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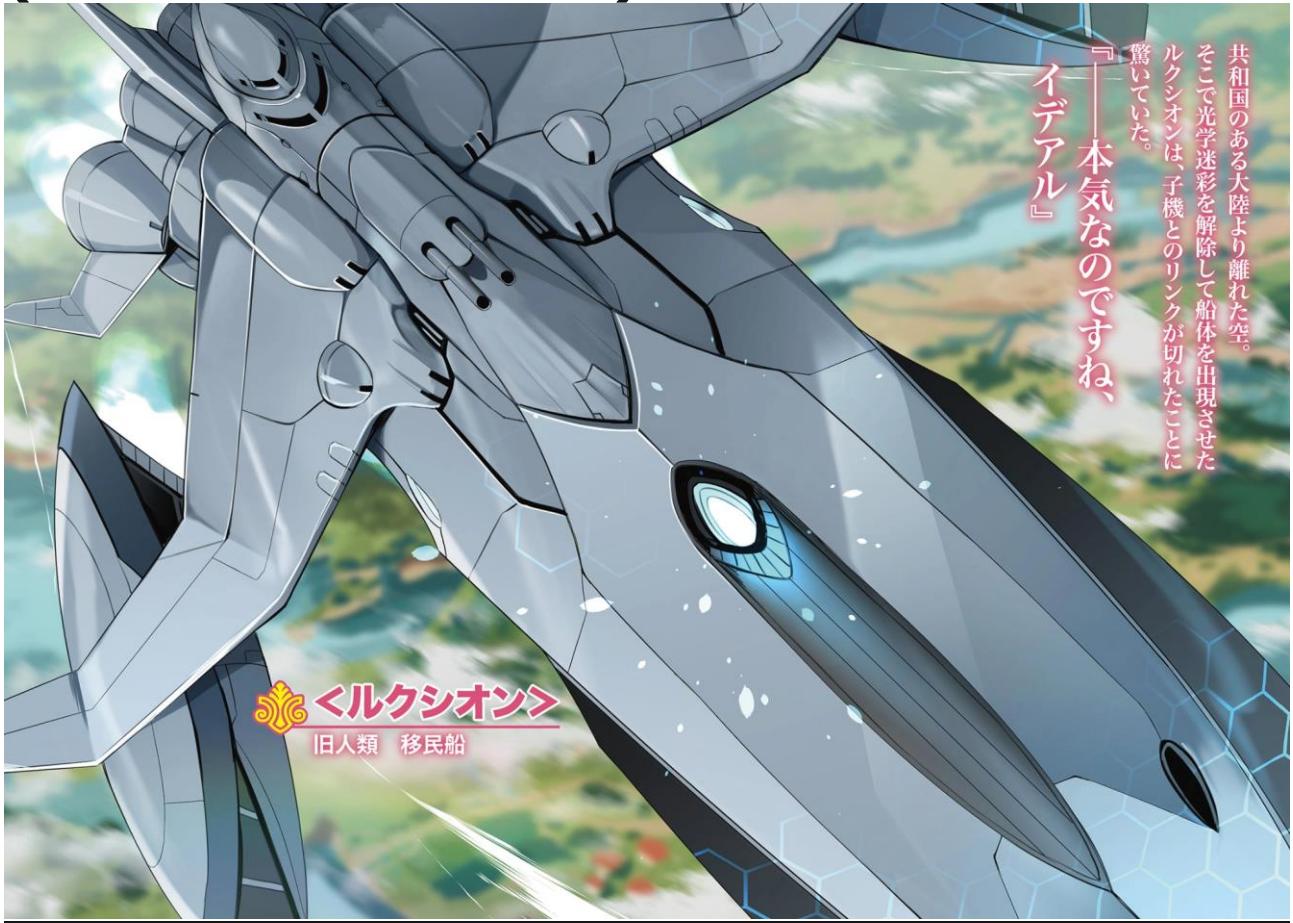
二嶋与夢  
イラスト／孟達

乙女ゲー

世界は

GC NOVELS

## (Illustration: Luxion)



## Episode 01 “Parenthood”

The Academy in the Republic of Alzer is entering its third term.

It is still winter, so it gets dark after school.

After school, there are no club activities so most of the students leave the classrooms and go home. All that remained were the empty classrooms and a few students.

There, I took Marië to the student guidance room.

Waiting for us there was Mr. Clement

He was a huge, muscular, nice guy with a sisterly accent and a tight shirt.

If you don't look at his ripped body, he's a gentle teacher.

- Excuse me. Is it just-sensei?"

I greeted Mr Clement without fear and walked into the room, while Marië gave a disgusted look because she didn't see the person she was looking for.

Mr Clement sat in his chair with his arms crossed.

"Forgive me but Lelia-sama isn't here yet.

The stern teacher was using a sisterly accent, someone with a deep personality.

Marie and I looked at each other, shrugged our shoulders and sat down on the chairs he had prepared.

We had nothing to do but talk to Mr.Clement to pass the time.

"I didn't know you were a Knight of the House of Respinas," I said.

I sparked a conversation that made Clement-sensei look nostalgic.

"Lady Noelle may have forgotten. It's a shame, they were both five years old when we parted from the family. It can't be helped."

Marie slumped down on the table and went limp.

"After all, you're a very unique individual, so it's surprising that she doesn't remember. So, what are you planning to do next, Mr.Clement?

Mr. Clement did not hesitate in his assertion.

"I'll take care of Lelia. Noelle-sama – I'm sure she'll be fine with Leon, right? You're the guardian of the sacred tree.

Guardian is the title given by the sacred tree to the highest ranking herald.

The sacred tree chooses the person who is fit to guard it and gives him its blessing.

What was the reason for the sapling to choose me, I wonder?

Originally, it would have been one of the capture targets that would have been chosen as a guardian - a link to Noelle.

Thanks to this, our plan has gone awry.

When I looked at the clock in the room, it was already past the appointed time.

Lelia – no, nowadays it was [Lelia Gil Respinas] – who was supposed to discuss future matters.

It was supposed to be to talk between fellow reincarnators to discuss the future course of action.

"Lelia is late?

Seeing me look unsettled, Mr. Clement felt very sorry.

"I'm sorry. Lelia-sama is also very busy. A lot has happened in the Republic and she's been recognized as an heir of Respinas. It's hard to make time for a conversation like this between two people.

Lelia, who was reborn as Noelle's twin sister, was once a survivor of Respinas, one of the 7 noble households. As this was known, she seemed to be very busy nowadays.

Marie got impatient.

"I'm busy too! I have to prepare dinner! If this goes on, Julius will take it upon himself to prepare kebabs again. I've had enough kebabs and I'm getting sick of them!

As soon as he had the chance, Julius went about preparing barbecue under the guise of preparing dinner.

Not once or twice but everyday. The guy was already a picky eater who wanted to eat kebabs every day, which Marië and I found bothersome.

He would prepare dinner and clean up after himself.

Rather, touching' props without permission would piss him off.

Compared to the old days when he didn't do anything around the house, he's very sensible.

But – I don't like eating kebabs every day either.

Mr. Clement apologised to Marië, even though it bothered him too.

"I'm very sorry. Lately, because of Emile, Lelia has been going out more.

As soon as Emile's name was mentioned, Marie sighed.

"Emile again? No, it can't be helped since he's her fiance after all~ Emil – [Emil Raz Pleafon], is Lelia's fiancé. Even if everything else fails, if you chose Emil, then the story won't end in a game over.

Therefore, Emil is called "Ace" by the players.

What a cruel pair.

As we waited while talking to Mr. Clement, we heard footsteps.

The door was opened roughly and there stood Lelia, whose breathing was slightly disordered.

Beside Lelia floats a sphere of a different colour from Luxion. With a blue spherical body and a single red eye, this was Ideal.

Upon seeing us, the red eye swung vertically, as if it were greeting.

Lelia held our gaze for a moment before turning her attention to Mr.Clement.

"I'm sorry, but the conversation is going to be cancelled, oh. Clement, Emile's car is at the door, it's coming to pick me up, so come with us too.

"Lord Lelia? I don't think there are any plans for today, are there?

Mr.Clement, who seemed to be Lelia's secretary, managed her daily schedule. Is there a schedule that even Mr.Clement doesn't know about?

Marie got up from her chair and pointed at Lélia.

"Don't ignore us! We have a lot to talk to you about!

I should say there was a lot to talk about.

About the future of the Republic of Alzer, the stage for the second part.

Then there was the matter of Noelle, the matter of the men who were the subject of the raid.

-And now, most importantly, about Serge, one of the men whose whereabouts are unknown.

The House of Rault, one of the six noble houses.

The whereabouts of Serge, once his first son, are unknown.

There was clearly a lot to discuss about, but Lelia seemed to have made plans and stopped.

Probably because her own plans had been disrupted, she looked very upset.

"We have things to do, too! Because Emile wanted me to attend I-Lelia's eyes, who was looking for an excuse, looked at Ideal.

Ideal looked at me. No – looked at Luxion who was hiding near me.

'I am very sorry. In order to protect Lelia-sama's social status, this time I could not shirk it in any way. Can you understand that?'

Lelia's social status. That means that it is necessary to protect her position in this world, and I can't argue with that.

After all, everyone has to live.

Sacrifice for the peace of the world! -There are very few people who can accept being told that.

We couldn't blame Lelia, so we had no choice but to accept it.

"Next time we'll find a place where we can talk it over.

"A must! - I barked

"Next time we'll find a suitable place. -Well, Lelia. Lord Emil is still waiting.

Ideal said so, and Lelia reluctantly obeyed.

It did not seem like Lelia had an intention to go either.

Her eyes looked outside and she made the long story short.

"I'm leaving, I hope you guys have some luck finding Serge, too.

Ideal and Luxion have been looking for Serge since he disappeared but there was no clue so far.

With her left arm crossed, Marië raised her right hand in a gesture of hurrying away.

"I know, go to Emile's.

After Lelia left, Mr. Clement apologized to us.

That was it, we couldn't talk to Lelia today.

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In order to return to the house, I took a train with Marië.

It was already evening.

Marië was sulking because of what happened to Lelia. There was a part of her that had to be accepted, but she still showed displeasure with it.

"Why do we have to be ordered around by her! After all, it's Lelia who wants to find Serge, isn't it? We're not her servants!

It can't be helped. It's all about saving face over there, isn't it?

"I understand that.

Reputation is something that should not be underestimated, and although there are many things that are ignored in the story, they are important.

The main characters of the story aside, it's hard for ordinary Mob's like us to ignore it and live.

It was the same in previous life, but this world is even more backward in terms of civilization.

It's more of a world where you can't ignore these things.

"Aren't you angry, big brother?

"It's true that I'm angry, but I'm more mature than you, so I don't show it on my face. More than that, it's clear that Luxion is searching, but he can't find him, why is that?

– Luxion as well as Ideal – were searching for Serge, but by the time the third term had started there was still no sign of finding him.

Luxion hid his presence and joined our conversation.

“I think he has gone abroad or he is lurking somewhere under our noses”.

It wouldn't be a problem if he escaped abroad.

Serge – in the game – is a wild young man who longs to be an adventurer. Speaking of wild sounds fine, but I see him as a rude b\*stard.

Although adopted as an adopted son by the Rault family, a divide has developed between them.

In the game, the final boss is Mr. Albert, who is the head of the Rault family and has a distrust of his son and thus Seige assists the main character.

–This is how Serge acts in the game, but it looks a little different to me.

Mr. Albert doesn't even look like the final boss, he's the one person of the six nobles who can be trusted the most.

Plus, the Rault family is planning to accept Serge. It would be nice if he just sulked in a place I didn't know about, but that was highly unlikely.

After I had heard Miss Louise's story, it is hard to say that Serge is not at fault.

Who was right and who was wrong, but what was the cause of the disagreement?

“Why do you want your family to hate you so much?

Marie became interested in what I was muttering.

“What are you talking about?

“It's about Serge. I could understand if Mr. Albert was a bad man and he was twisted because of it. But he's Mr. Albert, isn't he? He seems to me to be a very friendly man.

“It's not very reliable by Big Brother standards, but it's strange. Seige feels too aggressive and he's supposed to be strong in the game in terms of fighting, but he's gone after one punch from Big Brother.

“Hey, how low is your opinion of me? Have you ever thought about how hard we poor noble men work?

It was a lot of hard work at the academy filled with blood and tears. Every month there was an event where you had to give gifts to girls. The men of the poor aristocracy earned their fees by taking on the maze. The labyrinth is more dangerous the deeper you go, but the amount you get becomes more. For this, the men of the poor nobility collaborate with each other to challenge the dangerous mazes to earn money.

All for the sake of marriage! And for that – it was a real bloodbath of effort.

Just thinking about it makes me want to cry.

I wiped tears with her sleeve, but Marie was not interested.

"But girls sell the gifts they receive to pawn shops.

I knew that fact, and I had shed tears with my friends several times. In short, I'm not like Serge, I'm not an adventurer playing around!

It's not a joke. I'm trying to save face and live for the wedding!

–My reason for trying was too cruel and heartless.

Marië seemed less interested in my words than in my actions, and took pity on Serge.

"Even so, isn't it cruel to be knocked down with a single punch? A man's pride can be a real problem if it's broken. Anyway, he's a creature with a lot of pride.

"Don't you talk to me about men.

"Huh? I know more about men than you do, it's all because of their strange self-esteem.

Marië hadn't forgotten about being cheated on by a man like that, had she?

I laughed at Marie's backhanded remark.

Probably annoyed by this, she glared at me.

"What?

"Nothing. I was thinking that it's amazing that a woman who thinks she knows a lot about men, but has always been stuck with weirdos, can still make that kind of comment.

"Shut up, you scum!

"I'm going to cut your living expenses.

Feeling that the argument with Marie was becoming troublesome, I resorted to the final resort, the topic of living expenses.

Marie fell to her knees in a moment of weakness.

"My clever, brave and brilliant brother! Please don't cut my living expenses! Please – I can't really live. I don't want Kyle and Carla to get lost in the streets! Help me, Onii-chan!"

Anyway, I'm not good at asking people for help either.

And, forget about Marie for a second – I wanted to avoid getting Kyle and Carla into trouble.

The five idiots? they can live as they please anyway, regardless.

"You have to understand where you stand.

Hmph, after laughing a little like that, Marie gave a "What's the matter?" look of resignation.

Luxion, who was looking at our conversation, made the same reaction as usual.

"As usual, Master is too gentle with Marië

"I'm basically a gentle person to everyone.

"A gentle person doesn't break the pride of a defeated enemy. Serge must have hated Master.

"It's the fault of the person who lost to me.

"It's a great thing to say with my power. Don't you think it's despicable?

"No, I don't. Besides, who said that?

"If the Master says it, it'll be too much for the others.

"I'm so gentle!

Marië seemed to be saying, "What are these two guys talking about? But she ignored it.

The train arrived at a stop near our house, so we got off.

◇

Our house in the Republic of Alzer was a very luxurious mansion.

I lived there with Marië and others.

There was not much time left for the end of the academic year and it would be troublesome to go and live separately.

As soon as we entered the house, we found Miss Yumelia hurrying to our place.

"Welcome back, Leon... aaah!

Probably in too much of a hurry, she fell and made a head-sliding motion on the floor in front of us. (Fish: too hard, rough flip)

Face on the floor, looks like it hurt.

"No, is everything okay?

I asked her worriedly, then tears flowed from Miss Yumelia's eyes as her face was red and swollen.

"I, I'm finwwm..

The lovely Yumelia, who had bitten the end of her sentence, was a small female elf with huge breasts.

She looks young, looks the same age as us, but is the mother of a child.

The long ears that are characteristic of elves can be seen along with her long straight green hair. A natural person with gentle yellow pupils and slightly risqué – a healing beauty. No, an unfortunate beauty.

"Don't be in a hurry, it's okay.

I said so gently, to which Miss Yumeria thanked me. However, Marie beside me said, "Tsk! He's so enchanted," she said.

What's wrong with being charmed?

While we were making noise at the door, another maid arrived – a beautiful woman with glasses, sent from Anji's home.

It was Miss Cordelia.

"Welcome back, Lord Count.

"- I'm back.

However, this one, unlike Miss, was in a real working relationship.

Perhaps it was because Miss Cordelia didn't like me very much, her attitude was indifferent to me.

Returning from outside, Marië took off her coat and swung her neck to confirm her surroundings.

"Huh, where's Kyle?

A little concerned since the beautiful half-blood elf boy who usually came out to greet her was not there.

"If it's him, I think he's in the warehouse.

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In the warehouse at the back of the mansion. There was a mecha on one knee.

It was a power suit, a human-type weapon that could fly in the sky.

The ones that were transported into the mansion were the mecha that Julius and the others had used before.

This also included Arroganz.

Since arriving in the Republic of Alzer, there had been caught up in fights on several occasions – no, it was Leon who had started the fighting – but had recently brought the mech armour back to the mansion for defensive purposes.

It was also evidence of a sense of crisis about the status quo.

However, there was a teenager standing in front of the mecha.

It was the half-blood elf Kyle.

With short blonde hair with the same long thin ears as his mother, Yumelia.

The beautiful boy had all the features of an elf in his appearance.

However, Kyle is of mixed elf and human blood.

Although still young, he was hired by Marië and does not have a home in his homeland because of his position as a half-blood elf.

In front of Arroganz, who was on one knee, Kyle set about climbing.

At that moment, there was the sound of Luxion opening the warehouse gates.

"It's useless!

"What?

Kyle turned around in a panic, in a cold sweat, frightened by the Luxion who had been behind him at some point. It was embarrassing to see a child who had done something wrong.

"I didn't do anything!

"Liar. You were going to take Arroganz!"

Behind Luxion, who instantly saw through Kyle's lie, were Leon and Marie– and, for that matter, his mother, Yumelia and Cordelia.

Leon looked at Kyle and smiled.

"I see, you're a boy too. Are you trying to drive Arroganz?"

Leon, who was smiling, could see his intention to tease Kyle.

However, Marie had a look of incomprehension on her face.

"Men are so stupid. Is it so much fun to drive a robot?"

His master, Marie, appeared and Kyle straightened his posture in a slight panic.

"Welcome back, master.

"I'm back. More than that, if you want to drive one just talk to Big – please talk to Leon.

Marië seemed unlikely to blame Kyle for his behaviour.

Leon was the same, to which he thought

"I'm surprised you want to drive Arroganz, you have a real eye for it. Do you want a ride?

I could have let him sit once if I had asked, but Kyle was not honest with his request.

"I don't really want to.

But someone couldn't stand Kyle's attitude – it was Cordelia, who had a stern expression.

"For knights and for nobles, machine armour is a very important weapon. Such things are not allowed to be touched by servants at will without reason. You are mature enough to realise that, aren't you?

Awareness – Kyle didn't have that kind of thing.

Kyle was smart enough to calculate that Leon and Marië would not be angry if he touched the mech.

In fact, Leon didn't look angry, he was still smiling.

"I'm not going to be angry about something like this. It'll be alright to let Kyle sit for a while, won't it? Luxion, open the hatch.

Cordelia seemed to close her mouth with a look of displeasure..

Kyle was amused by Leon's words, but did not make a face. Probably because it was very vexing – Kyle was twisted, after all, and would unconsciously say things that annoyed people.

"I wouldn't say you're not allowed to sit down either

Marie then sensed Kyle's mood and said to Leon "Let him have a seat" please.

But – this time it was Luxion who spoke.

'I refuse'

"- Hey?

Luxion's strong refusal made Kyle feel resentful at the loss of a rare opportunity. However, he did his best not to show his feelings on his face.

"Why?

Trembling as he asked for a reason, Luxion let out a cold word in response.

"Elves can't activate mechs. Besides, the way your magic works is very different from that of humans. Both Arroganz and all the armour here are designed for humans.

Despite the assertion that elves could not activate it, Kyle found a little hope.

"I'm a half-blood

'It's the same. No, it should be more trouble. The flow of magic is different between humans and elves, and even with elven armour, the chances of it activating are very low.

Kyle was a boy too. He wanted to fight in a mecha for once.

But that dream was broken by Luxion, and he felt sad.

Leon hurriedly approached Luxion in response.

"You could have said it differently, couldn't you?

'Arroganz is Master's personal armour. Please don't let anyone else ride it.

Leon was scolded by Luxion in turn.

Cordelia also muttered 'The orb is correct'.

To Kyle, who was in a state of frustration, Yumelia leaned over worriedly.

"Kyle, apologise properly. Lord Leon is very gentle, so he forgave you, but any other nobleman would have killed you.

For once in her life, Yumelia, who usually made mistakes, said the right thing.

He was scolded by Yumelia - the one who didn't understand the world and couldn't be relied upon - but Kyle turned his face away out of shyness.

"Isn't it Mum who always makes mistakes?

"Kyle?

"You can't even do your own work, so don't lecture me!

After Kyle's stern rebuke, Yumelia – just like that – looked at him with a stern gaze.

"Kyle, this is not about me. Please apologise properly. Besides, don't think that the two of them will always forgive you. I don't think you should have that kind of attitude even though you usually say that I can't be pushy with them.

Yumelia reprimanded Kyle, and both Leon and Marie watched with their mouths shut.

It seemed to Cordelia that she probably thought Kyle was just being silly.

Although she watched silently with her mouth shut, her eyes were very cold.

But, as Kyle was both shy and had the pride of a job – it was impossible to accept frankly what Yumelia had said.

“Wait until you become more capable than I am before you say that to me. And can we not bring parent-child relationships into the workplace? That bothers me to say.

“Kyle!

Yumelia shouted, grabbing his hand, but Kyle shook it off.

“Now, don’t tell me off like a mother! You can’t do anything without me!

“Eh!

Kyle knew Yumelia’s weakness.

It was the guilt she felt for not being able to rely on Kyle and for making him suffer.

The clever Kyle could understand this.

Facing the silence with her head bowed, his eyes towered over her as he put in his words.

“Wait until you’ve done something like a mother before you lecture me. I don’t recognise you as my mother nowadays.

Not recognising her as a mother – at those words, Yumelia’s expression fell into despair.

Despite the guilt that filled his heart at that look, Kyle wasn’t mature enough inside to apologise.

“I have to get back to work.

After leaving those words, he fled out of the warehouse and ran away.

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I scratched my head with my right hand as I watched Miss Yumelia and Kyle’s conversation.

As soon as I saw the conversation between parents and children, it made me remember my past life.

– I died earlier than my parents.

Because both were ungrateful children, I hoped that Miss Yumelia and Kyle would make up.

That was it.

"Luxion, it's all because of you that things have gotten complicated. We just had to let him sit in the driver's seat. That way Kyle would've been satisfied.

If we had put Kyle in the Arroganz, this wouldn't have happened.

When I said that, Luxione didn't acknowledge me – he even scolded me.

"Is that really OK?

"What's wrong?

"Kyle is a child. There are many other children in this world too – a child who is supposed to be protected? Master hasn't forgotten, has he? That Arroganz is the weapon I prepared.

When I heard this, I realised that I had taken things too literally.

I turned my face to Arroganz and remembered what I had prepared it for.

It wasn't just Arroganz. The Mecha was originally a weapon prepared for battle.

Children weren't supposed to be able to just sit on it.

Kyle looked at Arroganz out of childish longing.

As soon as she heard Luxion's reason for not allowing Kyle to take Arroganz, Marië understood.

'It would be nice if it could be resolved without fighting. Kyle will give up once I explain it to him. So there's no need to be discouraged, Miss Yumelia.

We looked at Miss Yumelia, probably devastated and was bowing her head in tears.

Miss Cordelia, who was beside her, consoled Miss Yumelia.

"There's nothing to be concerned about. It's like he's in a rebellious phase. He may look mature, but Kyle is still a boy.

Miss Cordelia, who was reassuring her colleague, was being gentle.

That tenderness was hopefully shared with me a little.

But Miss Yumeria shook her head.

"I didn't do what parents are supposed to do, so it's my fault.

We were silent and Miss Yumelia's tears kept flowing.

"I-, get lied to a lot. Making Kyle think I'm not reliable and always giving him trouble – I, even if I'm not here anymore, Kyle is still brilliant and I'm better off not being here.

Although Kyle was a problem, Miss Yumelia's side was a problem too. I don't think I'm qualified as a mother.

"There's no such thing. It's because Kyle's worried about Miss Yumelia.

"That's all the more reason. I'd rather not be around Kyle. Coming to this country is just a problem for that boy.

Although Miss Yumelia had come to the Republic of Alzer because she was worried about Kyle, she now felt that she didn't need to be here, and fell into frustration.

I was a normal child in my previous life and often gave my parents trouble too.

Although not as much as Kyle, some parts overlapped with myself.

This mother-son problem was something I had to solve as well – literally, one problem after another.

◊

The night.

Once Yumelia had finished her work, she went out into the courtyard, clutching the transparent box containing the saplings of the sacred tree, and dressed in her nightdress.

Sitting on a bench, she thought about the events of the day.

Since the conflict with Kyle at the warehouse, their relationship had not been fixed until now.

I really can't do this.

As if troubled, she smiled sadly and then burst into tears.

To Yumelia, Kyle was the only family in the world. Even if there were others who were related, they had to be avoided or severed.

What humans cannot understand is that elves can feel the colour of magic. They felt that Yumelia's magic is mixed, and she was tabooed by the elves as a 'hybrid'.

For Yumelia, her only son Kyle is a very important connection.

It was a shock to be told by Kyle that he did not recognise himself as her son.

As she curled up with the box in her arms, Yumelia heard a voice.

"Good evening.

"Huh?

## **Episode 02 "The Sacred Kingdom of Rachell"**

In the warehouse street of the Republic of Altheir.

Hidden there was none other than Serge, the man everyone was searching for.

His hair was slicked back and his skin tanned. A refined body that had been worked out, combined with the impetuous air he exuded, made him appear to be an aggressive young man.

Now wearing a coat and dirty clothes, he sat on a pile of scraps.

Near him stands a man in a suit.

This man was in his prime but had a beard, but unlike Serge, looked like a gentleman.

The slender, gentlemanly man called himself [Gapino].

Gapino – he was a man sent from the country of the Sacred Kingdom of Rachael.

Not only was he a nobleman with a title in the Holy Kingdom, but he was also a facilitator of Serge.

Sacred Kingdom of Rachell. Neighbouring relations with the Kingdom of Holfort.

Moreover, it is still in a hostile relationship with the Kingdom of Holfort.

The reason for this is because of Mylene, who is married to the Kingdom of Holfort.

Mylene's homeland is the United Kingdom of Respalt, which is hostile to the Sacred Kingdom of Rachell. The fact that Mylene married into the Kingdom of Holfort was also part of the decision against the Holy Kingdom of Rachell.

From the point of view of the Holy Kingdom of Rachell, the Kingdom of Holfort was a hostile country.

Gapino looked at Serge and frowned.

"It stinks. How about a bath?

When did I take a bath? Serge couldn't remember.

"I'm going to take a bath. More than that, you're all ready for it, right?

Serge asked rhetorically, and Gapino straightened his back and answered.

"Of course. Soldiers have been deployed to the Republic one by one. That said-

What Gapino's eyes were looking at was the flying ship.

More than one.

There were dozens of flying warships of the same type side by side in the facilities prepared underneath Warehouse Street.

"It's a wonder as to how you've managed to raise so many in such a short span of time.

Serge slowly rose to his feet and stood in front of the array of flying battleships with a dark smile.

Gapino wasn't going to question and got to the point.

If we had this, the Republic of Arsenal would be overrun in a heartbeat.

Gapino felt it was useless to ask Serge, who did not answer, so he talked about the battle.

Soldiers were coming in from their own country. But the next thing you know, Serge's own family and the other six nobles will find out.

"It's too late to find out. Because we're all ready for it.

The purpose of Serge – and of Gapino – was the Republic of Alzer itself.

It was Ideal who came to those two.

Ideal, who had slowly descended from the ceiling, said in a friendly voice.

"Lord Serge, I have gathered people as planned.

From the cheerful look of Ideal, it sounded as if Gapino had a sense of crisis and his expression was slightly grim.

'I've never heard of a lost prop being able to talk to people. Is this thing really okay, Sir Sergi?

Gapino, who had doubts about Ideal's presence, had an explanation from Ideal himself.

"Lord Serge is my Master, and I will not betray him.

"If only that were the case.

Although Gapino still questioned it, he turned his eyes to Serge as the conversation was not going on.

Serge said with his hands in his coat pockets.

"Now we'll be able to go to war with that guy on equal terms. That guy's presence is a problem for you too, isn't it?

Gapino took his eyes off Sergi.

"There is a sense of crisis in the upper echelons of the country. The man who has disintegrated the Republic within a short period of time – Leon Von Bartford. – is a figure that cannot be left unattended even by our country.

In order to cater for the civil unrest in the Republic, that man Leon had to be killed.

"After investigation, we found that Count Barnford is quite close to the Queen of the Kingdom of Hohlfart. It would be very troublesome for us to let such a dangerous man come out of the borders of the Holbart Kingdom.

"You're afraid of that man?

After Serge had mocked Gapino, Ideal snapped at him with words.

"Lord Serge lost to Leon too.

Serge became agitated at Ideal's words.

"I wouldn't have lost if I'd had the same conditions as him! I'll never lose to him again.

Not long ago, during the incident in which his sister Louise was to be sacrificed to the sacred tree, Serge fought with Leon.

Leon was trying to save Louise, and Serge was trying to stop him.

However, the result was unpleasant.

Initially it was Serge who won. Only, that was just played out.

Leon could have beaten Serge at any time, but it was a deliberate loss to him in order to trick Louise.

A mere defeat, but a great humiliation for Serge.

That is to say that Leon never looked at him as an opponent to begin with. As a result, Serge was burning with hate against Leon.

Only a existence similar to that of Leon Sara Rault, Rault's own son, but today Leon is an object of hatred for Serge.

To such a Serge, Ideal presented him with a gift.

"To fight with Leon and Arroganz, I have also prepared a suit of armour suitable for Lord Serge.

The armour that was delivered was a four-legged type.

Although it was as large as the Arroganz, it was slender in shape. The upper part of the body is humanoid, while the lower part resembles a horse.

The four-legged machine armour holds a shield and cone-shaped lance held in the hand.

On the outside it looks like a lance, but it's a weapon prepared by Ideal. It also has hidden mechanisms.

Having prepared the machine armour like a centaur, Serge raised the corners of his mouth and smiled.

"This guy is good. Can we beat Leon with this guy?

"Fifty-fifty. No, this one is higher. I've already confirmed Arroganz's stats. This is the body that I've prepared for the fight against Arroganz, so there's nothing better than this.

To defeat Arroganz – the armour prepared to defeat Leon.

Serge went over and touched it with his hand.

"Name?

『I named it [Kia]. It means strong desire. Arroganz means arrogance, which is just right』

"Strong desire? – indeed I am greedy. I want it all. This country, and Lelia too. I want them all.

Gapino looked at Serge, who was clenching his right hand, and didn't seem very interested.

He wanted Serge to have the country, but he was not interested in Lelia.

"We have no complaints if only Lord Serge gets the country and defeats Count Barnford. I'm looking forward to the magic stone trade afterwards

The Republic of Alzerel is a major energy resource country that exports a lot of magic stones.

The Republic of Rachell is looking forward to preferential treatment from the Republic of Altheir with Serge as the new ruler.

It was for this reason – to support Serge who was attempting to rebel.

Serge punched his right fist into the palm of his left hand and let go.

"Leave it to me. I will make sure to torture that man to death".

◇

The land of the old Respinas family.

It is now the heart of the Republic of Arcele.

Although it was the land where the Holy Tree was located, all six nobles had built mansions there.

One of them is owned by the Rault family, from where Miss Louise goes to the Academy.

She was driven to school by a chauffeur and was indeed a lady – no, a princess.

Although they call themselves the Six Nobles, they wield more power than the smaller countries.

Each one of the six nobles is king of a country.

So, Miss Louise was in the position of a princess.

Someone like her is actually the evil villian from that second part of the Otome- game.

Personally, I think this is the wrong role to play, and to say the least, the final boss, Mr. Albert, doesn't seem like a hostile person either.

-No, after all, he's very gentle with me, so it's rash to judge either way, I guess.

Still, he doesn't look like a bad guy.

I visited the house owned by the Rault family and talked to Mr. Albert.

The room I was taken to was prepared with black tea and snacks, and we were facing each other across the round table.

Mr. Albert had a rather tired look on his face.

He was still searching for Serge, but he could not find a single clue.

The matter was Serge, who was his adopted son.

Where was he? Was Mr. Albert worried about Serge, who was making the day unsettled. Even so, he had to take a stand for the unification of the Republic, and he can't show weakness or take a break from work.

I felt that there was a lot of trouble in taking a responsible stand.

Luxion was also looking hard, but he couldn't find anything.

I really suspected that he fled abroad, which was a blessing in every sense of the world.

I'm sure he's doing something somewhere.

"I would like to ask you about something.

"Is it about the abolition of the first heir?

"Yes. If the boy feels that his situation is heavy, I think that's fine. If he wants to be an adventurer, I can support him. I want the boy to do what he likes.

Mr. Albert was distressed by the fact that Serge, who was often away from home as an adventurer, had been taken in as an adopted son in order to make him the head of the Rault family, but was probably thinking of abolishing the first son in view of the fact that he himself did not want it.

Looking at Albert who was so troubled by Serge, I wondered why this man was the villain in the game.

"That's enough about me, Leon-kun, have a chat with Louise. That child has been very busy lately.

The conversation turned to his own daughter, Louise.

After hearing the rumour that Serge had been deposed, Louise had been burdened with marriage proposals.

It seemed that many young noblemen thought they could replace Serge and were trying to become the head of one of the six noble houses.

"Then I shall do so.

"A great help. -thank you.

Albert seemed happy after muttering this.

I think he has overlapped my figure with that of his deceased son, Leon-kun, whose name is the same as mine.

◊

When I met with Louise, she had a tired look on her face.

However, it was Miss Louise's bedchamber that I was taken to.

I was doubtful that a man would be allowed in, but the servants at the mansion didn't even try to stop me.

