for coming at this late of a time]

"The day after tomorrow?! Wai-, Raidou-san?! Raidou-saaan?! He is serious right? That person is not the type that jokes around much. I can't go to sleep now. If it was going to turn out like this, Raidou-san could have at least left an energy drink~~" (Ruria)

Tomorrow, no matter how I explain to the Merchant Guild, more lies and troubles will appear. Even so, as long as I have made one lie, I can't make it as if the lie never happened.

It was no good to just leave things superficially. If that's the case, I should just...

Inside of me, a thought that would affect this world heavily has been settled.

# Chapter 127

## Raidou breaks

Without using the waiting room, I continue on to the room that has written 'representative room'.

I have been called by the Merchant Guild's branch representative.

When a company is established, the people doing the application probably use the representatives here.

Or maybe it is the opposite?

I don't care about denominations though, especially right now.

The reception boy that guided me didn't enter the room. He just does a bow and leaves.

What's inside is an extravagant desk and one man that looks like the representative placing an elbow on it, and what seems to be two of his guards.

Maybe he is the vice-representative.

Because of his atmosphere which resembles that of a bodyguard, I subconsciously thought this way.

It has been a while since I came to this town, but until now, I have never met anyone in the upper stratum of the Merchant Guild.

Even when I have business here, it is normally completed just by going to the reception.

In the cases when there's the need for a detailed interview, it is done by someone in the management and it is normally the same people.

This is the first time I have entered the deep parts of the guild.

Thinking that the problem has turned to the point where I am send here, my mood turns heavy.

“It’s nice to see you here, Raidou-dono. Please sit”

The representative that was sitting, stands from his sit and urges me to take my own.

We enter a space for reception and I wait for him to take his sit first before sitting myself.

There are two sofas facing each other and a desk in between. No matter which one you look at, it was obviously expensive.

The general glass used in this world is manufactured from a rare metal that looks like crystal. If I were to use the manufacture process of my world, it might turn into a trade.

In the wasteland there was quite a lot of glass, so I haven’t thought about it much until now though.

At any rate.

It may also be because I don’t have much connection to this kind of things, but this room is, as expected, extremely different from my own work room.

In my reception room, there’s a simple desk and minimum space. I haven’t done anything like putting out expensive articles and spreading a rug.

Thinking about the visitors, I might have to consider this point a bit. But doing so now would not be appropriate.

My thoughts strayed into a peaceful direction for a bit.

[It seems I have been called here but, what business do you have with me?]

“...Ah, you can’t speak, right. Nice to meet you, I am the representative of the Merchant Guild in the Rotsgard branch”

[My name’s Raidou. I am honored to meet you]

“Normally, it is customary to first increase your services in the guild a bit more before

meeting face to face like this, but this time, I have met with a certain bad matter. Truly regrettable”

The representative knits his brows and looks at me.

There may be slight disgust towards my outward appearance, but I can tell that there's more displeasure towards the problem which is me.

Growing the company in a smooth manner and reach a standing where I meet the representative; even I would have preferred that development.

Instead of urging for his business again, it would be better to just wait for his words.

“The guild has received several doubts towards you”

[Doubts]

“That's right. Normally, this kind of enquiries decrease in the period of the school festival, but the number of enquiries about contact information increase”

[Meaning there are less complains]

“...Yeah. But in Kuzunoha Company's case, from the 4 major powers, Limia and Lorel; aside from those two, the other countries have brought out several cases. All of them have been from the representatives of the companies that are connected to countries requesting investigation regarding your goods and its circulation. There are even dangerous opinions in some”

[Dangerous opinions?]

That's not peaceful.

The face of the representative that was already severe had his brow wrinkle even more.

Interrupting his words might not have been good, but I had to ask.

“That the Kuzunoha Company is... having the cooperation of the demon race to obtain your goods and for the circulation of it. In other words, it implies that you are from the demon race camp, and while betraying all the hyumans, you are wringing profits.

Those are the opinions”

That's stupid.

In what kind of way did they think in order to reach that conclusion?

When I heard the words of Rembrandt-san regarding the demon race matter, I didn't think the distrust would be that deep.

They are infiltrated in Academy Town as well, but there's no hyuman that has noticed. At least, for all I know. Counting Rona-san, I have made contact with 3 demons already. But I made sure of my surroundings and there was no change. In other words, that talk about my relationship with the demon race is complete fabrication.

For harassment, the degree is way too high.

[Unthinkable. We are using respectable methods to do business, and I promise that I am not receiving assistance of the demon race in my company activities]

“That's probably how it really is”

[Eh?]

I react to the words the representative whispers lowly. What does that mean?

“Regarding the goods, we received confirmation of the Church that the material quality and its manufacturing process are safe. When we told the companies that brought their views on this, they retracted their comments”

Ignoring my questioning words, he continued.

Church.

What happened a while ago huh.

In that case, the bishop with a sexy voice properly maintained her promise.

I don't trust the hyumans that are connected to the Goddess, but I am slightly relieved knowing that the promise was abided.

“The problem is the circulation. We investigated this part as well, but the wagons that are thought to be from the Kuzunoha Company or anything resembling a carriage, we were unable to confirm any of those”

[We mostly get our supply of raw materials from the Guild’s market]

“That’s clearly a lie. With the raw materials that have been sold and what has been sold in Kuzunoha Company for around two months, even by making a rough calculation, the numbers clearly don’t match. It is obvious that there’s some other method aside from buying”

Two months?

They were investigating since so long ago?

I didn’t receive any reports regarding that.

[This is my first time hearing of such an investigation though]

“As long as there are opinions we can’t ignore, the Guild must move. And if it’s about a company that’s connected to the Guild, it is a matter of course. The complains towards your company increased just recently, but there have been complains of people that have even brought detailed documents since a while ago”

[If you said something, I would have cooperated]

“Cooperation? You? If you are telling me to believe that, that’s a pretty naïve way of thinking. Like this, it seems you are minding the investigation, but there are many ways of investigating that won’t alert the target. Moving people around secretly is not the only way of investigation”

[Is it naïve to proof your innocence if there’s suspicions?]

“...I see, buying antipathy huh. Your way of thinking is childish. You don’t know how to conduct. I am surprised that you are able to be in a position of ordering others. Truly surprised. The end result of thoughtlessly managing a company is not good”

...

Why does he have to say so much?

Did I say something wrong?

It makes me angry that he is clearly looking down on me.

[What is it you want me to do?]

“Did I touch a sensitive point? Well, fine. Let’s enter the main issue. I want to hear your circulation method. And I want you to promise us that if it’s any sort of magic or technique, you will share the knowledge of it”

Don’t screw around.

If you are talking about childish, isn’t your side more childish?

You want to hear my circulation method, and give it to you?

[Is there no way to solve this with money?]

I will at least try asking.

“With gold huh, of course, it is possible. There’s nothing that can’t be solved with gold between merchants. But even if the sharing of the circulation method is sealed, you will still need to at least tell me. And, I don’t think you have enough gold to pay for it”

[Sadly, it is not a method I can share, so I want to pay]

“...You said your name was Raidou, right? You really are not fit to be a merchant”

“...”

Hearing the amazed tone of the representative, I reflexively gulp.

His usage of words gave a complete turn and I could tell that he is scoffing at me.

“Just now, you easily told me the existence of another circulation method which you were trying to hide at first. In other words, the trust in the first method you gave out has been damaged. No benefit in it, just loss. You asked if this could be solved with gold right? That was also an incredibly bad move. Listen well, you don’t know the extent of the companies that have come to bring complains about you right? I did say this: ‘they were from people connected to countries’. Meaning, they have considerable

scale. Compared to the Kuzunoha Company, the magnitude is different. And against those people, you will resolve it with money? A company that has not been operating for even 1 year? It is like announcing that you have money that's doesn't fit the scale of your company. Your ability to decide and understand are also lacking. You, are you the representation of incompetence? You are just a brat that's lucky"

I was speechless.

Being told all that, I was simply surprised.

The atmosphere has also made a complete turn. The representative that has turned violent and offensive had an unpleasing smile in his face.

"What are you spacing out for? Even I can at least act to that extent. Do you think I would be able to survive in the business world if I were unable to? Seriously, I was wondering what kind of person it was because Rembrandt himself came to protect him, but here it is. How boorish. There's a limit to letdowns. About the circulation, it is okay to just tell me here, so explain it quickly. After that, it is okay to just go"

Explain... and leave?

This man, just how irritating can he become?

I can tell that my anger is leaking out.

"You can't even contain your anger and bloodthirst? You are more childish than your appearance tells huh. Regarding faces, I can't say much about others. Even so, I know how to act before others and I do so. You look incredibly unsightly so I will warn you. You have a face worse than me, so it is better for you to put more into your inside"

Even the exotic-looking representative talks about my outward appearance.

Just what part of you looks bad? You look plenty cool.

That slightly darkish skin looks appealing.

Now that I think about it, I feel like I have seen a similar person before.

Where was it?

No, right now that's not the point.

Explain and leave. Moreover, I can just say it here?

His trust in me is low, so that's just strange.

[What do you mean by leave?]

"Exactly as it means. You and the Kuzunoha Company are already done. So there's no need to address you anymore"

[Done?]

"It's fine already, so just explain. With that, this ends"

[Can I hear the reason?]

"...Because you know, you are going to pay money right? Then I will just withdraw the comments of the other parties, that's what I mean"

[Excuse me but, how much should I be paying?]

"There's no need to prepare it right now"

[No need]

"Yeah. If you pay 90% of your sales, no one will complain. Kuzunoha Company will not become a threat in the future. The more it gains, the more they will benefit, so there's no need to care about the circulation method. Even if it involves the demon race. If the people that had questions of your circulation method get money every month, they won't criticize you much. The only one that would fall would be you. See? There's nothing to lose"

[90% of our sales?!]

Moreover, every month?!

For how long would that continue anyways?

"You will pay right? Gold to the people that want to know about your circulation

method. To multiple companies that gain several ten times more than you, maybe even the hundreds. There's no way those guys would say they want a specific amount of gold. As long as they don't know how much you have"

[How long would that last?]

"Until the Kuzunoha Company disappears"

[This is clearly an unreasonable demand. Is the Guild just going to consent that?]

"Unreasonable you say. You were the one that proposed to pay in gold right? Let me tell you this first, what I am saying right now is just a guess from me and it may not turn exactly as I say. Well, I don't think it will be too far from what will happen though. Also, about the Guild consenting? That's right. In the first place, not only consent, this is just a negotiation between merchants. When the weak ones get in the eyes of the strong ones, they get crushed. The Guild is not babysitting. We will help in the business, but the way to act is something you should learn"

[In that case, the people that want to make a new business would not succeed]

"Thoroughly naïve. Ah right, your place is hiring a bunch of demi-humans right? In that case, how about just making your customers only them and stop doing your business in hyuman towns? Looking at your arguments, I feel like you are fit for that"

The representative admonishes me with eyes of pity.

It wasn't sarcasm, he was really telling me to do that.

[You are not answering my question]

"As I said, the people that aim to be merchants should butter up to existing companies, learn the basics, create connections, be approved by the representative there, and then get a store eventually. I have money. I will do business. But if that's how it worked, even the adventurers that earn small money can become merchants if they study a little. Those kind of people, they normally get crushed instantly. The power of adventurers can only be used in brawls. Just like you said, the guild punishes unjust deeds. Because I entered into a quarrel with another merchant, I used power to eliminate him and leave him half-dead. Killing would be, without a doubt, injustice. In the world of merchants, that is"

[You...]