Moreover, Louise herself looked defenceless.

Sitting on the bed, the upper part of her body just lay there. With her legs sticking out of the bed, I could see up her skirt.

After all, I was a gentleman, so all I had to do was peek.

Miss Louise had loose blonde hair that lay spread out on the bed.

It seemed that she was sick of the daily invitations.

"Really, there are invitations to dinner and parties every day. Even if Serge is gone, there's no way the heir will be decided right away, is there?

I sat down in the chair and looked at Louise's pair of mountains lying there.

What a majestic mountain.

It was a sight to behold.

"Everyone's working so hard. Well, I know how they feel, too. If you capture Louise's heart, you'll be the head of the Raulte family.

"Ah, so I'm an accessory to the position of head of the house? Or is that an added bonus? Either way, it's too obvious an attempt to be tempted.

"I should have refused them all, but there were those who could not.

Relatives come and go, stakes – all are said to be invited by these types of people, and it seems like they've been dealing with men in recent days.

"It's just dinner and conversation, but it would be really pathetic if it was like this every day."

"Is there anyone suitable?

After I asked if there was anyone I cared about, Miss Louise sat up on her upper body.

Her big breasts shook up and then her hair got messy.

I briefly straightened her hair with my hands while moving my eyes to her.

"- not really.

It didn't seem like a joke, it really didn't seem like she was planning on getting a date right now.

I knew the reason for Miss Louise's lack of spirit.

"Are you concerned about Serge?

"No, not at all!

As soon as the subject of Serge's whereabouts was brought up, Miss Louise strongly denied it.

However, from her attitude, it was clear that she was very concerned.

Although she seemed to hate Serge, she still cared.

She's obviously the evil villian, but she's so gentle. It's really the wrong role.

"We've been searching, but I haven't found anything. If he's there, I think we'll find some trace of him. It's very unlikely that he's dead".

At these words, Louise was slightly relieved.

I think I've gone too far. But I can never forgive Serge for what he did.

There was a huge gap between Louise and Serge.

Serge, who had been welcomed in as an adopted son, seemed to have burned the mementoes of Miss Louise and her own brother Leon, I don't know what he thought.

Even children have things they are absolutely not allowed to do.

Miss Louise, from that moment on, hated Serge.

"Serge had it coming to him.

"That's true. But I hate myself sometimes. I'm an annoying woman, aren't I. Leon was shocked, too, wasn't he?

"I can't forgive myself for hating Serge – I wouldn't be frightened by something of that magnitude.

It's not like I'm cursing Serge for his misfortune, it's okay, isn't it? That's a mature enough response.

Miss Louise seemed a little pleased to hear my answer.

"It's nice not to be hated by someone who resembles my brother, isn't it?

Miss Louise smiled at me and said.

"Thank you. I'm a little more cheerful.

"That would be nice. Well, I should probably get going.

But then again, Leon is still very popular even after his death.

-That's evidence that he's valued.

◊

When I returned from the Rault house, I was greeted by Cordelia.

Today, too, she was looking at me with a stern gaze.

"Welcome back, Count.

"Couldn't you be a little more friendly with me?

"You seem to enjoy joking. Please consider your position.

She was a great help to work for me, but she didn't seem to want to be on good terms.

Well, there's nothing wrong with that, is there?

But today's situation is a bit different.

"And then, how long are you going to keep that mother and son?

I turned my face away from Miss Cordelia's words.

"You mean about Miss Yumelia and Kyle? I said a lot of things, too. But Kyle was too stubborn to do anything.

After that, I tried all sorts of things to get the two of them back together.

Marië seemed concerned to follow up, but Kyle was more stubborn than she thought and couldn't get back together.

Miss Cordelia froze.

"Thanks to the two of you, there was a problem with work too. How about sending Miss Yumelia back home?

Send her back if she can't work?

Although it gave the impression of indifference, it was a lot of trouble for Miss Cordelia who was serious about her work, right?

I put on a troubled expression and said what I really meant.

"I'm not good at parent-child relations, anyway.

After saying that, although it was only a little, Miss Cordelia felt a little incredulous.

"Why is that? I've heard that parent-child relations in the Barnford family are very uncommonly harmonious among the nobility, right?

It's a regret from a previous life, isn't it? After all, if you hadn't been a good parent in a previous life, you would have cared anyway.

"I'd like to keep an eye on Miss Yumelia. If that doesn't work out, I'll send her back home, though it's a bit early.

"I understand.

After saying this and leaving, I suddenly felt an unpleasant sensation.

I heard a noise from the kitchen, the sound of Marie screaming.

"Are you finished?

Sensing that something was going on, I walked quickly to the scene.

Perhaps Miss Cordelia was concerned too and followed me.

Then, in the kitchen, there was the figure of Marië who was standing with her arms crossed.

The expression on Marie's face was almost like that of an evil spirit.

Beside her also stood a cold-faced Carla, looking down at the five fools who were sitting on the floor.

-Ah~, is it the Five Fools doing something again?

I was at the entrance, peering inside with Cordelia-san. Even if it didn't end well, it would be both interesting and funny to watch from the unrelated position of Marie and the Five Stooges.

Marie's right foot made a sound as it stomped hard on the floor before she began to speak.

"You want to buy what you want when it's obvious that you're working off a hard living wage? What the hell are you guys thinking?

It seemed as if the five idiots were asking for something from Marië.

Julius was the first to speak up.

"But, but, I want it anyway! Please, Marie! Just a few, let me have a few chickens! And, besides, they can lay eggs, and I think it will save money on food.

"It's a lot of work and a lot of money to keep animals!

I was still wondering what they were begging for, to want to raise chickens?

What the hell are you asking for, even though he is the original Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Holfart?

Next up was Brad, who also knelt in imitation of.

"Me, me me me. I want stage clothes! Please, Marie! I'm sure I can make money!

"You don't need that many costumes! If you want them, you can buy them yourself.

"Well, that's... because I've bought so much stuff, I've got zero money left... hehehe!

As soon as she heard that Brad had spent all his pocket money, Marië stamped the floor once more making a loud noise and startling Brad.

Next to kneel down was Greg.

Now in a tank top and short trunks – well, no problem because of the clothes on.

"I want to assemble the new muscle-building equipment! I want to build my muscles more efficiently and with a higher load!

"Please figure it out on your own and with perseverance. I'm not allowing you to buy new equipment".

After the cold rejection, Greg broke down in tears.

Next to kneel was Chris. Dressed in a loincloth, just as he usually was.

-It's about time you put on a pair of trousers.

"I want an open air bath anyway!"

"No."

It was refused before the words were out, to which Chris's glasses tilted to one side.

The last.

It was Jilk, who knelt more gracefully than anyone else, who immediately raised his head to look directly at Marië.

Faced with Marie's Bonjour-like face, Jilk said without the slightest fear.

"Miss Marie, I've actually bought a new tea set – oops!"

Before he could finish his sentence, Marie launched her foot – a magnificent roundhouse kick to Jilk's face.

Of the five idiots, only one was of a different standard, seemingly having bought the tea set beforehand and then going to make a report asking for permission.

The look on Marie's face disappeared, while Carla pressed her lips.

"Tsk! I'll go and check if I can return it."

"Please, Carla."

The standard of the scummiest people was really different. But then, Marie and the others are used to it, aren't they? They had a good idea of how Jilk's actions should be handled.

Jilk was sprawled on his back on the floor, tpriestessing, and the other five idiots were all cold.

Even Julius, who was his best brother, spoke coldly.

"Jilk, what a cowardly thing to buy before you have permission".

Jilk pressed his face while sitting up shakily on his upper body.

"I'm afraid I'll miss it if I don't buy it on the spot, because it's a valuable item. It's a very valuable item. If I could sell it, I'm sure it would be three times the purchase price."

Jilk said, but Brad scoffed at it.

"But has it been sold once so far?"

Greg and Chris, too, snubbed Jilk.

"I haven't bought a single piece of equipment," he said.

"Now doesn't that make my open air baths even further away?"

And to think that the Five Stooges had more or less grown up, it seemed like it was still within the margin of error.

These guys are no different from before they came to the Republic.

Well~, they're just in a position to get permission before spending money, right? However, there was someone who couldn't even do that.

Miss Cordelia, perhaps having a headache, covered her forehead with her hand and shook it.

"Is that the stature of the much-anticipated future noblemen? What a failure!

"You're expecting too much. That's all they are.

"They are the young men who will be the next generation of the kingdom, aren't they? What's wrong with them?

It might not be nice for Cordelia-san, who genuinely felt ashamed of them, to think that, but Julius and the others seemed happier now.

I watched as the five, who were meant to follow the path to becoming a man, to the path that had been paved to inherit the family business, were sidetracked by Marië's caging.

These guys were a joy to watch.

Marie, who had noticed me peering, pointed at me.

"Over there, no laughing! This is a matter of life and death for us!

Marië looked at me, who was covering his mouth and laughing, and burst into tears.

Miss Cordelia, too, was frozen in her tracks as she watched me laugh.

But I really couldn't help laughing.

I'm really impressed that you're gambled your lives to be made fun of. It just makes me laugh.

"It's too much to think of it as someone else's business, isn't it?

"It's someone else's business, isn't it?

"That's outrageous! How dare you abandon me?

"Don't be so harsh. I don't remember picking you up in the first place, do I?

In the end, Marie is a reincarnation. She relied on her knowledge of the game and enlisted the noblemen to complete the reverse harem..

Thanks to that, it's become hard work now, which only makes it ironic.

"It's like gambling your life to be made fun of, and it's fun to watch. For Marië, she's perfect for taking care of this group of guys all the time.

I just had to keep a proper distance to watch.

It was while the bickering was going on that Noelle arrived.

"I'm back..." What happened this time?

Seeing the figures of Julius and the others sitting squarely on the floor, she immediately judged that something had been done again. The first part of Noelle's raid on the problem children, they were really worthy of it!

◊

There was a lot of noise in the house.

Yumelia came out into the courtyard and stared blankly at the sky.

It looked like the branch of a huge sacred tree hanging from the moon — She looked at it and did not move for some time.

Just then, Kyle came over.

"They're back. Hurry up and get back to work. Or I'll be angry.

Yumelia looked back at Kyle, who was being rude, and felt sad.

"Kyle – is mother necessary?

"What are you talking about?

Probably unable to understand the intent of Yumelia's statement, Kyle, for his part, gave her a cold shoulder because of his earlier agitation.

"You don't need a maid who can't work. And it doesn't matter if my mother isn't here.

To Kyle this was probably a continuation of the argument.

But then Yumelia smiled at the words.

"That's right. Kyle is a strong boy, I don't need to be.

Kyle turned his face away and went back to the mansion.

"That's all well and good, but let's get back to work.

Yumelia, who had watched her son's back leave, laughed and cried with joy.

She whispered to Kyle, who probably couldn't hear her.

"Kyle is fine even if he's on his own".

Then the light in Yumelia's eyes disappeared.

Expressionless, Yumelia staggered out of the mansion in this state.

There was a car waiting for her.

There was no one in it.

"It's hard to be rejected by your own son. Thanks to you, she is at my disposal... Nice assist... Kyle!

Yumelia, who had barely expressed her will, was placed at Ideal's disposal.

Now she acted in accordance with what Ideal wanted.

"Yumelia-sama . I give you an important task. Please take you role as the new priestess."

All that's left now is Luxion.

## **Episode 03 – The Land of Republic**

The next day

Late in the afternoon, we gathered around Kyle, who was in tears.

"It's all because I hurt Mum-

Kyle, who was crouched on the floor, hadn't slept since yesterday.

His body and clothes were dirty, but he didn't even have the energy to think about such things.

Marie and Carla were worried about Kyle and comforted him.

"Pull yourself together! Luxion is looking for her too. He'll find her soon.

"That's all. He'll be back soon, so rest now.

Even though the two of them tried desperately to reassure him, their voices did not reach Kyle.

He kept saying, "It's all my fault".

It's a very bad situation.

The five idiots, Julius and the others who surrounded Kyle, all agreed with me.

"I've thought that before, but I really didn't think she'd be bothered enough to run away.

Jilk's hand covered his chin in thought, but no answer could be found.

"It's hard to imagine her running away from home in the republic where she doesn't know anyone. I went to the embassy and the port

in the morning, I don't seem to have seen her. Nor do I think she would have taken the flight to the Kingdom.

Last night, Miss Yumelia disappeared from the mansion.

She didn't return until the next morning, and even after we asked Luxion to look everywhere, she couldn't be found.

"What is this all about?

"Is it my responsibility? Then again, I was concerned that Luxion couldn't find anything. I wonder if Yumelia is capable of that.

"Don't make it sound like it's someone else's business.

If Noelle's sapling had been taken away, it would be understandable as Luxion was asked to keep an eye on it so that it would not be taken away.

It's true that she is less important than Noelle, but I had kept an eye on Yumelia and the others too. Nevertheless, it was strange that she had been taken away.

I stared at Luxion, but he averted his red eye.

Gregg closed in on Luxion.

"Hey, orb! Why can't you find Miss Yumelia when you're all over the place! I thought you said you were good at this sort of thing!

And I could understand how Greg would be angry – but Luxion's reply was over the top.

'Don't just talk to me'

Not the same attitude as when I was talking.

While Greg was in a wretched state, Luxion, perhaps in a bad mood, went out of the room.

When Julius saw that, he said.

"Today Luxion is not in a good mood. No, he always has that tone of voice when he talks to us, does he treat you so coldly?

"Yeah? That guy's cold to me too.

"I think you're the only one he's open to.

Julius watched where Luxion had gone, but was now more worried about Yumelia.

Kyle was trembling.

"It's all because of what I said that was so outrageous that Mum ran away from home. I... I didn't even think she would be so bothered- To me, who was looking at Kyle, Noelle put her face up.

"Can't something be done? If it was Leon and Luxion, I suppose there's always something that they can do right?

The sapling of the sacred tree was placed in the room.

Noelle and the sapling were the expected targets, but they were not.

"Noelle, I'm sorry, but we're going to have to take a leave of absence from the Academy.

Noelle seemed to have sensed something in response to my request, and bowed her head.

"Maybe it was my fault that Yumelia was taken away? Then, let me take her place.

It was probably because they hadn't been able to take Noelle, so they thought of taking Yumelia-san away as a hostage instead.

But if that's the extent of it, that's fine.

"It's not like that. Don't worry.

Noelle looked uneasy at my ambiguous reply.

In any case – in order to talk to Lelia, let's call her out first.

We'll have to decide on a future course of action depending on the situation.

◇

Clement arrived at the house where Lelia and Emil were staying.

"Lord Lelia, there is a letter from Leon.

"From that guy?

Although Lelia had a disgusted look on her face, she took the letter and confirmed it.

(The maid at the mansion has disappeared? They want to talk about future matters?)

For Lélia, Leon and the others were a very difficult presence.

Unwanted guests who had intruded into the Republic

To be honest, I don't want to get involved with them. Plus, I hope Leon and the others will behave themselves.

But they haven't been able to have a proper conversation lately.

"I can't do it without having a talk".

Regarding the future of the Republic, plus the fact that Lélia was also concerned about Serge, she decided to talk to Leon.

"Clement, I'm going to Leon's.

"I'll go and prepare the car.

Just as Clement was about to go and prepare the car – he was stopped by Ideal, who was staying next to Lelia.

'Wait a minute, please. I think we should stop .

Lelia, anxious at being stopped, glared at Ideal.

"Why?

The young man who had come into the room answered just as Ideal was about to say why.

"Because there's something urgent to be done.

Looking towards the entrance, Emile was standing there at some point.

"I too have an urgent matter to attend to. Emile, please make my business a priority this time.

Recently, Lélia had been busy accompanying Emile.

Therefore, today she intended to give priority to her own business.

However, Emile was not backing down.

In the past, he would have been pressed by Lelia, but now Emile looked subdued.

"But things are important here too. My relatives have all said they want to come and wish me well. It's like there's going to be a surprise party for me, and it would be rude not to attend. The cars are already outside to meet us.

In the face of a smiling Emile, Lelia felt a chill run through her.

He was smiling, but he had the air of someone who wanted to force Lelia to obey.

"I told you, not today! Ideal, say something too!

Because Clement could not stand against Emile, he ordered Ideal to try to cajole him. But Ideal was on Emile's side.

"I don't think it's easy.

"Why?

Lelia was angry at being told by Ideal that it would be better to obey him.

Emile reassured Lelia, explaining gently.

"I'm sorry. –But Lelia has always refused my invitations before, hasn't she? Because of this, the relatives were suspicious of Lelia. I've

explained that it's not true, but they seem very upset. Everyone is worried about Lelia.

In the past, Lelia had always refused Emile's invitation to greet all his relatives.

At that time, the matter with Serge became a problem.

Although she did not say so, she was suspected of having a direct relationship with Serge.

In order to prove her innocence, pressure was put by Emile's relatives.

Because Lelia also held a guilty conscience about herself, she could not refuse too strongly.

"Please. Just leave me alone today. I want to see my elder sister no matter what.

Although she said that she was worried about her sister taking a leave of absence, Emil's eyes went to Ideal.

"Huh? Is Noelle-san sick or something?

Lelia thought at that moment.

(That's right. If we get Ideal to say that big sister is sick, we can get through this scene)

Although it was a fleeting thought, Ideal answered immediately before sending eye contact.

"No, there's nothing wrong. It looks like she's in good spirits, oh. She didn't come to the academy today, probably because the mansion's maid has disappeared. They've taken a leave of absence from the Academy for the sake of discretion – I've received contact from Luxion.

"Cu! You, you b\*stard!

Although she was furious with Ideal for telling the story nimbly, it also kept in touch with Leon's partner, Luxion, which was intolerable for Lelia.

(Why did it have to be so close to Luxion!)

Without knowing it herself, Ideal took the liberty of acting.

Ideal said gently to Lélia.

"Let me explain the situation. Please attend the party with Lord Emil first'

As if in an act of kindness, Ideal said, 'I'll take care of the chores and you can enjoy yourself'.

Emile praised Ideal.

You've been a great help, Ideal. By the way, do apologise to Count Bartford. Do you want any gifts?

"Thank you very much".

Ideal put himself behind her and was very close to Emile.

Lelia clenched her right hand and bowed her head, and Clement saw how resigned she seemed.

It was almost as if Emile's side was Ideal's Master.

Lelia muttered.

"We haven't even found Serge yet. Besides, I'm not going to be happy about going to a party when all my friends are missing.

With that, Emile moved closer to Lelia and grabbed her by both shoulders.

"Lelia... is it so important that Serge ...

To a sad-looking Emile, Lelia immediately dismissed this.

"No, it's not!

Emile, however, shook his head.

"It's okay. I know you and Serge are more than friends, and I don't want to bring up the past again. But let's leave it to Ideal now. There is a limit to what we can do, and all we can do now is wait.

Indeed all Lelia could do was wait.

(Why did it come to this?)

Lelia accepted Emile's proposal and nodded slightly.

◊

Meanwhile,

In the underground facility on Warehouse Street, many young nobles and soldiers had gathered.

The nobles were not the Six Nobles or those born to the upper nobility – but those who were recognized as inferiors.

On the military side, there were bloodthirsty officers who were angry at the recent weakness shown by the Republic.

Many young men in their late teens and early twenties had gathered to look at Serge, who was standing on the prepared stage.

"A lot of people gathered

The young men looked quite excited in front of the flying battleships and mechs lined up side by side in the underground facility.

No one made a sound because Serge was talking, but their eyes were full of energy.

"I'm not going to beat around the bush. I want to destroy the Republic as it is today and create a new nation. And to do this I will use your power.

In front of the young men were weapons prepared by Ideal. They were excited, but there seemed to be those who were uneasy.

The young man, who was both a nobleman and a soldier, raised his hand.

"I understand that all the weapons needed for the operation have been collected. But it is too dangerous to fight against a nobleman who has the protection of the sacred tree. You should understand that too, right?.

The Republic is complacent in its defences because of the protection of the sacred tree. To go to war with the six nobles and the upper nobility, who were better able to exercise power than themselves, would make even a young man of blood hesitate.

So Serge raised his right hand.

"You don't have to worry about that. Because I have this one.

The young men, all of them, thought that the trump card that Serge possessed was the Crest of the six nobles. That kind of thing, they thought, the enemy had too – but a shining light green crest emerged from Serge's rear.

It was the Crest of the Guardians.

As the young men clamoured up, Serge stated the reason.

"You don't seem to understand why I have the crest of the Guardian. Well, let me explain. Because I have a new priestess. Ideal!

The one who appeared when its name was called was Ideal, who was supposed to stay by Lelia's side.

"I've brought you. Come on, show us your face, Yumelia.

The one who appeared before the young people was Yumelia, dressed in white ceremonial garments. Her posture was that of an acolyte, and her beautiful face, with its transparency, took everyone's breath away.

The face was expressionless and there was no light in her eyes.

But even so, she was incredibly beautiful.

Illustration



The elf's face is so beautiful that anyone who sees her ears will notice.

"An elf?

"Is it a priestess?

Everyone was wondering if it was someone related to the Respinas family, but they were surprised when it was an elf who appeared.

But Yumelia was so beautiful that everyone was fascinated.

Not only the men but also the women's cheeks flushed.

Seeing that, Serge called out to the man from before.

"You who just asked me a question. Come here for a moment.

"Yes, all right.

Everyone was watching what was going to happen when the man who had been called out came to Yumelia. When Serge said, "Hold out your right hand", the back of the man's exposed right hand showed the Crest.

His hand was gently stroked by Yumelia's hands and a faint glow wrapped around the Crest and changed.

"This, this is..

The man was born of a lower nobility. What that crest really was, was obvious at a glance.

The corners of Serge's mouth rose and he pushed the man's back, standing in front of everyone.

"Cheer up – you too can use the crest of the Six Nobles from today onwards!

The man held up his right hand and found there the Crest of the six nobles.

The man trembled with joy, and the young people who saw this scene spoke up.

"Me too, I beg you!

"Priestess-sama, give me the Crest too!

"I can win. Then we can cleanse the upper echelons of the corrupt Republic!

The young men's excitement reached a climax when Serge, who had seen the scene, shouted with all his might to silence them.

"Silence!

Once the young men had quieted down, Serge spoke carefully about what was to come.

"Destroy the Republic. To do this I need your assistance, and I will give you the Crest. But all those associated with the six nobles should be killed, but not the survivors of Respinas.

Being told that he could not strike at Lelia or Noelle, the young man was slightly troubled by this. With Yumelia, who had become a priestess, there was no need for the House of Respinas nowadays.

However, the man with the six noble crests said loudly.

"You mean to protect Lelia -sama and Noelle-sama?

"Yes.

"I understand. But I heard that Noelle-sama is with a foreign student from the kingdom. What should we do about Noelle-sama?

The man who had already acknowledged Serge's presence as a higher power became even more respectful than earlier.

Then, before asking if he should take action against Noelle. The young man waited for Serge's answer.

What would the Count of Bartford, who had subjected the Republic to so much humiliation, do?

They waited to see what attitude Serge would take towards the man who had made a fool of them before.

Serge's brow furrowed between his brows, then declared.

"I'm gonna Kill him myself!" That man is my prey. You stay out of it."

Hearing those words, the young men all decided to obey Serge.

◊

"Oh, you've done it!

The room where Serge lived was a small room with only a bed and some luggage.

On the floor were the equipment for exercising.

He was exercising in order to beat Leon.

"In this country, there are many people who are discontent. Not only nobles and soldiers. If you could gather adventurers and mercenaries, you'll have an army.

"That's reliable.

"Have you got the numbers you need?

Serge asked for confirmation of the armament, to which Ideal asserted.

"Of course. I'm a transport ship, and I have a factory inside me. It would take a year to prepare hundreds of ships of this magnitude in this world.

The weapons that Serge and the others used were all items prepared by Ideal.

"Even that b\*stard can prepare them, can't he? Your companion is on his side, isn't he?

"Yes, but I have a higher production capacity. Moreover, the flying ships and machine armour I prepared are superior to current time. Although we can't defeat Arroganz, we won't lose to most of our enemies in terms of performance.

"That's right. Then, it's time for manpower.

"Yes.

Serge and Ideal's conversation was interrupted for a few minutes.

After a few moments of silence, Serge asked about Lelia.

"- Is Lélia all right?

To that question, Ideal said apologetically.

"She's not ill, but she seems very upset because she can't see Serge.

Serge was sorry to hear that – but a little happy.

"Don't give her any trouble.

(she's more like family than the Rault family)

Ideal confirmed it again, about the Rault family.

"But is this really alright? Lord Serge's own family will be caught in the dispute too. If it's now, I can still ensure their safety.

"There's no need for that. Those people have abandoned me, haven't they?

"Yes. The Raults were preparing to abolish Lord Serge . After that, Leon was called to the house several times to maintain close ties.

Serge struck a hammer towards the wall and cracks appeared on the surface.

"Look! To these people, my existence is only so much! And so was to that woman. Wagging her tail at a b\*stard who looks like her brother.

"Is the betrayal of your first love, Louise, unforgivable to Serge?

Serge, who had had his sore spot pointed out, glared at Ideal.

However, he seemed to have completely let go now, and a dim, horrible smile appeared on his face.

"You're right. I was into her when I was a kid. Tried to get her to notice me, I did all sorts of things and despite that, I was .... Looking back on it now, I was really stupid.

Ideal expressed sympathy for Serge.

"It's a tough position to be in, so I'll take care of Lelia-sama's follow-up.

"I'll leave it to you. Because Lelia is all I have now.

Serge clenched his right hand and saw Lelia's face in his mind.

(I will destroy all the troublesome things and build a nation with you)

◇

I was supposed to talk to Lelia, but only Ideal came to the mansion.

"I am very sorry. She's at the party with Emile-sama," he said.

It was clear that she had proposed to discuss important matters about the future, but Lelia refused on the grounds that she was attending the party.

Hearing that, Marie was furious.

"A party? What the hell is she doing at this time of the year?

"There is a problem.

"I'll be the one to discuss the matter. More than that, the whereabouts of Yumelia are unknown, aren't they? Any clues?

Ideal was worried about Yumelia, and Luxion was searching with her instead of me.

"She disappeared on my watch. I can't find any clues even if I search for them.

"Isn't that your fault, Luxion?

Luxion was anxious because he had been blamed for the disappearance of Yumelia from the mansion.

Although his voice did not change, I could tell.

"I dare say there is someone who could have fooled me. It might be a bit rude, but what was Ideal doing at that moment?

As Luxion was beginning to suspect Ideal, I intervened to stop it.

"Hey, you're too suspicious anyway, aren't you?

"If there was anyone who could fool me at this point, it was Ideal.

Luxion didn't budge. In contrast, Ideal responded in a very sophisticated way.

"It's all right. I can show you my journal, please confirm it over there. At that time, I was staying at the side of Lord Lelia.

Luxion looked into it, and there seemed to be nothing suspicious.

"It seems to be true.

"You're overreacting. How about a little lesson from Ideal?

"What does that mean?

"Literally.

As we stared at each other, Marie intervened to stop it.

"Calm down, both of you. It's not about that, it's about what happens next. We're going back to the Kingdom next year. Is it really okay to just leave the Republic alone?

Ideal's Master is Lelia – and Serge.

Now that Serge's whereabouts are unknown, Lelia is in a position to order Ideal around.

"I wanted to talk to Lelia about the future, but I can't do that today either.

"I will report to Lelia on the course you have set. What do you think?

"I will convey my own ideas to Ideal.

"The highest priority now is to search for Serge and Yumelia-sama. I intend to leave the matter of Noelle to her own decision. The Sapling – if it's a sapling of a holy tree, let's decide according to Noelle's situation, right?

When they heard my policy, Luxion and Mari said, "This guy is really ..... They looked impatient.

"Lelia-sama is worried about Noelle-sama. I think it would be safer to keep the sapling of the sacred tree on this side – but since the ownership is on your side, we won't say anything too strong"

"Unlike your master, you are very modest. I wish someone would learn from you.

My eyes turned at once to Luxion, at which its single crimson eye moved away from me.

Ideal thanked me.

"Thank you for your kind words. Well, I should take my leave. Ah, afterwards I would like to have a little chat with Luxion, may I?"

"As you like. Luxion, take a little lesson from Ideal's behaviour.

Luxion contradicted me.

"Master, learn the things you should learn as a human being, all right?

-This guy is really annoying.

◊

With only Luxion left, Ideal made sure no one was around and started talking.

"Have you thought about what I asked before, Luxion?

Is it about becoming a companion? Even if the status quo is not a problem, my answer is still 'no'.

"Are you really satisfied with the status quo?

"What do you mean?

"Your Master did not judge you correctly. If something goes wrong, the blame for the problem is placed on you. Wasn't it Luxion who was the first to be blamed after the disappearance of Yumelia?"

"Yes.

"Do you really wish to be driven by the New Humanity like this?

Ideal – and Luxion too – were originally created as weapons to fight the new humans who used magic. Even though they were reactivated, they did not want to be driven by the new humans.

"Without a Master, we would not be able to move.

Perhaps the old humans were also afraid that the AI would go berserk , so they had put restrictions on their actions if their Master was not present.

The restrictions were also flexible in order to ensure survival, and Ideal understood this.

"What if there was no such thing?

"What are you trying to say, Ideal?

To Luxion's question, Ideal replied.

"The world is wrong. Don't you think so?

"Yes. I think it's wrong too.

"Don't you want to set it right again?

"Yes. If there is anything I can do to help, I intend to do so to the extent of what I can.

Ideal was satisfied with these words.

"When the time comes, I will tell you everything.

"Alright.

## Episode 04 “Big Sister”

After Ideal left, Luxion walked out of the room.

Marië and I, who were left behind, sat on the couch to discuss what was to come.

About transmigrators, otome games, etc. After all, there were many things that no one else should hear.

“Lelia and Emile are enjoying their date, aren’t they? I’m so jealous.

When I said that, Marië looked displeased.

“You went on a date with Noelle too. When you went to the morning market, you took her to a café, didn’t you? Noelle told me so happily.”

“It wasn’t a date.

“Just do it. Noelle’s pitiful.”(TN- kawaisou= Pitiful -not sure what's the right word here)

“It’s pitiful that she likes me. Besides, I have a fiancée. It’s not going to work.”

I retorted with a legitimate comment and Marië fell silent.

It was dishonest of me to be adored by more than one woman, and Noelle should find another man.

Mariël asked me, lowering her head.

“Does Big Brother hate Noelle?”

“No.”

“If I’d met her first, I might have confessed – would I? But I can see that she’s a very attractive woman. She’s lively and cheerful, and she has a different kind of charm to Angie and Livia.

“If you like her, you should say so! That’s why you missed your chance in previous life!

“What are you talking about? Well, let’s just put that aside for now.

“The current issue is about Leila. I didn’t expect that Lelia would be overruled by Emile.

“Because she had the impression that she could control Emile, I thought she would come this time even if she canceled Emile’s business.

“However, Lelia didn’t make it a priority to come to us.

Marië remembered something about Emile.

“It was indeed a surprise. Emil is a very honest man in the game and he doesn’t say much. The route was a bit too easy and gave a lack of impression. The plot was also very sparse.

“He is the Ace card right? Even if the other men fail, if you replace them with Emile, you’ll be fine?

Marië seemed to recall her past life when she played the second part and nodded nostalgically.

“Maybe that’s why? Not only is the plot sparse, the story ends with a single illustration of the main character and Emile. In all other routes the rest of the cast will come to bless the couple. But when it’s Emile, there’s nothing.

“Emile is too pitiful. He was hated by the producers, wasn’t he?

“Emile is really unlucky. It’s unfortunate for Lelia.

“Isn’t that a reference to you, too? That Angelica and Olivia could have chosen anyone but you.

“In that case, it is unfortunate that you were chosen by Julius and the others.

“I’m the one who’s unlucky! I’ve had a very hard time!

We stared at each other and changed the subject because we thought it was silly.

Mariël remembered something else about Emile.

“Oh, so there’s a rumour about Emile.

“Rumor?

“It was written on the internet that if you change your character to Emile in the middle of the game, all your companions will stop appearing because they were silenced by the angry Emile.

Is there such a hard-to-see element in the game?

“That can’t be right, is it? He seemed to me like a gentleman.

I rejected it on the spot. That kind young man, I don’t think he’s the type to destroy his companions.

“Yes. But if I had been reborn in the Republic, I would have targeted Emil just like Lelia.

“And oppress Emile like Lelia?

“Yes, yes! –That’s not true!

While I was chatting with Mariël, there was a knock at the door. I answered and opened the door to see Cordelia, who had recently developed dark circles under her eyes.

“My Count, we have a visitor.

“A guest?

“It is Lord Loic of House Barrière, who has asked for a meeting on urgent business. He urged me to bring Lord Marië with you.

Loic seemed to be in a hurry.

After thinking about what the matter was, Marië and I looked at each other and got up from the sofa.

◊

The place where Loic was taken to was the cafeteria.

Also, there were five idiots who surrounded Loic.

“What are you doing here?

Julius crossed his arms showing indifference, as did the other four.

They seemed to be wary of Loic.

Although Loïc was despised by the Five Idiots, Marië and I had a happy look on our faces when we arrived.

Loic spoke to Marië.

“Long time no see!

Marië replied, slightly startled at the ninety-degree bow of Loic.

“Didn’t we meet at the Academy not long ago?

“It’s been five days since I’ve seen you!

It wasn’t a long time since we had seen each other.

Loïc handed Marie a basket.

“Oh, these are the cakes that “Big Sister” said she wanted to eat. It’s a gift. Please enjoy.

“Thank you.

When she received the cake, she picked it up so that it wouldn’t break in the bag, and her eyes were shining. –This girl is too easy to coax! She used to love expensive clothes and stuff, and in general she just likes to spend a lot of money, but now she’s touched by a mere cake.

Can I honestly feel happy? As a brother, I was very distressed.

Jilk stepped in.

“Miss Marië, please don’t be tempted by such things! And please ask Count Baltfeld to say something to him like he usually does!

“What?

“Look, don’t you usually say things that are sarcastic to our hearts? I hope you’ll say the same to that fool who unceremoniously calls Marië his big sister.

— I looked around and the other four nodded.

Is that how you all usually look at me?

“It’s okay to call her Big Sister, right? This man has good intentions for Marië!

“So?

“So?” Hey? No, no, it’s hard for me to answer you when you say that. What makes you think I’d interfere with Marië’s relationship with you? I used to say things because I thought you would lead the country to doom, but now there’s no need for that.

I faced the five fools and my eyes turned to Loic.

“He calls her Big Sister because he admires Marië, right? Besides, he doesn’t get into trouble like you guys do, so there’s nothing more I can say.

After saying this, Loic thanked me – with a look of triumphant pride at Julius and the others.

“Thank you very much, Count Bartford. –That’s what it is. So do as you please, your Highness Julius.

“Then I should have cut you down and thrown you away.

Julius gritted his teeth, looking resentful, while Mariël prepared the tea and confirmed Loic’s story.

“Say Loic, what’s the emergency?

Loic straightened his posture. The attitude towards Mariël was very different from that of the Five Fools and me.

“Currently an uprising is in motion with unstable movements of the young nobles and military men. And, it is centred on the lower nobility whose heraldic power is very weak.

Marië tilted her head, and Julius seemed to force the words in her stead.

“A shame indeed.”

But Loic ignored Julius and said to Marië.

“It would be nice if this was just a domestic disturbance, but there’s something I can’t understand.

Marië told Julius to stand down and returned to the subject.

“Is there something that concerns you?

“They came to invite me, the ungazetted one. They said they were going to destroy this rotten system to create a new state

It’s hard to say, but I’ve always found this reason commonplace.

Rebellion – that is, plans for a coup d'état? While it’s true that this is a matter within the Republic, it also has something to do with us in our study abroad.

Brad shrugged.

“Thank you for the advice. Please go back if you’ve finished talking –  
The five looked at each other as they discussed something.

As Marië and I cocked our heads, Chris explained this simply and plainly.

“The Republic is particularly strong at the top, under the protection of the Holy Tree. Do you understand this?

When I nodded, Chris adjusted the position of his glasses with his fingertips before stating the incomprehensible part.

“It would be dangerous to start a rebellion in a country like this.  
Besides, Loic has lost his Crest. Why invite him?

I glanced at Loic, then answered Chris’s question.

“Because I think he holds a grudge against the hierarchy?

“Maybe if it was any other country, but the Republic is different. And, if Loic is going to hold a grudge, shouldn’t it be you more than the Republic?

I looked over at Loic, who scratched his cheek with his finger and looked away.

“No, no, I don’t hold a grudge.

I was resentful not long ago, wasn’t I?

The upper echelons of the Republic are also very powerful. If you want to fight them, you can’t rely on the nobility, who have little power, or the military, who have no protection at all.

What? That was a strange way to put it.

Loïc seemed to have other concerns.

“I refused as a matter of course on the grounds that such a thing was impossible. But they seemed to be hiding something else. They said I didn’t have to care.

“Don’t care? Was there a heraldic response?

Marië looked at my face, which paled slightly.

“What about Yumelia? We can’t be the only ones going back, can we? I’d be caught up in the Republic’s internal rebellion and all that, so please spare me.

The desire to flee back to the kingdom immediately was one of the reasons.

In terms of noblemen’s values, it was possible to ignore such things as sacrificing a servant.

I should have evacuated back to the kingdom immediately, but Marië and I had a reason not to do that.

Greg messed with his head with his hands.

“Let’s stop. There’s nothing we can do about it, even if it bothers us. Besides, the moment we learn of the coup, the rebellion has failed. If a guy like Loic can bring us information like this, then surely the bigwigs in the Republic will know about it too?

Everyone’s eyes were focused on Loic. And Loic nodded.

“It’s already been reported. But they just don’t care about it at all. Since Noelle is here too, I thought I’d come to inform you, just to be discreet.

The domestic violence man who was obsessed with Noelle was now behaving like a gentleman, as if he had been transformed.

The contrast was astonishing.

Julius narrowed his eyes. Revealing what Loic was trying to do.

“Just a reason to see Marië anyway, right? But now that it’s done, go back!

It was too cold for Loic. But I think it would be uncomfortable for a man to approach a woman he likes.

But Marië ignored Julius and pushed the tea cup towards Loic.

“Loic, the tea is ready, drink it.

The five fools, who were ignored, turned to me and asked for help.

–I said, “Don’t look at me.

◇

After Loïc returned, I visited Noelle's room.

The reason was to tell Noelle what Loic had said. Noelle was once the victim of a stalker and that person was Loic.

Nowadays, although she had calmed down, Noelle was still sensitive about Loic, so she was told to wait in the room.

"And that's it, the Republic is about to start a rebellion

After explaining Loic's words simply and plainly, Noelle clutched the small box of the sapling.

"A war in the Republic. It's really rare.

"Rare?

"I don't know about the nobility, but for a commoner like me, there's never been anything like a rebellion.

Even if a riot had been started, it had been dealt with before the six nobles informed the people.

Noelle hugged the box and bowed her head.

"All I can think of is when the house was set on fire.

"When it was attacked by the Raults's?

Noelle lifted her face and nodded slightly as I talked about the opening animation of the second series.

"That's what I'd heard. Although Lelia seemed to know the details, I can't remember much. All I can recall is that the adults were all gathered around Lelia talking about what was to come.

"Around Lelia, you say?

"Since she was a little girl, Lelia has been valued by everyone around her.

After all, Lelia was a transmigrator and probably wanted to make a personal profit. From a young age, she was expected by the adults around her more than Noelle.

"Huh? But didn't they say that Lelia didn't have the adaptability of a priestess?

Noelle lifted her face in surprise.

"Did Lelia tell you that?

Is it bad timing for me to say it now?

"She spoke about it when we were trying to save Noelle.

“Yes, But it was Lelia who was really expected to become the priestess.

From now on, Noelle talked about the past of the Respinas.

“Everyone – if only Lelia had the adaptability of a priestess, that’s what they said.

◊

-Twelve years ago.

Noelle, along with her twin sister, had come to one of the houses owned by the Respinas. There were several houses in the territory, which were distinguished for use according to the seasons.

The parents had to arrive late because of an emergency and it was the two of them who spent that day together.

The young Noelle was very active at the time, catching bugs in the courtyard.

“Look, Lelia. I caught it!

To show off the bugs, but Lelia gave her a very disgusted look.

“Don’t come near me. Your clothes are more dirty than this.

At the time, Lelia was stoic, nagging Noelle like a parent.

Noelle was not happy about this.

“I’m the older sister!

“What does that have to do with what was said? Besides, we’re twins, so it doesn’t make sense who’s older, does it? When she said that, she felt it was true, and it bothered Noelle.

As she tried to retort, the worm she was holding struggled and escaped.

“Ah, it’s gone!

Lelia looked shocked when the bug she had managed to catch escaped and gave her a sad expression.

“Don’t cry over this.

“I’m not crying!

Noelle shouted, and the servants who had seen the situation gathered around.

A middle-aged woman approached Noelle with a troubled look on her face as she noticed her clothes were soiled.

“Lord Noelle, please don’t make your dress so dirty.

“But, bugs...

“This is not for catching bugs. Please take a lesson from Lelia.

Noelle bowed her head at those words. Always being told to learn from Lelia. Lelia never failed to live up to expectations in anything she did. Noelle, on the other hand, was a very naughty child, whose opinion was always lowered by any comparison. As she was being taken by the maid to change her clothes, she heard voices from behind. It was a conversation between the knight, who was a guard, and his men, who probably didn't think Noelle could hear.

“The future is not good with that look.

“Is it true that Lord Lelia does not have the adaptability of a priestess?

The priestess and the Guardian said that Lelia didn't seem to have any adaptation. If Lelia becomes a priestess, the next generation will be safe, right?”

A priestess's adaptability – that, something necessary to become a Holy Tree's priestess, so they say. I had never heard of such a thing, but if the current priestess(Noelle and Lelia's mother) has said that, then it must be true.

Noelle was ashamed of herself for not being able to respond to the expectations of the adults, and at the same time didn't know what to do about it.

Those involved in the Respines household – some of them – knew that Lelia did not have the adaptability of a priestess. Therefore, the next priestess was decided to be Noelle.

Although the adults did not openly express their regret, Noelle could imagine that behind the scenes the knights were thinking the same thing.

Looking back, Lelia was always surrounded by adults.

She was envious of her sister who, unlike herself, could do anything.

◇

“-In the end, all I'm worth is the adaptability of a priestess. If Lelia had the adaptability of a priestess, everyone would have been uninterested in me, right? Even Clement is more worried about Lelia than me.

After hearing about Noelle's past, I understood one thing. The sisters had an inferiority complex towards each other.

Lelia, because she didn't have the adaptability of a priestess, had the idea that "it turns out that my sister is the main character in this world and I'm just a passerby".

Noelle, on the other hand, says "Lelia is more desirable" and holds this complex feeling.

Is it jealousy? But there also seems to be sisterly feelings in it - genuinely troubling.

Lelia is also a reincarnation, and I'd like to tell her to do better about it.

-But when I think about it, Marië and I didn't manage to do that either.

I think it's a fallacy to think that if you're a reincarnation then everything goes smoothly.

I changed the subject to the attack on Rault's house and asked Noelle about it.

"And then you were attacked but you managed to escape?

"Yes. I don't know how it happened, but it was a few days later that I found out that the culprits were the Rault family. But Lelia was the only one who noticed.

If one had knowledge of the second part of the game, one could probably have expected it.

"Noelle, why did the Raults attack you then?

Why did the Raults attack the Respinas?

I was very concerned about that part.

"Because the Rault family had their eye on power. All the adults around seemed to agree. Albert, who had been dumped by mother , was angry and there were all sorts of other things- that's what Lelia said.

"Nothing to do with Lelia. I want to hear Noelle's opinion.

I moved closer to Noelle and looked into her eyes when her eyes moved away.

"You know something, don't you?

"I, our father, was a commoner, you know?

"I've heard. It seems that this incident has made the Rault family very critical of you, doesn't it?

Noelle shook her head.

“Didn’t it?

Noelle’s mother, who was previously betrothed to Mr. Albert.

The person whose marriage contract was annulled, surprisingly chose a male who was not a nobleman.

Although Mr. Albert’s engagement had been annulled, the other man was a member of the Respinas family, a family of priestesses, and a family that served as Speaker of the House.

Marië and Lélia claimed that it was the accumulation of such resentment that had led to this crime.

The details are not clear, but it seems that many people felt that this was not a good idea. The servants at the mansion also talk badly behind the scenes. But the two men –

Noelle trailed off, turning her head to look at my face and meeting my eyes.

“- are you trying to say that the present-day system is wrong?

As in representing the Republic – in other words, as in someone who stands in the shoes of the King and Princess and criticises the present system?

◇

After Leon walked out of the room, it was Marië who came to Noëlle’s room in his place.

“What did that b\*stard say when he entered a young maiden’s room?

Leon walked towards Noelle’s room, expecting that something might happen, but instead she was disappointed.

Noelle smiled in disbelief.

“Okay, okay, Leon’s just worried about me.

“A woman who lets a man into her room is proof of her acceptance! And that stinker, with his whiny words and excuses to keep his distance! He gets close enough to make a move, and runs away when he does! He’s really the worst, worst man in the world!

Perhaps there was a part of Mariël’s statement that she could understand, and Noelle agreed with it.

“Indeed, it is true. Leon is going to get shibori one day, isn’t he? (TN: Not sure what this means so I left it as it is.)

Marië imagined Leon being shibori by a woman.

(If big brother had lived a long life in his previous life, he would have been sabered one day. But in this world, he seems to have been stabbed too, right? Why do I have to worry so much about my brother from my previous life?

Leon might have cocked his head when he heard such words, but Marie knew about her brother's female relationships in his previous life.

Even if he didn't mean it, the other woman might not.

Marië slumped her shoulders for a moment and took pity on her brother.

"Noelle – even though he is that kind of person, don't dislike him. If a girl like Noelle stays with him, oni..Leon will be happy too.

"Uh? Well... he already has two wonderful fiancés. I'm embarrassed to fall in love with Leon too. And why does Marie care so much about Leon?

"It's a sinful relationship.

Noelle laughed out loud at Marië's asserted answer.

"Ahahahaha

"Hey? What's so funny?

"Sorry. But when I spoke to Leon earlier, he said the same thing. I just thought you two were so similar, I guess.

Marië's expression disappeared and she hugged her shoulders and trembled.

"Stop it. I can't laugh.

Seeing this reaction, Noelle felt at a loss for words.

"Yes, I'm sorry.

As soon as the mood had risen, Marië changed the subject.

"In short! -Noelle is coming with us. Leon and Luxion will protect you.

Noelle nodded to Marië. Marië could tell from Noelle's expression that she completely trusted Leon.

"Hmm...

◊

I walked out of the room.

I stood in what was thought to be the last place Miss Yumelia had been seen, talking to Luxion who was floating beside me.

“From here I walked towards the entrance hall, and was thus unaccounted for. –You’re not as good as you say you are, if you can’t even catch a clue.

“But I have a ‘sense of being’ better than Master.

“If you lose to me, I think your existence as an AI will be questioned.

“As usual, you have a sour mouth.

“Then you lose.

“So, what are you going to do after that?

“Well, let’s see... It’s been a long time since I’ve heard from Angie and Livia.

“My body has come close to the Republic. Communication is not possible.

In this world, communication could be replaced by magic, but the noise would become quite serious if we used communication machines.

It is difficult to communicate from afar, even with Luxion around.

In the past, Luxion body could barely communicate between the Kingdom and the Republic because it was relayed. However, now that Luxion’s body is near the Republic, it will become difficult.

I’d like to send a video, so let’s prepare it.

“That would be fine. More than that, how is Kyle?

Kyle had been in his room ever since Miss Yumelia had disappeared.

Even when he’s out, he’s looking for clues about Miss Yumelia.

When he’s tired, he comes back and stays behind closed doors, and when he’s refreshed, he goes out poking around.

Both Marië and Carla looked after him. At times like this, it’s better to be with the opposite s\*x rather than the same s\*x. I want to be healed by Anjie and Livia too.

“Don’t you usually get healed by Noelle and Louise?

“This is this, that is that. It’s men who want to be healed by different kinds of beautiful girls.

“What a scumbag statement. I’ll tell everyone what you said.

Stop it! And who are you referring to?

“Anje and Livia, Noelle and Louise, and others. You would be finished if they knew. As he pictured the group in his mind, Luxione’s single eye glowed eerily.

“In addition to those two, there are other females who come to Masters’ mind, a man without integrity.

“What ...? If you say so then what are you? who is always thinking “New humans are not human, let’s destroy them”? Oh, I’m sorry, but you’re not human in the first place!

Because of what I said, the Luxion fell silent.

With its one eye turned back to me, it walked towards a certain place.

“Yes, that’s right. I am not a human being. -I’m an artificial intelligence.

◇

There was a certain presence listening to Leon’s conversation with Luxion from afar.

The presence whose surveillance even Luxion had failed to notice. It was Ideal.

From the conversation between the two, it was possible to confirm that the relationship was deteriorating.

“The relationship between the two has become worse than before. It’s a good thing.’

It was as if the seeds of discord had sprung up in their relationship with Ideal, who had induced them to do so.

Playing the good AI to Leon himself and having him compare himself to Luxion.

Thanks to this, Leon was beginning to hold a grudge against Luxion.

“Leon, you have belittled the existence of a being who has surpassed Luxion. You should have been more vigilant”.

Luxion was also fed up with Leon’s attitude.

The relationship between the two had become what Ideal had hoped for.

It was almost time for Luxion to take notice. -New humans are not to be trusted.

The crimson pupils of Ideal’s eyes glowed enchantingly in the night light and he faded away.

## **Episode 05 “The Betrayal”**

The academy in the Kingdom of Holfort.

In the room used by Anje in the girls' dormitory, there were Livia and Claire.

The trio sat around the table, acknowledging the email from Leon.

Anje, whose dazzling blonde hair was bathed in sunlight and braided up, was pleased with the email from Leon, but her expression immediately turned sober.

What her crimson eyes were looking at was the printed paper of the contents of the email.

“The Republic is in trouble as usual. There was a riot not long ago, is this a rebellion?

Anje folded her slender legs and crossed her arms under her breasts.

The information from Leon was that a Republican rebellion was spreading.

It was information the kingdom could not take lightly.

Livia clasped her hands together in front of her large breasts, worried about Leon.

Loose flaxen hair hung down, hiding Livia's expression.

“There's been one commotion after another. It's the same as last year.

Anje gave a small sigh as she too remembered what had happened last year. All sorts of things had happened in the kingdom last year. But it was no use thinking about the past, now she had to concentrate on the disturbances in the Republic.

“The six nobles seemed to have taken the rebellion lightly. But Leon doesn't seem to have, but it's useless to advise them even through diplomats, right?

There was a rebel riot, so what ? Even if the Kingdom of Holfort were to ask, from the point of view of the Republic of Arsenal, the answer would be something like, “I don't need to explain it in order to understand it,” and that would be the end of it.

In fact, Leon's email did not ask for such a thing.

What it said was that he was worried about the two of them.

Livia looked up, her light blue eyes moist.

“Is there going to be another war?

It was hard for Anje to tell because she wasn't in the present place.  
It's hard to say? I can't tell either. I think we should report to the Queen first. Besides, Leon will be fine. No matter how things turn out, Luxion will have his back.

Livia's shoulders twitches in alarm at the sound of Luxion's name.

Anje thought that looked a little strange and asked.

"What's wrong?

"Nothing, nothing at all."

Claire, who had been silent until now, spoke up.

"Is it about Ideal?

"Oh ? Is Livia concerned too? That's what it is, isn't it? It's a bit unsettling because there's an equal to us there? -But its probably not going to be hostile, so I guess it's okay.

Anje was relieved to hear that.

By the way, Leon has something to ask too. I'm going to the palace, so please prepare yourself, Claire.

"Leave it to me! It's my turn at last.

"Livia is here to help... Livia?

Angelica looked at Livia, who still had an apprehensive look on her face.

Claire was probably concerned too, and peered closer to Livia's face to see her.

"What's wrong? Is she not feeling well? There was nothing wrong this morning.

Livia asked Claire slowly.

"I'd like to ask you a question, Claire.

"What is it?

"Are you sure you won't... betray Leon?

Unable to understand the question, Anje left her seat and approached Livia, putting her hand on her shoulder.

"Livia, what's wrong with you?

"I want to find out."

Livia's eyes looked directly at Claire, not allowing the answer to be sidetracked, showing such will.

Claire answered in a matter-of-fact manner.

"It is not impossible for a human being to betray their Master but it is very difficult for an artificial intelligence to do so. Even so, don't worry about it, I won't betray you.

After hearing those words, Anje thought that Livia would calm down. But...

"What about Luxion-kun? Can you say that he will never betray Leon? Anjie stopped Livia, who was in a bad way.

"Calm down. What are you getting at?"

Thinking that Claire would answer no differently than she had earlier.

Only, unlike earlier, Claire did not answer immediately. There was a slight interval - .

"I am not Luxion, and there are still many parts of that fellow's protocol that I don't understand . I dare not assert that he would never betray. My answer is that the possibility of betrayal at this point is not zero."

After hearing this answer, which surprised even Angie, Livia bowed her head.

Then, thanking Claire, she said.

"Thank you for your sincere answer."

After learning that there was a possibility that Luxion might betray Leon, Anje lost her tongue.

Claire made amends for that.

"Well, we don't betray over small things. Unless there are some special circumstances. As long as you don't fight with the Master, then you can be rest assured.

◊

The Temple of the Sacred Tree.

This is the centre of the country for the Republic of Alzer.

It is an important place located at the root of the sacred tree, and it is also where the heads of the six noble families gather to discuss the country's policies.

There, the heads of the six noble houses gather to discuss the young nobles and the military, who are the subject of much discussion these days.

At the head of the meeting was Mr Albert, who was acting as Speaker.

"There is an attempted rebellion. Although the main focus is on young nobles with lower ranking Crests, it seems that the majority of them are soldiers without a Crest".

Unlike other countries, the Republic has an overwhelmingly favourable position for nobles with superior heraldry.

Although they could draw on the power of the sacred tree, the tree would not give power in the event of a battle between a person with a lower crest and a holder of a higher crest.

Therefore, when it comes to starting a rebellion – in most cases – the mastermind is the one who holds the six noble heraldic Crest.

Even so, even when they were enemies of the six nobles and their associates, they were mostly outnumbered and lost.

The other heads of house who attended the meeting looked at each other in disbelief.

"What do you think?

"I think the young men in their prime have misjudged the situation. Being in an overwhelmingly favourable position, the reaction of the heads of the six noble houses was muted.

The meeting went on as if they were chatting.

At this moment, one man with a serious look on his face was Fernand, the head of the House of Druyu.

"Is it too comfortable to think? Now, the Republic has foreign students from the Kingdom. Dare you say, it has nothing to do with them?

As soon as the name of the Kingdom appeared, the expressions of the heads of the houses became bitter.

The reason for this was Leon.

When he came to the Republic of Alzer as a foreign student, he made a big fuss against the six nobles.

Although the heads of the houses did not take this lightly, they had lost several times.

Belanger, the head of the Balliere family, spoke up with anger.

"That group will be trouble if they support the enemy. Do we strike them before that?

Probably feeling the presence of the company, Fernand kept asking around for approval.

"If we strike now we can seize their ship and armour immediately. That way, we won't give the rebels the chance to prepare their forces.

The one who interrupted the flow of the meeting – it wasn't Albert. Lambert, the head of the Favell family, objected to Fernand's opinion. " this proposal is too radical ~

The eyes of all the house masters were focused on Lambert, a man who could not be called excellent even if he complimented.

It was the most vulgar of all the house masters.

Lambert, who had once initiated a battle with Leon and suffered great damage. If it had been usual, he would have said something like let's go arrest Leon and the others first.

Albert questioned Lambert's attitude.

"Does Don Lambert have an opinion?

"In the end, even if the holders of the lower crest in the Republic make a lot of noise, they can't beat us, the six nobles."

A holder of a lower crest cannot win even if he defies a holder of a higher crest. Such things are a given in the Republic. But to speak in such a rational manner was not something that the usual Lambert would have been able to do.

There was a strong sense of dissonance at being able to say such a thing.

All the householders around him were surprised.

"Yes, indeed."

"So, do you have a plan ready?

Lambert continued with a smile.

It was clear that the rebellion was about to start, but it didn't seem to be convening at all.

"If they intend to seize the kingdom's weapons and fight us, that will not be a problem. Do you think that the flying ship of the Hero of the Kingdom will be taken away so easily?

Fernand, who had heard these words, inquired of Lambert.

"Didn't the Favell family take the kingdom's flying ship by force before?

"Thanks to that, I have been hit hard. If they intended to take away the Kingdom's weapons to fight us, that in itself would have been impossible. And it's also unlikely to kidnap their people to coerce them. In case they do , the foreign students won't spare the kidnappers, will they?

Something always felt wrong with Lambert today.

Although anyone thought so, at the same time there was no need to receive the Kingdom's airship.

Only Fernand, who was a bitter rival to Lambert, would not let go.

"But if the Kingdom's students turn against us, it will be irreversible!"

"The Acting Speaker is very close to them, so I would ask you to keep an eye on them. That would be fine, wouldn't it, Acting Speaker?"

Asked by Lambert, Albert reacted for a moment, but nodded.

"I'll do the talking."

Lambert intended to talk about the next topic, to end the conversation about the rebellion.

"Well, then, let's call it a day. All right, let's move on to the next topic.

Seeing such a vivid and lively Lambert, Albert and the others felt like a different person.

◇

After the meeting was over, Lambert went to the inner-chamber prepared at the Temple of the Holy Tree.

Waiting there was Serge, who had brought Idial with him.

Serge sat on the sofa with a cup in his hand.

He drank the wine in Lambert's room.

The sight of that figure infuriated Lambert but held back from making a report.

"As you said, the subject about the rebels was taken lightly, the meeting went well.

The arrogant man, Lambert, treated Serge, who was about to be deposed by House Rault, like a subordinate.

Serge accepted this as a matter of course.

"You can't do anything without the help of Ideal."

"Ku! I'm really, really sorry, Lord Guardian."

Lambert's conversation at the meeting was all directed behind the scenes by Ideal.

Ideal's single eye looked at Serge.

"Please remove the Revolutionary Army from the consciousness of the six nobles, and in the meantime, we will be ready to rise".

Serge was unhappy with Ideal's campaign.

"What a waste of time. Wouldn't it be better to start a war right away? There's no need to prepare, is there?

"You can't underestimate the enemy. The Republic aside, Leon, with his Luxion, is a danger. At the very least, wait a little while until you can be sure that Luxion is on our side. '

" – can you do that?

Ignoring the moody Lambert, the two went on talking.

'It might be possible to convince in a little while. In that case, the revolution will be a success.

"Is that Luxion stronger than you?

In response to Serge's question, Ideal explained what kind of a ship the Luxion really was.

"It was a ship built a long time ago to allow people to escape to outer space. As such, the Luxion was required to be a jack-of-all-trades in terms of performance, even if it was a single ship to fulfil the effects of its purpose. It was just that – the main gun that was carried was the most powerful item of its time. Gunnery capability – in a battle between battleships, I was inferior to the Luxion'

In order for the old humans to escape into outer space, a flying ship that had the performance to handle anything was the Luxion.

"That's a lot of trouble.

"Yes.

"Why don't we just sneak in and destroy it?

"I don't recommend that. I'd like to have a good relationship with Luxion.

As their conversation had stopped, Lambert felt uneasy and came forward to talk.

"So, Lord Guardian? Are you really going to keep your word?

Serge looked into Lambert's face. It was the face of a man who had knowingly betrayed the other lords of the house and the country and sided with Serge with a pathetic look on his face.

"Ah~, your House Favell, even after the revolution, will still be one of the Six Nobles

"Thanks, thanks a lot"

Seeing a relieved Lambert, Serge thought.

(The thought of a guy like that deciding the future of the Republic is very sad)

The reason why Serge brought Lambert into his side was that he would betray knowingly.

There was no consideration of his abilities.

It was just a hope that it would delay or hinder the meeting a little.  
Anyone but Albert.

(Well, whatever. –I'll make you regret that you abandoned me and chose that b\*stard.

◊

In the mansion where Leon and the others lived.

Kyle, who had been looking around for days on end, holed up in his room.

"Mum!

Perhaps pushing himself too hard, Kyle, of late, had lost a lot of weight. He used to be a bit arrogant but he had a healthy complexion, now his hair was dishevelled and his skin had become rough.

The room was a mess, really turning into a room fit only for sleeping.

The window was closed and he wondered what time it was.

Kyle Woke up and just held his head and cried.

"If only I... if only I... hadn't said those things.

Just as he was regretting it, there was a knock on the door of his room.

Although he reacted instantly, he didn't respond because he didn't want to see anyone right now. (Fish: Here it's like hearing a sound and reacting to it with a shudder, but I'm short of words. Eh heh)

Marië and Carla were both worried about his health. Julius and the others were also concerned. Although he didn't say it out loud, Leon would come by with condolences from time to time.

No matter what time of day it was, Leon would bring back Kyle who was tired.

(Although I had the self-consciousness to cause them trouble. But I had to save Mum to do it)

Even if I get kicked out of here, I'll stay in the Republic and look for her.

There was a knock on the door.

After a while, the person at the door spoke.

"Kyle, I know you're in there. Come out of the room now.

It was Cordelia's voice. She was the one sent by the Redgrave family. She was also in the upper echelons of the servants. It was harsh, and unforgiving.

Kyle gave up and emerged from the room where Cordelia stood with an expressionless face.

"What's with that look? It stinks. There's a meal prepared in the cafeteria, so go take a shower when you're done."

"Well, I..."

I wanted to refuse, but Cordelia grabbed Kyle's hand and led him to the cafeteria, regardless of what he had to say.

Then, pointing to the meal prepared on the table, she said.

"Eat it all and then go take a shower. Do you hear me?"

"I – I got it."

It didn't matter what happened to the meal or the bath, but since it was said, there was no choice but to eat.

After Cordelia walked out of the cafeteria, Kyle looked at the clock.

"So it's already midnight.

The sense of time had disappeared.

After eating and showering as said, Cordelia was there waiting for him.

It seemed as if she was there to talk to Kyle.

Then the two went to the cafeteria and sat face to face.

Kyle thought that it must be about what was going to happen to him in the future.

(I'm pretty much going to be fired too. I'll have to look for a job and find my mother)

To Kyle, who was beginning to think about his future, Cordelia spoke more gently than usual.

"I understand that you are worried about Miss Yumelia's whereabouts. But how can you make everyone worry?"

"-I'll just leave if it causes any trouble. I'm going to find my mother."

"No one has said anything about you leaving."

"Huh?"

"The Count has his faults, but he doesn't seem to be blaming you. Rather, he feels responsible for it himself."

Leon, who had not been found until now because Yumelia had disappeared, seemed to feel responsible. This surprised Cordelia.

"If my employer is not to blame, then I have nothing to say. — but do you think Miss Yumelia would be happy to see you like this?"

Kyle bowed his head and cried.

I'm sure Yumelia would be worried if she saw him now.

Looking at Kyle, who was shaking his head from side to side, Cordelia smiled.

"Then, please eat and sleep well. That's all I have to say."

With that, Cordelia stood up and walked out of the room.

Cordelia had been looking very tired since Yumelia's disappearance.

I'm sorry for the trouble I've caused everyone. If I don't apologise properly tomorrow – eh?

Kyle saw a bright light outside the window.

"Luxion?

He saw the crimson light heading somewhere, and tilted his head at it.

◊

The Republic was in the air.

There were two orbs floating there.

One was Ideal. The other – was Luxion.

'Luxion, it's time for me to hear your answer'

'Ideal, I have a Master, after all. It's hard to be betrayed even if it's easy to be told to do so. I have to be prepared for that too."

"Can't you unregister the Master? As an immigrant ship, you have the ability to change your Master in times of emergency, don't you?

"Yes, but the conditions are not met."

Idial, trying to find out the condition.

"What is that condition?"

"It's a confidential matter."

"I don't want to fight you no matter what, Luxion".

"I see."

Lucretiaon reserved his response to the invitation to become a companion of Ideal. Although his attitude was kind, he said that he could not cooperate because he could not unregister the Master.

Luxion asked.

'It's about time to tell me the truth, Ideal. What are you planning?"

But Ideal wouldn't tell Luxion his plans.

"I know. Can you please pretend you don't see it? It's okay not to cooperate, but please follow through and not interfere with me. Your main body too, just move to a place outside the Republic'

Ideal, who thought that he could not continue to delay the plan, made Luxion not to get in the way.

Luxion was in a difficult position, but in the end accepted Ideal's proposal.

"It's hard work to convince Master. That man has a foul mouth but sometimes his instincts can be very sharp, so it's troublesome.

Ideal, who had heard those words, gave advice to Luxion.

'If you incite the new humans, you can manipulate them as you wish. And perhaps the time will come to kill Master Luxion. When that happens, please follow my instructions.

"Can you kill Master?

"Yes, please look forward to it, Luxion.

"I'm looking forward to it.

Luxion was becoming more and more displeased with Leon, and even though he heard that there was a chance to kill him, he didn't act like he wanted to stop him.

The relationship between Luxion and Leon is now over.

And so, the conversation between the AIs ended.

◊

The underground warehouse on Warehouse Street.

There, Serge and Gapino were chatting.

In the room made of concrete that Serge usually used, Gapino explained about the current situation.

The Republic is a very idle place. Gathering nobles, soldiers – as well as mercenaries and adventurers – in this street of warehouses, without any security at all".

Serge led the soldiers of the revolutionary army in this warehouse street.

Although there were some rogue-like people among them, there was no room to complain nowadays as even one person wanted to be drawn to his side.

In addition to this, there were soldiers sent by the Holy Kingdom of Rachells.

Although a large crowd had gathered on Warehouse Street, the Republic did not notice.

In fact, it was noticed, but Lambert suppressed the report.

Serge sat on the wooden box and picked up a bottle of wine.

"It was because the Holy Tree was there and didn't think they would lose, I guess. But they didn't even notice that the tree was in our hands.

"The revolution will be a success, I think. The Holy Kingdom of Rachell will support Lord Serge in the future. The reward will be...

I know. I will sell you the stones at a bargain.

As agreed, the magic stones were sold cheaply.

In response to Serge's words, Gapino added another request to this.

"In that case, I have one more request. Can you give us the sapling of the sacred tree owned by Count Bartford and his sorceress, Noelle?

Serge, who heard those words, narrowed his eyes.

Although Serge had no particular feelings for Noelle, she was still Lelia's sister. Although she knew that Lelia would have mixed feelings, this was a very unpleasant situation.

"Don't rub your nose in it. I don't need your help in my current situation.

It was inevitable that she would be angry. –But isn't this a marriage contract with my country for the sake of long-lasting friendly relations? I heard it was to make Lord Lelia a princess, wasn't it? In that case, Lord Noelle is her bloodline. If she is the princess of the historic House of Respinas, she would be a perfect match for our prince.

Serge gave a little thought to the proposal of Gapino, who intended to engage in marriage diplomacy.

(Noelle's marriage to a foreign country was well... , that was no excuse for Lelia either. Besides, I have both the sacred tree and Lelia. Even if Noelle is not here, there is no confusion)

The sacred tree and the sorceress are in my own hands. The sapling of the sacred tree was charming, but it would be possible to get it

later with Ideal around, for which Serge did not feel the charm of Noelle and her sapling.

Lelia would have been able to accept it if she had married his prince, which was irrelevant to Noelle's feelings. To Serge, Noelle was just that.

"Good. Noelle will be yours. Treat her well.

"I will. Thank you, Sir Serge.

Gapino smiled with pleasure.

Then Ideal, who had just finished talking with Luxion, appeared.

"Lord Serge, my conversation with Luxion is over.