"I have heard from Rembrandt, but it seems you have strong followers, and you yourself are reasonably strong right? You understand why you should not use that power in your business right? If you were to use that in this situation... it would make the Kuzunoha Company into allies of the demon race"

[This is stupid]

"No, you are just naïve. Return to Tsige, Raidou. It is too fast for you to be in this town. Redo your studies at your boss' place. About the gold, I will stealthily put a part of Rotsgard as well, so be relieved"

[For someone that has been ridiculing me, you are being pretty cooperative]

"...Ri—diculing? The guy that's taken a liking to you, for me, he is a tough enemy I have trouble dealing with. It would be advantageous for me if he were to misunderstand, and I get him to owe me one"

[Rembrandt-san]

"I heard that he had become docile, but to think that he has even made such a weakness. What a joke. But for you, it may be a lucky happening. Now then, it is most likely teleportation or something of the sort, so just talk about your circulation method"

Lucky.

Is he saying that by making Rembrandt-san disadvantaged, I earn safety?

I tell the representative that I have been using teleportation to come and go with goods. I hide the part about Asora and explain that I have a follower that has enough magic power to use long-distance teleportation.

And after that, I was released.

I have grown even more dejected after hearing the comments of the other companies from the representative of the guild.

Troubling Rembrandt-san.

I have made another lie in order to hide Asora.

I...

Just what is it that I should do?

I... have to consult with everyone.

While being self-aware that I am cornered, I slowly walk my way back.

Right now, I have no leeway to think about the team battles of my students.

# Chapter 128

## Tournament, first day of the team battles

— Participants' waiting room

“Do you think... there will be rule changes?”

“There will. No doubt. If Hopelace doesn't do anything after yesterday's match, then that means he gave up, but that's definitely not gonna happen”

Daena answers Amelia as if saying to give up.

From the tenacity in the individual battles, he understood the adhesion of the interfering nobles.

It didn't show in Daena's tone, but the individual battles of him ended in disappointing results and he feels bad for his wife that came to spectate his matches.

She praised the contents of the match, but as a man, he wanted to move on a bit further.

Thinking about the Goddess' blessing included, in this world, the battle power of women's increases more than men.

But in this decades, the battle power from blessings couldn't be relied on, and in that meaning, the male side is stronger.

And then, in this tournament, having the Goddess' blessing is prohibited.

The Academy thought about the dangers of fighting in that kind of state. This has been a rule since the time the Goddess was still active.

“The team battles have less restrictions than the individual battles after all~. No matter which one of us that senpai fought with, the result would be obvious” (Yuno)

“Yuno, you can't go lowering your guard too much. Sensei will probably see through that” (Sif)

“Uh... I will be careful” (Yuno)

“Well, I do understand how Yuno feels. Champion-sama is in our team, and even the winner of the warrior category, Jin. The semifinals and finals are tomorrow, so today might actually be a boring one and no problem will happen” (Izumo)

Izumo cuts into the conversation of the Rembrandt sisters.

They haven’t touched the topic of Izumo’s grading, but it doesn’t seem he is minding it much.

He looks relaxed.

“Sorry for the wait”

Jin and Misura return to the room that 5 people were having a friendly chat in.

“Welcome back. Did they tamper the rules?” (Amelia)

“Yeah, just like expected. But, something even bigger happened” (Jin)

“What?” (Amelia)

Seeing Jin’s discouraged face, Amelia asks anxious.

“It seems... Sensei can’t come today” (Jin)

...

All the five faces changed.

Their emotions were varied, but the color of disappointment and despondency were the common points.

“What about Shiki-san!?” (Amelia)

The first one to react was Amelia.

She was completely putting Raidou as secondary.

"Shiki-san and those two aides, Tomoe-san and Mio-san, will be coming to spectate. Sensei himself won't be able to come, but it seems there's a message from him" (Jin)

"Why can't he come?" (Sif)

The next one was Sif. Yun and Izumo, all the other members also nod. Must be a question they all hold.

"It seems the Merchant Guild has called for him" (Jin)

"Oto-sama couldn't do it..." (Sif)

"Looks like it. He was even called in this kind of day, so it is quite the problem. Even though I asked so many times to not cause problems for Raidou-sama..." (Yuno)

The eyes of the Rembrandt sisters had an ungentle light residing in them.

It disappeared in a few minutes, and Jin internally felt fear of them.

"Well, can't be helped. And, what kind of changes did the rules have? Looking at Misura's state, it seems to be quite severe" (Amelia)

As if saying: 'if Shiki is coming then that's fine', Amelia asks about the rules.

Noticing that Misura's state was not like usual, she has prepared herself for the pestering to a certain extent.

"Ah, no... This one's like this because of another thing. About the team battle rules, there was only one point that was added. Honestly, it pissed me. That he thinks he will be able to defeat us with only that" (Jin)

Jin fearlessly laughs.

That smile was not towards the rules that were changed, but to the plotter that thinks he will be able to defeat them with something so shallow.

"Hmph~, don't beat around the bush and just tell us"

"Level restrictions to the whole party. The total should be within 365. If your number is over that, you have to adjust the party in order to enter that margin" (Jin)

“...So he is telling us to go with 3 people huh. Those numbers are like sniping us”  
(Amelia)

It was just as the bitter smiling Amelia said.

They registered as a party of 7 and it has been accepted, and yet, it has changed to only being able to participate with 3 in the scheduled day.

It couldn't be helped.

“And in truth, it is really a snipe. Because when adding the levels of Hopelace's party, it almost reaches that number. The only team that surpasses that number are us” (Jin)

“I am amazed. But just like Jin said, in terms of conditions, there's no problems for us. With only this much, nothing will change. We are stronger when teamed up after all. Why is Misura making such a cornered face then?” (Amelia)

“That is...” (Jin)

“...They told me... they would train me” (Misura)

Misura mutters with a pale face. This was a strange way of talking for him.

“By whom?” (Yuno)

Yuno urges him to be clearer. Because it didn't sound like something to be so cornered about.

“...By the sensei's close aide, the blue haired one. The one called Tomoe-san” (Misura)

“No way!!”

The voice of the Rembrandt sisters sync perfectly.

“That's true. It seems she was impressed by his match with me, and after the school festival is over, she will have a bout with him while training him” (Jin)

“—Incredible!!”

“That Tomoe-san is. There's been almost no adventurers that have caught the eye of

Tomoe to the point that she would want to train that person. Misura-san, that's amazing”

The surprise of the sisters was understandable.

Tomoe looks after the adventurers in Tsige sometimes, just like Mio, she practically has never taken a pupil or has taught anyone personally.

At most, there's Lime who suddenly announced his retirement in the Adventurer Guild and seems to be personally adoring Tomoe, and also Mio, who has looked after one female adventurer with black hair.

“Well, it is supposed to be, but he was intimidated and is now completely scared” (Jin)

“If you were told that kind of thing, anyone would” (Misura)

“What did she tell you?” (Izumo)

Izumo probably found the scared Misura funny, he asks him with a smile on his face.

“...She placed a hand on my shoulder... and told me to please don't die, with a straight face. I will hold-back, cause I don't want to get scolded by Waka, she said” (Misura)

“Uwaa, she is practically not caring about you”

“See, see?! If a person with a crazy number like 1,500 says that to you, it is obvious that the color of your face would drain too, right?!” (Misura)

“Even if you die, Shiki-san will definitely bring you back. Well then, since Misura is not at his top condition, he will be in standby at the first match. Ah, Jin. Can we change members in this tournament?” (Amelia)

“Wa?! I can do it, I will do it! Yesterday I was totally unable to show off, so please don't go excluding me!!” (Misura)

“...You are merciless Amelia. Changing is okay. Just that, if the team loses, even if you didn't participate, everyone will be done for” (Jin)

“Instead of the match, it feels like choosing members will be more troublesome~. Well then, let's decide quickly” (Yuno)

Placing their tension in a place completely different from the team battles, Jin and the others' incandescent participation battle began.



The princess of Gritonia, Lily, clicked her tongue internally.

She was looking at the team battles that were unfolding in front of her.

A match that is being held 3 versus 7.

Thinking about it normally, the 7 should be overpowering them.

But the reality was the contrary. The 3 were playing around with the 7.

The hyuman's way of thinking is that a power fight from the front is the basic.

But the fighting style of those three was different from the public recognized way of fighting.

Frankly speaking, it is a fighting style that resembled the demon race.

Using coordination, technique and strategy to overturn disadvantages.

Truly what the demon race has been doing when fighting against hyumans.

Lily who has been fighting with them for a long time could recognize that that is the fighting style of the demons, or not.

That style is the style the weak ones use to fight against the strong ones.

Scheme, and fill up the difference with their own strength.

Hyumans don't know of it, or maybe they forgot this way of fighting a long time ago. But it's true that this method is really useful. It is also knowledge that the empire's army is trying to implement.

And they were able to splendidly utilize it, moreover, students that just with their own strength are able to overwhelm the opponent.

When she watched the individual battles, she could tell that they weren't normal. But, she didn't think that they were able to display such an ability in teamwork.

To the point that it made her think this will become even more one-sided than in the individual battles.

The ones fighting right now are, based on Lily's memory: the warrior category winner, Jin; the one who showed splendid spear-handling, Yuno Rembrandt; and the one who participated as a magician yesterday, Amelia Hopelace.

Today she is not holding a staff, but a bow.

If the hyumans possessed the same teamwork and strategy as demons, this would be the living representation of it.

For Lily, there is nothing that would make her happier than this. If they have strength in their side and they're able to have the same level of strategy as the demon race, they should be able to easily overpower them.

Normally, she would have tried to secure these splendid people without being reserved on the conditions.

But she can't.

They are kids that have been influenced by the tone of Raidou after all.

For Lily, there's nothing more irritating than that.

Even when they possess the specialized dragon summoner girl, they were simply overwhelmed. The Kuzunoha Company that Tomoe is in, is involved in this after all.

(It feels like I am seeing wooden dolls and scarecrows being beaten down for training...) (Lily)

It was already something that both sides could not call as a match.

Just like how Lily compared it with, it really did feel like they were watching a training where they continue hitting on a scarecrow.

The frontline quickly cuts in and destroys the stance of their opponent's vanguard,

force them to protect their middle, and it even puts pressure in their rear lines.

In the opening that is created, a spear is added in, and in the formation that has crumbled promptly, use magic to shave it off.

Even when they try to counterattack, the rear guard students that were attacked by arrows and magic were unable to properly chant their arias or take stance.

Those 3 were clearly used to group battles. And they are completely playing around.

No, in Lily's eyes it was as if they were trying to show off their moves to someone, and so they were thoroughly taking their time.

She could tell that probably, if they were in the mood to do so, the warrior category winner would be able to defeat everyone alone.

But they didn't do that, and were utilizing teamwork to attack and pressure their opponent.

Not show, but showcasing.

Even the princess was able to tell their intentions.

Because of the fighting style they chose, the fight that would only need a few minutes to finish off, was lengthened to around 5 minutes.

The result was obviously, total annihilation.

Unable to land even one effective attack, they were defeated.

The students of Raidou didn't even sweat.

The 3 went down the stage and gathered. All 7 were talking about something, and their figures as they returned even looked refreshing.

Why is it that, even when they are students, they are able to display so much skill in group battles?

How can they maintain that level of composed thought process when they are still students?

Lily mulled over it.

About how much of Tomoe's warning should she abide to.

She can tell that she is genuinely interested in them.

If she were to take an attitude that has nothing to do with Kuzunoha, maybe she can make contact with them.

Even so, she wanted to know.

The teaching method of Raidou.

The true ability of those students.

If Tomoki were here, she would have been able to use his eyes to attract them.

But if Raidou were to notice that, it is over. If Tomoe were to get wind of it, there's the danger of being done for.

When Lily looks at her surroundings, the King of Limia, the priestess faction of Lorel, the Church's Archbishop, the elite teachers that have been invited to the academy to commentate, and the heads of the Academy as well; were looking at the match as if eating into it, and also looking at the students.

It can be said that they are no longer nameless students.

The attention they gathered yesterday has soundly fixated itself today. And, in the people here, there's already some that have information of the Kuzunoha Company and Raidou.

Gritonia already has a trump card which is the hero.

After his meeting with Tomoe, it was as if he made a complete turnover. He endeavored in training and is increasing his strength.

He is plenty reliable, but Raidou and their students are also hard to give up on.

No matter how reliable he is, there's only one hero.

The flexible thought process that the hero has which differs from the hyuman's push through power thought process. In the future, there will be the need for more people with the same way of thinking.

Lily was looking at Jin and the others as quite the appealing talents.

(In that case, after expressing my gratitude, I will make contact with Raidou entirely regarding the students. I wonder if by doing so, I would still be able to maintain my promise with Tomoe. Raidou. He is calling himself a merchant, but he has this much nurturing ability. I don't want Tomoe only, I want him as well. Giving him to another country would be too much of a waste) (Lily)

While the team battles continued, Lily's thoughts were exploring for a method to a favorable relationship with the Kuzunoha Company.



“The world has what's called remarkable figures”

“Yes, father”

“When looking at Hibiki-dono, I sometimes think that way, but to think that I would be able to meet people like that in the traditional education emphasized Rotsgard, I didn't expect it at all”

“Currently, we have gathered as much of their personal information as we could”

The first day of the team battles has ended.

The four remaining teams were introduced and the event ended for the day, but in the conversation of the second prince that accompanies the Limia King, he was only talking about one team.

Even though there's also a team with the second son of Hopelace which comes from Limia Kingdom.

“Umu... I do admit their competency... but what we truly have to look at is not them, but at the teacher that taught them that way of fighting” (King)

“What do you mean? Yesterday, we began the investigation of the classes they take and

the ones they have in common. Also... for some reason, there was already a teacher that Hopelace household has investigated, so I have also included that person as well in the documents" (Prince)

"N? The Hopelace household? I knew that he was doing something in the background with the Academy, but to think it had to do with that teacher. My intuition was lacking. That group of kids are without doubt students overflowing with wisdom, but this time, I think that the core of the surprise should be the one who has taught them this path" (King)

"You are saying... there is someone that is producing remarkable figures?" (Prince)

The prince slightly knits his brows at the foresight of the king and asks him the meaning.

The prince was also surprised by their orderly way of fighting as if he was watching their own country's hero.

But, if there's a teacher who is 'teaching' them and creating this kind of students, the first one they have to make contact with is, without doubt, that teacher.

Even if the Limia Kingdom is unable to secure those students that are still in their teens, it is fine if they are able to obtain that teacher.

"Looking at the state of Hopelace's second son, there's the chance that he has done something bad" (King)

"With that much ability, I thought it wouldn't be strange to balance it. But in the team battles, the rule that was added seemed as if it was sniping at them" (Prince)

"Even if we try to restrain him now, it might be too late already, but restrict the head of the family from interfering anymore. Also... do you know the name of that teacher?" (King)

"Understood. It is a class that the 7 of them have in common, and it is also a teacher that Ilumgand-dono has taken interest in, Raidou. He is also the representative of a recently made company, Kuzunoha" (Prince)

"Raidou... Kuzunoha Company's Raidou huh. Do you think you can schedule a meeting with him?" (King)

“I will try to. But, there’s still one question remaining” (Prince)

“What?” (King)

The prince’s expression changes into a gloom one, and after saying Raidou’s name, he turns to the king and talks as if questioning.

But the king in question didn’t mind that attitude and just urges him to continue.

“It’s about the Hopelace’s second son, Ilumgand-dono. From what I remember, before Hibiki-dono came to our country, he already held doubts in our country’s nobles, and when he met Hibiki-dono and exchanged words, he admired her ideology. He even turned his treatment of just being a spare of the next head, the eldest son Woken-dono, and vigorously polished his abilities in the academy. Why is that kind of person doing deeds that are synonym to our country’s corrupt nobles?” (Prince)

“...That’s, I don’t know either. If Woken, who is in the frontlines, were to die, Ilumgand would succeed him. I was expecting as much from him as I was from Hibiki-dono” (King)

The attitude and way of acting of Ilumgand towards Raidou and also Jin and the others was practically as if he were a completely different person, is what the king and prince wondered about.

“Was he indoctrinated by those merchants and have taught him those kind of ways? Or did he drown in his political power? Whichever it is, it will disappoint Hibiki-dono” (King)

“Should I investigate?” (Prince)

“No. That’s something the Hopelace should do. There’s no guarantee they will tell us everything anyways. Put the Kuzunoha Company as priority. Well, we will be moving after we drop Stella Fort though” (King)

“...Finally, huh” (Prince)

“The motivation of Hibiki-dono felt stronger than ever before. Her secret stay in Tsige has made her grow greatly, and she has also obtained reliable companions” (King)

“Adventurers. Their disposition was clearly different from those of the kingdom. In

time, I am thinking about giving Hibiki-dono independent authority to a unit of her direct supervision" (Prince)

"That's good" (King)

Limia's King looks at the far future.

The hero that has descended to the kingdom, Otonashi Hibiki, has given the kingdom many changes. In times, Hibiki voices out things that question monarchy, and between the Limia nobles, there's rumors going around about the possible discord between her and the king.

And in the big nobles, there are many who think of her ideologies as dangerous.

In truth, the king publicly shows as if he is against that change, but internally, he is accepting it.

That's why he has cooperated in several ways to benefit Hibiki.

That she was able to head to Tsige and the adventurers she brought from Tsige were smoothly accepted, was heavily influenced by the cooperation of the king.

And the one who's serving as the point of contact is the second prince.

The king tells his intentions to the prince and the prince transmits it to Hibiki. Their relationship is favorable.

"Gritonia's Lily, the priestess of Lorel, the border of the world that spread beginning from Aion, the Adventurer Guild that continues protecting neutrality... We need Hibiki-dono to concentrate just on her duty of fighting against the demon race, but it is hard" (King)

"Defeating the demon race won't make the world peaceful instantly after all. That person also seemed to understand that" (Prince)

"But there's nothing wrong in reducing that sadness. Joshua, this may be troublesome, but I am counting on you" (King)

"Yes, your wish is my command, father" (Prince)

The second prince of Limia kingdom, Joshua, makes a gentle smile as he accepts the king's words.

Kuzunoha Company.

They have also arrived at that name.

# Chapter 129

## Kuzunoha's meeting

In the time when Princess Lily was troubled in stepping to action regarding Jin and the others...

At a section of the audience, two girls wearing clothes that remarkably stand out were sighing.

Raidou- Makoto's followers, Tomoe and Mio.

The other follower, Shiki, was babysitting the students, so he was doing separate actions.

“How boring~. When there’s this much difference in power, it isn’t a fight but a show-ja na” (Tomoe)

“That’s why I was saying so since yesterday, wasn’t I? If they were not Waka-sama’s students, I wouldn’t even be here watching-desu wa” (Mio)

“If they were our students like with Shiki, we would be able to enjoy it in a different way but... Mio, what is that bizarre inflated bag-ja?” (Tomoe)

“What you ask, it is the specialty products of booths here and there-desu wa” (Mio)

“It is an answer, and yet it isn’t. No, what I am asking is about the amount-ja yo” (Tomoe)

At the side of Tomoe there’s Mio and further after, there’s several big light brown paper bags. Seeing that, she asks with enmity.

Mio’s answer was nonchalant, and she tells her that it is all food.

But what Tomoe wanted to know, is just as she said, the amount of it.

In the seats that are supposed to be fully occupied, one of them is being totally

occupied.

To protect her honor, Mio explains that this is originally the seat of Makoto and because he can't come, she is just utilizing it in an effective way.

In no way did she put all that food because she doesn't want anyone else to come sit there.

"I will eat it all by the time we return, so don't mind it. If you want me to share some with you, just say it honestly okay?" (Mio)

"I don't need any. I feel like it might give me a heartburn" (Tomoe)

"Hmph, if this were alcohol, you would take it without doubt" (Mio)

The two of them leisurely watch the team battles unfolding in the stage while doing trivial talk.

There were no matches that were worth watching, and even in the matches with Jin and the others, the opponent was so weak it wasn't fun.

Moreover, their master Makoto was not there.

Watching those matches earnestly might be something hard to do for these two girls.

"At this rate, I can't expect much from tomorrow's semifinal and finals. Well, we will be able to sit along with Waka, so that's fine" (Tomoe)

"Same-desu wa. If I am together with Waka-sama, the place doesn't matter" (Mio)

"Fumu, it seems it is done already-ja na. Mu" (Tomoe)

...

Tomoe and Mio notice something at the same time.

"Mio, Waka is calling-ja. We are going back" (Tomoe)

"I know already-desu wa. It seems he is slightly dispirited, so let's hurry" (Mio)

Receiving a thought transmission from their master, Tomoe and Mio both nod and get up from their sits.

A short and straightforward thought transmission.

'I have something I want to consult about, so I want you to return to the company', is what he said.

A tone with no vigor.

While holding worry in their chest, they meet up with Shiki and return to the company.



"For the time being, it is fine to kill that representative-desu wa ne?" (Mio)

"Mio, the talk has not finished yet. Calm down first" (Tomoe)

"What stupid thing are you saying? I am completely calm-desu wa. Can't you see that I clearly understand what I should do?" (Mio)

"That's why I am telling you to wait for now. The talk has not finished yet-ja. Wait for a bit" (Tomoe)

"Such abusive language towards Waka-sama... abusive language... it wasn't such a lukewarm level-desu wa ne? How should I kill him?" (Mio)

"Mio. I am telling you to hear what that very Waka has to say until the end-ja" (Tomoe)

After I finished telling the outline of what happened, Mio stood up and tried to leave the room.

I didn't have the vitality to stop her immediately, so Tomoe took my place and inhibited Mio.

Even I could tell that Tomoe was looking at me with fainthearted eyes.

N?

Inhibited was it?

I feel like she didn't stop her...

"As I thought, one of us should have gone as well"

It's Shiki.

In terms of result, it is just as he said.

It might have been better if I had one of them accompany me.

If I had one of my followers with me, I felt like they would resolve it with strength. I thought that if that happened, then it would be pointless.

The first time Rembrandt-san met Tomoe, he was left completely speechless and was pretty withered.

I wanted to know the extent of the ill will the other merchants held towards me.

In the past, when I met Rembrandt-san the first time to give him the Ruby-eye's eyes, it went well, so I thought maybe I would be able to hold my conversation if the other party was a merchant.

The context matched when I associated with Rembrandt-san, so even with the matter of Tomoe's level, I think I would have been able to manage it properly. But this time, the representative was someone I had no connection with.

I didn't want to prepare something like intimidation in our first meeting.

That naïve way of thinking led to this.

I was pushed into an unreasonable situation, made a fool of, and returned like a loser.

"Sorry for saying something like wanting to go alone" (Makoto)

"If one of us were with you, there's the chance that place would have turned into a sea of blood, so not everything is bad. Don't mind it that much" (Tomoe)

"Waka-sama is not in the wrong!" (Mio)

Tomoe tries to comfort me and Mio interposes with a rebuttal.

No, no matter how you think about it, the way I dealt with it was bad.

"Now that I think about it, not a single one of us has knowledge in business. We all began as novices. There might have been more ways to deal with it if we were introduced by Rembrandt-shi and taught the basics" (Shiki)

Not might. That's what we should have done.