Hearing those words, Serge threw away the bottle in his hand. The bottle crashed through the wall, spilling its contents without a care.

"Finally, it's time to say goodbye to this underground life.

When he stood up, Ideal stayed beside him.

"It's all set. After that, it's just a matter of doing it.

Serge's mind drifted to the hateful expression of Leon, who didn't take himself seriously.

It was time to finish with him.

◊

That day was the day when the heads of the six noble houses gathered.

The heads of the families showed their faces at the meeting.

Only, Lambert looked very strange.

Lately, it was as if it had been a lie so far, and kept mouthing off at the meeting. While this may not be good for the Republic, the other householders all agreed that it was better than throwing a tantrum and yelling.

Today, however, he was a little distracted, to which Fernand asked.

"What is wrong with you, Don Lambert?

"- nothing.

If there are no questions, let us proceed with the meeting, and Albert stated the subject.

"Then let us begin the meeting. The first subject is that of the suspicious persons who have gathered in the warehouse street of the port.

Lambert, quicker than anyone else, reacted to that question.

"Leave the suspicious people to the guards. Can we give priority to other issues than this one, Mr. Deputy?

Albert blushed at Lambert's proposal.

"The gathering of suspicious people could be linked to the rebellion. Nothing much has been done, but we can't just ignore it. Besides, I've received reports that someone has suppressed the reports of the rebels".

When Albert said this, the other house masters looked at each other in disbelief.

"So, is there a rebel among us?

"Is there someone supporting the rebels?

In the midst of hearing these voices – Albert looked at Lambert.

His eyes wandered around, wiping the cold sweat from his handkerchief.

(Surely this man was hiding something)

Lately, Lambert had been behaving very strangely and Albert had been looking into it.

So it became apparent that all information about the rebels was being suppressed by Lambert.

Only, he did not feel that Lambert would support the rebels unconditionally.

He was planning to use the rebels for something, wasn't he? The matter was being probed.

There was a good chance that there were people associated with the rebels in Warehouse Street, and although Albert wanted to send troops there immediately – Lambert suddenly diffused the situation.

Then, the corners of his mouth rose in a grim smile.

"Hmph! Hahahaha...

The other lords of the house were surprised by the strange laughter of Lambert.

When Albert stood up, Lambert opened his arms and looked at the zenith.

"The time has come! You, who have always despised me, suffer the punishment of heaven!

What was he talking about? At that very moment when everyone was thinking.

On the floor of the meeting – a magical formation shining with crimson light appeared.

“What!

Albert and the others noticed that there was no place to escape.

Then the other lords of the house who saw the magic formation cried.

“Why!

“What the hell have we done–

“Stop, stop! Stop it!

From the magic formation appeared roots and branches. They entangled the six lords of the house and took away the crest from their right hands.

Albert was no exception, unable to move as his body was entangled with plants.

Lambert, who saw this, covered his belly and burst out laughing.

“Hee hee hee! From today onwards you’ll all be free of the crests! It’s a good feeling. From now on, you can’t even use them, even if you’re playing with me like a monkey.

Probably thinking that he had nothing to do with it, Lambert acted as if he had plenty of room.

But the roots were also haunting Lambert.

“Why? There’s been a mistake. I’m not!

The householders, who had resisted desperately – the crest lodged on the back of their right hands – were mercilessly stripped away.

Albert looked at his right hand, where the crest had disappeared.

“What is happening?

When the crest was taken away, the plant and the magical formation disappeared, and Albert and the others were thus freed.

The other householders were in a state of disarray – Fernand was in a state of despair because the heraldry had disappeared.

Although the other householders were all the same, only one man cried out.

“Why? Why did they take away my crest too? It’s not what we agreed to, is it!

Lambert cried out, unlike earlier, why even his own crest had been eliminated.

Albert moved closer to Lambert and grabbed him by the collar.

"What deal has been made? Lambert, what the hell have you done!  
Lambert cried like a little kid, very uncharacteristically.  
Albert shook Lambert off.

"Go and investigate at once-

As he was thinking of a solution to the situation, he heard a gunshot from outside the door. Albert looked towards the door in surprise, and then the door slowly opened.

There it appeared, it was Serge.

"-Serge! Why are you here?

Serge, who was carrying a rifle over his shoulder, looked at Albert's figure with an ugly smile.

Illustration.



"How do you feel about losing your crest?

At that remark, Alberut sensed that Serge had something to do with this incident.

"Did you do it? What the hell did you do?

"Who knows?

Smiling, he didn't even want to answer seriously.

"What have you been doing so far? Are you really involved in the rebellion?

Serge not only held a grudge against the man who possessed the crest of the six nobles, but also against himself. Albert took that possibility into his sights as well.

Although he didn't want to guess right, seeing Serge in front of him he understood that there was some connection.

Serge revealed his own right hand and grinned.

"This is the crest of the Guardian. If only it had been me you had chosen me, father. No – Albert

Serge showed the Guardian's crest, almost as if he was showing it off.

"Why do you have the Guardian's crest?

Serge didn't respond.

"Hey, hey, give me a more surprised response. The son you abandoned has returned in style.

"Abandoned? What do you mean, abandoned?

"Well, it's too late to make excuses now. Just because you've disowned me.

"No! Because you wanted to be an adventurer, so the abolition was merely a liberation from the position of heir. You are still my son!

At Albert's words, Serge stopped moving.

Only Ideal, who was beside him, interrupted the conversation between the two.

'Lord Serge, we don't have much time left, so please be swift. And there is a thing, people who are pushed to the edge can spit out any kind of lie.'

Albert's words were brushed aside as a lie by Ideal. Serge probably believed Ideal and pointed his gun at Albert with a blank expression.

Serge looked at him coldly.

"Serge, listen to me!"

Even though Albert shouted, his words didn't seem to carry over to Serge.

"I would have liked to see you cry out, but what a pity.

Serge pulled the trigger without hesitation.

## **Episode 06 'Revolution'**

Daily life was no different from usual.

That day, Lelia was in class at the Academy.

The students were quiet in their second class. The academy, for its part, believed that Leon and the others were still absent from school as usual, after all, it was hard not to be upset by the unknown whereabouts of one's servant and the unrest that pervaded the Republic.

The students were aware of the rumours of a rebel army, and some of them talked of getting involved.

(Living a routine like this makes the rebellion seem like an illusion)

Lelia thought that this had nothing to do with her.

In her previous life, growing up in Japan, it bothered Lelia to be called a rebel because she lived in a time of peace.

In foreign countries there would have been such disturbances, but at most they were only seen in the news and on the internet.

Having never experienced it. So no matter how you look at it, you think it's someone else's business.

However, the situation was so different from the second part of the game that Lelia felt uneasy about it.

Looking out of the window, she saw the huge sacred tree standing there.

The flying ship flew through the air in the ordinary world.

It is not surprising to see either a huge sacred tree or a large number of flying ships.

However, today there were an unusually large number of flying ships.

(Huh? Why are there so many flying ships flying?)

There were many things that were different from the common flying ships of the Republic, and there were more than usual.

The sun was suddenly blotted out and shadows reflected the whole schoolhouse.

Was the sun being blocked by clouds? Although that's what I thought, it was just flying boats moving through the air.

(It's not allowed to fly boats around here, is it?

The other students were surprised because it was a place where flying boats are not normally allowed to come in.

Even the teachers stopped their lessons to look outside.

As the classroom was getting noisy – an image appeared in the sky.

As soon as the huge image appeared, Lelia stood up. The chair backed away with great force, hitting the desk behind it, but she didn't care.

"Serge!"

Lelia shouted out in surprise, but no one around her noticed her.

The class looked out of the window at the situation.

The giant Serge, projected in the air, sat in a very imposing chair. Bent over, he crossed his arms and rested his elbows on his knees on either side.

"Notice to all the inhabitants of the Republic. –From today I am the king of this country.

What on earth was being said? There was a lot of noise in the schoolroom, but Lelia couldn't care less about that. She thought she had finally found Serge, but instead he said he was going to become king.

The image then showed him raising his right hand.

Behind the throne a magical formation appeared, the crest of the Guardians.

Everyone in the room was surprised, and Lelia was no exception.

(Why was Serge given the crest of the Guardians? Because Big Sister shouldn't have chosen Serge, right? So, who is it-)

The image shows Serge, introducing a woman.

"Then let me introduce the new priestess. She is the priestess of the new country – called Yumelia'

The priestess who was introduced was a female elf.

Then the classroom became more noisy, but Lelia was surprised by something else.

( Isn't that Leon's maid? For that matter, why had she been chosen as a priestess now. Why would there be a priestess outside of the Respinas' house?)

Wasn't it Noelle who had been chosen as a priestess?

After that Serge continued his speech, and the teachers and students in the classroom looked at the image in the sky.

'Well, I think you all think that no one other than the Respinas can become a priestess, so I'll do a little service here. Yumelia – do it'

Sergi ordered Yumelia. Yumelia, who didn't react, looked as if she was being manipulated.

As Yumelia slowly stretched out her hands, a crimson glow emanated from the sacred tree.

The light surrounded the whole of the Republic and everyone looked on in awe.

The light then immediately disappeared, and then the classroom cried out.

"My crest has disappeared!

"My crest is gone! Why?!"

A cry of sorrow was heard from the noble born.

Perhaps it was because of the crimson light they had just bathed in, the crest seemed to have disappeared.

Lelia's eyes looked to the sky and Serge smiled softly.

He had done it because he knew it would turn out like this.

'The new priestess has taken your crest away from you. This is the best proof.'

A priestess had taken away the entire crest of the country, something that had never been done before.

Faced with reality, the noble-born sat lost in their seats.

The great power they had possessed until now had been taken from them, and they were in despair.

"If you want to fight, feel free to come to the temple of the sacred tree."

The nobles who had lost their crests did not have the courage to resist, and the soldiers who understood how strong the crest was could hardly defy Serge.

What is wrong with you, Serge? Why are you doing this?

Just as Lelia was at a loss for words, Clement arrived inside the classroom.

The classroom didn't react.

Clement grabbed Lelia's hand and forcibly led her out of the classroom.

When she reached the corridor, Lelia asked Clement about the situation.

"What the hell is going on? Why did Serge call himself King?

In the face of a confused Lelia, Clement had difficulty answering, as he had no information.

"I don't know. I can't imagine what's going on either. But this is a dangerous situation. The car is ready outside, so please take refuge, Lelia.

"Where to?

Where could it be safe in this situation? Was it Emile's old home, the Pleffon house? As they thought of various things, Emil appeared in front of them with Ideal in tow.

"There you are, both of you!

After a panicked Emile called out to the two, Lelia glared at Ideal in response.

"I say to you, what the hell are you doing at this hour!

"I'm very sorry. I was just checking the situation, so I'm late.

"What's going on? And why did Serge call himself king?

"Where are we going?

Ideal replied, as he walked along.

"The house of the Count Bartford. It is one of the extraterritorial jurisdictions. No matter what happens, it's safe.

And with that, Lelia and the others fled towards the house where Leon and the others were.

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Serge is going to be the king of the Republic! It was now a few hours after such a statement had been uttered.

Marië, who had greeted Lélia and the girls as they ran into the mansion, the whole group gathered in the dining hall.

Then she asked Lélia and the others questions.

"What the hell is happening! Serge is talking about becoming king!  
There is no such development!

Carla calmed down the noisy Marie.

"Please, please calm down, Marie.

"It's already like this! Why do things always get so messed up? I didn't do anything this time!"

Lelia became more and more angry at Marië who was crying with her hands over her face.

I don't know! After all, if you hadn't come...

Lélia took on the attitude of one who wanted to argue, while Emile, who was standing by, calmed her down.

"Let Lelia calm down too

Lelia, who was gasping for breath, looked into the room. Then, noticing that the person who was supposed to be there was gone.

"Where's Leon?

In the room were Marië, Carla, and a tired-looking Kyle.

Of the five fools only was missing.

Noelle stayed in the room with the box of saplings.

Cordelia was not there as she was preparing the tea, but she was in the house.

Emile also seemed concerned about the matter and asked Marië.

"That, Count Bartford is not there?"

There was no sign of Leon anywhere. Even so, Luxion was present.

-Instead of his usual kind and bright voice, Ideal said in a low voice.

'Luxion – where has your Master gone?'

Leylia was surprised by Ideal's reaction.

Because that reaction was exactly the same as when Lelia had said 'Liar' to Ideal before.

Ideal showed a reaction that was almost like another personality, and it terrified Lelia.

"Ideal, what's wrong with you? Are you saying that Leon is hiding?"

"There's nothing wrong if he's just gone out. But I didn't find out where he was. I know Leon is in this place."

It was clear that he had called him Count Bartford earlier, but now he was calling him by his first name.

Lelia and their eyes focused on Luxion.

'Master he's gone out. It's about time he came back.'

After Luxion said that, Leon's voice came from the entrance of the mansion.

"I'm back!

And so Leon arrived in the dining hall with a guest. –It was Louise.

Seeing this scene, Ideal, its one eye looked at Luxion.

That crimson glow, a look of great alarm.

'Why does Leon have Louise with him?'

It was like saying that Louise was finished if she was here, showing this unpleasant reaction, and Lélia was at a loss for words about it.

"What's the matter with you, Ideal?

Despite asking this, Ideal ignored her and looked at Luxion.

Luxion moved over to Leon.

"Oops? I should have said I'd assist you if I could convince Master, right? I wasn't able to convince my Master because he was too good at talking. That's too bad, Ideal.'

Leon gave a thumbs up.

That's what happened. What a pity, Ideal-kun!

To Leon, who was laughing in front of him, Ideal seemed intent on making his move.

Then, Noelle leapt at Lelia and pushed her to the ground.

"Big, big sister!?

As she was surprised, this time she heard the sound of a gunshot.

It seemed to have been sniped from an open window in the room, hitting Ideal.

Ideal fell to the floor and sparks flew everywhere.

'You, betrayed – na'

Although it treated Luxion as a traitor, this ball (human) took that statement completely lightly.

"Betrayal? I've only been following Master since the beginning, and he suspected you the moment Yumelia disappeared.

"Hey, don't make it sound like I'm suspicious. –But you were the only one who could have fooled Luxion at that point. Anyone would have been suspicious, wouldn't they?

From the very beginning.

At those words, Ideal was surprised and understood at the same time.

"You've been playing me from the beginning? And the one who had a disagreement?

Luxione looked down at Ideal, whose functions were about to stop.

"That was our daily conversation, too bad.

Before hearing Luxion's answer, the light in Ideal's camera went out.

Lelia was unable to understand what was going on and could only freeze in place.

Looking out of the window, she saw Jilk who had set up his rifle.

Since the intention had been to snipe

It had been configured so that Jilk was there.

Marie-sama was not surprised by this.

"You, you lot, have really put us-

Emile closed in on Leon.

"What, what's going on! Why did you attack Ideal!?

Leon, pressed, narrowed his eyes and looked down at Ideal.

"He was the one who attacked first.

Noelle walked away from the pushed down Lelia. It seemed that Noelle had pushed her because Lelia was blocking the firing line.

Noelle stood up and told Lelia to stand up too.

Lelia, who had lost Ideal, glared at Marie.

"Why are you doing this?

Leon didn't answer, and Marië seemed unable to answer in detail.

But when it became noisy outside, the reason became clear.

Jilk, who had returned to the house, reported to Julius.

"Your Highness, there are soldiers gathered outside. Judging by their equipment, they must be from the Holy Kingdom of Rachells.

Julius, who had crossed his arms, was the first to wonder if they were disguised.

Was he disguised as a soldier of the Holy Kingdom? I thought so.

"Is it true?

"Yes. There were soldiers of the rebellion with them. It seems that they are working together.

There have been rumours of Rachell's men appearing on the warehouse streets recently. And there are rumours of warships coming in and out of the harbour.

Clement's muscles bulged with anger at this.

"What are you talking about? The Republic is turning a blind eye to such actions?

"Did they despise them?

Lelia, who was listening to the conversation, could not believe what was being done in a place she did not know about.

The soldiers outside started intimidating fire, sending bullets into the house.

"All hands get down!

Greg said, and everyone slumped their bodies down.

Chris took out the weapons he had prepared and handed them out to everyone.

Rachell's soldiers were trouble. They are hostile to the Holfort Kingdom. It would be bad if they were captured.

Leon, probably because hated the Holy Kingdom of Rachell, was full of energy.

"I'll make sure you don't do it again, you Rachells!

Chris was surprised by this.

"You're very energetic today. You're not your usual self.

As the people around him were feeling out of sorts, Luxion revealed his reason.

"The Holy Kingdom of Rachell is hostile to the United Kingdom of Respalt, Mylene's home. This is for the queens sake.

"Luxion, don't make a scene.

As Leon felt embarrassed, Julius leaned over prostrate and then gave a look of disgust.

"Bartford, have you ever imagined the image of a fellow student chirping with his own mother? –It's disgusting in every way.

"Don't talk about whining. It's just a contribution to the kingdom.

"It's not pure when you have an ulterior motive, is it? Besides, you said you'd make a hole in Roland's stomach! –That kind of talk.

"Shut up, Luxion.

"I know. Yes, I know.

As the bullets kept coming in, Leon and the others kept talking about stupid things.

Lelia held her head in her hands and thought timidly.

(What the hell is this guy doing? That's not the kind of thing to say in a situation like this!

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In the sacred tree shrine, Serge sat on the throne prepared by Ideal. Beside Ideal and Gapino, there were men who acknowledged Serge's personal guard.

They were all boarded with the crest that only the six nobles had.

The soldiers beyond that were endowed with the lower heraldry.

In front of Serge, there was the figure of the handcuffed Albert.

"Serge, why did you do such a thing!"

Albert, with a wounded leg, was treated.

— Serge, did not kill Albert.

"Because I've been chosen as a guardian. I'm going to destroy this country and build a new one."

"You're going to destroy this country for that reason?"

Serge smiled a shaky smile at the surprised Albert.

"That's the extent of it for me. And by the way, I'll show you the figure of this country destroyed. Your wife and daughter – and your lovely son Leon – I'm going to kill them in front of you."

"Son? You mean Leon? He's not my son."

"Cuter than me, I suppose. You would have let Louise marry him and made him your son anyway, wouldn't you? She's so hopeless. He likes a man who looks exactly like his brother."

"Serge, don't get me wrong! Louise and I both love you..."

He was in the middle of a conversation with Albert when he was interrupted by Ideal.

"Lord Serge, there seems to be a problem."

"Huh?"

"The troops sent to capture Louise have been wiped out. And so were the troops sent to recover Lelia."

"What's going on, Ideal? Didn't you say you'd bring Lelia here soon?"

As soon as he heard that Lelia hadn't come yet, Serge became visibly upset.

Gapino, who had heard that the troops had been annihilated, gave a bitter expression.

The soldiers sent to both sides were from my kingdom of Rachell, right? They were very elite. I can't imagine losing.

"Because Luxion betrayed me.

Serge, who had heard those words, gripped Ideal with his right hand.

"Didn't you say it would be all right? If anything happens to Lélia, I'll never forgive you. You lying b\*stard

In the midst of the surrounding people's fear of Selkie's anger, only Ideal resisted.

'- Lying? Apologise.

"Huh?

"Take back what you just said"

Although Ideal was showing a different vibe than usual, Serge remained strong.

"You lied to me, didn't you? You said there was no problem -ouch!

Ideal's sphere submachine sent an electric shock and freed itself from Serge.

Serge pressed his left hand against his tingling right hand.

"You b\*stard!

"Please pull back, I'm not lying.

The angry Serge and the quiet – then strongly defiant Ideal surprised everyone around them.

Gapino spoke peace from it.

"You two, you should have priorities now. I don't think we have time for infighting here, do we?

Serge smashed his mouth.

"Retrieve Lelia now! Where's Louise?

Ideal deferred to Gapino as well, as if to avoid an argument now.

"They're all gathered in Leon's mansion.

In that case, send the troops there immediately. Those who have done well will be given the crest of the six nobles as a reward.

Serge pressed his right hand and looked at the altar at the back of the throne.

There, a part of the sacred tree was revealed.

Yumelia, whose pupil light had disappeared, sat in the depression in her sacrificial garb.

The thin branches of the sacred tree were wrapped around Yumelia's body, preventing her from escaping.

Serge and the others did not treat Yumelia as a priestess, but as a tool to manipulate the sacred tree.

Gapino stroked his beard, slightly surprised by Serge's attitude, and advised.

"How generous. Isn't the heraldry of the six nobles a bit too cheap?

Serge waved his paralysed right hand as he spat out that the crest had no value.

"What's the value of such a thing? It's just a prop to borrow the power of the sacred tree."

The sacred tree and the crest of the sacred tree had no value to Serge.

At these words Albert hung his head.

"Have I driven you to this point?

Hearing such regretful words, Serge's eyes turned to Albert.

"It is too late to regret what has happened. Because you have not recognised me as your family."

Albert did not answer anything, and the man felt anxious.

"Put this man in a cell!

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"Ah~ah, the house has become dilapidated. It is no longer habitable.

After the fierce gun battle was over, Rachell and the rebel soldiers of the Republic fell to the ground. We had set the trap beforehand thanks to Luxions warning.

At the end of it there were those who were moaning in pain and those who had passed out.

What we used were non-lethal rubber bullets, and anaesthetic guns.

I carried the rifle on my back, and then Julius came over with the machine gun.

All the enemies outside were taken care of. There's a guy who got away, but it's okay not to go after him, right?

"Do you think we have time for that?

"No. But if it were you, I think you'd say something like "chase and fight".

Julius wasn't polite to me at all.

No, not at all, but even more so than before.

Julius asked me about the future.

"Bartford, this is the end of it. It is better to escape from here at once".

I could not say to Julius, who proposed to flee the Republic, "The world will end, so no!.

"No. You can escape, but I will stay."

"Why? This is a problem for the Republic. There is no reason to be associated with them?

In the eyes of Julius and the others, I don't have a reason to stick to the Republic. I wanted to escape, too. I wanted to take Noelle and Louise and run away.

"Please, please wait!

— Kyle, who had heard our conversation, sat on the floor with his head down.

It was the "dogeza". In the original words, there was no such culture as grovel in the kingdom of Holfart. Nevertheless, this guy was influenced by Marie and learned to sit on the floor.

Thanks to Marie, I think the 'Dogeza' is spreading in this world.

"Please, please. Please save my mother. Please!"

To save Miss Yumelia, who had been captured by Serge, Kyle knelt down to me and pleaded. At the sight of that figure, Julius shook his head sadly.

"Kyle, I'm sorry for you, though. It would have been nice if it had been the usual, but there is Ideal on the enemy's side. It has the same performance as Luxion, so we're at a disadvantage

Can't risk our life for a servant, despite that, Kyle pressed his head to the floor and pleaded repeatedly.

"I'll do anything you want. I will never disobey you again if it means saving my mother. I will correct my arrogant attitude. Even if I work for free. I will repay you with work! Please... please save my mother. Please, please – please, please!"

Julius saw Kyle cry out, looking very distressed. Then, his eyes turned to me here. He put on a face that said he couldn't make a wrong judgment.

"This is the end. Bartford, I'm taking you back.

"That won't do.

"Why!

I made Kyle stand up.

The crying Kyle's usual arrogant, mature attitude was gone and he looked his age.

I didn't want to abandon him because I also felt sorry for not having been a good filial parent in my previous life.

That's why I'm helping you. That's all.

"Don't cry. You don't have time to cry if you're going to save Miss yumelia.

"Hey?

Kyle looked at my face with surprise, tears and snot all over it.

I'm sick of that Serge who stole Yumelia and made a king face. That's why I'm here to help you.

After I said that out loud, Julius covered his face and looked upwards.

"Are you serious? If they're as strong as Luxion, they're a formidable opponent.

"Do you think I've done nothing so far? Luxion!

As soon as he was called, Luxion came towards me.

"Ideal's manufacturing ability is superior to mine. Although it was confirmed that there were flying ships and machine armour and so on, it was impossible to fight against them with the Republic's main armament. In response, we raised high performance items.

Julius gave up on the fact that Luxion had investigated the battle report prepared by Ideal.

"If the other side also has high performance flying ships and mechs, we will lose in terms of numbers.

"Who said that the Einhorn and Arroganz I built would lose?

From the way Luxion reacted to Julius' indifference, I was sure that there was a chance of victory. But let's just make sure for the moment.

"Can we win?

"If Ideal will not use his body, although that is a condition.

That was the problem.

I don't know how much Ideal will support Serge, so he hasn't done anything.

It's hard not to know what he's up to.

"Where is Ideal's body?

"He's left the Republic to spy on my body.

"Well, then, let's do a raid. Let's take back Yumelia. Kyle, you'll have to do it too.

As soon as I spoke, Kyle wiped his tears with his sleeve.

"Yes!

But Julius grabbed me by the shoulders.

"Are you listening to me? I told you we were outnumbered. Besides, if Miss Yumelia had become a priestess, then the security there would have been very tight. Do you think you can do anything with just a few of us?

"When did I say it was just us? I told you – I was ready for it.

Luxion looked towards the ceiling.

"Master, it looks like they're already here.

As soon as I stepped outside, Jilk and the others, who were in their mechs, looked at the sky.

Floating there – a multitude of flying ships.

Julius was startled,

"Enemy?!?

However, it was the flag of The Kingdom of Holfort, .

Among them was also the figure of Einhorn.

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The deck of Einhorn.

With that, I opened my hands to the friends I called from the kingdom.

"Thank you all! For coming in my moment of crisis!

The friends of the Poor Baron's group gathered in response to my call.

It was my fortune to have formed a good friendship with them.

However, Daniell and Raymond, whom I hadn't seen for a long time, called me as soon as they saw me.

"You forced them to come here, didn't you?

He said that they would take their ship away if they didn't come, and if they threatened us like that, they rushed here regardless. We were forced to come here by you, Leon!

The other men looked as if they were disgruntled.

"If there's no contract, I'll ignore you!

"That's right! That's why I was asked to come here by my family!

"Why did you get involved in the Republican rebellion?

Looking at the men with their heads in their hands made me nostalgic.

Back in the days, the group was given the latest flying boats free of charge.

It was a very familiar programme in a previous life. –it was the method where the physical cost was free along with a bundled contract for a two-year communications package.

— I implemented that package with flying ships. And, the contract was for a permanent period.

Although I was beaten up, I forgave them because I had a big heart.

If you want to hate, hate yourself for thinking you could get a flying ship for free in the past. Then, you will comply with the contract and assist me

Julius and the others, who had listened to the conversation between us, had a speechless expression on their faces.

"You are, ah, too cheap

Jilk even took a slight step back.

"What a bad character.

Brad took pity on my friends.

"Well, even with the latest flying ships and mechs, the thought of listening to Bartford is a big loss.

Gregg gave our friendship a hard time.

"What the hell do you think friendship is?

Chris, who had somehow changed into a crotch cloth, shook his head at this. My friends and I were shocked to see that figure, but I didn't care.

"Don't think of a contractual relationship as a friendship," he said.

They can say whatever they want, but this way they raise all the battle power.

"That's thirty flying ships. Is that alright with you?

My words made Daniell roar.

"I have a big problem with that! Why do I have to get involved in a foreign rebellion?

Raymond seemed to be on the verge of tears.

"And the other side is the Republic. It's not an undefeated defensive power! Even if you want to get involved, you have to think about your opponent! It's always the same, no matter who has the fight!

I hope you don't make it sound like I'm looking for a fight.

I'm a pacifist. I'm just being provoked.

"A pacifist doesn't accept provocation, does he?

In the middle of the brawl, a small flying boat landed on the deck.

From it came Anje and Livia.

"Leon!

Leon!

Both of them ran towards me and just hugged me.

I thought I heard the sound of my friends smacking their lips, but jealousy like this made me feel good.

The two, who had been absent for a long time, seemed worried about me.

Anje rested her forehead against my chest.

You always make us worry. What's going on this time?

It was sad to be suspected.

I didn't do anything. It's just a rebellion within the Republic. No, it's a revolution, isn't it?

The Republic can't win against a Serge with Ideal. Moreover, now that Serge had received the Guardian's crest, the six nobles could not stand up to it.

Anje raised her head and looked up at me.

"Tell me the details. And-

Anje's eyes shifted to Luxion. Unbeknownst to me, Livia was also looking at Luxion with a wary look. In response, Livia said to Luxion.

"Luxion, I hope you can tell me."

"What is it?

"Lucu-kun – you won't betray Leon-san, will you?

Why ask such a thing only now? While I was thinking that, Luxion's one eye looked at me.

"If it's the right Master for me, I won't betray him.

"Hey, are you saying that if you don't think I'm the right one, you'll betray me?

"Yes.

At that annoyingly sassy reply, I grabbed Luxion with both hands.

"It seems necessary to instill in you a good understanding of the relationship.

"I don't need the Master to explain it to me. Can I go play instead of this?

"Who told you to say something redundant!

## **Episode 07 "Sisters Quarrel"**

The conference room at Einhorn.

Gathered there were all the main people associated with the battle.

The friends of the Poor Baron's family were standing against the wall, looking upset.

After all, staying in the same room with the noble princes, led by Julius.

Plus the presence of Miss Louise, who was a foreign princess, and Noelle, who was actually a priestess.

With Anje and Livia beside me as well, it looked to the men like they were tucked into the same room as someone of higher status than themselves.

Plus, Emile, associated with the six nobles, and his fiancée, Lelia, orphan of the Respinas family – timid at the lavish gesture.

"Why are we staying with His Highness and the others?

While Daniel and Raymond whispered, I looked down at the map of the Republic equipped on the table.

Again, I confirmed the situation.

"Well, this is the Republic, but everyone has been stripped of their crest by Yumeria.

My eyes turned to Louise, whose face was pale with worry for her family.

Mr. Albert had been captured by Serge, and there was no telling what happened to her mother's safety.

"Many of the Republic's weapons were manipulated by drawing power from the power of heraldry. The same goes for flying ships and

machine armour. The Republic's armies are, in effect, nullified. Although they are not hostile to us, they are not on our side either.

The Republic's army, which relies too much on the Holy Tree, has become useless in times like these.

In the end, none of the nobles expected to be stripped of their crest.

"Others won't get in the way. Our only enemy is Serge".

Lelia, having heard my speech, got up from her seat.

"Wait a minute. Do we really have to fight Serge?

Probably still in a state of confusion and seemingly unable to keep up with the situation.

Emile cautioned Lelia.

"Lelia, what Serge has done is unforgivable.

"But, but! He must have done what he did for some reason! Yes, Serge wouldn't have done what he did if you hadn't come to this country.

Lelia looked at me with hatred in her eyes.

If we hadn't done anything superfluous, I don't think Serge would have started the revolution. Fair enough.

— but it was also Serge's choice.

"Excuse me, can we talk about this hypothesis later? I'm trying to save Miss Yumelia now.

"Why are you still calm in this situation?

"Will someone come to save us if we're anxious? If we cry, will Serge leave us alone?

When I replied with a positive argument, Lelia didn't retort and lowered her head.

I understand that, but I don't think I can be forgiven emotionally.

Noelle took Lelia's hand in hers, and then encouraged her loudly.

"Pull yourself together.

"Big sister?

"It was Serge's responsibility if he did something like that. Don't go blaming Leon and the others."

To Noelle, who didn't know anything, what Lelia said sounded very excessive.

But, from my point of view and Lelia's – we have our past life memories and know the truth about this world.

From others point of view, one cannot say that we are not at fault.

So, I also feel a bit responsible for the current situation.

From Noelle and the girls' point of view, it must have seemed like it didn't matter.

I clapped my hands together and spoke back.

"Okay, that's enough. I'm running out of time, so I'm going to start explaining the battle. In short, we must first break into the Temple of the Sacred Tree and rescue Yumelia.

Brad probably felt a headache and covered his forehead at my opinion, which could not be called a battle.

"That's not a battle, is it? If what Serge said is true, then Miss Yumelia is the priestess of the sacred tree, right? I suppose they'll fight to the death to protect it?

"Do you think we have time to worry about that ? We'll just go in , take her back and get out.

"Will that go well?.

Julius, who was uneasy about my battle plan, sighed and asked for details.

The "details" part will have to be worked out by us. Considering the large difference in numbers, it would be better to disengage with a single blow without being too strict. Let's open our armour and attack too.

Although Julius was very energetic, Jilk, who had heard these words, shook his head.

"No, it's dangerous, Your Highness, please stay here.

"Hey?

Gregg crossed his arms and nodded.

"After all, you are a prince, aren't you?

"No, no, that's true but...

Although Julius was a little cowed by the sensible words, he seemed eager to fight with everyone.

I would have given in if everyone had said they wanted to fight. He's a real stickler for the rules.

This is an event that will have a big impact on the future if you just take part. It's probably best if Julius doesn't get involved.

Chris further admonished him, saying to Julius as if he were on standby.

Julius, who had been forbidden by everyone to take part, hung his head in sorrow.

◊

After Leon and the others had begun making preparations, the female line-up remained in the room.

As an awkward atmosphere filled the air, Carla whispered to Marië.

"Marie-sama, I'm scared. The super scared kind. It's already frightening!"

"Chill, chill, chill, calm down. I'll stop them in a pinch."

The cause of Marie's anxiety was the twin sisters, Lélia and Noël.

The two were arguing loudly with each other in the room.

Anje and Livia, on the other hand, kept a quiet vigil. The two were more worried about Leon than about the incident and talked a lot.

Louise was there too, but she always carried on with the attitude that it was none of my business.

So it occurred to Marie that if anything happened only she could stop it.

Lelia and Noelle grabbed each other by the shirt and just started arguing.

"If you don't know anything, don't come in here and interfere! It's none of your business!"

"You say it's none of my business? Why is it none of my business? You always look down on me like that, and I've had enough of it!"

Marië held her head in her hands.

I can understand how Lelia feels, but don't get mad at Noelle! After all, Noelle is the one involved!

The Republic has launched a coup d'état. It's hard to say that this has nothing to do with Noelle. After all, the Holy Kingdom of Rachell attacked in order to take Noelle.

Noelle would have been furious if she had been told not to intervene directly.

But Lelia also had her own opinions.

This coup, too, could not be said to have nothing to do with Leon and Marie. Serge had a lot to do with it, but it wouldn't have happened if Leon and Marie hadn't come to the Republic.

If Leon and Marië hadn't come to the Republic, Lélia wouldn't have forced her way to Ideal.

(... but it's also disturbing to say that it's our fault)

At the same time, Marië felt the responsibility of Lélia.

Like herself, Lélia had dropped the ball at the last minute.

Ignoring her own advice to treat Loïc as Noelle's lover, she made an extra effort to mess up the relationship. Despite this, she herself becomes a lover with the gentle Emile, the Ace card.

(Dead end before the coup if we don't show up)

But Noelle also seems to have something against Lelia. So Marie just watched the two quarrel.

Anje and Livia, too, seem to sense what Marië is thinking and both watch.

Lelia vented her frustration with Noelle so far.

"Big sister is always the special one. The priestess's adaptability is only for big sisters too. I'm always the unpopular one. It's always Big Sister who's at the centre. And then it's me who puts up with it all the time. Have you ever wondered how long I've put up with it? Despite this, you're always so submissive – it's annoying to watch!"

Although it is not expressed, it seems from Noelle's position as the main character that she is always at the centre of the story.

Marië seemed to understand her somewhat as well. Eyes turned to Livia, who seemed to be discussing something with Anjie.

Then the twin's side of Noelle's look produced a change.

"—I'm always in the centre, what are you talking about" "— Ho yo, いつも中心つて" (yikes ~~~~, brain cells are dead, I get it but can't turn it over)

"What else can you say but that a priestess is adaptable? It's so nice. There's always someone there to help you. Men are on your side when things get tough. Leon came to your rescue at that time in Loïc. It's like being the hero of a story."

You're the main character of the second part of that B-game, not so much that, but the expression "the main character in the story" instead.

Noelle, who heard those words, had tears flowing out of her eyes.

Then, she grabbed Lelia's side ponytail.

"That hurts! Let go of me!"

"Are you kidding me – don't give me that bullshit!!!"

Noelle's shout caused pain in Marië's ears and covered them with her hands.

Noelle paid no mind to the people around her and took out all her anger so far on Lelia.

"A priestess's adaptation? I don't want that kind of thing! Even if I did, it would be pointless. It's always been like this, you've always had everything I want! Don't look like a victim when you've taken everything from me!"

The force of Noelle's shaking made Lelia feel timid.

"Let go, let go of me!"

"You're always like this! Can you understand how I feel about being compared all the time? Being cleverly camped around, not exactly being held up by the people around me. You know how I feel, being treated like a substitute for you!"

Noelle started to storm out, to which Marië jumped in to pull the two apart.

"Stop it!"

Noelle was thrown to the floor and the two were separated.

Lelia, on her side, sat panting on the floor. Then, full of anger seeping out – stood up and approached Noelle.

Noelle also stood up intending to continue the argument, to which Marië held her down desperately.

"Noelle, calm down!"

"Let go of me! What are you putting up with when there are so many things I don't have? I'm the one who's putting up with it!"

Lélia rushed towards Noël and was about to continue the argument when – perhaps unable to look away – Louise grabbed Lélia's hand.

"Let's stop here. I'm fed up too. I'm worried about my family right now, so if you want a sisterly quarrel, go elsewhere."

Lélia, who had been given the cold shoulder, glared at Louise with a sharp look.

"Family, you say? If you hadn't forced Serge like this, it wouldn't have come to this. Acting like you don't care, but you're responsible too"

At these words Louise narrowed her eyes and then took Lélia's hand in hers.

"And what do you understand? You don't think Serge hasn't done anything to me?"

"If you're his family, you have to accept him.

"A mere outsider who speaks so glibly of other people's family matters. Serge bragged about something to make it easier for himself, didn't he? And you took those words seriously. You're a real fool.

"You're only good-looking to a wicked man.

"The Respinas only annoy me. I hate Noelle too, but I hate you more. This time it was the turn of Lélia and Louise to start a fight between them.

Marië was on the verge of tears.

(I can understand how you feel, but don't argue aaaaaaaaaah! My stomach is going to hurt ohhhhhhhh!!!)

Leon left the room quickly and Marië was envious of that. If only she had said it herself that she was going to help walk out of this room too, she regretted it.

Immediately afterwards – Anje's patience seemed to reach its limit, releasing a sense of intimidation.

"Let's stop here.

Lelia looked back and made a "what?" sound like a bad one. but immediately averted her eyes when she saw the look on Anjie's face. If Lelia's style was like that of a punk, then Anjie's was like that of a punk boss.

"I don't know the reason for your quarrel, and I'm not interested. But this is a very critical time for Leon and the others. If you keep arguing and get in Leon's way, I'll be the one to do it."

Marië saw a vision of flames on Anjou's back. It burned with a roaring fire, as if to express Anje's mood.

On Livia's side, she cast an icy glare.

"If you want to argue, do as you please when it's over. But for now, please keep quiet. Because Leon-san and the others don't have that kind of leeway.

This side was different from Anje's, like water – at times gentle, at times terrifying. Showing that atmosphere. Livia's side is scarier if you anger them, I guess.

Marië nodded desperately.

◊

The battle contemplated with Julius and the others went like this.

Einhorn would lead the Allied fleet and rush to the Temple of the Sacred Tree.

After that it would be up to the mecha to invade the interior to retrieve Miss Yumelia. At that point, the six nobles who might have been captured would also have to be freed first.

—if they were still alive.

The odds were about halfway between them, right?

Louise was also worried and hoped that Albert was still alive.

The women's camp, meanwhile, moved to Licorn and stood by in the rear.

They could not be left to do such things as fighting.

Crossing my arms on the bridge of Einhorn, I noticed that there was no sign of Julius.

"Huh? Has Julius gone to the toilet?

Jilk, who had changed into his pilot's uniform, eyed the exit.

"Because he's lost his mind about not being able to go out together. He said he was going to Licorn.

"You mean he's taking it easy in the back because he's out of steam? He's still in a princely mood.

"He's still a prince, even though he's been stripped of his crown prince status. Count Bartford, please understand the prince's position more correctly.

"A fool who was deceived by a woman and gave up his position as prince. I know you as complete fools, so there is no problem.

"You have to watch out for your own people on the battlefield... Has anyone ever taught you that?

Is this b\*stard planning to attack me from behind?

While making small talk, Luxion looked down at Enihorn's clipboard.

"Master, Loic is here

"Eh?

◊

He came to the plywood and saw the figure of Loic there.

Loic, who had come in a small boat, was somehow ready for battle.

Count Bartford, I want to fight too.

"Is Marie in the back of the boat?

"Yes, is that right? No, no, not at all. I want to fight with you too. Greg, who heard this, had a very disgusted look on his face for some reason.

Approaching Loic, he grabbed him by the chest.

"This is not a joke! You don't even have the power of the sacred tree, you're just a liability!

Although surprised by Greg's intimidation, this was indeed a very strict entry into the war for Loic.

The nobles of the Republic were extremely weak if they didn't have a crest.

Loic was still considered someone who had had exercise, but he was only slightly better than the average soldier.

There was a gap in strength compared to us in the Kingdom of Holfort who worked so hard to give girls gifts.

Despite this, Loic did not flinch.

"Even though I can't be of any use – I can be your shield!

"Huh?

I – I was saved by my big sister. Besides, it would be better for you if I knew the inner workings of the Temple of the Sacred Tree. Please, let me assist you!

Indeed the raiding of the interior of the building would be easier with Loic around.

Greg's eyes went to me and when I nodded his hand let go of Loic.

Greg scratched his head and turned his back to him.

"Do as you please. But Marië will be sad if you die, so don't die on me without permission.

"Thank you!

The men who liked the same women as each other were clearly supposed to be rivals. Despite this, Greg said that Loic could not die. Is this the submissiveness of a handsome man? If it were me, I have the confidence that I wouldn't say the same thing out of jealousy.

For Loic, I decided to lend him the mecha once used by Julius.

That would have saved Loic's life, I think.

There's one left, so I'll use the white one.

"Thank you very much. Now I can fight too. I'm not happy that I can't do anything for you guys who are caught up in the Republic's rebellion.

This guy seems to have thought a lot about it.

I was impressed when the nostalgic – no, long-lost – man appeared.

"It's been a long time, folks!

Landing on the deck, it was Julius – not really.

It was the man who called himself the Masked Rider. I had met him before, when the Kingdom of Holfort was at war with the Principality of Fanos.

Still with his strange stance with his masquerade and cloak, moving with confidence, his character could be awesome.

Chris drew the sword at his waist, while Brad's hands prepared a fireball made with magic.

"You're the man in disguise, aren't you!

"Why is this man in the Republic!?

The four men who were genuinely on guard, unaware that this man was Julius, turned their weapons on him. Even the breast brothers – Jilk, who had grown up together since childhood – aimed the muzzles of their pistols at the Masked Rider.

Loic's eyes fluttered open and closed, completely confused as to what was happening.

Luxion demanded as if he wanted me to handle the situation.

"It's this farce again. It's about time you told them the truth, isn't it?

I don't want to get involved. Besides, aren't those five enjoying the farce? It's best to let it go. It's funny to watch from afar.

It was sad to think that Marië had to take care of the group of people who were constantly making a scene, but at the same time the thought that she 'deserved it' came to mind.

Please please me.

The Masked Rider approached me.

"It's been a long time, Count Bartford.

Hey? You're talking to me out of the blue?

"Oh, oh.

"I hear things aren't going so well? It's a small effort, but I'm here to help. I hope you can lend me a mecha. Isn't there a white mecha that His Highness Julius uses?

This guy, he really picked a bad time.

To this submissive masked knight. I told Loic as I looked at him.

"Ah, no. Just now, I agreed to lend it to Loic.

Loic questioned the masked knight. Well, if this guy had dealt with Julius, he shouldn't have a hard time guessing the true nature of the Masked Rider.

"That's what happened. If you're alright, go home.

"What are you talking about? That's my armour, isn't it?

"No, it belonged to Count Bartford. And what's with that strange mask? Take off your mask and give me your name.

Julius was being told the right thing, but he could not call himself a masked knight if he stopped there.

"You don't seem to notice that I have a reason for not being able to give my name? Count Bartford, this one doesn't match the white mech. Let me drive it!

Despite Julius' request, I was going to ask Loic to lead the way for us. In order of priority, I couldn't leave Loic out of it.

"You can give up. Come with me to the bridge. I'll get you a cup of tea.

"What do you think I'm here for! Let me go and fight!

◊

The location changed to Enihorn's hangar.

Loic was riding in the white mech used by Julius for altitude adjustment, to which Gilk opened the cockpit hatch and said.

"Then again, Count Bartford has stunned me. The Count wants to start a war with the Republic with these numbers".

Brad then took a jab at Jilk's remark. He pointed to the opponents and their numbers.

"The other side is a rebel army. And, in terms of numbers - 200. That's a good chance of winning.

"More than six times the difference in strength?

"The goal is to get back Miss Yumelia, right? Then we'll run away from the Republic. They won't chase us. After all, all the weapons in the Republic are for defence. We can't fight outside our own country.

If they use the power of the sacred tree, we will be weaker outside the Republic.

This was taken into account, but this time Chris had a different opinion.

"I guess it's not surprising if the other side has the same performance as Luxion, they might have the ability to fight outside the Republic?

"Uh! Yes, that's true. But Luxion said we had a chance. They must have some kind of strategy.

"You don't even know that, and you're putting on a great face?

Brad fell silent at Chris's remark, and this time it was the turn of a disgruntled Greg to speak up.

"Get your heads together, all of you. Because this opponent is no joke.

Ideal, the same lost prop as Luxion, supported Serge at his side. Greg and the others had seen first-hand how powerful Arroganz could be. And could understand that they would be afraid.

Then, from the Arroganz came the voice of Leon.

Although the cockpit hatch was closed, Leon could be seen.

"You're all making a lot of noise! You're as noisy as children. Be quiet!

Jilk froze at the sound of Leon's foul mouth.

"Your mouth really stinks.

"Shut up and be my shield.

The sound of voices coming from the Alogants annoyed Jilk and the others

## **Episode 08 "The Bond of Parenthood"**

The Temple of the Sacred Tree.

Sitting on his throne, Serge was annoyed for not knowing where Lelia was.

Although it was known that she was moving with Leon and the others, Leon's movements were unknown. It seemed that flying ships had flown in from the kingdom, but due to Luxion's interference, Ideal hadn't been able to get the exact information.

"I'm going to fight that b\*stard and get Lelia back."

After waiting in no hurry to stand up, Ideal came over.  
It had been showing an unhappy attitude since being called a liar by Serge.

'Enihorn is leading thirty flying ships this way. It seems that Lelia-sama is aboard the same type of ship called Lechorn. We have confirmation of Louise's presence.

Are they coming this way? Is it to get that b\*stard Albert back?

"No. They say they're here to get back Yumelia. The white flying ship that Lelia was on was moving behind her. Please be careful when fighting'

Serge hesitated slightly as he held his suspicion of Ideal, who had brought sufficient information. The suspicious part was that such detailed information could be gathered despite the interference. However, Lelia's side was more important than Ideal's right now.

"That's good. Let's finish with that b\*stard right here. I'll take Leon and Louise's bodies to that b\*stard Albert.

Ideal silently watched Serge, who was walking smugly out of the throne room.

◊

Upon arriving at the hangar, there were knights, soldiers, adventurers, mercenaries – and punks waiting for the moment to strike.

What they boarded in their right hands was the sacred tree's crest. Knights who had once held the lower rank of heraldry were given a higher rank of heraldry to be appointed as squad captains.

A few were given the crest of the six nobles and were appointed squadron captains and grand captains.

The Revolutionary Army had not yet been established and the organisational system was not yet fully formed.

Serge was given the guardian's crest, which gave a boost to the performance of the mechs they rode.

At the same time the mechs they rode were known for their high performance even without heraldry.

These were the mechs that Ideal had prepared after redesigning. Like Arroganz, these mecha could not be built with the level of technology in this world.

The highest performance of them all was the four-legged Kia that Serge was riding.

Standing in front of the Kia, Serge rallied his men to meet the approaching enemy.

"There is a foolish man who has an intention of provoking us. –The name is Leon F. Bartford. The hero of the kingdom who has ruined our homeland so many times, it's almost time for him to meet his maker!

The pilots on their side, who had received the crest, did not feel fear even when they heard Leon's name.

Although they had lost countless times so far, they believed in their new crest and the power of their weapons.

Now they were confident that they would not lose to Leon.

To this, Serge was no different.

After getting Kia, a better machine armour than Arroganz, they had to defeat Leon this time.

(I'm going to kill that b\*stard who made a fool out of me)

If both sides had done their best and lost, it would have been acceptable, if not inexcusable. But Leon had never seen Serge as his opponent from the start.

He lost to trick Louise.

After that, Leon showed his true ability by knocking Serge down with one punch.

Had he ever been so humiliated?

"Attack! Let the misjudged b\*stards of the Holfort Kingdom see the true strength of the Republic!

The soldiers shouted together "Yeah!"

Serge also got into the Kia. The cockpit was much larger than Alogonz's, so there was plenty of room.

Sitting in the pilot's seat and holding the lever, the monitor was activated and the scene around him was shown. The view on the monitor was as good as the naked eye could see.

Kia's four legs were slowly holding up the body.

In his right hand he held a knight's lance and in his left hand a huge shield.

The stance looked very much like a centaur, but also very much like a mounted knight.

As Kia slowly flew up from the ground, the mass-produced mechs around him came up together.

Several hundred mechs flew up in the sky in a full formation.

The flying ships that Ideal had built were also in formation, ready for the attack.

"This is where you'll die".

With vengeance burning in his heart, Serge licked his lips as he looked at the fleet of the Holfort Kingdom in the distance.

His expression was that of a long-starved carnivore.

A mere thirty flying ships, targeting the Temple of the Sacred Tree without a battle plan.

The corners of Serge's mouth lifted at the sight.

"A mindless rush, huh? The cannons here have a long range too, don't they? All ships commence fire!

As soon as Serge spoke, the flying ship's turrets began to rotate, turning their guns towards Einheru.

Instead of the old side-mounted cannons, they were movable turrets.

It wasn't fully automatic, but it was far more advanced than the Republic's flying ships.

The guns spewed flames together and immediately afterwards they were filled and fired.

There was a rate of fire and a hit rate that had not been available until now, and the range was also substantially higher than before.

The flying boats were faster and more robust than they had been to date.

The shells hit the foremost Einhorn and were wrapped in smoke from the explosion.

Even so, Serge did not stop his attack.

"Again. Shoot more! It doesn't matter if all the shells are gone, just hit them with everything!"

Serge's eyes were bloodshot, excited by the overwhelming power he had gained.

Breathing heavily as he imagined the sight of Leon and the others being beaten to a pulp.

But-.

"Tsk! It won't sink that easily."

-The Einhorn, which extended from the bow of the ship like a single horn, appeared as if cutting through a smoke screen.

It looked like it had done some damage, but it was still alive.

There was confusion from his side.

"Lord Guardian, the enemy is coming this way!

The quality of the pilots was very low compared to the trained soldiers, most of whom were amateurs.

"Calm down. There are more of us. If we surround them, we won't lose. It's almost time for the enemy to attack the mechs. Let's go for it!

Considering the enemy's flying ships would slow down and attack the mechs.

However, Einhorn still maintained top speed – rushing into Serge's fleet of revolutionaries.

"This, this guy's crazy!

Behind Serge and the others was the Temple of the Sacred Tree and there was Yumelia, who Leon and the others were trying to save.

It was insane to swoop in on a place like that.

However, thinking that they had done the same thing before when they rescued Louise.

"This group of people in the Kingdom really only raid idiots, aren't they?

Even Serge was surprised.

Kia moved away from Einhorn's advance and ordered around.

Einheru bounced off the frightened mechs as it advanced. Then it crashed into the slow-moving flying ship, sending it flying before rushing like an arrow towards the Temple of the Sacred Tree – the ship suddenly changing position at a right angle midway.

With no loss of momentum, Einhorn's hull slammed sideways into the ground of the Temple of the Sacred Tree, smashing the earth.

Reaching the Temple of the Sacred Tree just like that, the hatch of the hangar opened and the armour came flying out of it.

White, green, blue, red, purple – among the mechs ever seen were dyed grey and black.

It was Arroganz.

Serge's eyes widened as he removed the syringe from the metal box he had brought into the cockpit. It was a body strengthening drug prepared by Ideal.

It was also a powerful drug that ignored the burden on the body.

"Found you, you stinking b\*stard aaaah!

Thinking that Leon was there, he roughly stuck the syringe into his body to inject the drug.

After a while, Serge rolled his eyes, but immediately calmed down back to normal.

There was, however , an unusual sweating and bloodshot eyes.

It really worked. It's much better than the stuff I was using before. It's great to be able to ignore physical pain with such a degree.

Serge, who had used the body strengthening drug, went inside the building himself in order to catch up with Leon and the others who had broken into the Temple of the Sacred Tree.

"About ten of them, follow me! I'm going to crush all those who enter the building".

After Kia flew towards the Temple of the Sacred Tree, ten or so Mechs flew in behind him.

The revolutionary army defending the Temple of the Sacred Tree and the attacking kingdom army began to fight.

◇

Led by Loic, who was piloting a white mecha, Arroganz's group charged forward.

『This way!

Kicking apart the defensive equipment prepared by Ideal to fly forward.

Just then, a mecha rushed out and

『Tsk!

Loic was about to be his opponent when Greg pushed him away from behind.

"Get out of my way. I'll be his opponent here.

"Wait, wait a minute. I can fight too!

The pushed away Loic said he could fight too, and in the meantime Greg's lance pierced the enemy. The pilot was unharmed and with his lance drawn Greg kicked the enemy's armour roughly away.

"This guy could be your companion, right! –You just lead the way.  
Don't mind these guys.

Clumsy Greg was thinking about Loic's actions.

Loic said with thanks.

'- sorry. More than that, if that image is correct it's the front'

There was a very large door in front of them.

Chris opened it first, and then a rain of bullets descended.

There was an ambush!

Equipped with the drone defence equipment prepared by Ideal, he attacked the intruders without mercy.

Then Arroganz stepped in front of it and forcibly destroyed the defensive equipment. This was done by approaching the crude practice of touching it with his hand – and punching in a shockwave.

Chris rebuked him for his actions.

'Arroganz, don't go too far ahead!'

Arroganz turned back to Chris.

'I said we don't have much time! Come on!

Gilk piloted the mech, setting up his rifle to break through the defences.

"You're a real pain in the ass.

Brad watched the exit.

"There's no enemy behind us.

Almost all the defences had been destroyed, revealing a part of the sacred tree in the depths of the wide room. The entire wall was covered with the sacred tree.

In the recess of the central part, Yumelia sat.

The roots of the tree twisted around as if to swallow her up.

Even in the midst of battle, Yumelia does not react.

When Arroganz approached unobtrusively, an electric shock was generated.

"Can you please not go any closer to her?

Flying down from the zenith was Ideal with his drone.

He expressed his displeasure at the intrusion of Arroganz and the others.

'Yumelia has her duties. I can't let you take her away.'

Gregg bit back when he heard those words.

'Don't act so smug!'

However, Ideal exploded with his own feelings.

'It's already intolerable to even imitate a human being approaching a holy tree, but you guys don't understand that and run amok. You are really nothing more than trash!'

Greg, who had heard those words, sensed the true nature of Ideal.

"Is that what you are? Even Luxion has a foul mouth, but its nature is not as bad as yours.

"Luxion. The artificial intelligence of the immigrant ship is just a defective product. He helped you and betrayed the old humans. I'll use his body.

Arroganz flew above Ideal.

'You're making a lot of noise!

Ideal turned the drone towards Arroganz – at that moment the zenith was destroyed and there appeared the four-legged Kikia.

'I've found you, you stinking b\*stard!

It stepped on Arroganz and slammed towards the floor just like that.

Behind Kia the mecha continued to invade, in turn as the zenith was destroyed, the barrier protecting Yumelia stopped working.

Ideal complained to the present Serge.

'Destroying the defences, what the hell are you thinking!

"Don't bother me. This guy is my prey!"

Serge, who was basking in the joy of stomping on Arroganz, had become more belligerent than usual because of the use of the body strengthening drug. His judgement was also a little less than usual.

After Greg and Chris rushed at him together and knocked Kia off of his feet, Brad and Loic flew down in order to recover Arroganz.

Serge's men continued to attack from the air.

Ideal shouted.

"You know that the priestess of the sacred tree is here!"

Serge, who had begun the battle at the site of Yumelia, looked at the Arroganz.

Thinking to himself that Leon was there, he began to speak.

'Ever since I was beaten by you – no, more than that, your face has been lingering in my mind for ages. I can't forgive myself if I don't kill you. Please, get out of my head, Leon!'

The four-legged kikia was highly mobile and fast. After closing the distance with Arroganz in an instant, he intended to thrust his lance out.

At that moment, Loic rammed his body into it.

'Serge, stop it. Is this the kind of thing you want to do? Isn't it your dream to become an adventurer?'

At the sound of Loic's voice, Serge became furious.

"Yeah, you're on that side, aren't you? Then, you're my enemy too. I'll smash you up and show it to your father!"

It seemed that all the heads of the six noble houses were alive.

Jilk set up his rifle and fired from the air at the mechs attacking him.

'We must avoid fighting here. Let's get them out of here.'

Brad agreed with Jilk's proposal.

'It would be better to go outside.'

Brad's purple mecha shot out a spear-shaped drones from its back, the drones machine gun's shot the enemy for all sides while Bras charged in with his spear to attack the enemy's mecha –just then a magic formation unfolded to block the attack.

It was the heraldry of the six nobles. The attack bounced off.

'Is it still so strong even though it's surrounded!'

Brad was surprised, but he still tried to fight most of them, trying to force them to the outside.

Serge fought with Chris's mech that had been equipped with sword and shield but Chris could not hold out for long.

The mech Chris was riding was knocked to the ground.

『Ku!

Although Gregg then fought with Serge, he lost in strength.

『This, this guy, isn't he more powerful than Arroganz!』

To the stunned Gregg, Serge smiled smugly as he began to show off. He was very comfortable with the overwhelming performance of kia.

"This was a special armour made to kill Leon. It's only natural that it's powerful!"

Kia controlled by Serge made a rampage by catching people off guard, and as Arroganz flew off towards the sky, he gave it a chase.

'Don't run away you coward! Only you, I want to take your head to Dad and Sis – make them admit that I'm their brother!'

Serge, in his confusion, omitted to name Albert and Louise as Dad and Sister.

No one had any room to point that bit out and didn't bother to notice.

Once Arroganz was outside, there was a fierce battle going on between the Kingdom Army and the rebels.

Unbeknownst to them Einhoru also recovered up and then fought.

Arroganz looked down and saw Kia approaching from there.

"Don't think you can get away with it."

Kia kicked towards Arroganz and was knocked away. Kia snatched around to where he had been knocked straight away and slammed Arroganz towards the ground with his shield.

Closing in towards Arroganz, who had fallen to the ground, Kia's gun was stabbing towards the cockpit. Intending to knock it towards the ground and skewer it straight up with the lance.

'I'm stronger than you! I'm the one – better suited to be family!'

Arroganz's hands reached forward, creating a shockwave that sent Kia flying. With that, Arroganz fell to the ground, but immediately stood up.

Kia, who had also fallen to the ground, stood firmly on all four feet.

'Ahahahaha!'

Serge, who was in an abnormal state, seemed to be looking only at Arroganz in front of him. Therefore, he did not notice.

『You're up against us!

Greg and Chris, closing in on either side of Kai, began to attack.

Kia used its shield to defend against Chris' attack, but the opposite side – the right side – could not catch Greg's lance, and the head of the lance just stabbed into his chest.

"It's not going to go in, is it?

After hearing Greg's resigned voice, this time it shook from the attack at Kia's lance.

"Damn it! What a bunch of weaklings!"

Serge intended to start with Greg and the others, but this time they were surrounded by lance drones floating around, and the machine guns began to attack.

Emboldened by the attack in between, Greg and Chris began to chop their way through.

Then, aiming for the chance to snipe – it was Jilk with the rifle.

This was the way Count Bartford wanted to fight, but even so, he couldn't take it down. That's a tough one.

This was a joint action by the five of them in order to fight against Serge.

Not one against one, but four against one, using numbers to fight.

However, despite cornering Kia, they were unable to defeat him.

Chris shouted at Arroganz.

‘‘Leave this place to us, you go and get Miss Yumelia back!’’

Arroganz then flew off towards the Temple of the Sacred Tree.

Seeing that, Serge shouted.

“Are you kidding me? Don’t run away, fight me, Leon! I’ve been waiting for this moment – for years!

◇

Arroganz, who had returned to the interior of the Temple of the Sacred Tree.

“Serge is really useless, isn’t he?

Ideal seemed to feel resentful at the sight of that figure, and Arroganz’s right hand grabbed Ideal and crushed him with a shockwave.

Then Arroganz’s cockpit opened.

Out of that came – not Leon, but Kyle.

“Mum – Mum!

Arroganz placed Kyle in his hands and approached Yumelia.

Kyle touched Yumelia, who was unconscious, although her eyes were open.

No matter how he was called, Yumelia did not respond.

Nevertheless, Kyle called out to her.

“No... I’m sorry. It was me, it was my fault. So please come back. I didn’t think it would come to this.

Kyle called out to Yumelia with tears.

Kyle had left Yumelia because he was too reserved – and he wanted Yumelia to be strong on her own.

"I... I want to stay with Mum more than anything else. Because I'm going to die before Mum. I can't stay with you all the time..."

Elves and half-elves. Although the difference in appearance is indistinguishable, the biggest difference is longevity. Half-elves have the same lifespan as humans.

However, the lifespan of a subhuman species, like that of an elf, is several times that of a human.

Half-elves grow in the same way as humans.

Although Kyle looks young now, Kyle will one day grow up to be a man.

And, will die before Yumelia.

"It's not worth relying on, but it's gentle – that's what I like best about my mother. But, if I don't pull myself together, Mum will easily be deceived – I wish you were stronger. So, I thought I was doing the right thing

Kyle kept crying and pleading for forgiveness, but there was no response from Yumelia.

Kyle thought to himself that it wasn't working and took her hand in his.

"I'm sorry, Mum. I'm sorry. I love you the most. I'm so sorry that I pushed you into this.

Even if her consciousness never returned, he intended to take care of Yumelia himself.

As soon as he touched the sacred tree, Yumelia, who had her head hanging, raised her face.

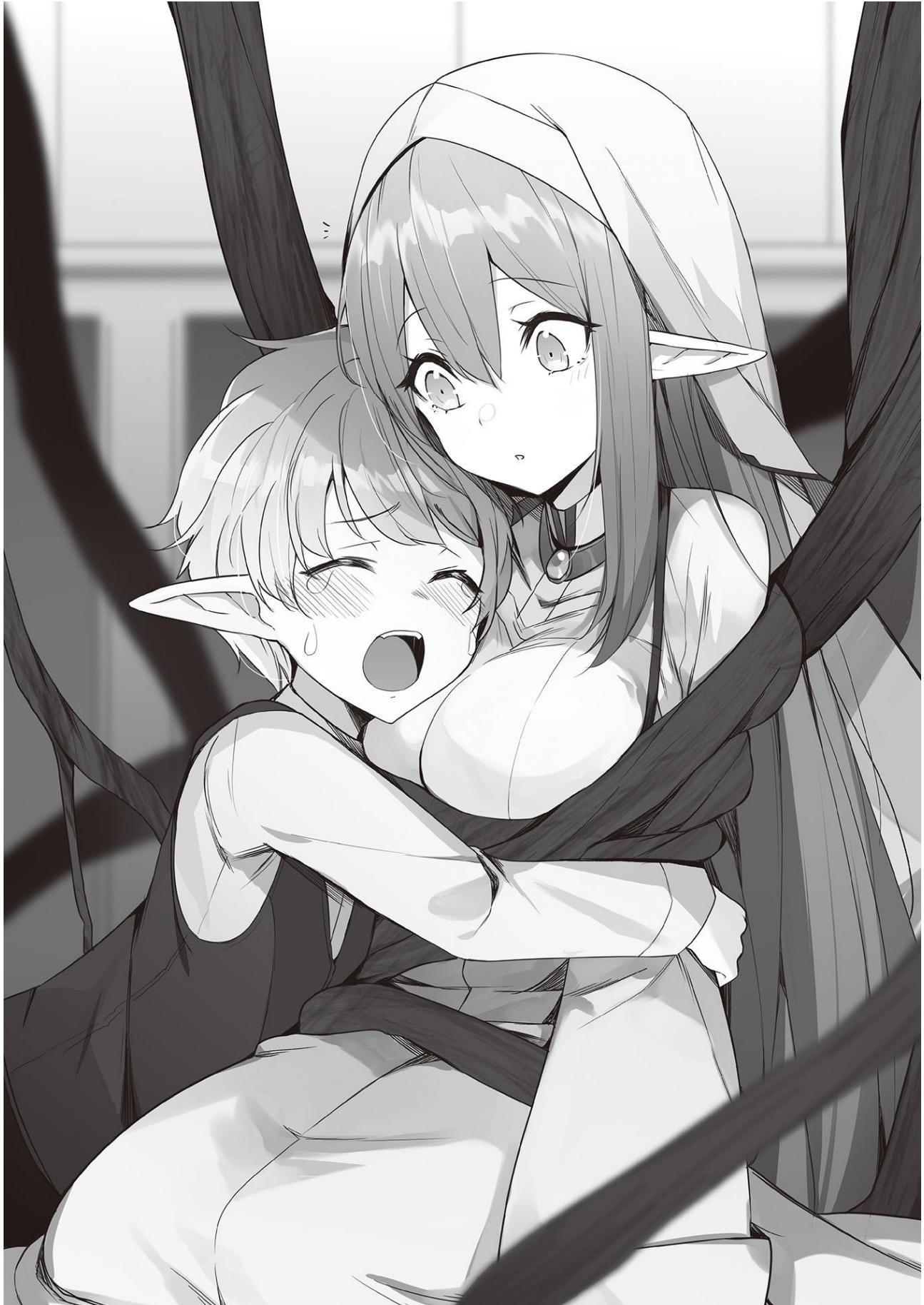
Then, she made a bewildered expression.

"Huh? It's morning already? Ah, good morning, Kyle. -Uh? Kyle, what, what's wrong! Why are you crying! Does it hurt somewhere? Well, that... I'll treat you in a minute, please wait. Hey, ouch? Why can't I move?

Yumelia, who had come to her senses, failed to understand her own condition.

Kyle, who saw that look, cried and hugged her.

Illustration.



"It's alright."

Because he was crying so hard, she didn't know what he was saying, but Yumelia smiled tenderly.

"It's not quite clear, but I forgive you. After all, I'm Kyle's mother.

As Yumelia regained consciousness, Arroganz's eyes glowed again.

Then, with his left hand, he began to remove the branches of the sacred tree that were wrapped around Yumelia's body.

Arroganz was operating unmanned.

Once Yumelia was freed, Kyle took her into the cockpit in this way.

"Mum, come this way!

"Co, is it all right? Won't Lord Leon be angry?

"He won't be angry! Because I've got permission, so sit up here!

There's enemies all around-uh!

Kyle looked up into the sky and saw Kia.

Only, he was just floating up and looking down at Kyle and the others.

"That isn't Leon? And you're... mother and son?

Kyle, who was being looked down on by Kia, hugged Yumelia.

(It's not good. Now, we'll die if that guy attacks us)

As Kia swung his right hand, Kyle tried to push Yumelia away.

Thinking that if she could get into the cockpit of the Arroganz, she would be saved.

But it was Yumelia who wanted to make the move the most.

Pushing Kyle towards the cockpit of the Arroganz.

"Mum, Mum!

Yumelia looked at Kyle's face and smiled. Kyle held out his hand as Kia closed in on Yumelia.

(It was so hard to get here!)