Before that, there's the problem that even when I myself began a company just recently, I still went and did things here and there, neglecting the business.

And in truth, the company still did well.

No, that's how it looked.

That's why it brought upon more negligence.

It may be this late of a time to do so, but I have to reflect on it.

"Shiki, even you! Why does Waka-sama have to feel down?! In the first place, Waka-sama was displeased by the shortage of medicines that can't reach the hands of the people and were easily losing their life, so he aspired to spread medicines, right?! Why does he have to learn how to act around those merchants to not be resented?! He is doing something that's good for everyone, and yet, why?! Isn't this ridiculous?!" (Mio)

The words of Mio that were trying to cover for me no matter what, were grinding at my heart.

That's right.

I wanted to sell medicine in order for everyone to have an easy way of reaching out to it.

For that reason, I wanted to do business widely without minding which country it was.

Because of circumstances, we also handle various miscellaneous goods as well, but those are just extras.

Doing something good.

Because I had that thinking in a part of me, maybe that's why I only looked at the people I was selling to.

Not doing anything excessive with the price because of people of the same trade, the counter-plans I did for the copies and resale; those were the only things I thought of.

And in truth, even the price might be questionable. We collected everything ourselves, had the people needed for the compounding, and left it to a point where we would barely escape deficit.

That is... within the range?

That's probably not it.

Since the time the people made a rude comment of my demi-human employees, I haven't gone to the meetings of the merchants in the area.

Lately, Akua, Eris and the eldwa craftsmen have grown more accustomed to socializing with hyumans. But, even so, it was most likely an error to not relate with the merchants around.

Ignoring association must have made the impression of Kuzunoha Company even more ominous.

Even if I have good intentions, a business is a business.

There will obviously be competition.

There will be people who would want to eliminate the ones who have the same target of customers, and if you do something that stands out, the big companies will place an eye on you.

I didn't make a method to cope with it when something like that happened, and have continued until this day.

As expected, I can't order to eliminate them just because they have kept an eye on us after all.

In Tsige it was different, but in Rotsgard I don't have any backing.

In other words, I was defenseless.

"Mio, that's just idealistic talk. It isn't just distributing. As long as we are doing a business, these kind of things happen. I won't say Waka has done nothing wrong, but I have to admit we were somewhat defenseless" (Tomoe)

"...I hold the same opinion. Of course, it is true that I should have acted in a better way. I have no excuse" (Shiki)

"!!! There's something wrong with you guys! Even though Waka-sama is the absolute rule! The stupid ones are the merchants that are only looking at the near future!" (Mio)

Mio would most likely stand by my side no matter what happens.

Even if I were to turn into a fiend, even if I were to become the enemy of the whole world, she would still be willing to fall to the same place as I am.

That's why I have to put myself together.

If she falls so far, that's all my responsibility.

As if persuading myself, I try to kill the unfair anger that's inside me.

At the very least, I don't think this is something that is fine to solve with just violence.

The existence of Mio who is willing to give her everything for me, prevented my current unstable emotions from rampaging.

"...Waka. That representative said things that are difficult to forgive, but he also said good things. How about it? I think that since we have the chance, there's also the option of giving up on hyumans and opening a store in the villages of demi-humans" (Tomoe)

"Serving only demi-humans?" (Makoto)

"Yes. If you wish to, we can also serve demonic beasts and mamonos. Also, Waka told me, that you wanted the four seasons. I don't think Waka likes conflict, so you probably intent to have a relationship with the demon race in order to secure that place right? Then, I think it should be fine to do business with them. Continuing business in the hyuman society and having our hearts crushed, it would only create more weight in

Waka, and I don't think that's a good idea" (Tomoe)

"The demon race publicly hates hyumans, but they are generous towards other races. I think the proposal of Tomoe-dono is worth considering" (Shiki)

"I... don't understand complicated stuff. But I don't think there's a need for Waka-sama to be under people that just want to take advantage of Waka-sama's kindness" (Mio)

...

Kindness huh.

Maybe I was looking at it that way in some part of me.

And, maybe the people around saw it that way as well.

"I..." (Makoto)

"Waka, please tell us what you are currently thinking. If Waka so wishes, we will fight with whoever. Also... we will lower our heads to whoever you wish us to" (Tomoe)

Mio and Shiki nod at Tomoe's words.

Right. There's no need to hide anything from them.

They are my family in this world after all.

"...Just like I promised to Tomoe, I plan on having a connection with the demon race. After a conversation with one of the demon generals, I promised a meeting with the Demon Lord. It will be after the school festival is over, but I intent to meet with the Demon Lord and ask it to let me take over or borrow one location where Tomoe says the four seasons are in" (Makoto)

I resolve myself and tell the three what I was thinking.

Tomoe nods with a joyful look and glittering eyes.

Shiki looks like he consents. He silently nods with his eyes closed.

Mio simply accepted my words and was smiling.

"If that happens, it will create a big debt towards the demon race. Talking to the demon lord. I can't say anything definite, but I don't think it will end in a simple manner. Will the hegemony of this world continue in the hands of the Goddess and hyumans, or will it be plundered by the demon race? We might even have to participate in that conflict. If I had to speak my ideal scenario, it may be naïve, but it would be to hold a connection with the demon race while continuing business with the hyumans. But depending on the situation, I don't know what would happen" (Makoto)

I bring a world map from the shelf and spread it on the desk. And then, I place a hand on the location Tomoe pointed out before.

"This was the place right, Tomoe?" (Makoto)

"Yes. That's the place" (Tomoe)

"The previously associated country of Elysion, Kaleneon. The place is around Yamagata prefecture and Tsukiyama huh" (Makoto)

The place that will provide Asora with the four seasons.

And also the place that is deeply connected with the two hyumans I met.

"Yamagata?" (Tomoe)

"Nothing. Just pointless rambling. What's important is what I said before that. It's a country named Kaleneon. That place... seems to be the native country of my parents" (Makoto)

"?!"

"My parents met there, and after that, they became adventurers, traveled, and transferred to my world. In other words, to me, it is also my home in a sense. Of course, that has nothing to do with the four seasons, so it is fine to ignore that point for now" (Makoto)

I have no emotional attachment at all anyways.

If possible, I would be happy to obtain even a little bit of information of my parents, but it is a country that has fallen to ruin.

The demon race probably knows more information of Kaleneon.

If they didn't turn everything into ash when they invaded that is.

"But Waka-sama, if I remember correctly, Kaleneon is the place the librarian Eva and Gotetsu's Ruria..." (Shiki)

As if remembering something, Shiki says the name of the Ansland sisters.

"That's right. The birthplace of those girls. That's why I had each of them decide something. If both of them accept, I..." (Makoto)

I tell the three of them what I was thinking.

That's my last resort.

It may be a foolish thought that can't even be called resort though.

But...

"Fu... fufufu. Isn't that interesting, Waka?" (Tomoe)

"Right. Depending on how it is done, it might even become a card to solve our current problem" (Shiki)

"If it's something Waka-sama has decided, I don't have any objections. Also, I think it is stupid to not use the strength we have and just worry" (Mio)

My family accepted it.

In that case, as Kuzunoha Company's Raidou, and also, as the third one to descend to this world...

Well, the two heroes are in the hyuman side, so it should be fine for one to be behind-the-scenes on the demon race side right, bug Goddess?



# Chapter 130

## A certain student's background (Upper)

### ~Reunion~

He is one of the students learning in Rotsgard.

But he is not a simple student.

A big noble that everyone in Limia recognizes, Hopelace's second son.

On top of that, he excels in literary and military arts, and has a strong sense of justice. Truly a thoroughbred.

Because the eldest son has to follow his career, he is participating in the demon race fight at the frontlines, and the second son knows of the danger the eldest son is facing, so he took the elite education of the Academy.

In other words, in case something happens, he will be treated as a spare, an insurance.

But that's not something strange in the household of nobles, and Ilumgand Hopelace understands this reality and accepts it.

Then, is he an obedient second son towards the head of the family? The answer is no.

Ilumgand disagreed with the decay of the nobles in Limia, and can even be considered hate. Even so, he obediently followed the idea of his father because he has to act the submissive child.

Hidden inside him is his wish for the reform of the nobles.

The responsibility of the people in higher class.

That's the ideal of Ilumgand.

Since he was born as a noble, he will live a life that doesn't shame that blood, protect

the weak ones, become their sword and shield.

He will swear genuine loyalty to the king, and consequently, be given a land to manage.

He holds a conviction and wants to build up a righteous government, that's why the people that live in their territory adore the nobles that work as their feudal lord.

He wasn't great because he was a chosen one since birth.

In the nobles of Limia, this is a really unusual ideology.

The ones who bestowed him this way of thinking were two.

The first one is a girl of a household they were friends with.

When he voiced out his childish ideals, she affirmed those with a broad smile and applauded him.

The words that were more of a cool front and for show, at that moment, had turned into a dream for Ilumgand. The sound of the applause at that time and her smile, for him, it was a more solemn memory than the blessing of the Goddess, and has remained in him vividly.

The other one was the female hero that recently descended to this world.

The hero that suddenly descended one day.

She said things that were not chained by the noble doctrine and the monarchy. Words filled with freedom.

She steadily learned to mind her words, but it isn't like the foundation of her ideology has changed.

For many nobles, that opinion of hers is dangerous, but Ilumgand felt that she would be able to provide the marrows of his vague and overly large dream and ideal. He was strongly conscious of his dreams and reform plans. And it was when he met the hero that this dream began to take definite form.

That's why he secretly went to hear the talks of the hero that had ordered him to not involve himself with his father more than necessary.

At times, he also cooperated with her in an extent that allows him to.

The growth of the hero, Otonashi Hibiki, was tremendous, and easily left Ilumgand in the dust, but he didn't even feel jealousy towards that otherworldly growth of hers.

So instead of lending his skills to her, he mostly provided her information or helped out in the financing area.

“When you graduate, let's fight together”

One day, he finally received an earnest petition from Hibiki.

In honesty, he wanted to be her strength even if he had to leave the academy. And he wanted her to tell him more about those ideologies.

Ilumgand heard that she was around his age, but he felt like Hibiki was somewhat mature. Maybe because the words of Hibiki were something he is aiming for, and her thinking was several steps into the future.

But Ilumgand Hopelace considered his household's intentions, and decided to attend the academy until graduation.

The war with the demon race is in a scale that will not be finished until several years later, so if he ever gets into a position where he will succeed the Hopelace household, it would be convenient for the reform of the nobles.

For the sake of cooperating with Hibiki as well, he couldn't waste the opportunity of learning in the academy and the connections he could obtain in it.

When thinking back at it, this was when he diverged.



In the spring of that land.

At a holiday in academy town, he reunites with a certain girl.

Both of them have changed quite a lot in appearance. But because of the characteristic accessory, Ilumgand was able to tell that it was her.

A black choker that has a bell and ribbon.

The young her and the current her had the same accessory but the atmosphere that's given out was obviously different. He was able to accurately connect the person in his memories and the one in front of him as the same person.

"Ruria? Are you Ruria Ansland?"

With a spaced-out voice, Ilumgand reflexively calls out the girl that was about to pass beside him.

It was the name of an incredibly unexpected person.

For him it was unforgettable, but it is the name of a girl that he was supposed to never meet again.

"..."

Being called by her name, the girl turns around.

The girl, who was wearing waitress clothes, judged that the owner of the voice was Ilum who's walking around town with his friends, and looks at him.

It's a girl that had cold eyes and felt as if she had no ambition.

The bell of the choker didn't ring, and showed that it is just a simple decoration.

"Why are you...?"