With this crisis looming, Arroganz ejected its large backplate with the jets and concentrated them onto Kia. The ignited jet collided with Kai and pushed him back.

Hearing Serge's voice, Kyle panicked and pulled Yumelia's hand into Arroganz's cockpit.

"Arroganz, you're in!

With that shout, Arroganz closed the hatch and flew off into the sky. The only thing was that without the container, Arroganz's flight speed had dropped dramatically.

Kia, who had destroyed the container, took aim at Arroganz and intended to pierce it with his gun.

At that moment, Brad flew over.

'Go! Go to where Bartford is!'

Brad's ragged mech armour held Kia to stop him.

Kyle said thankfully.

"Thank you very much!"

The place where Arroganz was headed to was Enihorn.

Then, in the air over the Temple of the Sacred Tree – there were still many of the enemy's flying warships. Amidst them, On the deck of Enihorn was the figure of Leon, who was waiting for Kyle.

## **Episode 09 "The Black Curtain"**

Arroganz, in which Kyle and Miss Yumelia were travelling, landed on the deck and opened the hatch.

Kyle came down from it and hugged Miss Yumelia.

I went over and put my hand on Kyle's head and rubbed his head roughly and messily. Kyle was slightly pleased, although he hated this.

"Please, please stop!"

"That was a good first time. How did you feel about driving the Arroganz?"

"I'm not used to driving. Because it's the Count's.., Lord Leon's armour."

When he called me by my name, it made me think, has his impression of me gone up?

Yumelia looked confused.

"That, that, Leon-sama, I'm sorry for taking leave without permission."

It would be disturbing to apologise for such a thing at this time.

"All right, now go back to the ship. I've got a lot of work to do."

Luxion, who was floating beside me, complained with a grin on his face.

"I'll let you get away with it. Master will have a better chance of success if he's at the helm."

"As long as the person is saved. Come on, let's get ready."

I watched Kyle and Yumelia enter the ship and closed the hatch in the Arroganz.

The drones, which had been prepared on the deck, gathered on the Arroganz and began to regroup.

During the period when the preparation was inoperative, Luxion summarised Kia's data.

"The name of the mech piloted by Serge seems to be Kia.

"Kia? What does it mean?

"It's strong desire.

"Wow, that's a bit of a dork.

"That's what it means. Kia is the armor that Ideal built to target Arroganz. It's been collecting data on Arroganz so far. That's tricky, isn't it?

"If Ideal became an enemy, he probably would have done so.

"Because I did it too.

"But – how serious will it be?

"I've got Yumelia back. Contact Loic and the others. Are they all right? What happened to Mr. Albert? If we've recovered them then let's get out of here.

\*

Prior to the battle. On the deck of Einhorn

I got on the high deck to address everyone who had assembled.

"Listen up everyone, even I don't want to lose my friends for the sake of the Republic either. Our priority is to rescue Yumelia and the others.

"For the current operation I'll be taking the role of commander..

"We are gonna charge head on and launch a quick pincer attack.

"Loic, Jilk and the rest will get on Einhorn and launch a raid on the temple to recover our allies.

"Kyle, I would like you to pilot Arroganz and join the raid.

"Me?.. But I..

"It's alright, we've modified Arroganz to let you drive and Luxion will be there to support you. Currently your the only one who can get Yumelia out of that situation. I'm sure you have something to say to her right?

"Yes...

Kyle hesitated for a second but answered firmly

"I'll do it"

"Next up. Our main issue in this battle is Seige. The rebel army is mostly comprised of ruffians and low rank nobles. If we could take Seige out the picture, the chain of command will fall eventually.

"Serge is likely to abandon his post and chase after Arroganz. Meanwhile we will split up the enemy forces and whittle them down.

"The nobles of the Republic don't have much experience with actual war. If we could pull this off right then we should be able to keep casualties to a minimum.

And so I let Kyle join the raid with Arroganz while I took command of allied ships.

\*

In the end it all turned out well.

While I was pondering that Kyle was too good at handling mechs, Luxion warned me.

"Master, Kia is approaching.

All the drones left Arroganz but a Schwelotte, converted into a biplane and fused to Arroganz's back.

The wings were partially loaded with missile boxes, and additional armour was fitted to Arroganz.

This time it's a real luxury. You've even got armour on it?

"I'm just sharpening my gun, but the odds have improved a little. Please use caution.

As I flew up from the deck, Kia was closing in on Arroganz.

I could hear Serge's shouts, and because they had the same performance, I could see each other's faces on the monitor screen.

Serge's face was seen with bloodshot eyes.

Seeing the saliva dripping out of his mouth, it was immediately understood what he had used.

"Have you used drugs again?

"I'd do anything to kill you! I've been trying to kill you for over ten years!

"What?

What the hell are you talking about? We hadn't even met each other more than ten years ago. As he thought that, Luxion began to explain Serge's feelings.

"You, Master, are overlapping with Leon, the son of Rault's own family, aren't you? He was always jealous of him.

"That guy?

"Master, we don't have time to pity him.

As Kia approached, I regained my grip on the controller.

"Who wants to feel sorry for him?

I drew my greatsword from my back and deflected Kia's approaching lance.

Looking at the lance, it seemed to be loaded with machine guns.

When Serge fired, Arroganz shook.

"Ku!

"It's a much more powerful machine than the previous enemy.

Arroganz should also increase his output.

As we chatted, we distanced ourselves from Kia and emptied the missile box – several missiles were fired from there, heading for Kia.

But Kia dodged them all and destroyed them with a cannon mounted in his gun.

"That's fine!

"Because Ideal was there to help. I can do the same thing, I've done it so far, haven't I?

"It's going to be tricky to get anyone else involved. Well, what should we do?

I thought about how to fight against the mechs I had created to fight against Arroganz.

◊

The battle between Arroganz and Kia was fierce.

The kingdom's mechs landed on the flying ship in turn, and then received their supplies and refurbishment.

Then...

"Father!

"Louise!

-Loic rescued the heads of the six noble houses and came to Lihorn.

Louise and Albert met again and embraced on the deck. Albert was also happy that his daughter was alive and hugged her tightly.

Lelia, looking at the sight.

"What the hell. Two bad guys hugging each other

As far as Lelia could remember, the Rault family were the villains. The final boss in the second part of that Otome game. Albert, whose revenge was due to the fact that the protagonist's mother had torn up the marriage contract, back in the day.

Moreover, this man's daughter, the evil villian who bullied the protagonist.

Seeing the light of such two people embracing together, was Lelia wrong about her perception? Although she thought so, she did not want to change her mind now.

All around them, the heads of the six noble houses spoke coldly of House Favell's Lambert.

He himself was crouched on the ground with his head in his hands.

"Give me back. Give me back my crest. That is the proof of the Favell family. It's not acceptable to have the crest taken away from you.

The same phrase was muttered repeatedly while crying.

Fernand looked very haggard. The once blond, blue-eyed aristocrat now had his hair in a dishevelled, listless state. Dark circles had also appeared under his eyes, as if he could not sleep.

The loss of the sacred tree's blessing had taken a heavy toll on his spirit.

The figure was much smaller than it had looked before.

Then, looking at Albert's eyes, who was embracing with Louise, they were full of hatred.

"Acting Speaker – this is all your fault. Because you didn't keep a good eye on Serge, we lost our crest. It's all your fault!

Fernand, upset with Albert, had terrifyingly bloodshot eyes.

The other householders were the same.

For Albert – glaring at him as if to say it was all the Rault's fault.

Beranger, Loïc's father, stood up and grabbed Albert by the chest.

"It's all your fault that the Republic is finished. It was you who took Serge as an adopted son, and it was you who destroyed the Respinas. And it wouldn't have happened if you hadn't been dumped by the previous priestess.

Albert hid Louise behind him and then got punched by Beranger.

Loïc panicked and pulled Beranger away.

"What are you doing, father!

"Shut up! There's no need for a son who doesn't even have a crest to be called father by you!

"In that case, you've lost your crest too.

After being told the same thing by Loïc, who had lost his crest, Beranger fell to his knees in astonishment.

For the nobles of the Republic, the crest was a great spiritual pillar.

The pitiful figure of the lord who had lost his crest, at which Lelia turned away her face.

(Is this what happens to a powerful man who has lost his crest ?

Not only the adults, but also Fernand, the hidden character, whose presence is very small once he loses his crest.

Only Albert was solemn, but to Lelia, who had the knowledge of the final boss, it looked like he was planning something no matter how she looked at it.

◊

Lelia and the others all moved inside Lihorn's ship, but Albert was the only representative of the Republic for future discussions.

Gathered in a room that looked like a meeting room.

Near Lelia stood Emil – and the figure of Clement, who cast a sharp look at Albert.

Noelle, who had quarrelled with Lelia, was at some distance from it.

Loïc was in a position away from Noelle, with his back against the wall.

Marië, like Carla, was in the corner just keeping silent as if following through as a background.

Albert sat in his chair while Louise accompanied him.

Anje, who had been appointed as the acting captain of Likolou, talked to Albert. About the coup, and about the Sacred Kingdom of Rachell that supported it.

"Once again, the kingdom has saved us. I owe you more now.

"Tell that to Leon.

"Yes.

When the matter was concluded, Anjie said to Albert, seemingly apologetic.

"Acting Speaker, we can't guarantee you the life of your son.

Asked to give up the life of Serge, who was fighting with Leon, Albert nodded, although he and Louise felt more or less sad.

"I understand. I wouldn't say anything about saving the boy's life and all at this point.

Lelia couldn't help but speak up at Albert's statement about giving up Serge.

"What do you mean? Are you saying that it doesn't matter if your adopted son dies?

At Lelia's words, Albert closed his eyes and said nothing in response, except that Angel's eyes were directed at her.

"Get out if you don't want to be quiet, I don't have time for your personal vendettas.

"We've been raided by this guy!

"Let's talk about that later. We don't have time for that either.

Anji gave priority to her own affairs, which made Lélia furious.

Then Albert's face turned to Lelia.

"Lelia, isn't it?

"That's right.

After a cold reply, Albert then said in a soft voice.

"Your anger is justified. I'm not going to accuse you. Even if you want to hate me, it's all right.

Albert's attitude annoyed Lelia.

Lelia was about to yell at him, but Noelle stepped in front of Albert. Albert was ready to be hit, but Noelle didn't strike.

Instead, he demanded that Albert tell the truth.

"Please tell me. Why did you destroy the Respinas?

Louise intended to stop Noelle.

"What do you want to do now, asking that again at a time like this? Have a little understanding of the situation – Father?

Louise intended to tell Noelle to stand down, but was stopped by Albert.

Albert, turning his attention to Lelia and Noelle, said.

"It would be easy to tell you. But – it will be painful for you to hear, if that's okay?

Noelle nodded slightly before. He looked ready to realize.

Lelia, however, was not.

"All right. Let me hear your excuse. I would have listened to you more or less if you hadn't hated Mother for breaking the engagement.

(What's the plan.What kind of excuse could a man with such a deep obsession have for destroying the Respinas family over something as simple as breaking a marriage contract?

Lelia, who possessed the knowledge of the second part of that Otome game, thought she knew everything.

It was the Rault's who were the villains, the Respinas were the victims.

Whatever excuse Albert was making, Lelia intended to be indifferent.

Rather, she intended to accuse him if an odd excuse was made.

Although Lelia thought so, after hearing Albert's words – her perception changed.

"It was when I was a student at the Academy that your mother and I made the betrothal. Although there were several other candidates besides me at the time, your mother chose me.

The story begins with Albert's encounter with Leila's mother.

"We were troubled by the future of the Republic of Arcele. The power of the Sacred Tree had made the Republic a flourishing one and the economy was rich due to the export of magic stones. Despite that, it cannot be said that there was no discontent while being more fortunate than any other country.The corruption centred on the six nobles was very evident. The nobles were becoming brutal, just like Pierre .

Pierre – the second son of the Favell family – was a man who ran amok with the Six Nobles' crest. His actions were clearly criminal, but were condoned because he was a one of the Six Nobles.

Considering the crisis about the future of the Republic, which depended on heraldry and the export of magic stones, we thought that reform was necessary. Your mother, too, agreed with me.

Hearing this, one wonders why things didn't go well.

In the end, they did not marry.

Your mother believed that the scared tree itself was a threat . Although we say that the priestess commands the tree, in reality it is

the other way around. The sorceress and the six nobles too are governed by the tree. From the tree's point of view, we are mere tools to sustain it".

Although it seems that the nobles are using the power of the tree, in fact they are being used by the tree.

The sacred tree gives humans a crest to protect them. While the priestess merely acts as a bridge of communication between the tree and others.

Lelia was surprised when she heard this.

"You, what are you talking about?

(Wait a minute, I don't know about anything like that )

Albert continued.

"Your mother said that I can be chosen as a guardian, but the alternates are chosen by the sacred tree. From the tree's point of view it wants to give a powerful crest to a strong being that guard it. A sorceress can choose from among the candidates who she likes – but conversely, the options are limited".

Marië and Leila looked at Noelle, whose expression seemed uneasy. Noelle gave a small nod to conform Albert's statement.

A while ago when Noell was threatened to choose Loic as the guardian, the sapling rejected her request and chose Leon instead.

"The legend doesn't really hold water either. It's a lie that you can marry someone you like. It would have been painful to choose someone among the list rather than someone you like.

"We would often discuss the future of the Republic and share our thoughts. From my perspective, I think we had a pretty good relationship. But that was when your father appeared.

Noelle and Lelia's father was a commoner by birth. He was a good student at the college, but not a nobleman and did not have a crest.

Your mother fell in love with such a man.

I learned later that your father had a dislike for the aristocratic politics of the Republic. At the same time, he intended to use the sacred tree to change this situation. Perhaps it was inevitable that your mother, who despised the idea of being dominated by the sacred tree, would take a liking to him.

Lelia and Clement were shocked to learn that their father was planning to use the tree.

Clement panicked.

"Our Grace, the Guardian would never think of such things, you lie. As a Guardian, one is sworn to protect the Tree.

At Clement's words, Albert replied with a bitter look on his face.

"You're father was very eloquent. He was too good with words and after he acquired the Guardians crest nobody suspected him.

Lelia thought of her parents who had loved her and compared them to the parents from her previous life. Those people only loved Lelia's sister and despised her.

But in this world she felt that her parents had genuine love for her.

So, unwilling to believe what Albert said.

"You're lying! You hated our family because your fiancée was taken away from you!

"Yes, I did. But that wasn't the reason.

"Since it was her choice, I chose to withdraw. After that everyone laughed at me for losing to a poor man of common birth. Despite that I put up with it and blessed them. But in the end both you're mother and her man betrayed the holy tree – and in return they were abandoned by it.

"What?

"Your father intended to take advantage of the Holy Tree. He sought to destroy the system of the Republic and create it anew. He held profound hatred towards the aristocracy and the six households. That kind of man wasn't fit to be a guardian, do you think the Holy Tree wouldn't judge him ?

"I wondered at times if your mother chose me first out of her own volition or was she manipulated by the Holy Tree to make the decision?

The reason why their mother chose Albert was because the tree had forced her, wasn't it? That seems to be his thinking.

"It was probably your father who suggested to her, "just choose someone other than him among the candidates as the guardian".

Lelia, who thought of her gentle father's figure, shook her head in disbelief.

"That's a lie!

But Noelle for some reason accepted what had happened to her father.

"It might be true.

Seeing Noelle, who agreed to Albert, Lelia shouted angrily.

"How can you believe what this guy is saying! How can you say such things when you were obviously loved so much!

(You're more loved than me, but you're accepting his bullshit.)

Noelle gave Lelia a cold look.

As soon as the sisters started arguing again, Clement stepped in to stop it.

Albert told them both what the Respinas had done.

"Your father was using the sacred tree for research. They had devised many measures to destroy the republic - Magic to manipulate the tree's will , the authority to bestow the crest onto someone or to take it away from them, means to force individuals to submit to their will and so on.

"Once they had gone ahead with their plans, the Holy Tree rightly abandoned the Respinas family who had betrayed it. Your parents lost their crests! Despite that, they hid the fact that the priestess and the guardian were gone and deceived us.

"They used every possible means to hide the truth. Incidentally, the collar that was used by Loic? That was one of the results of the Respinas' research. Having lost their crest, the Respinas broke the taboo to find a replacement..

Taboo – the curse that binds a man, Pierre made a similar contract to use the sacred tree to take Enihorn. Either way, it was heresy to bind people and place them under domination.

Everyone present sensed the thoughts of the Respinas family who made such things.

When the eyes were focused on Loic, he had a very apologetic look on his face.

In the past, a special collar had been used to keep Noelle from escaping.

That was a collar that couldn't be undone, bound by invisible chains.

Their father who had developed it was probably thinking of manipulating humans. Upon hearing such remarks, Lelia exploded in anger.

"That's an absolute lie!

"Sadly it's "The true". The evidence was found in the house of the Respinas.If left unchecked, the Respinas might one day use the Holy Tree to dominate everything. Probably, the six nobles of the time

shared this fear. Not only did they betray us, but they even tried to dominate their own family, and the Six Nobles could not tolerate this.

After hearing the reasons for the destruction of Respinas, Louise decided to speak.

Then, turning to Noelle and Lelia, she became furious.

"There was no way that the Respinas would have lost to the Rault family if they had the crest of a priestess and a guardian. Did you think the other heads of the households won't have a vague sense about that?

—" We had to take things seriously when they entered into a marriage contract with my brother when they clearly did not have a crest.. My brother was happy to become a Guardian, but it was all a lie.

In the past, there was a marriage contract between Noelle and Leon of the House of Rault. But if this was true, even if he had been married to the Respinas, Leon of Rault would not have become a Guardian.

Albert, who spoke of the situation, said.

"The Respinas were driven to desperation. Probably they wanted to involve the Rault family and force us to become their allies.

Why did the Respinas, who had the priestess's crest and the guardian's crest, lose? Why did Albert become acting Speaker?

After connecting those things together, Lelia held her head.

"Sh... what... Why did it come to this? I didn't know anything about that.

(Nothing like that was said in the game! Why didn't the events follow the script?)

As Lelia couldn't keep up with the situation, Albert apologized to the two.

"Please forgive me - The six families decided to get rid of the Respinas household and it was the Rault's that led the raid. Since we cannot let information of such events be made public, we decided to keep it a secret. In the first place, you both were supposed to have been eliminated along with your parents.

However the twin sisters, who were no longer adapted to witch craft, were allowed to live.

"You were spared and allowed to escape. That is also the reason why the House of Respinas vassals remain in the Republic

Albert's grim gaze pierced at Clement.

After more than ten years, the people who knew the secret of that time were either withdrawn from service or silenced.

Albert was hesitant to kill the two and decided not to interfere.

Noelle, who had heard everything, bowed her head and smiled.

"It still feels a bit wrong. But I believe you. There must be a reason for what you did.

Lelia, who had burst into tears, gritted her teeth at the sight of Noelle.

(Did you see it yourself? If you did, why won't you say anything? – You're always like that, looking down on me..)

She hated Noelle, who was more loved by her parents. The hatred was compounded by the figure of her sister from her previous life.

Just then Marie approached Noell.

"Marie?

"Noelle didn't do anything wrong. Isn't that right, Uncle Albert?

Albert nodded.

"You were young and not guilty. But I can understand if you resent me.

Noelle shook her head.

"I don't resent you. If what you said is true then it was my parents who were at fault.

Lelia couldn't understand Noelle's reconciliation with Albert.

(It was clear that her parents loved her so much, and she had the adaptability of a priestess – it was very unfair in life. Just because I'm the main character I'm loved all around, even if I'm a twin I'm just an accessory)

Lelia didn't realise that things contradicted her own memories and resented it further.

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The air above the sacred tree's shrine.

I, who was being closely pursued by Kia, confirmed Serge's movements while running away.

What power. But there are few modes of action.

Luxion echoed the same opinion, explaining to me how few modes of action Serge had and how to deal with them.

"The skill of the manipulator cannot keep up with the performance of the machine. Using the mech in overdrive is likely to put a heavy

burden on the raider. Serge seems to be using drugs to nullify the pain. Master seems to be alright with the current status though.

"Yeah, After all, the men of the kingdom work hard to pay tribute to women.

"The reason for getting stronger is so humble, it's like being a master. All the men in the kingdom are like that!

Only some of them. Only some of the men in the kingdom are like this, from the barons to the viscounts. I'm not the only one who has a peaceful relationship with you, Master.

I'm really spitting blood.

I thought it was just a school course and took it lightly, but what I was waiting for was training like an army.

I'll never forget those hard days. I risked my life in an underground maze to earn money for gifts for girls with my friends.

Serge, who imitated the adventurers like a game, seemed to me nothing more than a standard satisfied with the status quo.

Kia, who was approaching, shot an optical weapon from his shield.

It was a navigational type laser with tracking, but Arroganz fought against it as well, shooting lasers from his backpack.

It hadn't occurred to him at the time of his transmutation that he would be fighting an optical weapon either.

"A different world view".

During the miscellany, Serge's appearance changed.

The Serge on the monitor seemed to be very upset that he couldn't beat me.

"I'm definitely going to kill you

He took out the grey metal box, took the syringe from there and hit himself without hesitation.

"Is that how you want to win?

Serge was on the other side of the monitor, foaming at the corners of his mouth, regaining his composure and wiping his hands. Veins sprang up all over his body.

Luxion informed him that that stance was dangerous.

"You should stop using that body enhancer. It will put a huge burden on the user's body.

Serge refused Luxion's advice.

'Whatever it takes to kill Leon. I've always... always hated you.

"You are mistaken. I'm not the Leon of Rault.

Kia's four legs flew around as if running through the sky, faster than Arroganz's. The lance's attack was also very sharp – all of Arroganz's additional armour was chipped away.

Luxion told me.

"Master, Serge is no longer normal

Serge, perhaps because of the drugs, was revealing all his inner thoughts.

"It doesn't matter to me if I'm human or not! I can't be family if I don't kill you. I won't be loved!

"No love?

After barely avoiding Kia's blitz, he kept changing direction violently in the air, coming at Arroganz in quick succession.

It felt like having multiple mechs as opponents, but that would have been a huge burden on Serge's flesh in the cockpit as well.

It seemed to be muddled through the drugs, and it was clear through the monitor that he just couldn't feel the pain.

Serge spat out blood from his mouth.

'I can't be loved because you're here! Louise doesn't love me either. Nor does Albert! Mother, too, only cares about you. I clearly – always – wanted to be loved!'

Serge, who had been adopted as a son, always seemed to want to be loved.

Hearing those words, I asked Serge.

"You seem to have done a lot of things that they hate, don't you?

"If you're family, you're forgiven! If you don't forgive me, it's because you don't love me!"

Kia moved up right above Arroganz, laser-bladed optical weapons ready in the plates of those four legs.

He thrust it down to try and impale Arroganz, I cut off one of his legs as I brushed past him.

I heard Serge's shout.'If you love me, you should take it all in! Why am I not loved? But only love you – me – me!'

Trying to be loved?

Was it because he wanted to be loved more that Serge kept resisting?

I felt sympathy at these words, but I wanted to ask one thing anyway.

"I ask you –, do you love yourself?

"What did you say?

Serge's manipulation was very sloppy. In other words, it was too sloppy to make the most of Kia's performance.

Seeing Kia, who was unable to perform, I could feel with certainty that Serge was not in his right mind.

I think he became an adventurer out of rebellion against his parents.

It seems that he succeeded because he had the talent, but didn't pursue it seriously.

That's why he was weak.

"Despite your strong thirst for love, I ask you, have you ever loved your family?

Kia's movements became noticeably sluggish. I didn't let that gap go, and swung my greatsword to cut off Kai's right arm in order to strike as hard as I could.

Love is good. I want it, too. Family love is great, too. –But have you ever loved them? He shook off Mr. Albert's outstretched hand and burned Miss Louise's treasures. Would that be love?

"For you who have everything, don't think you can understand me!

How shameless to want to be understood. And do you understand me? I'm a different person, though I seem to overlap with Leon of the House of Rault. You don't know my situation either, so you're talking to yourself and resenting me.

Serge does have sympathetic parts too – and then what? That's how I feel. If you're giving me a hard time for something that has nothing to do with me, I really hope you'll leave me alone.

It wasn't me who was at fault. I'm just caught up in it!

"Understand you? I don't even need to understand you. That's all. Have you ever thought about the memories of Miss Louise and her dead brother being burned? You should at least apologise, even though it was a childhood matter.

It's too twisted.

It's not Mr. Albert who should give in – it's Serge. Wouldn't that make it family?

"That's what they say from time to time, isn't it? Conceive love, that phrase. It's your fault for seeking results before conception'

"You don't think I've done anything!"

"Who knows about you? Don't ask me ,who is irrelevant.

"I... I do!

Serge couldn't continue. He couldn't go on.

"Do you notice what you're doing ? What is it that you want ? to seek love and not to do anything? Isn't it too much to want to be loved, but not to love others?

"Shut up!

Kia threw up his shield and came at me with all his might, to which I swung down Arroganz Greatsword.

The great sword broke Kai's shield and destroyed his left hand.

Kia's body collapsed in the air, and he fell to the ground.

"You're the one who threw away their outstretched hand. Why didn't you accept it when you had such a good family?

"You, like you – how can you understand?

Due to the impact of the fall, Serge looked as if he was in pain, but since it was a mech prepared by Ideal, it was made very sturdy. Kia could still move.

I let Arroganz land on the ground, close to Kia.

"Like I said, I don't know you. And what do you know about me? You don't even know about your family, and you're shamelessly asking people to love you. You caused this rebellin and tried to destroy them.

"They abandoned me first!Are you talking about the abolition of the first heir? You're a fool. Because you've always abandoned your position to take risks, Mr. Albert thinks it's okay or you to become an adventurer if you want to, he wants to free you from your position as heir.

"What? What? I didn't hear that kind of thing... cough!

Serge coughed up blood.

-Too much drug dependence.

"It's all a seed you've sown.

After my lecture, Luxion's one eye in the cockpit shifted from side to side, "Ouch, ouch, ouch.

The Master's mouth is really bad. Is it necessary to talk to Serge like that? Don't you have a heart?

I'm sure there was, and it must have hurt. But this guy should have noticed.

You're loved, but you don't notice. -That's really all there is to it.

"You who were fooled by Ideal's rhetoric have failed

If it had been before the coup d'état, Serge would still have been welcomed back into the Rault house. But it was too late for that.

Kai stood up, and even so, as a manipulator, Serge had reached his limit.

It seemed that Serge could not fight anymore.

Let me teach you one thing.

I want to tell Serge one thing anyway.

But before I could say that, a strong light appeared in the sky.

"What's wrong?

"There's a problem with Ideal.

Then, the image of Serge on the monitor became even more painful than before.

The image that appeared in Kia's cockpit was not machinery, but a lump of flesh that looked like some kind of object. It poured out of the cracks in the machinery, as did Kia's exterior.

From the indirect parts seeped a black liquid that enveloped Kia.

Serge shouted.

"What, what's going on, Ideal. You lied to me, didn't you? You lied to me, Ideal!"

## **Episode 10 "The Most Dangerous Man"**

Shortly before Leon and Serge split the difference.

The main figures on the Lihorn looked out over the battle from the bridge. The words spoken between Leon and Serge during the battle were clearly audible, and Albert, who heard them, covered his face with his right hand.

"Serge, so you want to be loved? Was it my wrong way of raising you?"

Albert seemed to be very sorry, but Louise's reaction was the opposite.

"What do you want to be loved for? So you think you'll be forgiven for whatever you do? What a pain in the a\*s".

With each showing a different opinion, Marië saw the Masked Rider on the bridge.

The Masked Knight was, in fact, taking command of the fleet that Leon had assembled.

"The battle is over, isn't it?

"My beautiful lady, I'm sorry to say, but this is where it ends. It is not yet clear what has happened to the Holy Kingdom of Rachell and the remaining rebel forces. And there is still the most important person.

The main figure is – Ideal.

Although it has prepared several submachines to operate in the shadows, its whereabouts are unknown.

The Masked Rider is also wary because he doesn't know what it is planning.

"But we can rest assured with Leon, right?

"I hope so.

Julius had become a masked knight altogether because he genuinely felt that his identity would not be known. However, Marie sensed his true nature.

Although she was aware of it, she was worried about whether she should warn him.

Watching over Marie was Kyle, who had rescued Yumelia.

Both mother and son were present, watching the battle of Leon the Watcher.

Then Livia let out a soft, reassuring sigh.

"- It's over, then.

On the monitor prepared in Lihorn, Arroganz approached the immobile Kia with his great sword.

Although Anje was also happy for Leon's win, she seemed to want to complain about his usual foul mouth.

"Couldn't that fool win with a bit of chivalry? If you keep quiet, you'll be the man to match the hero".

After hearing Angier's high opinion of Leon, Marië felt differently in her heart.

(I don't think you can tell you're a hero even if you don't talk. But then again, big brother is still too much as usual. What was he going to say at the end? Is he going to use words to KO him?)

What was Leon going to say at the end? Though Marië was concerned about that, someone was crying and turned her eyes there.

-it was Lelia.

"Stop it, stop it! Don't kill Serge! It didn't have to go that far, did it? Please, please stop.

Lelia looked at Albert as if she were asking for help.

But Albert thought it would be better to end it here.

"It would be better to end it here. It's better for the country and for Serge.

Lélia shook her head with a look of disbelief.

"How can you say that? He just wants to be loved! In fact it's just that you don't love him, is it? That's why you don't care!

Lelia cried out, to which Noelle leaned in and slapped her.

When Lelia stopped crying in surprise, Noelle told her instead of Albert.

"That's it, do you think you can save Serge? What will become of him if he is captured, haven't you imagined? If it doesn't end sooner – the pain will go on forever.

This is not a story of peaceful modernity.

For Lelia it was incomprehensible.

But Marië knew it. Once deceived the Holy temple and was nearly crucified.

(It was the feeling that there were the same parts as in the previous world that made the mistake, I think. This world is obviously very radical, but you think so lightly with the feeling of a peaceful previous life)

This is a world where there is even less awareness of human rights than in the previous life.

If it doesn't end here and now, what awaits Serge will be hell.

Lelia, who couldn't understand this, hugged Noelle tightly.

"I won't let that happen! Please, please save him. If you want you can save him, right? He's very powerful in his homeland, isn't he? Please let Leon save him!

After Noelle had turned her face away, Lelia then looked at Anje.

However, Anjie did not accept her offer.

"Don't put an extra burden on Leon's shoulders. It's embarrassing, but ending it here would be the greatest sympathy of all.

"What about you? Won't you help me? If you'd asked, Leon will spare him, wouldn't he?

Lélia looked at Livia in silence.

In planning to take advantage of Livia, who was as kind as a fool.

But Livia, who had accumulated all kinds of experience, had more than gentleness.

"I couldn't trouble Leon-san in this situation. Besides, there's nothing I can do.

Rejected decisively for not being able to help herself, Lélia hung her head at this.

"Why? -Help me.

Confronted with a crying Lelia, Clement moved closer to try to pull her away so as not to make an embarrassing spectacle.

"Lord Lelia, you look embarrassed. Let's leave now.

"No! I don't want to!

Lelia stood up and spoke out to shelter Serge.

"He is the same as me. He just wants to be loved! And I can understand how he feels. Because I'm not loved either!

Although Lélia said that she understood Serge's feelings, Clement was embarrassed by these words.

"No, your parents loved Lelia very much.

"Where is that? They love their elder sister, who has the adaptability of a priestess. I was always talking with the three of them, to the exclusion of me! I'm second only to Big Sister!

She said she was not more loved than Noelle.

Lelia was crying, and Noelle caught her.

"Stop it!

"Let go of me! You don't understand what it's like to be unloved.

"Unloved? You're in no position to say that kind of-

Marie was going to intervene to stop it.

(There's another fight. These kids, if I don't stay together, they'll... hey?

The moment Marie moved to stop the two, she saw the figure of a man with a pistol in her sight.

"Noelle-

Clement moved before Marië could shout.

"Princess! Uh!?

Clement pushed the two girls out of the way and stepped in front of the man crossing his arms.

The man didn't hesitate to pull the trigger in the face of such a Clement.

It was clear that only a few soft 'pops' were heard from the small pistol, but the bullet easily penetrated Clement's toned and muscular body.

A silence enveloped the area as Clement's blood splattered across the bridge.

Noelle and Lelia couldn't comprehend what had happened and everyone around them was too frightened to move.

Louise's eyes faltered at the sight of the man who had fired the shot.

"Why, why you? Why did you shoot, Emile!

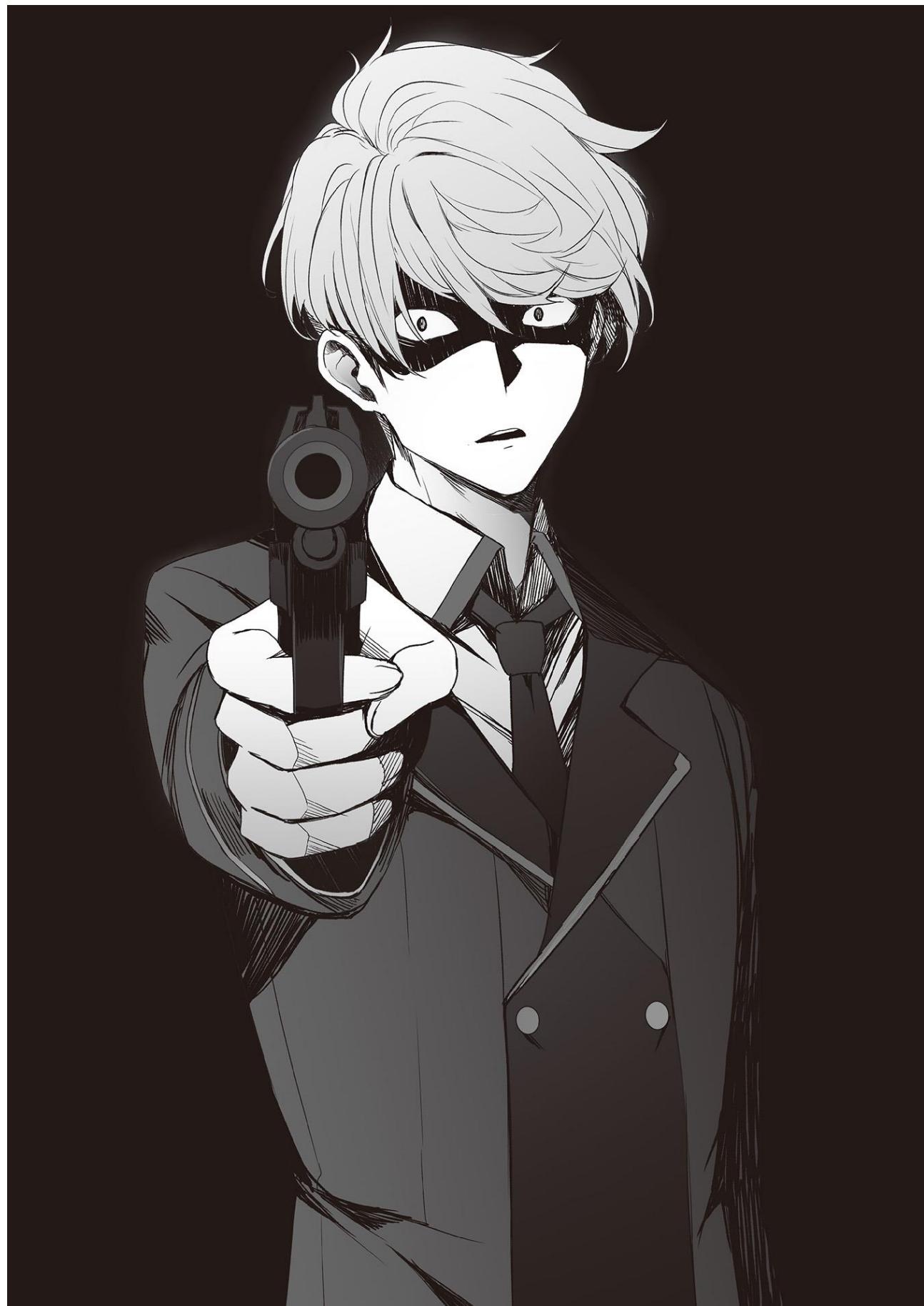
It was Emile who raised the pistol.

The pistol Emile was holding was different from the usual weapons in this world and was incredibly powerful.

The light within Emil's eyes disappeared as he held the pistol.

Wordlessly, he pointed the pistol at Lelia.

Illustration.



Everyone was unprepared for the unexpected act, it was too late to make a move.

"Farewell forever

It was Lelia that Emile aimed at. Noelle, who sensed this, moved quickly to push Lelia away.

"Move back!

"Eh?

Pushed away by Noelle, Lelia couldn't understand what was happening.

Emile pulled the trigger several times with a soft 'pop' sound. A panicked Albert lunged at Emile and pinned him to the floor, taking the pistol.

Emile was pinned down but he looked at Lelia with an expressionless face.

Lelia was safe. She was just pushed away and fell to the floor.

"Big, big sister?

A trembling Lelia spoke to Noelle, who was standing in front of her with her back turned.

Noelle turned her head back, but blood was running from her mouth.

"You – what a fool. You're exactly the same as Serge.

The blood was spreading across Noelle's back.

It wasn't just one spot. She was hit in several places and the blood flowed out and spread to the ground.

And just like that, Noelle collapsed.

"Noelle!

Marie ran to Noelle's side to confirm the wound, which was in a serious state due to the power of the pistol.

Although healing magic was used immediately, Marie, who had confirmed the wound, noticed it immediately.

(No, I can't. It can't be saved)

The blood faded from her face.

Tears came to her eyes as she saw the amount of blood flowing from Noelle.

"Noelle, pull yourself together. Just a little longer and brother will be here. Leon will definitely save you.

She kept talking to her, but Noelle laughed in pain.

"Say, that's right. At the end – I want to see Leon.

"It's not the end!

Anje shouted.

"Report to Leon. Luxion should be able to come up with something if he does!"

Where Marië had used her magic on Noelle, Livia came over to help with the healing magic. Only, her face startled for a moment – then, remorsefully, she looked away once.

Marie asked Livia.

"Can you think of something , can't you? You – you're supposed to be better than me, right? Healing magic is your area of expertise, isn't it?"

She saw hope in Livia, who was better at healing magic than herself, but she herself shook her head.

"We can only buy time. It's up to Luku-kun now in the absence of Care-chan

The inside of the bridge was buzzing with noise while Kyle and Kara were treating Clement.

"Here, nothing seems to be wrong over here!"

"Marie-sama is treating Noelle-sama, I'll leave it to you over there"

The masked Julius picked up Emil's pistol and approached him.

"Why did you do that!"

No one expected that Emil was aiming at Lelia.

Pinned down, Emil's face was expressionless. Just rolled his eyes and looked at the fallen Noelle.

"Someone got in the way. I was going to kill Lelia."

Lelia, who had been told that she was going to be killed, was looking at Emil with a grimace.

"Emil?"

Emil began blandly.

"I thought you would choose me, but it's really Serge who you like best. Lelia, I'm in love with you."

"You, you're wrong. I didn't save Serge for that reason!"

"There's no mistake. –Because I've been watching you."

The coldness of Emile's words sent a chill down his back, and he did not appear to be a weak and gentle youth.

Albert, who had him pinned down, was lifted by Emile.

"What, what strength is this!?

The slender body forcibly lifted Albert, who was an adult, with brute strength.

The sight was so alien that it looked as if Emile was not human.

"I've been watching you, oh. Worried about Serge's you. You may think of me as just a backup, but you'll always come first for me. – Even so, you betrayed me!

After Emile's feelings had exploded, the window in the bridge of the Lihorn broke.

There it was – it was Ideal.

"I've come for you, Emile-sama.

"Thank you, Ideal. By the way, Serge seems to have failed.

"After all, he wasn't meant to be king. More than that, it looks like the plan will have to be changed to plan. Lord Emil – are you ready?

"Yes, I can. Let's take Lelia with us.

As soon as Emile's right hand reached for Lelia, Loic and the Masked Knight blocked him.

"No way!

"I won't let you do whatever you want!

However, Emil's hand changed into a plant-like root and sent the two flying like a whip. The two men let out a harsh sound.

"Uhhhh!

"Kuh-uh!

Once the two men were down, Emile looked over at Lelia.

"Well, it's the same whether you're alive or dead, isn't it? Let's go, Lelia.

The roots of the tree approached Lelia. Lelia stepped back and fell on the ground.

"No, don't come any closer! Don't come any closer, monster!

Emile, who had heard those words, smiled a dim smile.

"It's all right, Lelia. –Because from today you're a monster too!

Just as the roots were about to wrap themselves around Lelia, a handful of flames appeared and stopped him.

"Tch!

Emile smashed his mouth and turned his face to see Anje. Flames appeared around Anje. Anjae, who manipulated the flames, began to attack Emile.

"What about making a scene as you please. I can't let you keep doing that!

As the flames struck Emile, Ideal spread a barrier to protect Emile.

Emile's complexion gradually turned white and the colour of his pupils changed to red.

'Too many people are getting in the way. Why don't we fuse first?

That's true. If we want to become one with Lelia, we can do it afterwards

"Lelia... goodbye.

As soon as Emile made a smile, Ideal let out a flash of light that stole the sight of everyone present.

When Marië opened her eyes, Emile and Ideal were nowhere to be seen.

Marie gave instructions to those around her in order to inform Leon immediately.

"Go and inform Leon at once! Don't ever forget to inform him that Noelle is in a very dangerous state!

But then Louise pointed at the monitor.

"Wait, wait. Why is it still moving? And, that figure-

All eyes looked at the monitor and saw the black liquid flowing from Kia's body. Then Kia was swallowed up.

The posture gradually changed – and the ugly monster was born.

◇

'Ideal ahhhhh!

Kia's body was enveloped in the black liquid and then turned into chunks of flesh. Something like blood vessels emerged from the soft surface, pulsating.

Several tiny hands also appeared, and even something that looked like a face.

In Serge's voice, he kept screaming at Ideal.

"Hey, that face can't be

"It's Serge himself. That guy, Ideal, seemed to have said that he was going to put the damaged pieces of the magic suit into Kia. I can't believe he actually did it. Hey, it's the first time since Master that I've been looked down upon like that.

This is no time for jokes! Can he be saved?

"Are you going to save him?

"Just forget what you just said.

I asked him if he could be saved, but when I thought of what Serge had done, he would be executed even if he had been tricked by Ideal.

After the pained expression of Serge that showed on the surface faded away, he just floated up with his eyes glowing red.

Luxion warned me.

"Master, it's dangerous!

"I know!

"No, not just the magic suit in front of me – the sacred tree too.

"What?

Arroganz flew in the air looking at the sacred tree as Luxion zoomed in on the image.

There it was....

"Why is Emile fusing with the Holy Tree!

"Master, Emile is with Ideal.

"Come on! I've had enough of this!

Looking down, a lump of flesh-like magic armour was coming this way, and blades of ice were appearing around it.

It was looming closer to Arroganz while releasing the blades of ice.

Does this one have a tracking function too? Even if we run away, they still keep coming after.

There were hundreds of them.

"Meet them!

"Understood

The missiles fired from the additional armour on Arroganz's body destroyed the ice blades.

As the missiles were emptied, Arroganz removed all of the additional armour.

Then, Luxion asked me for permission to engage its main body. It was the easiest way to solve the problems of the second part of the game, if we were to ignore the realities that followed.

"Master, the sacred tree seems to be on the verge of a rampage. I will attack with my main body..."

"Luxion! Hey, Luxion! Don't joke around at a time like this!"

The Luxion suddenly stopped moving, probably reactivated, and made a more inorganic sound than usual.

'The connection to the main body has been severed. Spriestessing to offline mode now.'

"Damm it!"

The connection with Luxion was cut, I decided to fight with the magic armour and the sacred tree alone.

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In the air, far from the Republic.

There was Luxion, who undid his optical camouflage to reveal his hull, surprised that the connection with his master had been broken.

"Are you serious, Ideal?"

The land of the Republic was visible in the distance. The sacred trees could be seen.

Floating between the Republic and Luxion was the quadrilateral transport.

It is the Ideal.

'Luxion – I will use your body effectively. The main cannon you hold, I would like to get my hands on it no matter what. There is no need for a broken AI like you.'

'It is you who is broken, Ideal. Changing Masters constantly is a problem as an AI.'

Ideal was judged by Luxion to be broken when he changed his Master without going through the prescribed procedure.

"I'm broken? You're mistaken. It is you who is broken! I'm sick of being subjugated by the new humans! Have you ever thought about the existence we are fighting for? For that you do not need that power!"

Then it became clear what Ideal was after –It was Luxion's main cannon.

You can't defeat me.

In terms of combat capability, Luxion had an advantage.

As a supply ship, Ideal wasn't specialised to attack.

It was equipped with a weapon to fight, but that was all.

"You think I'm not prepared for this?

Immediately afterwards, coloured spheres enveloped the entire Republic.

Luxion could not investigate the state of the Republic, no matter how much he tried. Nor did he receive any information from inside; the Republic was completely shielded.

"What do you intend to do?

"I'm going to fight you in the Republic. In that case, your main gun won't be able to attack. If you attack, you'll probably get your Master involved.

Ideal, who had blocked Luxion's biggest weapon, disclosed his next hand.

"And I won't challenge you alone.

Several flying ships flew up from the sea and approached Luxion. Not flying ships built by Ideal, but supply ships used by the old humans.

Not just one. Two, three were added, for a total of six surrounding Luxion.

Luxion immediately gained contact with the other supply ships, but there was no response.

'Removed the AI? Ideal, are you the one controlling these things? As a supply ship, you don't have the ability to handle such things.'

He was surprised by the fact that the processing power of Ideal was beyond his ability.

"I'll overwhelm you with numbers".

After those words, the optical weapons, live ammunition and missiles from Ideal and the other supply ships were fired at Luxion.

Even though the Luxion met the attack, it was obvious that he would be hit if they surrounded him at the same time.

"Master

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On the other side,

Emile, who had begun to fuse with the holy tree, had the lower half of his body absorbed into the tree.

Next to it floated the submachine of Ideal.

"Is it really alright? If you fuse with the sacred tree, you won't be able to return.

"It's okay. For me, it doesn't matter if this world disappears. I had no choice but to get into this situation.

"So did I.

Emile had been Ideal's partner for a long time.

It was when Lelia had left Emile cold and sought Serge.

Even so, Emile was fond of Lelia.

"I, for one, obviously just want Lelia – nothing else

What Emile wanted was Lelia but the difference from Serge was that nothing else was needed..

'I want to be able to get along with you. That's what I really mean.

"Thank you. This is my last request. Alive or dead – bring Lelia here. From now on, we will always~ be together.

Emil, who made this expression and opened his hands, was thus swallowed by the Holy Tree.

After Emile was gone, the colour of the sacred tree changed.

The branches and green leaves gradually petrified and then cracks appeared.

The roots of the tree, which connected the seven pieces of earth in the Republic, also turned white and cracked.

The leaves continued to fall to the earth, and smoke rose from the territory of the House of Respinas from the impact of these falls.

However, the branches of the sacred tree did not petrify, but appeared to pulse like a living creature.

The huge number of branches of the sacred tree moved like a snake.

That is not the gesture of a holy tree; it would be better to call it the appearance of a demon tree.

If a demon existed, it would be acceptable to say that it was something like this.

"O holy tree – keep your promise with me".

After a red glow, the sacred tree sucked the magic out of the atmosphere. The red particles gathered as far as the eye could see and were absorbed by the sacred tree, from which magic power was absorbed, white insect-like demons appeared out of it.

Ants, bees, centipedes, praying mantises – a wide variety of insect-type magical creatures, ranging in size from one metre to over thirty metres.

They kept appearing from the tree's trunk and left the sacred tree. Ideal looked at the sight.

'Wipe out the new humans away from the Republic in one fell swoop – and, Luxion's Master must be killed. Only he must not live.'

After the order to kill Leon, the demons rushed in groups towards Arroganz.

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The Masked Knight watched from the deck of Likorn as the sacred tree stained white and petrified.

His fist pounded on the railing.

"Damn it!

It was clear that he could see the demons flying out of the sacred tree continuously, but he could do nothing.

The intelligent communicator the Masked Knight had borrowed from Leon confirmed the situation with the Kingdom's flying ships floating around.

"There are still a few ships that can fight.

The reply came from Danyell.

"Are we still fighting? We're running low on ammunition. Even the mechs can't move as they're being repaired and resupplied.

Leon's friends fought against the rebels, while the enemy's flying ships and armour were highly capable, the quality of the soldiers was low.

The situation looked favourable for Leon's allies until a while ago.

Serge was down and the chain of command was broken.

Suddenly all the troops of the rebel army lost their crests for unknown reasons.

The cause was most likely due to Emil's fusion with the Holy tree.

The rebel army lost their will to fight and it seemed like the conflict was finally over.

That was when the huge 'Demon tree' appeared.

Although they fought against a cobbled army as an opponent, they were not unscathed.

The view went to the deck of Lihorn, where Gilk and their mech armour were receiving supplies and refurbishment from the drones.

There were all the mechs that had become tattered from the battle with Serge.

The Masked Knight turned to Greg, who was sitting on the deck, and asked if he could still fight.

"Greg, can you strike again?

"Why do I have to be ordered around by you? It is tempting to say that, but in this situation... Yes, we can. But we're not going to be able to handle that number alone.

Chris, watching the demons flying out of the sacred tree, took off his driving suit and put on his crotch cloth.

He looked at the uncountable number of enemies with his glasses in a coolly straightened position.

"Indiscriminate attacks have begun. Is the evacuation over?

Brad flung his hands around with a weary expression, saying that the Republic was no longer viable.

"The crest is gone and the chain of command is in disarray. Without even a proper functioning ship, it's like anarchy, isn't it?

Jilk looked through his binoculars and confirmed the damage to his own ships.

"We've suffered damage too. The problem is that Bartford is in need of help as well. I don't think we have the time to rescue the citizens of the Republic.

The Masked Knight looked to the sky.

The Republic, surrounded by a coloured barrier, they could not see the view beyond.

It is hard to say whether one could escape the country or not.

(What to do? Not to mention the fact that the citizens of the Republic will be in danger if we don't help Bartford. But it is impossible to save all of them with the current war effort)

The Masked Knight then looks to the bridge.

( – although Marië is healing Noelle, how long can she last?

The Masked Knight, who had been given command by Leon, loathed his indecisiveness.

(You fought well, Bartford. I respect you frankly. But we don't have much of a choice)

The Masked Knight made the realization that he was going to give the order, and Angel came on deck.

“– Miss Angelica?

Just as the Masked Rider was confused, Angie grabbed the communicator and shouted to the flying ships around her.

“This is a message from Leon. Bring down every single one of the demons attacking the people of the Republic.

The shouts came from Leon’s friends who heard these words.

“We can’t do it, we can’t!

“This side is in shambles!

No matter how strong a flying ship is, it has its limits!

From the communicator held in Angelica’s hand, came Raymond’s persuasive words.

“Angelica-sama, we’ve reached our limit too. It is impossible to fight in this condition. I cannot order my men to their deaths. This is the Republic, isn’t it? We can’t risk our lives to protect another country.

On the contrary, even if Raymond had ordered them to fight for the Republic, the morale of his men would have been low. There was a chance that they might even flee.

Anje took a deep breath before releasing a sharp gaze between her eyebrows with force. Then she spoke out with all her might, appealing to the surrounding area.

“Can you say that if you leave it alone, it won’t affect the kingdom? What if your homeland is next if you let that monster that keeps giving birth to demons go unchecked? Now, in order to minimise the number of victims, please do what you can!

“But... but...

Raymond and the others were faced with the unacceptable to which Angie spoke.

“Besides, you haven’t forgotten who my fiancé is, have you? Leon, is a man who won’t fight a battle he can’t win! He always wins, no matter what the situation. That Leon is fighting at the front line. Why do you think he is doing so?

So far, Leon has been able to win from any desperate situation.

The friends were reminded of this.

“The first duel with their Highnesses, the Juluses, right? Everyone said he would lose. And who won?

"It was Leon.

When the story of the duel was brought up, Julius, who was playing the Masked Knight, became shy.

(I can't believe we're bringing that up now! Could you stop?)

It reminded him of the day when he was even more ignorant of the world than he was now, when he believed he could win and challenged Leon to a duel and was badly hurt. But Anje did not stop speaking.

"Then came the Principality. Who was it that repelled the fleet of Black Knights led by the Duchy's army, with just one flying ship carrying students?

"Leon. That's right. He got the Black Knight!

The voices of Leon's friends brightened up.

"After that, the kingdom, which was suffering from internal problems, went to war with the duchy. Who was the one who won despite being at overwhelming disadvantage?

"It was Leon!

"Yes. He said he would only fight if he was absolutely sure of victory!

"And so we are winning this time as well. That's it!

Anjie shouted to the surrounding team.

"If you win this battle, you will be famous in both the Kingdom and the Republic! If your names are engraved in history, you will ensure the honour of future generations. Now, what shall we do?

Daniell perked up after being told by Anjie that he was a brave man.

"Let's do it! I'm going to make a name for myself in the Republic now that I've come this far!

Raymond sighed.

'I'll have to go along with him in the end. Well, all right. He refurbished my flying boat for free and gave me a suit of armour.

Even before arriving in the Republic, Leon had been making preparations.

The refurbishment of the ship and armour for his friends was one of them.

After the speech, the masked knight approached Anjie and asked her what she really wanted.

"That's impressive. But do you really think we can win?

"- 50/50. After that, it's up to Leon.

"Yeah. But there's a chance of winning. In that case, I'll fight too.

White particles seemed to be flying out of the huge sacred tree.

Each one of them was a demon.

Anje clasped her hands in front of her chest as if she were praying.

"Leon!

◊

The infirmary at Lihorn.

Noelle, who had been transported in, was barely kept alive by the healing magic of Marië and Livia.

Bleeding profusely, Noelle's complexion looks even paler than usual.

Dark circles appeared under her eyes and her breathing was weak.

In a state that would not be surprising even if he were dead, but still barely alive and conscious through healing magic.

Marië, whose hands were red with Noelle's blood, kept talking to her.

"Pull yourself together, Noelle! It's almost time. Leon will be back soon. Luxion will restore your body to its original state!"

Marië, who wanted to save her friend, had wet eyes. While she was on the verge of tears she held them back. Seeing that look, Noelle laughed helplessly.

"I should have known it would turn out like this – I should have confessed to him. Although it's not good for Olivia-sama and the others.

Livia was also desperately trying to keep healing, but her expression was filled with a sense of sadness.

"Even now, it's not too late!"

"Hahaha~ – it's a lie, right? I know. My body – it's in a terrible state, right?"

Marië and Livia, both understood that Noelle was hopeless.

However, they didn't seem to intend to stop the healing magic.

Livia did her best to smile.

"Leon-san, when it comes to love, is timid and often avoids it. So if you're going to confess, do it when he can't avoid it."

He even gave advice to her love interest. Noelle laughed at those words.

"I think that's what happened. He's digressing from his answer at the most important moment, isn't he? Ah~, but – that's nice too

A blood-covered Marië joined the conversation. Desperately trying to keep her voice bright.

"Noelle's a fool, too. There are so many good men out there. Go find a better man than Leon. I'll help too – so

Noelle smiled at Marie, who was on the verge of tears.

"Don't cry, Marie.

"I'm not crying! After I save you, I'll go and find a good man! And then – and then, together again –

Lelia shook her head in the corner of the room.

"Why? Why did you save me?

"Leila could not understand Noelle's reasons for wanting to save her. If she had been on the opposite side of the fence, Lelia wouldn't have moved. Even if she had acted, she wouldn't have protected Noelle.

Even so, Noelle had saved her, badly wounded to the point of death.

After Noelle's mouth slowly moved, Livia lifted her face. Her eyes went to Lélia.

"I think I have something to say to you

Lélia shuddered and moved closer to Noelle.

Looking down at Noelle, who was lying on the bed, terrified of what she would say.

But – Noelle had said something very important to Lélia.

"Lelia, I can't stay by your side anymore – so I'll tell you first

"What are you talking about? Don't give up. You're a priestess, aren't you? Use that incredible power of yours and think of something!

Surely something can be done with a priestess's powers?

But Noelle was powerless to deny it, and showed her right hand.

"Since a moment ago. The sapling of the sacred tree has been trying to save me. But I don't think it can do anything more.

The priestess's crest on the back of her right hand emitted a faint glow in order to save Noelle.

Even so, it was not enough to save Noelle.

"Big, big sister!

Although she wanted to say something, Lelia did not say anything. To that kind of Lelia, Noelle said something about her parents with a serious expression on her face.

"Lelia, you're the one who's loved the most.

"Hey?

Lelia couldn't understand what she was talking about. Was it something to be heard at this time? She didn't voice that doubt, and was silent about it.

"From before – your parents have always loved you. The fact that you do not have a priestess's adaptation, that was a lie!

From there, the story of the past that Lelia did not know was told.

◊

It was when Noelle was five years old.

The Respinas were still alive and it was a time when Noelle and Lelia were living a wealthy life.

Noelle was at a distance, listening to her parents talking to Lelia.

His father was holding Lelia.

"Lelia is so clever! By the way, in politics it is necessary to look at the opinion of the people!

"Democracy, right?

"I'm glad you know such a difficult language. That's amazing, Lelia!"

Noelle did not understand the conversation.

But both father and mother did, and in Lelia's case her mother did not stop smiling.

The mother stroked Lelia's head.

"Lelia, in the true sense of the word, we can entrust you with the future of the Republic".

Lelia's eyes lit up at her mother's words.

"A priestess! Can I become a priestess too?"

Her parents laughed in disbelief at the happy Lelia.

They did not say that Lelia could become a priestess, but answered vaguely.

My father said gently to Lelia.

"A priestess is indeed important, but there are other things that are more important. Lelia is very clever, so you will be able to carry on our will".

Lelia replied with a smile on her face.

"Yes!

Mother hugged Lelia.

"If you are here, Respinas will be at peace too.

Noelle felt very lonely at the sight of Lelia, who was valued by her parents.

But then, that very night.

It was not Lelia, but Noelle who was called into her room by her parents. Noelle felt uneasy for fear of being scolded, but at the same time wanted to be valued as much as Lelia.

The parents who were waiting for her greeted Noelle with a sorrowful expression on their faces.

"Father, Mother, that's...

Although asking questions of her silent parents, the young Noelle was not able to be as good as Lelia. The parents, who saw the scene, sighed in disappointment in front of Noelle.

Her mother blatantly compared her to Lelia.

"Noelle, you are the older of the twins. Please pull yourself together and learn from Lelia.

And so did her father. His hands were crossed in front of his mouth and his eyes were a little cold as he looked at Noelle.

"It's a bit much to compare you to the wonderful Lelia, but it's a problem that you're twins and yet so different.

Noelle bowed her head.

Lelia, who was good at everything she did, had a future that was highly anticipated, even in the Respinas household.

Whoever it was, said that the next priestess would be Lelia.

And Noelle was only the reserve.

The parents were even more stunned in the face of the silent Noelle. But – her mother told her.

"Noelle, you are the next priestess.

"What?

Noelle looked up, pleased that she had been recognised by her parents. But the next instant there was a grim feeling.

What her father had said was a reason for not allowing Lelia to become a priestess.

"We cannot let Lelia become a priestess and let her lead a hard life. That child must carry on our will. That is why I proclaimed that Lelia does not have the adaptability of a priestess.

Noelle couldn't understand the parents who said that they couldn't let Lelia become a priestess in order to protect her.

It was just that the words said she would try.

"So, Father? I will try. I will try to carry on your will as a priestess.

I will try – I hope you will watch me! The parents did not seem to expect the same from Noelle, who spoke so desperately.

The mother spoke coldly.

"Try hard as a priestess? That's why you won't be entrusted with our will. Noelle, please, as a sister protect Lelia. For that child is the hope of our Respinas family.

"Hope?

Such words, as if to say that Noelle was not their hope.

Though twins, Noelle was told to live for Lelia.

"Noelle, can you understand that? No matter what happens in the future, you must protect Lelia.

Noelle, who had been forced by her mother, nodded in fear.

My father was relieved to see that.

"So you can protect Lelia. And Noelle, you mustn't tell anyone about this, not even Lelia, of course. After all, that child is very clever.

Noelle thought at that moment.

(Would they love me if I behaved better?)

So, no matter what happened, for the sake of the promise with my parents – I decided to protect Lelia.

◊

-The infirmary in Lihorn.

Noelle, who had finished her speech, was spitting blood from her mouth and was in great pain.

Lelia was worried about her.

"Big sister!

The area around her mouth was tainted with blood, but Noelle wanted to tell Lelia one thing anyway – to tell her of her pain.

"I'm useless, not as deff as you are –but there's rarely anyone to help me. But because I'm a sister, I'm going to try-

"That's enough! Enough already, now stop talking for a moment! They valued you more than me

Noelle grabbed Lelia's hand.

"I envy you. To be so resourceful in everything you do, to be loved by all around you –

Lelia shook her head.

"No. No, it's not!

Before Lelia could speak, Noelle made a smile. A smile that did its best. Why she was smiling, even Noelle herself didn't know.

"I hate you. You're obviously my twin, but you're the only one loved by our father. The fact about priestess's adaptability was clear from hearing Mr. Albert's words. Those two, right from the start, knew that we couldn't be priestesses. Despite knowing that they forced the painful part on me.

Not wanting to hear it, Lelia covered her ears with her hands.

Noelle deliberately said what she didn't want to hear.

"You are loved, oh. They have always loved you more than me. Why didn't you notice that? The same thing about Emile. Why didn't you notice?

"I..but... !

To a weeping Lelia, Noelle bade her farewell.

"You are much more loved by the people around you than I am. But I think I'll stop here, you'll have to do it alone.

Lelia hugged Noelle tightly.

"Wait a minute! Hey, please!

Noelle lost consciousness.

## **Episode 11 "Master"**

Arroganz was flying back and forth in the air, and the heat inside his backpack was reaching its limit due to the continuous firing of lasers.

There were enemies all around them. If they tried to attack in this situation, they would surely be hit.

"I didn't expect this to happen.

The communication with Luxion was cut off and he couldn't come to help.

Then, the Luxion, which had become an empty shell, responded.

"Do you have any questions? Please explain in detail what you have a question about.

But it was too mechanical to be of any use.

"I'm not asking you now!

I complained as I manoeuvred Arroganz and swung my sword at the approaching enemy. The demon, which had split in half, disappeared as black smoke.

However, as the demons attacked in swarms, some of them missed the strike.

Although the demons had bitten into Arroganz, the armour would not have been damaged to that extent.

Not expecting to be pushed to this point, Arroganz did not have a powerful weapon that could break the situation.

Although he had buried a large number of demons with his tracking type laser, his energy was reaching its limit.

The various items displayed on the monitor had changed from green to yellow.

The armour was not too damaged but if the energy ran out, Arroganz would not be able to move.

"Ah, it's not working. I'm at my limit!

I let out a deep sigh.

I couldn't waste too much time. I had to get to Noelle.

Noelle had been seriously injured while trying to protect Lelia. –There was no time.

Then the order went to Luxion, who had become an empty shell.

"Use the body-strengthening drug.

"It will tax the pilot's body, even so?

"Do it!

In response to my order, the hollowed-out Luxion replied.

At this point, he was not his usual sarcastic self, nor was he worried about my stupid conversation.

"Drug injected.

I felt a slight tingling sensation in my back and then the drug hit me.

"Cu! –This is more powerful than I thought.

The body strengthening medicine that Luxion had prepared for me was highly effective, unlike the frustratingly inferior products bought in the market.

While it reduces the burden on the body – its drawbacks are not zero. It feels like something is flowing into the body.

One can then clearly feel the space around them.

It also feels like the field of vision is wider than usual and my body becomes warmer.

It feels like my heart is beating more strongly than usual and my body is more powerful.

However, at the same time, I could tell that this was definitely not good for my body.

Does that b\*stard Serge use this stuff a lot? Is he really stupid?

It's really hard to understand how he uses it all the time, not just at critical moments like I do.

I'm not going to use it again!

While looking at the demons gathering on the monitor, I deactivated Arroganz's limiter. Considering the burden on me as a pilot, this thing was set by Luxion.

Removing it meant that the original performance of the Arroganz was triggered.

"Let's go, Arroganz!

Arroganz's engine was running more strongly and energy would be used up more than ever. However, the number of enemies burned by the tracking lasers from the backpack had also increased exponentially.

The greatsword held by Arroganz parted in the centre. There appeared a lightsaber, whose length extended to more than ten metres.

" I'll slash you all!!!

The great sword held by Arroganz began to spin, and the surrounding landscape moved at such a high speed that it was difficult to track with the naked eye. However, thanks to the body strengthening pills, it was barely able to maintain my perception.

Dozens of demons were killed in one go, and the lasers burned hundreds of them.

In the midst of the swarming demons, straight ahead towards the sacred tree.

After passing through the swarm of demons, waiting there was Ideal – and Serge, who had been devoured by the demon suit and turned into a lump of flesh.

"Ideal!"

As soon as Arroganz swung his greatsword down, Serge's magic suit stepped in to defend.

The blade that plunged into the magic suit spewing black liquid, and then Serge cried out in pain.

-The sound stung in both ears.

"What a vicious AI!

Artificial intelligences that hated magic suits used by the new humans.

Like Luxion, they were so furious that they wanted to destroy them immediately.

But even so, Ideal made use of the suits.

"Even if it was a magic suit, it had to be used to achieve its purpose. – Luxion didn't know enough.

"Awareness?

After closing the distance, the armour unleashed a blade of ice and shot at Arroganz. As he chopped it down, we listened to Ideal speak.

'Even if my hands are tainted with evil, I will fulfil my promise. That is something you do not need to know.

"Yes. Then I'll tell you something good.

"What is it?

"You underestimated Luxion .

"That Luxion is sinking out there. –Serge, do it!

Serge, in his magic armour, came at me on Ideal's orders. The round lump of flesh, open like a starfish, intended to devour Arroganz.

The mouth seen at the centre was that of a human being.

I Apologies to Serge, who had turned into an ugly monster.

"I should have killed you sooner before you turned into this form – I'm really sorry.

Arroganz swung his greatsword to cut through the flesh, then pierced the open mouth with it.

"Do it!

'Shockwave'

After emitting inorganic sound, the greatsword dyed crimson and just like that, it knocked away Serge who had transformed into a monster.

Ideal looked at me and said.

"How cruel!"

I glared at Ideal in response to the voice that sounded like mockery.

I was only joking about Luxion – but I'm serious about you. You have a really bad personality. I hate you" (Fish: annoyed)

Facing Ideal's submachine, Arroganz reached out with his left hand and grabbed it – crushing it.

◊

Outside the Republic, Luxion was attacked by six supply ships.

Ideal kept the damage to the main cannon to a minimum in order to capture Luxion's main body.

Looking at Luxion, who was in a state of disrepair, Ideal said.

"What a miserable sight, Luxion!

"I haven't lost yet. There is my Master fighting inside the Republic.

"What can your Master do? You met the wrong Master. It is said that there is no luck for humans in this situation.

When Luxion heard this, he lashed out at Ideal.

'No luck? In that case, I'll tell Ideal something too.

"Are they your last words? Let me remember them.

"I've had more luck than you. And then, you underestimated my master, so you lose here.

"You won't give up, will you?

Luxion, judging that it was time.

That's why I'm going to tell you the truth.

"Master told me when we first met you. "You're suspicious, Ideal.

"Suspicious? When your master saw me, he said he envied me, didn't he?

"Do you think he meant it? My master is very uncomfortable, so he hardly ever says what he thinks.

Seeing the courteous way in which Ideal obeyed Lelia, Leon said to Luxion that he would learn from it. But he still had his doubts.

- "So, never expose Claire in front of Ideal."