"Who are you? Have we met before?" (Ruria)

"It's me! Ilumgand! Limia's, the Hopelace household's! Haven't we met several times at Kaleneon, in the Ansland territory? You don't... remember?"

"!!"

Not the words Ilumgand, nor Hopelace; the girl called Ruria reacted to the word Kaleneon and stiffened.

"I remember. We played in the flower beds of Agarest. Oi Ruria, what is it?! Why are

you trying to leave?!"

"I-I don't remember student-sama well. Excuse me!!" (Ruria)

"Wait!"

Ilumgand grabs Ruria's hand, and restrains the movements of the girl that was trying to leave.

At that moment, her body trembled greatly and looks at the arm of her that was grabbed, with fear in her eyes.

One of the persons accompanying Ilumgand made a gesture as if thinking about the name of Kaleneon.

"Uhm, Ilum-san. When you said Kaleneon, you mean the country that was around Elysion and collapsed in the early stages of the demon race invasion, right? The name of that place came out in a previous class"

"Y-Yeah, that's right. She is a noble that prospered in that Kaleneon. Anslad household's daughter"

"Isn't that strange? If I remember correctly, that country was destroyed immediately in the momentum of the demon race invasion. In that case, a noble that was prospering in that land should have fallen as well..."

"Hey!"

The words that could be taken as insensitive were remonstrated by Ilumgand.

The question he held was pretty natural, but Ilumgand who was practically sure the girl in front of him was an acquaintance of him, thought about the emotions of Ruria and stopped him from continuing what he was going to say.

"Ah, sorry. No well, you must have confused me with someone similar" (Ruria)

"You should be Ruria. That choker that is around your neck, and the bell that doesn't ring. If I remember correctly, she also wore the same thing. Also, you certainly reacted to what I said. You are... Ruria, right?"

Ilumgand uses an insecure tone that's not normal of him.

Excelling in literary and military arts, he already overflows with self-confidence, and yet, this is the first time the companions around him have seen him bewildered.

Kaleneon is one of the countries that has been destroyed completely by the demon race.

The chances that one of the nobles from there, Ruria, has survived, were so low that it made Ilumgand lose his confidence.

"...Yes. I am indeed Ruria. I don't remember my childhood that much, but it is probably not wrong that I have met you before" (Ruria)

In time, because of the unwavering gaze of Ilumgand, Ruria admits it as if giving up.

That she is a noble from a ruined country.

And in truth, it wasn't as if Ruria was feigning ignorance.

Ruria and her sister Eva escaped from the fires of war by the hands of their parents, and have received a terrible treatment because of it.

That's why she has been subconsciously forgetting the memories of her childhood, and in reality, she practically doesn't remember anything of her life in the Anslad territory.

It is true that she got scared of the keyword Kaleneon and tried to leave because of her feelings of not wanting to get involved though.

"Sorry but, can you please release me already? It hurts" (Ruria)

Pointing out the hand that was being grabbed to the point of hurting, Ruria asks him.

"...Sorry"

"Don't mind it" (Ruria)

The two who were unable to properly connect words.

It is a conversation of a person that wants to leave as soon as possible, that is troubled about how to cut it off, so it is obvious it would turn out this way though.

“Ruria, why are you in this town? You, your country should have fallen in the fight with the demon race”

Ilumgand’s words were slightly different from how he truly felt and were released onto Ruria.

In truth, he wanted to be happy about Ruria’s safety and wanted to embrace those feelings.

For him, Ruria is, without doubt, his first love. Moreover, she is the girl that has given him a beautiful memory that is coated with dreams and ideals.

But because he is together with his companions, he held back from doing it.

What came out in exchange was the way nobles should act that has always been lying in his heart and the inconsistency of Ruria’s safety.

“I was... led to escape. By my parents” (Ruria)

“!!!”

The words of Ruria gave a big shock not only to Ilumgand, but to his companions as well.

In the first place, the faint first love of Ilumgand was what created his current ideals.

For him, Ruria is the partner that he pledged that ideal with. And she was supposed to have sacrificed herself as a noble to protect the people.

That’s how deep she was edged in his heart.

But the reality was that she is still alive, moreover, she abandoned her people and escaped.

An intense conflict occurs inside Ilumgand. Several emotions were born, clashed, and bounced off.

What could he say? He couldn't collect himself.

'What happened to the pledge of that time?'

'If she is alive, that in itself makes me happy'

'For a noble to survive is an embarrassment'

'It must have been harsh to lose your parents'

'The hero-sama is right now in the vanguard and protecting the people from the demon race's deadly grasp, fighting with all they have, and yet... '

'It is fine. From now on, I will be here for you'

Those kind of contradicting emotions and words were clashing inside Ilumgand.

"...You abandoned your country and people, and escaped?"

One of his companions spitted out words to Ruria with eyes of scorn.

"You are the worst. If you are a noble, you should be the first one to clash swords with the enemy to protect the people"

"You even fell to the point of being a waitress to protect your life? Know shame"

The first words served as a spark and more words of disdain were spitted out towards Ruria.

They were cruel words.

But a part of Ilumgand also felt this way. Even if it's not completely.

That's why he was unable to hamper the words of his companions.

Ruria made a face as if she had given up, as if saying 'just say whatever you want'.

There was no objection.

Seeing her like that, Ilumgand was unable to hold back his emotions.

“...An embarrassment of hyumans. Ansland and you. Even though we are learning at the academy every day to defeat the demon race. Just like everyone said, for a noble to fall into the streets just to survive, that’s only an embarrassment!”

“...Even though you have never experienced the possibility of dying. You don’t even know how I have lived until now, so please don’t go talking as if you know” (Ruria)

Hearing the words of Ilumgand, Ruria’s brows slightly trembled and she refuted.

A small and weak tone.

But without pausing, she was able to say it until the end.

It isn’t like she was just allowed to escape and has lived an easy life.

She has taken the job of being a waitress in this town, and before obtaining her current lifestyle, she has received severe treatment and has been suffering. Even in her current life she has been chased by the ghost of her past, and she isn’t sure of how long she can continue like this.

Saying all those things when living in a prosperous environment and passing their days in the academy with no inconveniences, she probably couldn’t stop herself from voicing out her feelings.

“What?!”

“A traitorous and cowardly noble is insulting us?!”

“Like hell I would run away from a fight and cling to my life like you!”

“I have the resolve to die uprightly!”

“People that say such high and mighty words only know how to persecute the weak ones, you know? You are in such a disjointed place from the fight and comfortably studying. Do you think you can do something like war?” (Ruria)

“Shut up!”

The companions of Ilumgand couldn't take Ruria's rebuttals anymore and they pushed her shoulder.

Ruria staggers and steps back. But the heat in her eyes didn't back off and were simply looking at them.

"Ruria... you, just how far will you... Even so..."

"Hey, say something!"

While Ilumgand was surprised by Ruria's change, her existence was stirring up inside his heart.

His first love.

She is alive.

The girl that was supposed to share the same ideals as him, has fallen and lived a life of disgrace.

At any rate, he couldn't maintain his composure.

'I have to say something', and the moment he was about to open his mouth.

"Ah, can you leave it at that?"

A group of two cut in between them.

Both of them were dressed like magicians.

But what stood out was the face of the small height man.

He had quite the ugly face.

By the standards of the hyumans in this world, there's no doubt it is at the lowest.

A beast-type demi-human. Right, an appearance that would fit that of a monkey demi-human.

But he is probably scraping the line between both. This was the first time he held a

rude impression of someone since coming to the academy.

Right now that's not the problem though.

“...Who are you guys?”

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

One of the companions pointed out the Rotsgard Academy's uniform, and tried to drive away the two.

Without being able to switch his emotions of just now, he talks to the two who look like they are not related to the academy, with a severe attitude.

That's not how he should act, this is not the way a hyuman who is supposed to stand on top should be acting. Ilumgand also understands this.

But right now, his head is still completely filled with Ruria.

'At any rate, I want to talk with her, just the two of us'

That's what he thought.

But...

Those two, Raidou and Shiki, interfered with Ilumgand's wish completely, and will become a big wall in his way.



Overwhelming power.

That's the strength Raidou and Shiki showed.

For Ilumgand, that was a memory that remained vividly.

He was somehow able to locate the place Ruria was working in.

Gotetsu, a restaurant that also doubles as a bar.

But since the time Raidou and his follower Shiki defeated them, every time he tried to meet Ruria, they would get in the way.

Accurately speaking, the Kuzunoha Company got in the way.

He didn't meet Raidou himself, but every time he tried to meet with Ruria, an employee of that company would obstruct him.

In times, with schemes.

In times, with power.

It was humiliating.

The impatience in Ilumgand's heart piles up.

The words he said in their reunion might have been too much, is what he thought.

'That's why I will meet her again and apologize'

Anyways, he wanted to clear the misunderstanding.

After all, there's no doubt that he is happy that she was alive.

But he was unable to fulfill that at all.

Receiving money from his household, he requested assistance and hired people, but that didn't work either.

'No matter what regret I have, you will get in the way huh'

The anger of Ilumgand towards the Kuzunoha Company slowly changed into hatred.

Actually, in this matter, Shiki and Raidou had no part in it.

When the employees of Kuzunoha Company went to Gotetsu to have a meal, Ruria indirectly told them that Ilumgand has been following her around and asked them to please check him out.

Lime Latte was the first one. Then the Forest Onis, Akua and Eris, and also the Elder

dwarf.

They worried about Ruria, and while being ordered by Raidou to protect Ruria from a different matter, they also obstructed Ilumgand and anyone related to him from getting close to Ruria.

Ilumgand didn't know of that.

That's why the Kuzunoha Company and Raidou became targets of his hatred with no distinction.

"Ilumgand Hopelace-sama, right?"

"Who are you?"

"Don't you want power? From what I have heard, things have not been going well for you"

At that time, an unknown student talked to Ilumgand.

Ilumgand's words were mixed with caution.

To begin with, the Rotsgard Academy is immense.

There are many students he doesn't know.

It isn't strange to have a student he hasn't seen before talk to him.

Just that, Ilumgand was cautious because he was called out when he was alone and in a place where there were few people around.

"Power? Are you saying that knowing my strength?"

"Of course. Your strength and also your heart that wishes for more power"

"?!"

"This may be rude of me, but at the current rate, it is questionable if you will be able to help the hero-sama. Someone that's not even able to deal with one hindrance. That's what you are thinking right?"

“You, who are you?!”

“Your ally. I have something that’s being developed in the academy. A magic medication that will raise your physical and magical power. A groundbreaking creation. When testing it in a common student, it was confirmed to show a certain extent of effectiveness. It should be a student you already know of, Ilumgand-sama”

Several names of students Ilumgand knew were mentioned.

Students that showed growth to the point of being abnormal.

The heart of Ilumgand wavers.

“There’s no secondary effects, and it is also an article that’s approved by the academy, so any inspections won’t bring out problems. After confirming how much effect it has on someone as excelling as Ilumgand, the academy plans on spreading it. How about it? It may be a rude way of saying it, but will you cooperate as a sample?”

“The academy approves of it... Medicine that will make me stronger”

“Yes. You will obtain the power to make your wishes come true”

“...Got it. I will cooperate. Do you have any conditions?”

“It is fine to just report the progress to my superiors and the people in duty”

Taking out a bottle with pills in it, the student holds it with its thumb and index finger, and presents it to Ilumgand.

Hopelace’s second son extends his right hand and opens his palm.

“Please drink one every day. There’s no problem in consuming more, but there’s no effect either, so please do hold back from doing so. If you tell a superior before you finish it, I will bring more”

Ilumgand looks at the bottle that he received, and the student tells him a simple advice.

After looking at it for a while, Ilumgand raises his head again, but that student had already left.

# Chapter 131

## A certain student's background (Lower)

### ~Undercover actions~

Raidou was appointed as a teacher in the Academy.

Moreover, he has obtained popularity in one portion of the students.

Ilumgand has been ingesting the medicine that the student gave him before.

From what he could tell, there were no secondary effects, just like that person said. His physical strength and magic power became stronger.

That strengthening is continuing even now.

The strengthened power increased his leveling speed, and his level reached 70.

“Raidou. That guy is even moving around the academy!”

But the irritation of Ilumgand didn't stop.

It was a simple matter.

Even when he obtained power, Ilumgand has been unable to meet with Ruria.

Not only that, he has received reports several times of Raidou and Shiki going to Gotetsu and conversing with Ruria in a friendly manner.

There's no way that's amusing for him.

The one there is not supposed to be Raidou, but him, Ilumgand.

The being that has stolen the place he was supposed to enter and the smile he was supposed to receive.

Inside of him, Raidou had become an existence that was worthy of being killed.

Moreover, he lost to a student that is taking the classes of Raidou.

Ilumgand put pressure in the people and stopped the attendance applications to Raidou's class.

And yet, even with him placing pressure, that student was one of the scholarship students that still send the petition to Raidou's class.

A defeat is not something that's okay to happen.

Moreover, that student said this when Ilumgand was defeated.

"Ah, damn. I messed up adjusting my power"

She whispered that and returned to the line of students.

It wasn't like she said it for Ilumgand to hear, it was more like, her monologue leaked out.

Her name is Amelia Hopelace.

A scholarship students that originated from Gritonia.

Hopelace.

Same family name as Ilumgand.

But it is a female student that has no connection with him at all.

At least he doesn't know of any connection with her.

Amelia has not talked to him in any way, so he thought that it is probably a coincidental match.

And in reality, Amelia is not even from a noble origin, and Ilumgand had already lost interest in her name.

"Held back? Went easy, on me?"

What was important wasn't the name, but the fact that she went easy on him.

Her year was lower, her level was lower, moreover, in a state where there's no blessing, a girl went against an upper-grade top class and won.

There's no way he could accept that.

"You are Raidou's! That Raidou's student right?! Don't mess around! Don't mess with me!!!"

Little by little, unconsciously, he lost his ability to control his emotions.

Slowly, without stopping, it silently progressed.

At that time, his countenance, rigidness, and forcefulness increased, and the amount of people hanging around him decreased.

After he returned to his room, the rumors of him losing his temper slowly spread around.

The room was especially bad today.

He shoved away the furniture around, and the breaking sounds and screams resonated even on the outside.

After raging for a while, Ilumgand sat on his couch and suddenly yelled.

"Oi, reinstated! Oi, are you there?!"

Thought transmission.

He didn't need to say it out loud, and yet, Ilumgand voiced out what he was saying in his thought transmission.

Proof that he is quite irritated.

(...Sorry. I was doing something. Ilum-sama, what's wrong? Are you running out of medicine?)

The voice that responded to the yell, was a glossy voice.

It is the person in duty that hears out the progress reports after he received the medicine.

When the student said superior, Ilumgand thought that it would be a male, but when he connected the thought transmission, it was a woman.

The woman responded to the emotional voice of Ilumgand in an extremely calm demeanor.

(That's not it! What is going on?! Why is the class of a mere temporary teacher having more increasing effects than the medicine?! Are you telling me that's also one of the plans you guys have been doing secretly in the academy?!)

(...Ilum-sama, please calm down)

(How can I be calm?! Today, I lost to a student that has only been attending Raidou's classes a few times! A woman that has a lower level than mine!)

(There's not supposed to be any such plan though... Raidou. Are you saying the name of that teacher is Raidou?)

(That's right! That ugly, mere merchant that makes a fool out of me wherever I go!)

Ilumgand's exasperation was the very definition of the stupid nobles he hated with a passion.

And Ilumgand didn't even notice that.

There's no noticeable secondary effects.

That's certainly true.

The concerned person, Ilumgand, is unable to notice it after all.

The woman that continues talking with a calm voice as always, slightly ponders when the name Raidou was mentioned.

She thought that it would take a bit more time.

She has been destroying the calm in Ilumgand's heart little by little.

Just like how his heart is inclined to defeat.

All she has actually done is assist in the medicine's effect, and has not really placed any suggestions or anything like that.

That's why she thought that even if it comes into fruition fast, it would need at least half a year. However, Ilumgand was cornered faster than she thought, and for her, he is being completed in a good sense.

But at the same time, being too fast brings anxiety.

The main cause of Ilumgand's accelerated destruction, Raidou.

She felt that she has to see that person at least once.

Because she couldn't think it possible that a female student whose level was a lot lower than the strengthened Ilumgand could beat him.

Without saying it in the thought transmission, that's what the woman thought.

'At least for humans'

Her interest was pointed to the academy town that already had no need to head to.

(Understood. Ilum-sama's regret, I have understood it well. I thought about waiting for your body to get used to it a bit more, but I will prescribe you the next medicine)

(?! The next medicine?! If there's such a thing, bring it out from the beginning!)

(Sorry. It is because that medicine has a light side effect. For people that can't control their emotions, it will bring danger, and more importantly, the body will also...)

(I don't care! I can control my emotions! Are you making a fool of me, you bastard?!)

(Truly sorry. I have said too much. Please forgive me, Ilum-sama. Well then, I will bring it to you as soon as possible. Also, we have a necklace that increases magic resistance. Consider it a gift from us. We will be sending it along as well, so please do use it. It isn't something bulky, so it won't be a hindrance)

(Hmph! don't think such a mere gift will compensate for your previous utterance!)

(Of course. We will not be frugal in our cooperation hereafter, so please do pardon me)

(Those words, don't forget them!)

Ilumgand one-sidedly cuts off the thought transmission.

The woman that was in a dim room, seemed like she was going to leak out a sigh, but instead, she silently bended her mouth into a smile.

"Fufufu. It seems quite a good wind is blowing. I can control my emotions, huh. What a funny young man. With this, the Hopelace has fallen. Limia will have to move no matter what now. But... Raidou... was it? It would be troublesome if it goes too far, so maybe I should confirm what kind of person it is, at least once"

Blue skin, a face with no horn.

The woman that stood still in the room alone, demon general Rona, placed a hand over her mouth as if thinking something.

This is a story that happened a bit before she pretended to be Karen Frost and infiltrated the school.



Timing.

I can't mess up the opportunity.

This is the final step of the plan.

The final phase of a plan that was carefully laid out.

"Until this point, the plan has proceeded in a truly smooth manner. Leaving aside Limia, the problem was how many high officials of Gritonia we would be able to pull, but I didn't think Princess Lily would fish them out. Moreover, the princess fished the Limia King as well. I can't stop laughing"

There's only one worry.

Kuzunoha Company's, Raidou.

He said he was neutral, but he is also a hyuman. He is an ingredient that brings anxiety.

I want him to owe us, but it will be troublesome if there's an impediment in our plan.

At least, with Larva there, Raidou won't be in danger regarding this matter.

It also depends on how loyal that Lich is to him, but Raidou himself possesses quite the fighting power.

In the worst case scenario, it is possible that he would move to suppress the situation.

Even so, thinking about the information relay ability of the hyumans under a chaotic situation, there won't be any problems.

That's right. Depending on his posting, the demerit of the demon race will be big.

"Raidou, you accepted the meeting with the demon lord-sama, so you must have a certain amount of interest in us right? In that case, please overlook us this time okay?"

It sounds as if I were praying to someone. Haha.

Even though we have no God to pray to.

"Rona!"

The partner in this time's plan and also a demon general as well. The loud voice of that giant resonates.

Now then, it is the time for fruition.

Let's watch the end of the heroes.

The death of all that oppose the demon lord will tell us of our victory.

# Chapter 132

## Team battles, finals

I feel heavy.

Soon, I will be doing an act that is akin to betraying everyone here.

The business in Rotsgard as well, it is safe to assume that continuing it will be hard.

I still haven't met them yet, but it seems I have caught the eye of several big-shots.

Asking Rembrandt-san is, as expected, something I can't bring myself to do.

I have been in his care way too much after all.

The reason why the Kuzunoha Company went well in Tsige was because I had the follow-up of him.

It's free to operate in towns, it's based on your skills; so as long as you provide good stuff, you will succeed. That's not the case.

In that town there's probably no one who would want to be glared by Rembrandt-san, so that discretion served as a help for me.

The business there went well, so I went and misunderstood that I was beginning to get used to doing business.

In the middle of it, I was totally made a fool of.

He wanted Rembrandt-san to owe him, so he told me that he would overlook me if I just leave the town.

That really got me.

Just remembering that makes my anger well up. My anger of him, the anger that comes from my own worthlessness; they well up and mix.

That representative was a person that gave the impression as if gold is supremacy. That's the kind of sense of value he seemed to live with.

Looking at how hard it was to deal with him and the things he said, Rembrandt-san might have been like that before his family fell ill.

Because if he is able to go against that representative in higher than even grounds, I don't think he would say any soft things.

It is mortifying, but it is true that I am not fit as a merchant.

I understand what he said.

It's true that I was naïve.

In the end, I am running away and making a connection with the demon race.

In the worst case, not only the one here but the store in Tsige as well, and the relationships formed at that town, everything will be...

No matter if Rembrandt-san said all that to me, I will be going to a camp that's going against hyumans and having troubles with the Goddess. I can't burden him.

I will be secluding in the country that my mom and dad were huh.

I even came to a parallel world. What am I doing?

In the tournament grounds that is crowded and giving off heat, I sit in the seat that I had reserved, and look at the stage where no one is in.

There's only the finals left in the team battles of the tournament.

The match of the students I might not be able to meet anymore. I have to properly watch over it.

They safely won through the semifinals.

The obvious pestering that was the level limit didn't have that much effect on them it seems.

They must have gotten used to the mock battles with the mist lizard where they had to fight by using teamwork.

Just that, there's something bothering me.

The second son of Hopelace.

His state in the semifinals wasn't normal.

"That... doesn't give a good feeling. Tomoe, can you tell?" (Makoto)

"About that noble? Fumu... he is probably using some kind of magic or drug to increase his power, and that's its side effect, maybe?" (Tomoe)

"What do you think Mio?" (Makoto)

"It gave an unsavory feeling. Like some sort of hyuman mixed with something else. I can see a disgusting tint" (Mio)

"Like a demi-human?" (Makoto)

"No. How to say it? Uhm, hyuman and demi-humans are of different types, but it is like having two of the same bread tied together, and the disgusting feeling would be embedded inside it. Like a pound cake with dry fruits inside?" (Mio)

I kind of get it and kind of not.

"I, see..." (Makoto)

I hold an opinion similar to that of Tomoe.

A hollow atmosphere as if he lost his sanity.

Crush his opponents with abnormal brute strength. But instead of calling it hyuman, it is more like a mamono.

The surrounding members were not as serious as him, but I can't think of them as normal either.

In this tournament it is prohibited to use magic drugs, so I don't think it is medicine

but... in that case, maybe magic?

Well, even if their strength gets higher, from what I have seen, it is lower than Zweisan.

In technique, there's no need to mention. Lower than blue lizard.

If it's with three, my students will win.

That's why there's no need to worry that much but...

"Shiki, I was thinking you would be coming back anytime now. How is their condition?"  
(Makoto)

"Waka-sama, they have been doing an intense battle of rock, paper, scissors for the rights of participating" (Shiki)

"Fufu, glad to see they are not tense" (Makoto)

Shiki had returned from looking after the students.

He answered my question with no hesitation, and told me about the students' condition.

"Shiki, what did you think about that Hopelace boy? He gives out quite a different atmosphere compared to the individual battles" (Makoto)

"...Yeah. I can't say anything definite, but I think he is being done something" (Shiki)

"Being done?" (Makoto)

"Yes. He is losing his sanity. I think that's a type of magic drug. It resembles something I have handled a long time ago" (Shiki)

Medicine huh.

So he really can make anything valid.

I feel like I kind of understand how it is to get into trouble with a noble.

“It’s a magic drug that turns hyumans into ghouls. Changing them into a half-dead state, and enslaving them. Well, it would have been okay to make it have an immediate effect, but it turned out as a frail article that couldn’t be used and ended up as a failure” (Shiki)

I can easily get Shiki to talk about his past deeds, but the amount of pitch black content is not low.

This is one of many.

He does pretty frightening stuff.

“Enslaving huh. It at least doesn’t seem like he is being controlled, and doesn’t look frail either” (Makoto)

“Yes. Even when predicting the highest battle power he could get, in the worst case, there won’t be problems if we stop it. I have told the students to retire if it turns dangerous. Rather, I am-” (Shiki)

I cut into the words of Shiki.

“Shiki... you told them that?” (Makoto)

“Yes, I did though?” (Shiki)

“Ah~, if you tell them that, they would definitely do something rash. Amelia being the first in the list” (Makoto)

Even if it is not her, the others will probably go with the enthusiasm of ‘I will win’.

“Those were words brought out of concern though...” (Shiki)

“In the worst case, it is fine to stop them even if it turns into a defeat. And so, Shiki, what were you trying to say before?” (Makoto)

“Ah, about Hopelace. The necklace he was using before equipping his armor piqued my interest” (Shiki)

“Necklace? That guy, he still had more things he brought from his house?” (Makoto)

“It was disguised with a magic resistance effect” (Shiki)

Disguised?

That's certainly strange.

That means there's a hidden effect.

“Could it be, the type that awakens and gives a power-up?” (Makoto)

In times, accessories possess effects that are more dangerous than weapons. Well, that's gamer logic though. But I only think this way because that guy really doesn't care about what methods he uses after all.

“Awaken? No. I think it is some sort of accumulating effect. It didn't seem like it was in function, and it worried me a bit” (Shiki)

For Shiki to hesitate, that's unusual.

Ah, it's fine to forget about my game logic explanation there.

“It kind of gives a bad presentiment. This whole town is giving a strange feeling” (Mio)

Mio looks at the sky and says this carefree.

It seems she sensed something that cannot be considered as a threat to her.

But in this situation where many things are mobilizing, the words of Mio...

“...Just in case, can you bring some equipment Jin and the others can use from the store? Leave it in their waiting room. And after you finish doing that, let's watch together” (Makoto)

“Understood”

This may be the last thing I will be able to do for Jin and the others.

Weapons are something that just assist in shaking off problematic things though.

They are the kids I have been looking after for several months. I have grown attached

to a certain extent.

...No, quite attached. I was being careful to avoid this from happening, but I was unable to.

For now, let's protect them.

"Sorry for the wait!! We will be beginning the finals of this tournament's team battles!!"

A resonant voice was emitted from the man that came up the stage.



"Alright! Let's go! You pipsqueaks, don't go holding back on Hopelace!"

"I am not a pipsqueak! Like hell I would hold back. I can finally try the instant strengthening that Jin was doing, in real combat. If it goes well, it would be no different from going at my full strength"

"I think that making fun of one's body growth is childish! I will be stealing all the spotlight!!"

Shoulders, knees, elbows; in those kind of places, they had thick leather protectors equipped, and the three students who were wearing their battle uniform, talked in a cheerful manner.

The first words the tall boy said really described them well.

Jin and the pipsqueak combi.

Saying it that way, it really does fit.

The other two denied this, but the remaining members that had a gloomy atmosphere around them also thought this way.

"Why did I use rock at that moment?!"

"If you didn't make it a draw there, I would have been able to participate..."

“Using paper 4 times in a row, are you a spammer?!”

“I couldn’t participate in a single match...”

The ones who lost in the participation battle.

In contrast to the three that are exultant and holding weapons, they seemed to be feeling down. And there was one that said something pretty tragic.

Holding a standard one-handed sword, there’s Jin; possessing a spear the same height as her, its Yuno; and with a barely good gem embedded at the tip of his staff, there’s Izumo.

These three were the winners.

The remaining four can’t participate, but they follow until the stage’s vicinity.

Just like that, Jin and the others go up the stage.

In front of them, the 7 match opponents were already there.

“Destroy, destroy, destroy...”

“Oioi, did you use a drug or something today, senpai? That’s just too late”

“Unsightly”

“Disgusting”

While looking at Jin and the others with eyes devoid of light, Ilumgand Hopelace holds his great sword with both hands.

Without getting worked up, Jin, Yuno and Izumo stood in a row.

The introductions of the participants is done in order.

By nature, just standing in this place is the best situation for the students that attend this academy, but this final was ruled by a strange atmosphere.

3 versus 7. There’s also that.

But in the seven, there's one that's clearly not normal and being restless; and in the side of three, they show no sign of tension and simply smile.

And then, the strong gazes of interest from the audience seats and visitor seats that are expecting a match that will surpass the past years.

“Begin!!!”

The battle situation suddenly unfolded in a vehement manner.

Yuno and Izumo who were at both sides of Jin, both of them stepped back at their respective sides.

An abrupt enhanced acceleration. And it was a speed higher than that shown in the individual matches.

Using the instant enhancement of Jin as the concept, the two of them also learned it in a small space of time.

Makoto widening his eyes was just the onset.

And then, the other move...

Was from Ilumgand.

Maybe he has some grudge from the individual matches, he went in a straight line towards Jin.

That speed was slower than Yuno and Izumo, but it is an acceleration with his large body build and his whole body clad in armor and a great sword.

The intensity was incomparable to the other two.

Sadly, Jin was not overwhelmed by that at all.

“Senpai! This is the last match, prepare!!” (Jin)

Jin gleefully accepts Ilumgand’s charge.

Just what he wished.

The remaining 6 at Ilumgand's team were being approached by Yuno and Izumo from both sides.

Jin had no need to worry about them.

The 4 magicians were already chanting their arias, and the remaining 2 warriors were facing the 2 approaching respectively.

'How stupid' is what Jin thought as he bended his mouth into a smile.

Because that assured him that they weren't able to read what the two were trying to do.

"The annoying thrash will beeeee crusheeeeed!!"

Without learning his lesson, Ilumgand unleashes the horizontal swipe that was crushed a few days ago.

Jin takes on that attack. There was no need to crush it.

He wanted to show Ilumgand that.

But he could tell from the sword that was swung with unexpected strength, that the wooden sword clad with magic power, which was supposed to take one hit without problems, was being wedged into. Jin's body was pushed back.

"Tch!!" (Jin)

Clicking his tongue, Jin tried to switch the movements of his body and pull his sword to divert the attack.

In that moment, he was assaulted by another unexpected attack.

While swinging the great sword just like that, Ilumgand forcibly takes one step, and with his open hand, he tried to punch Jin.

It was clearly a jumbled attack that is not taking into consideration the burden the body takes.

An attack that one would even think that it is enhanced.

By nature, it shouldn't be an attack that one would receive, but he was thinking about how he would make Ilumgand crawl in defeat. Most of his thought process was directed there.

It was Jin's negligence.

(I can't dodge it. That bastard) (Jin)

The fist approaches his face.

Understanding that it already reached the point of being unavoidable, Jin instinctively brings up the hand that was holding the sword.

Accurately speaking, his elbow.

It may not be much, but there's protectors there.

That defense miraculously made it in time, and the fist of Ilumgand crashes into Jin's left elbow.

Without minding that it crashed into his elbow, the fist continues its momentum.

Jin was blown slightly to the back and toppled over. But stood up immediately and fixed his stance.

Not releasing the sword from his hands even with the unexpected shock was as expected of him.

"Is that how nobles fight? Tch, getting the better of me when sensei is watching" (Jin)

An intense anger flickers in Jin's eyes.

Receiving that attack was mostly because of his own negligence, but in the midst of the battle's exaltation, those kind of thoughts didn't enter his mind.

"Yuno, Izumo. Sorry, but I will be beginning first" (Jin)

Lowly, Jin's whisper leaks out.

As if seizing Ilumgand's second rush, this time, Jin also charged.

# Chapter 133

## Team battles, conclusion

On the other hand, Izumo and Yuno approach the 6 that were lying in wait.

The two warriors were already prepared with their lances, but the arias of the magicians would still take time.

The first one to act was Yuno.

She hasn't closed the distance between the closest warrior, and yet, she threw the spear in her hands as if sewing the two warriors.

The spear that flew straight ahead made a direct hit towards the chest of the furthest male magician as if it gravitated towards him.

It didn't pierce.

It was wooden, on top of that, the tip was dull and rounded.

The spear lost its momentum and fell in place, but the magician that was hit by the attack was thrown back heavily and falls face up.

“Bull’s~ Eye~!!” (Yuno)



A cheerful voice resounds in the stage.

As if truly enjoying it. A voice that just hearing it would cheer you up as well.

Even though what she is doing is not fun, but more like, something incredibly painful.

Yuno didn't stop for even a second, and the warrior that got his attention taken by the flying spear, even if he tried to stop her approach, his legs couldn't move.

It's Izumo.

He stopped his accelerated movement and finished his aria. Because of all the attention Yuno took, the caution towards him had lowered, and without missing that chance, ice climbed up to their feet. They were wrapped in ice to their knees.

Just like that, Izumo begins to chant an aria at the proximity of the two warriors.

The attention to Yuno switches to Izumo.

This time, Yuno acts.

Just like how the spear went in between the space of the warriors, she gets into the bosom of the closest magician without faltering.

The spell still hasn't finished yet, and looking at the magic power that has only gathered to the tip of the staff, she looked at the chin of the magician and slowly pushed up the bottom of her palm to it.

The palm stroke of a small build girl.

Be that as it may, she used her lower body as a spring, placing her weight on it and make a blow.

The man that received this on his chin sprang up, and even his body slightly flew up.

In the middle of the welling up cheers, Yuno took her time to change her palm into an elbow strike right onto the open abdomen.

Both of those attacks had body enhancement applied.

It isn't something that a magician hurrying with his aria would be able to endure.

He pathetically falls to the outsides of the stage, and his doll is destroyed.

Remarkably loud cheers resound in the area.

"Ooo~ne!!" (Yuno)

Yuno's eyes were already focusing on the next target. All the magicians that were lined up were her targets.

The first man that received the spear attack was trembling intensely while trying to somehow stand up.

She understood even that.

That's why she said 'One'.

"Armory—HIIIIH!!"

Seeing her companion being blown away, the woman magician's aria is broken.

She knew that she was the next target of Yuno Rembrandt because of those ferocious eyes aiming at her.

"Second one, I will be taking it~!!" (Yuno)

Easily slipping through the swung staff, she gave up on activating the spell and gives out an attack with her staff, but the small build girl evaded it.

How is she able to make such bewildering movements in close range? The magician girl was unable to understand at all.

In her field of vision, Yuno was already not there anymore.

Where did she disappear? Before she was able to feel that fear of not knowing where her opponent is, she felt a blunt but strong shock.

That's when she was no longer able to feel fear anymore.

“Freebie!!” (Yuno)

Yuno instantly appeared behind the magician, and smashed an elbow on the girl’s medulla oblongata.

It can be called a pretty dangerous attack.

Of course, the doll that served as the scapegoat was heavily damaged at the head part, and shook weakly.

It narrowly escaped destruction.

But along with the words ‘freebie’, Yuno grabbed the arm of the girl and threw her to the remaining magician, and with that, the doll was destroyed completely.

In just a short amount of time, Yuno defeated two magicians with scary body technique.

It’s still not over yet.

The dance was still not over yet.

“Okay, three!!” (Yuno)

The female student, having her comrade thrown at her and losing her balance, by the time she faced forward, Yuno was already there.

She placed one leg on the knee of the kneeling girl.

The moment the other leg of Yuno took the field of vision of that female student, the fight was already decided.

She doesn’t know that that technique is called ‘Shining Wizard’ and it’s a technique that is praised highly.

She just did it because it seemed like she could do it.

Looking at the movements of Yuno that didn’t let the magicians do practically anything, the sensei of her, Raidou, stiffened his face and was impressed by her growth. Later, this will please her a lot.

“Spear recovered~. And then, fourth!” (Yuno)

“Agah!!”

Yuno arrives at the place where her thrown spear was and recovers it.

The male magician that was finally about to regain his footing from the damage had his staff hit by the spear.

With that attack that was made without delay, the staff made a dry sound and falls over.

And while it, she does a side strike at the magician as if saying ‘go to sleep’.

Sinking once again, he didn’t move an inch more.

The doll was also destroyed.

“Done! It’s my win huh, Izumo-kun” (Yuno)

“Just a bit longer and it would have been mine. I have lost” (Izumo)

Izumo turns around and looks at Yuno.

Those movements were the same as a victory declaration.

In her field of vision there were the backs of fallen warriors with their whole body wounded.

“Wind Blade. When activating it with shortened aria and continuous fire, as expected, its power falls. It ended up feeling as if I brought them down with numbers. Hah...” (Izumo)

Just as Izumo said in his disappointed words, the well-build warriors had several shallow cuts everywhere and their equipment was shredded.

One of them was staggering and then collapsed. The other warrior was collapsed a long time ago and lost consciousness.

Having their movements sealed, the pitiful warriors were mangled by a large quantity

of invisible blades.

"Fufu~ well then, the one left is....!! AAAAAHH?!!!" (Yuno)

"Eh, Yuno, what's wr—ong...? Jin, didn't you say you wouldn't do a head start!?" (Izumo)

For the first time since the match began, the voices of Yuno and Izumo were flustered.

In the place they are gazing at, there's the remaining one, Ilumgand Hopelace, and their comrade, Jin.

Against the rampaging Ilumgand that's leaving all to strength, Jin didn't back off even once, but it is just that he hasn't let a single direct hit connect, and has one-sidedly attacked.

When Jin and the other two made a preparatory meeting, he promised. It doesn't look like he is holding back.

That tempest of attacks had an intensity that was as if saying he wanted to end the fight.

'We will defeat Ilumgand with the three of us'

'That's why Yuno and Izumo will defeat the other members first'

Jin would pin down Ilumgand.

That's the kind of plan that was promised.

"Haven't you become laughably tough, Ilumgand-senpai?! What interesting physical strength! Try struggling more!!" (Jin)

"Guugh, uwu, destroy, destro- giii"

The strength and technique of Ilumgand has enough competency to win the last year's tournament without doubts.

And yet, Jin was overpowering him.

Concentrating on a strength based fighting style can be considered an error of Ilumgand though.

In the guest seats, it was already not only just a part, everyone had begun noticing this abnormality.

That between them, there's not only a difference in level. And in those, there were discerning ones that have begun understanding that Jin and the other six students were learning in a different way.

“Ah... If we don't go soon, our share will be gone!” (Yuno)

“Wait a moment, Yuno” (Izumo)

“Izumo-kun?” (Yuno)

“This is strange. He is being beaten up that badly, and yet, there's practically no damage in the doll. From what I see, it isn't like all the attacks are being absorbed by the armor” (Izumo)

“...That's true” (Yuno)

“Also, Jin is mixing several attacks with the intention of knocking him out, and yet, it isn't showing effect at all” (Izumo)

“Well, Jin may have a bad mouth, but he is unexpectedly kind at times. Against Hopelace, who has been doing whatever he wanted until now, I wouldn't go for the knockout but for the eternal embarrassment. Jin is probably thinking about the after-effects or something like that” (Yuno)

“...You, you are actually quite the wicked one huh. Well, I do feel the same way as you regarding Ilumgand-senpai though” (Izumo)

“Anyways, let's go” (Yuno)

“I am fine here. I will begin my aria. If you two are in the vanguard, I can be at the rear without worries” (Izumo)

“I see. Then!!” (Yuno)

Yuno finished her conversation with Izumo and gathers strength in her legs to join the fight of Jin against Ilumgand.

Almost at the same time...

Jin takes distance from Ilumgand.

And it wasn't as if he was planning to do so. It looked like he did so because it was an urgent evasion.

"If you plan on coming, be careful! Senpai feels kind of dangerous right now" (Jin)

"Un-der-stood~!" (Yuno)

While a flashy exchange of blows unfolded, Jin was minding the state of his two companions. Jin notices Yuno's fervor and gives her a warning.

With a light tone and showing anger every now and then, Jin was grasping the progress of the battle composedly.

(This guy being dangerous is strange. No matter how many times I hit him, his movements don't grow dull, and I can't knock him out either) (Jin)

Even though he shows sharp techniques from time to time, in basis, Ilumgand has been leaving it all to strength.

Swinging around his great sword, striking his opponent, and inflicting damage.

The way he is using his sword is that of someone that has learned the ways of the sword, but those thoughts were dyed by strength.

It was clearly not the usual him.

Even from the perspective of Jin who clashed swords with him a few days ago, it was enough to consider abnormal.

"Referee! Is it okay to continue this?! Senpai is clearly strange" (Jin)

"Everything... if it weren't for him... if he weren't there... if he just..."

“...I can tell that he still holds the will to continue. Seeing the doll, your attacks have not done considerable damage. Continue”

The referee is judging by the doll’s damage.

As long as it is safe, and as long as he isn’t knocked out, it seems he intends to let it continue.

‘Maybe this has something to do with Hopelace giving money?’

For a moment, Jin thought of that, but it can also be taken as the referee’s way of judging things.

Also, if it’s okay to continue, he just has to finish it fast and there would be no need to tag along with this strange play.

“I-I!! Along with the hero-sama, ideals, my ideals... Raidou, Raidou!! Don’t get in the way”

Ilumgand bellows. In that resentment, the name of Raidou was mentioned.

Not Jin, Yuno, or Izumo.

And then, his strength increased more than before.

Jin felt as if Ilumgand’s body grew a size larger.

The hand of Jin trembled slightly.

A loathsome color was also mixed in his expression.

“...Like hell I know! I am not sensei, and I don’t care about your ideals. The ideals of someone that uses dirty methods, there’s no value in listening to them!!” (Jin)

Cutting the words of Ilumgand, Jin slips through the great sword that was swung downwards and closes into Ilumgand.

The hook that was released towards Jin, and the combo of sword and fists were unable to catch him.

(The bad feeling is getting steadily stronger. I don't know what he is planning, but I have to finish it fast. From what I can tell, it looks like he also prepared something for Yuno and Izumo. Push it through or will I be able to finish it?) (Jin)

Jin's body contracts like a spring.

To use his body as a firing support for his lunge.

The released body became a blur, and the lunge accurately aimed at Ilumgand's jaw.

"Yuno, Izumo! If you are going to do something, join together! We are pushing it through!" (Jin)

It will hit.

Thinking that, Jin turns his eyes towards his comrades for an instant and tells them his intentions.

They already began moving.

While thinking that he probably wants to link attacks, he clearly tells them that he will be the origin point.

At this point, the expectations get off the mark.

The lunge of Jin was unable to hit Ilumgand's jaw.

Ilumgand made his body smaller, and stops the oncoming attack with his face. Precisely speaking, with his mouth.

With his teeth, he stopped the lunge of Jin completely.

"...You must have a screw loose!!" (Jin)

While distorting his face because of the strangeness of the situation, Jin immediately copes with it.

Releasing the handle from his right hand, he hits the pommel with the lower part of his palm.

Stepping strongly on the stone paving and directing the strength of his lower half to his palm, he pushes in one breath.

The tip was still stopped by the teeth, but by applying that strength, the body of Ilumgand rose obliquely backwards.

“Nice. Leave the rest to us! Yuno, I’m counting on you. Aerial!!” (Izumo)

The spell of Izumo activates.

Several meters around the circumference of Ilumgand, a light emerald luminescence radiated.

Jin, who was slightly inside that area, does a back-step and retreats.

The body of Ilumgand that was about to fall, stopped in midair.

And then, just like that, his arms and feet rise up as if being pushed up by something.

It was the effect of the spell.

Binding the freedom of the target and the things several meters around, it pushes them up with wind.

That’s all that spell does. Aside from that, there’s no attack power.

“I can hold it for 20 seconds okay?!” (Izumo)

“I know! Well then. Here I gooo~!!” (Yuno)

She was already approaching Ilumgand who was beginning to rise, and with a violent light in her eyes, Yuno enters the emerald magic area.

Also, in that last step when she entered, her hair flew straight up.

Of course, knowing her own velocity, Yuno rides the ascending flow and arrives to where Ilumgand is.

From there, the attacks of her began.

They were thoughtless attacks.

At first, they were attacks that took into account the rising speed, and while avoiding the arms and feet that were swung disorderly, she dished out merciless consecutive spear strikes.

Moreover, those were attacks aiming at the joints of the armor and at the unprotected parts.

It was clear that she was moving in a way that is not normal in that space.

Completely different from Ilumgand who is unable to regain the balance of his body, she was showing vivid moves.

“It’s probably almost time~ well then, senpai, it seems you like weapons to the point of eating them, so~ this is a present!!” (Yuno)

Kicking the body of the great sword that was aiming at her, Yuno exits the area of the spell.

A throwing stance.

She places acceleration and endows the spear with magic power.

The magic power endowment, even when it leaves the body of the caster, its effects will still linger for an incredibly low period of time depending on the caster.

For Yuno, it was a distance that barely reached that effective time, but without even faltering for a bit, she shoots the accelerated spear towards Ilumgand in a situation where she doesn’t have stable footing.

Of course, since she exited the rising area, she will drop.

Taking in mind the safety of her, Jin hurries to the estimated drop point, but that was needless worry.

Falling from around ten meters up, Yuno decelerates with plenty leeway at her landing point. Accurately speaking, she used an incomplete floating spell on herself and safely landed.

A perfect floating magic was still not achievable for her.

Even before the drop of Yuno, the area that had begun to dim in color lost its effect, and before she landed, it vanished.

The one left there was only Ilumgand who had blood flowing at the side of his face.

Witnessing a midair fight for the first time ever in this tournament, the audience was dumbfounded, but the moment they saw the appearance of Ilumgand, they finally checked the doll.

It was heavily damaged and shaking.

Still not destroyed.

But what will happen when he drops?

He will at least not escape without any injuries, that's for sure.

"You do some scary attacks, oi" (Jin)

"If the person is not used to midair, it will not be able to resist properly, so at first I was trying it out for fun, but for people that experience it for the first time, it is unexpectedly effective. So the two of us discussed about it" (Yuno)

"To use this on Zwei-san is our current objective!" (Izumo)

The three gather harmoniously and were conversing.

In the moment of the drop...

A dull sound reverberated.

Two of Ilumgand's dolls broke.

They splendidly broke.

".....T-The end!! Team battle finals, winners: Jin Roan, Izumo Ikusabe and Yuno Rembrandt!"

But...

The tournament in this land was still not over yet.



PtFF by: traktorA7EN