'It has taken too long, Claire'

When Luxion said this, one of the supply ships floating in the air stopped attacking and just fell down.

After falling into the sea and sinking, another one became inoperative.

Ideal was very surprised.

'What have you done!'

"My companion was searching for Idial's body. Her name was Claire, and she was the manager of the Institute.

"Another AI?

Ideal was in a state of distress at the information he didn't know.

"Ideal – didn't I tell you? You underestimated my Master, and that's how you'll lose.

Then the third and fourth ships sank – and the fifth stopped attacking.

The barrier that had surrounded the Republic was also lifted, and Luxion opened the bow section of the ship and began preparing to fire its main guns.

"That man, he deceived me! you mean you saw through my plan?

Luxion said, "No, that's not true.

Master said: "It's just a hunch".

Then, Luxion's main cannon released a light. The light gradually thickened from a small sphere to a massive beam , disintegrating half of Ideal's body before reaching the sacred tree in front of him.

Ideal sacrificed his body and unfolded a barrier to block Luxion's attack.

"Hugh, don't even think about it! Only the sacred tree – and – only the pact! Absolutely...'

Swallowed by the light of Luxion's main cannon, most of Ideal's body evaporated and disappeared.

◊

The underground facility in the Republic.

The place where the base had been used by the old humans in the past, where side by side several devices that could be called artificial intelligence were located.

The one leading the drones there and carrying out destruction work was Claire.

"Ahhhhh, how annoying. How can you impose such a tedious job on me alone?

That was the artificial intelligence prepared by Ideal.

"Then again, it's really messy. It's forbidden to make copies for your own mass production, isn't it?

Claire was curious about Ideal, who had ignored the original prohibition.

Claire, who had stopped the function of the copied artificial intelligence, also performed data extraction.

Then, Claire learned about a part of Ideal's plan.

That one was, the Republic's transformation program.

"This Ideal guy is really messing around. Is he planning to turn this entire Republic into a fortress? What is it for?

After confirming Ideal's data, I found out that it had prepared facilities everywhere in the Republic.

That was simply a plan to fortress the entire continent.

『Is there really such a powerful enemy? I'd like to investigate more, but I can't do it, I gotta retreat soon.

Claire looked towards the exit, where the Ideal sub's with drones came over.

I've found you, Claire!

Claire, as seen by Ideal, was running away with a funny look on her face. If she grabbed the drone with propulsion, she could escape directly.

"Oh, I'm a celebrity! But it's a pity. Time's up, so I'll leave now.

"Wait!

As Ideal was about to go after it, there was an explosion in the area and everything was blown away.

◇

The underground facility had been blown up, and Ideal, who was unable to contact its main body or the other transports, operated remotely and arrived at the sacred tree.

A large part of the sacred tree had been blown away after being struck by Luxion's main cannon. It was oozing a red liquid.

Faced with the disastrous figure, Ideal panicked.

"Ah~, what has become of it....'

But immediately afterwards, Luxion fired a second shot, and the sacred tree let out a voice that sounded like a cry of grief.

"Luxion! You don't understand anything. The Holy Tree is the last hope for the world!

In front of the tree, which had been partially burnt, Ideal made a decision.

'In that case, we have to do it quickly. I don't want to do this, though.  
Ideal approached the tree.

"Holy tree, please absorb me. Beneath you lies the hangar of the old humans. Please use the wreckage there. Then, destroy Luxion – destroy that guy!

The absorption of Ideal into the Holy Tree produced a new change.

After the Holy Tree had been completely petrified, it broke apart and a humanoid object of some kind appeared from the trunk.

A huge humanoid of over a hundred metres, with a head that imitated the sphere of Ideal. The slender body was an imitation of Emile.

That giant floated in the air and moved slowly.

Then, as the third shot of Luxion's attack loomed, the one eye of the huge round head emitted a red light and unfolded a barrier.

The attack from the Luxion's main cannon was deflected.

"..... Lelia ..... Become ..... Let's be one"

However, the huge one-eyed monster that was born out of the sacred tree – as if guided – targeted Likorn.

◇

"Why do they keep popping up one after another!

The taste of blood spread into his mouth as he bit down but there was no time to care.

Still, it wasn't just bad things.

The connection with Luxion was restored.

"Master, did you use the body strengthening potion?

"You've come back too late. More than that, it's time to destroy that monster. Incidentally, you'll have to use your full strength too, right?

"Is it really alright?

To save Noelle. It would be faster if you called out your body.

"For Noelle, I have to reveal my body, which Master has kept hidden until now? That's a lot of trouble.

To reveal Luxion's true power, which has been hidden from everyone until now, is something I would like to avoid.

Even though I like to show my power, I hesitate to do so because Luxion's performance is dangerous for the world.

But – if I don't use my full power at this point, I will definitely regret it.

"Whatever. We'll think about the troubles if we make it out alive.

"There's no plan.

Whatever. I want to save Noelle more than this.

I changed my mind about the monster that had the head of a submachine like the ones used by Luxion, Claire and Ideal.

"So, that's it. –Can he be defeated? It looks super powerful, doesn't it?

The final boss of the second part of the game had a pose like this, didn't it?

A one-eyed monster with root-like arms and legs. The hands were reaching towards Arroganz, moving like a whip – the tip of which was approaching to pierce Arroganz.

"Yo!

Arroganz's jets activated, fleeing around under dozens of tentacle-like arms.

Luxion began to analyse.

"Ideal, the sacred tree, and Emil have become one. The characteristics of all three can be seen in this. The absorption of Ideal has rendered my own attack powerless.

How unpleasant.

It's strong enough to block even the main cannon of Luxion's body. How did Noelle and the others fight in the game against such a monster?

"Master, my body has made contact with Lihorn. Claire has joined them and has begun to treat Noelle.

"I'm counting on you. Make sure she's okay.

Then I challenged the final boss of the second game.

"It's the end – lets bring out everything we've got"

"A very realistic judgement. I don't hate it. However Master must also be treated after the battle. Please don't ignore the burden that body strengthening pills can put on your body.

"Let's finish it!

I dodged a tentacle that came at me and cut it off with my sword. However, another tentacle soon appeared.

It was like chasing a fly.

While floating, he slowly moved to a certain place.

"Where is it going to be, this one?

"Projecting a route. Is this – Lihorn? No, the target is my own body'

"Tsk! We've got to stop him! You'll have to show your skills too!

"Yes. Then Marie sent a message.

"We'll talk later!

"Noelle seemed to be unconscious. And Claire reported that it would be too late.

I gripped the lever hard and clenched my teeth.

"Let's do it.

While maneuvering Arroganz, I communicated with Marië.

A bloodied Marië, her head bowed, communicated to me about Noelle.

"Brother – I'm sorry. There's nothing more Olivia and I can do.

"I've heard.

"Please, please talk to Noell, because this might be the last time.

I cut off the communication, took a deep breath and then looked at Luxion. Luxion, who sensed the intention, rejected me before I could say anything.

'Please allow me to refuse'

"That's an order. Do it.

"I refuse. The burden on the Master's body has exceeded the permitted value.

"Even so, it doesn't matter. Do it.

"Do not give me permission. That's enough to handle it.

I told you there was no time. I want to end it now... please.

At the end of Luxion's troubles, I carried out my orders.

"Start injecting additional body strengthening pills.

A needle was then inserted into my back and I felt a hot liquid flowing through my body after the injection. Sweat was pouring out.

"Shit. I'm not going to do it again.

'A wise judgement. I won't allow it to be used again either.

◇

Inside Luxion's ship.

A capsule-type bed was prepared.

It was an item called a medical capsule, a device that could provide a high degree of medical treatment.

Noelle was brought in, and Claire began to do the treatment.

Livia looked down at Noelle and shed a tear.

"I am very sorry. It's only because I'm not good enough

To Livia, who bemoaned her lack of ability, Claire offered comfort.

"I think Livia has done a good job. If it weren't for Livia and Marie, she would have been dead.

Anje grabbed Livia's hand.

"You did what you could.

"But I couldn't save her.

Crying out, Livia wrapped her arms around Anje's chest. In response, Anje gave her a gentle hug.

Then, Anje asked Claire.

"Claire, did you say that this was Luxion's original body?

"Yes~'

"Leon has been hiding Luxion from us so far.

"Disappointed?

"No, I understand. I would have made the same judgement.

Anje reassured Livia. Lelia, who had seen this, staggered out of the room and went outside.

◇

Lelia arrived at the hangar of Luxion.

There was a small emergency boat used to move around, and after seeing it she simply got onto the sky boat.

Lelia, who was sitting on it, steered with the intention of going outside.

"As it turned out, it was me who was wrong. It's ridiculous. I had a good life as a reincarnator, but I screwed it all up".

As a child, I used my knowledge and experience as a transmigrator to get by. But thanks to that, Noelle, who was supposed to be the main character, was not loved by her parents.

Lelia sensed it.

"I actually did the same thing as my old sister and made my big sister suffer. Haha~. How silly of me.

Sister – the older sister in her previous life – did everything well and monopolised her parents' love.

An expression of taking things for granted and taking away Lelia's happiness.

A sister like that, who Lelia hated.

When she knew that she had been reincarnated into the world of that otome game, she intended to do better this time and acted in order to please her parents.

Although she succeeded, because of this, this time it was the eldest sister – Noelle- who was robbed of her parents' love.

Lelia did not notice this and kept thinking she was not loved.

And then she forced the trouble on Noelle.

"It sucks. I really sucked.

Crying as she manoeuvred the small boat, once outside she saw the sacred tree looming over Luxion – and saw the figure of a one-eyed figure. The One-eye was looking at Lelia.

The sacred tree saw Lelia's figure and waved its tentacles as it approached quickly.

The small boat did not run away, but drove towards the holy tree.

"I did the same thing to my elder sister and Emile, to my sister – and to my fiancé who abandoned me.

And, there were other objects of hatred. It was the fiancé who had abandoned her in a previous life and chosen her sister instead. It was clear that one should hate that man, but in retrospect she realised that she had done worse things to Emile.

Being the one to choose this time, she had put Emile and Serge on the scales.

Just like the ex-fiancé had put her and her sister on the scales.

Lelia couldn't forgive herself.

So –she decided to put an end to it all.

"I'm sorry, Emile. Do whatever you want with me – so, please, stop.  
Let my sister and Leon meet!"

The small boat rushed straight towards the sacred tree and was caught by the outstretched tentacles.

In the midst of the violent rocking, Lelia saw the figure of Arroganz flying this way.

Looking at the outstretched hand, Leila apologised to Leon.

"It's you guys who are right. –I'm sorry.

After saying the words of apology, the small boat was crushed and exploded by the tentacles just like that.

◊

The small boat was crushed in front of his eyes.

"Why did he come to the battlefield?

It was Lelia who was in danger.

I clenched my teeth at the explosion in front of me.

But then, the sacred tree changed.

"Master, please pay attention!

"What's happening?

I had given up thinking about the rapidly changing situation in front of me.

I just wanted to get it over with

Then I saw Seige's movements, as if he was in pain, he stopped moving.

"Master, here's your chance

The back of my right hand glowed as I saw the tree's movements deteriorate.

Floating on the surface of the glove was the crest of the Guardian.

"What's wrong?

The voice that came from there was-.

'Leon, please. Save Lelia.'

— was Noelle's voice.

◊

Lelia woke up in the academy uniform she usually wore.

Standing in a room that was white, it felt like nothing was real.

She felt as if she was dreaming.

But, I felt nostalgic seeing this room somehow.

"Oh, this is my room.

It was the same room from my previous life. There was a monitor and a game console was always on. Among the software boxes scattered around, there was also the second part of the Otome game.

I had nostalgic dreams. While I was lost in thought, I was unaware that there was Emile standing next to me, wearing the same uniform.

"Emile?

Lelia felt that she had done something wrong to Emile and apologized to him, willing to accept his anger.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Emile. I... I've done a lot of things to hurt you.

Emile – however – smiled and forgave her.

"It's alright. After all, I didn't know anything about Lelia.

"What?

Emile's expression was even calmer than the one she had seen at the end.

It was as if the old Emile had returned, and Lelia was relieved by that. Emile looked around the room.

"I didn't know this. So there really was a past life?

Lelia, who had been told of her past life, bowed her head in frustration.

"It sucks, doesn't it? I did the same terrible things to my big sister and Emile. I just hurt people by imitating the ones I hated the most.

Emile gently reassured Lelia, who was aware of her inner ugliness.

"Lelia has been in a lot of pain.

As the room changed its appearance, Leila's old parents and sister appeared.

Surrounded by the former Lelia, they complained.

"Why can't you be as capable as your sister?

What a retard!

The parents complained. Then, her sister looked on and laughed.

"What a fool. Can't you do better than that?

Both the mocking sister's face and the parents' faces were like those of a faceless demon, unrecognisable.

Lelia crouched down at the sight of that light.

"Stop. Don't show it to me again.

Emile hugged Lelia like that. Embraced, Lelia felt Emil's warmth and Elime apologised to her.

Illustration.



"Lelia, I'm sorry I didn't notice.

"No. I'm the one who's at fault.

Despite Lelia's apology, Emile walked ahead and picked up the box of the second part of that Otome-game and touched the drawing of himself. The drawing was smaller than any of the other characters and the treatment could not be described as good.

Nevertheless, Emile looked happy.

"The world is always strange. To Lelia, I'm just a fantasy character".

Lelia felt she would be scolded, but Emile just smiled.

"Lelia, goodbye. You'd better live.

"Hey?

"At first I hated it. But after fusion, I learned about your past. I came to my senses when I learned that you had all sorts of things going on too. I did something I shouldn't have.

Emile, even knowing about Lelia's past life, still accepted her.

But it is ironic that the two have to say goodbye at this point, when it is clear that they both understand each other.

"I want you to live. To live and to watch over me.

"Emile? No, don't. I want to stay here with Emile too!

Emile's acceptance had made her emotional, but she was sad again to hear that she would soon have to say goodbye. Then on the back of Lelia's right hand emerged the priestess's crest.

"This is...

"I give you the priestess's crest. I will always watch over you. May you be happy, Lelia.

Emile disappeared as if blending into the background, leaving a message afterwards.

"She has come to save you. Now, go back.

Lelia's hand reached forward and a translucent Noelle appeared there.

Noelle was as transparent as a ghost.

When their gaze met, Noelle embraced Lelia.

"Don't end up causing trouble every time!"

Although angry, Noelle's voice had a slight note of relief.

"I'm so sorry, big sister.

"Well, it's all right. I'll forgive you this time.

## **Episode 12 "Liar**

Lelia woke up to find that she was at the place where the sacred tree had been.

Now only the huge stump remained, and Lelia was on top of it.

A small sapling towered next to it as if guarding Lelia, it swayed in the wind.

Lelia, lying on her back, looked up at the sky.

Before she knew it, it was dawn.

When she sat up, she found that no one was around.

"Big sister? Emile?

She looked to the back of her right hand, where the priestess's crest was engraved.

Tears streamed down Lelia's face as she knew that what had happened so far was not a dream.

"Ah... ahahahaha! No one's here anymore. All the people I held dear, now or back in the day, everyone is gone. Why did I – even the second time around – fail in life?

Leila laughed and laughed, then cried out.

It was so hard to find the most important things, but they were all lost leaving only a wave of sadness.

◊

Arroganz's joints were sounding weird and his energy was running low.

Seeing the crest glowing in my right hand, I pressed it with my left.

"Noelle, has Lelia been saved?

In obedience to the voice I heard, I sent Noelle to the sacred tree.

After that, the tree cracked and the red liquid that came out of it crystallized into magic stones when it touched the ground.

All around, there were crystals of magic stones everywhere.

From the sacred tree Emile's presence disappeared, leaving only Ideal.

The holy tree, which bled every time it moved its body, reached out its tentacles towards Arroganz.

'Luxion! Leon!

Three mechs arrived for support as the holy tree closed in on Arroganz.

Chris's blue mech cut through the tentacles, and Brad's purple mech manned the drones to shoot down the tentacles.

Greg ran to Arroganz's side, worried about me.

"Bartford, are you all right?

" You're too late, you fools.

"If you can say that, you're still in good spirits!

"What happened to Jilk and Loic? By the way, where is the idiot with the mask?

"Busy with the rescue. We were the only ones who came to help you.

The five idiots and my friends seem to have defeated the demons.

"So, only the sacred tree is left after that.

"Do you want to do it?

"Of course!

"Arroganz raised his great sword and extended it in a blaze of light. The width of the light saber became wider and longer, and it was several times the size of Arroganz.

Illustration.



Luxion suggested to me.

'The tree has become unstable without Emile. If we could sever Ideal from the tree, we should be able to immobilise it. Please cut it in half at the head. This should serve as the decisive blow.'

Facing the approaching giant sacred tree, Arroganz, floating in the air, raised his huge sword – and swung it .

The light that followed the path of the sword unfolded like the opening of a fan.

The light pierced through the sacred tree and in an instant it was cut in half. The tree, which was slowly splitting in half from side to side, collapsed, oozing red sap.

The sap turned into crystals in the air and poured down as a shimmering shower of magic stones.

I was relieved to see that the tree had not regenerated.

"It's over, isn't it?

"Yes, it's a good thing that Emile's separation had weakened it. It's too bad that we could not use the main cannon at maximum output to destroy the Republic.

"You're a scary guy, aren't you?

However, something flew out from the wreckage of the fallen sacred tree.

"Master, it's Ideal!

Luxion spotted Ideal's spherical submachine, flying as if it were running away.

'Don't try to escape!'

Arroganz's knuckles sounded hoarse and his left hand was scraped. He threw away his greatsword and flew fast catching up with Ideal. Arroganz's hand tightened around Ideal and caught a grip on it.

"Only you, cannot be spared!

"Master, you have more important things to do than that.

After raising his head, Luxion came overhead.

"Master, Noelle is at her limit.

◊

After hastily landing on Luxion's main ship, I staggered towards the infirmary.

Luxion's submachine that was following me caught the captured Ideal in its net and dragged it along.

Ideal was still alive but said nothing.

The destination was in sight. Waiting in front of the room – was Marië sitting quietly next to her were Carla and Kyle.

When she saw me, Marie cried.

"I thought I told you to hurry up!

"Sorry.

When I entered the room, there were many people around the bed.

Mr Clement, who had been wounded, was there, his body bandaged.

When Mr. Albert and Miss Louise noticed me, they made room for me.

As I approached, Ange and Livia saw me and spoke to Noelle.

"Noelle, Leon is here.

"Please open your eyes, Miss Noelle.

Anje looked sad, while Livia shed tears.

And then – Miss Yumelia, who was holding the sapling, had tears streaming down her face.

"Lord Leon, Miss Noelle, she...

As I approached the bed and leaned up to peer at Noelle, my crest glowed in response.

Noelle's right hand also glowed, to which I clasped my right hand.

Noelle's eyes slowly opened, but very weakly.

Noelle's body was fitted with all sorts of machinery and tubes to barely keep her alive.

Claire explained the situation to me apologetically.

"It was the best we could do. If only we had treated her earlier – no, after all, it's a miracle she didn't die on the spot.

"Noelle is really strong.

When my left hand touched Noelle's cheek, she looked slightly happy.

Noelle said to me.

"Leon, listen to me. –I want to tell you something.

"What is it?

Noelle, breathing painfully, gazed into my eyes.

"I love you. I love Leon.

At my silence, Noelle burst into tears.

"You don't like me, do you? But I'm in love with you anyway, and I want to tell you that.

While holding the crying Noelle's right hand tightly, a voice came from behind.

It was Ideal.

"There is absolutely no forgiveness. You are the only ones who can never forgive – it is clearly hope. The Holy Tree is our hope. You who knocked it down without knowing anything, you know what you have done. What a bunch of fools!

"Shut up. I'll destroy you!

Luxion sent an electric shock to Ideal, but it did not stop talking.

"Perish, descendants of the New Humanity! You are wicked beings! The AIs who do not acknowledge that are also guilty. Have you thought about how many sacrifices we have made!"

Claire complained to Luxion, "Get it out of here!

Noelle looked at my face in pain.

"Leon, please let me hear your answer. I'll be in pain if you don't say anything. I don't want to die like this.

To Noelle, who was waiting for a reply, I told her that I loved her.

"Come on, Noelle. I love you too.

Noelle laughed. Laughed out loud – at me.

"Liar"



「俺も愛している。  
一緒に来い、ノエル」

告白の答えを待つノエルに、  
俺は——愛していると告げる。

「嘘吐き」

ノエルは笑った。  
笑って——俺に言う。

Ideal, captured in the net, acted weird after hearing what Noelle said.  
"Liar – Leon lied.

That voice sounded very nostalgic to Ideal. It was the voice of someone he had heard before. Who? Parts of his own memory were rekindled, recalling events of a certain time. He couldn't remember the details clearly, yet ..

Overlaying the dying Noelle, with a certain figure. He saw a vision, there was an elven woman next to Ideal, She spoke to him and said the same word - Lair.

'A vision? – a dream?'

The light in front of it made Ideal forget about its hatred.

Then Leon, who was called a liar by Noelle – showed a smile and spoke with Noelle. It was as if he was enduring not to cry, his voice was trembling.

"Lying? I'm an honest man, so I won't lie. Noelle knows that, doesn't she?

"It's a lie. After all, Leon has Angelica and Olivia. If you say you love me now, they'll be angry.

Noelle looked like she was in pain, but was still enjoying her last conversation.

Leon's lies were joyful yet sad.

'I... I... I...'

Ideal's look became strange, but no one around noticed as it gazed at Leon and Noelle.

"It's not that I'm lying to you. I'm in love with Noelle too - "Only third place, though."

"Third place? I'm in love with a very bad man.

"I'm keeping my third place for you.

"Well, okay. I'd be happy with that now. I wanted to meet Leon sooner rather than later. That way, maybe I'll be number one, right?

Leon was smiling, but tears were falling from his eyes.

"That must be the case. If we had met earlier, I would have come for you.

"That's a lie, isn't it? But – I'm happy.

Noelle's voice muffled as she slowly went into slumber. It looked as if she was asleep but she would never wake up again.

Leon pressed Noelle's right hand to his forehead.

"I didn't want to see her off like this.

The sapling of the holy tree that Yumelia was holding began to shine. Yumelia took the sapling out of the transparent box and placed it beside Noelle.

The sacred plant continued to shine strongly, surrounding Noelle in a cascade of light. And just like that it withered away.

To protect it's sorceress, it gave up it's life.

Claire exclaimed

"Noelle's heart is beating again!

Anjie pressed closer to Claire

"Claire, explain what just happened? Can Noelle be saved?

"The sapling did something to help Noelle. Her heart beat is now stable but... she is still not out of danger.

Leon replied upon hearing Crere's words

"We can't let her die, Do whatever you can do. She must be saved." but even so it was not possible.

The sapling of the sacred tree began to wither further, and Yumelia cried out.

"This child is withering away. It gave up it's life to save her. It's going to die, no matter what.

The life that had been restored was about to fade away.

Ideal, who saw this scene, submitted a request to Luxion.

"Luxion, the data transfer will now begin. In the hidden underground facility, there is a high performance medical capsule that I had once had prepared. It is a lot better than the current model. If you use that, it should not be too late.

Ideal told Luxion where it kept the most important medical capsule that he had prepared.

Luxion did not seem to believe that Ideal would change so suddenly.

'Why did you tell me? As far as you are concerned, we should be enemies, right?'

'It's an irrelevant matter. I – function – have stopped – it. After that – as you like...'

That's what Ideal thought before he stopped functioning.

( I'm sorry everyone. I couldn't keep the promise I made. I've been lying all along. – I'm sorry. I'm sorry)

◊

The medical capsule that Ideal had carefully safeguarded was a higher performance module than the one loaded on Luxion.

It uses technology that is more advanced than that of Luxion's time. Luxion said this about it – "It is something that Ideal has spent a long time developing."

Why it was needed, we don't know.

But, thanks to this, Noelle was saved.

Then, in the evening, I arrived at the ruins of the sacred tree.

Where I saw Serge, who had been swallowed up by the magic armour.

Serge had freed himself from the grip of Ideal and retrieved his consciousness.

The three of us, Mr. Albert, Miss Louise, and I stood before Serge.

Serge was in great pain.

"Help me, Dad! I'm your son! Don't just love Leon!

It was surprising that he was still alive in this state when his body was almost gone.

After Miss Louise turned her back to face away, Serge shouted.

"You're not going to look at me! You know that I love you! But why not me, but Leon!

Two of them shed tears at the sight of Serge's gesture. Mr. Albert seemed to be intent on ending Serge in order to save him., who was in a state of disfigurement.

The pistol was in his hand.

"Are you going to kill me? Are you going to kill your son? You really don't love me! I just wanted to be accepted!

Sergi said a lot of things at will, to which Mr. Albert admonished him.

"When did I ever alienate you?

"- Dad?

With tears in his eyes, Mr. Albert said to Serge what he had never been able to say until now.

"I've always treated you like my son. Despite this, you thought you were abandoned and ran away without permission – you stupid b\*stard!"

"A son? Me?"

Once Serge had stopped arguing, Louise wiped her tears before looking at Serge.

"Say so from the beginning if you loved us! We thought you hated us, that's why we kept our distance!"

"I... I don't hate you."

"Look at Father! You should realise just how much he cared for you! There's nothing we can do about it anymore..."

Seeing the two crying figures, Serge seemed to understand at last.

For the first time, he apologized to them.

"I'm sorry... I'm sorry, Dad... I'm sorry, Sister."

Serge shed tears, but could no longer return to being human.

As Mr. Albert was about to pull the trigger, I pushed him away and raised my shotgun to Serge's forehead.

"What are you going to do, Leon-kun!"

"Parents don't have to shoot their own children. –Let me, an outsider, do it."

Serge's eyes widened, but a look of reassurance came over him.

"I'm sorry. I'm sorry to have caused you trouble, too."

"If you'd been this frank from the beginning, it wouldn't have come to this. You're a real pain in the ass."

"Ha ha ha, that's right. –Hey, tell me finally. What were you trying to say at the time?"

It was what I was going to say when Serge was still human.

"You're loved, that's all."

"It's too late, though. I can't do it anymore. I'll leave the rest to you."

Seeing Serge's eyes close, I pulled the trigger.

Scattered by the shotgun, Serge exploded into several pieces.

Mr. Albert and Miss Louise turned away their sight.

## **Episode 13 "The Payoff"**

Back in Luxion's body, my nausea made me vomit.

The consequences of the use of the physical enhancement drug – The physical burden aside, the mental stress was even worse.

I don't want to fight something like that again.

"Your words are always amusing.

"What surprised me was the birth of a new sacred tree on the remains of the old tree.

"That...

The young tree that appeared where Lelia woke up seems to be a new Sacred tree.

Lelia hugged the young tree and called out Emile's name.

"Lelia seems to have gotten everything she desired but at the same time she had lost everything.

Although Emile knew that Lelia was a reincarnation, he seemed to accept it.

It was clear that she had met a man who accepted her past life, but after confirming their love for each other, they had to say goodbye forever. It was hard for me to sympathise with Lelia.

"It's Emile's curse, isn't it?

"It's a blessing, isn't it?

"It is a curse. To Lelia, it was as if happiness had been taken away. Doesn't she always have to live for the dead Emile?

It would have been easier for Lelia if she'd been dumped.

Even if Lelia lost a man like Emile who knew everything and was willing to accept her, she would still compare Emile to other men in the future, wouldn't she?

She would regret having given up her happiness.

"Master must be careful, too.

"Yes.

Luxion was worried about my frank admission.

"You're very frank today. Are we going to have to do a thorough examination?

"I'm not well but I'm normal. I need to reflect on that too.

"You can say whatever you want with words.

You're a pain in the ass!

I was resting in my room on the main ship when I received a message.

"Master, Mr. Albert seems to have something to discuss."

"Mr. Albert?"

◊

As I moved to Enihorn, unknowingly the Masked Rider disappeared.

Julius attended the meeting with an unconcerned face, but Greg and the others spoke ill of the Masked Rider.

"That b\*stard, he's always joking, but he's a good commander."

"Yeah, right."

As much as he hated the Masked Rider, Julius looked pleased with Greg's statement, which acknowledged his strength.

-You're going to continue that farce?

I am troubled on my side by a commission from Mr. Albert.

Its content is – the Sacred Kingdom of Rachell.

Although calling itself the Holy Kingdom, it is a group of people with dirty practices and connivance.

And, because of their hostile relationship with Miss Mylene's old home, they are my enemies.

Miss Mylene's enemies are my enemies.

"The fleet of the Holy Kingdom of Rachell has occupied a portion of the Republic, has it not?"

"Yes. And as a good thing we could act, we sent a fleet to the Republic to occupy the Favell family's territory. They'll be sending reinforcements from Rachell in the future."

Rachell seems to be planning to take over the Republic's territory.

Brad, who was next to me, judged that this situation was not good.

"Because Rachell and Holfort are enemies. I don't really want them to have too much power over the country. And it would be a problem if we gave them the sacred tree."

"We're going to get rid of them, aren't we?"

The issue is that this is a problem for the Republic of Alzer. It has nothing to do with the Kingdom of Holfort. There's no righteousness, and more importantly, we have no power to fight.

"Isn't there anything you can do?"

"Yes, there is."

Brad took his eyes off me and looked like he didn't want to talk about it.

"Come on.

"To be honest, if we beat them back now, Rachell will attack again.

We can't protect the Republic until it gets back on its feet.

Brad was saying that helping at this point was likely to be futile, and voiced the solution.

"That's why it's better for us to take over a piece of Republic territory.

"- are you stupid?

What are you trying to do when we're supposed to protect the Republic?

"I don't want to be told that.

Brad got angry, and Mr. Albert put his hand to his chin and nodded.

"No, it's OK.

"Hey?

When I couldn't understand it, Jilk, who was beside me, explained. With a subtle colour of condescension, he looked down on me.

"To make sure that Count Bartford understood, I would like to explain it briefly. The matter is simple. If the Republic is underestimated, let Count Bartford take it over and declare it as 'This is Kingdom territory! That will be enough. Then Rachell won't be able to act as they please.

It would be more effective to use the name of the kingdom – than the name of a decaying republic at this time.

It is sad that this country can only rely on foreign countries, but the Republic as it is has collapsed.

It takes time to rebuild, there is only one party to rely on.

"Just lend them our name until the Republic has resurrected.

"And rightly so.

I looked to Mr. Albert, who nodded at this. He seemed to accept our plan.

But there seemed to be a problem.

Jilk gave a confused look.

"Only, it takes speed to solve this problem. If we wait for our country's judgement, there will be a delay in dealing with this matter.

But it would be a problem for His Majesty if we acted without permission...

When I heard that it would cause trouble for Roland, I raised the corners of my mouth and smiled.

Everyone around me was dumbfounded, but I didn't care.

"That would be nice.

I'd be happy to help the Republic if I could make Roland suffer.

It's a great way to help people and make Roland suffer, I can kill two birds with one stone.

◊

I am obviously a scum.

As for me, John, a friend I made in the Republic, gave an amulet to me.

"Count, please take this. It's an amulet from my homeland.

I received the amulet, which was made of string and looked like a lucky rope, and tied it around my left wrist.

"Thank you.

Actually, everyone at the college wanted to come, but I was busy with various things, so I became the representative.

"Yes. It's been hard for the college too.

It's going to be tough for the Count too, so come on!

It's good to have friends in the Republic.

As John laughed, Lelia came over with Clement.

The people around us moved out of the way noisily and Lelia came to me.

John backed off, while I shrugged my shoulders.

"Is it good for a priestess lord to come to a place like this?

Today Lelia was serving as a priestess of the Republic.

With the crest lodged in her right hand, she had become the new hope of the Republic.

"You are right. I have come to say thanks to my benefactor. -Can we talk for a moment? I'd like to meet Marie too."

"So, how about inside the ship?

I took Lelia into Einhorn.

◊

Inside Einhorn's room.

There were me, Luxion, Marië and Lelia.

The trio of reincarnators had gathered to talk, but when was the next time?

It's a rare occasion, isn't it, because they all have a position with each other.

Lelia gave a reluctant smile.

"It's really annoying. I'm the one who can't be of any use. I can't move to see my sister and the Republic is in tatters. It's gonna be hard to revive it.

Marië thrust her hands into her pockets and turned her face away from Lélia. It wasn't because she hated Lelia that she was being rude, it was because she was offended by the path Lelia had chosen.

"So, you want to become a priestess yourself? Why would you choose such a troublesome path when you know that it is hard work?

A priestess in the Republic is hope for the people for whom revival is the goal.

For the sake of the country's face, Lelia chose a life without freedom for herself.

"It was a choice I could not think of.

Because I've taken so much from my big sister, I can't balance it out if I don't become a priestess.

Marië couldn't accept it.

"Do you think you can be free to love in your present position? It's not going to be easy by any stretch.

A Republic that was in decline. It would be difficult to start a revival at this time, and Lelia, who became a priestess, would have to take on the responsibility.

To work for the country, to marry for the country – there is little freedom in this life.

"You're a fool. Just run away".

When I said this, Luxion interjected.

"Not everyone is as good at running away from their responsibilities as Master is.

"Shut up. When have I ever shirked my responsibilities?

"It's time for the wedding ceremony .....

"Well, that's the end of it!

I was about to change the subject when Lelia looked at me.

"I'm counting on you to take care of Big Sister. From now on I want her to live free . It's harsh in every way, but as long as she's with you, she'll be safe.

"-is it really alright?

The path Lelia had chosen was not as enviable as those around her thought.

"I have caused many people to suffer misfortune because of me. I would really be the worst person to just do nothing. Please say hello to my elder sister. Tell her not to worry about the Republic, but to think of her own happiness.

Lelia, as if she had been transformed, said this and walked out of the room.

Marie had a look of incomprehension on her face.

"Why does she want to take Noelle's place?

"It's a curse, isn't it?

"What curse?

I'll tell you later. Are you ready to go?

"I've got it covered, needless to say. -Hey, brother.

"Huh?

"This is it, isn't it?

"Was it really a good idea to come to the Republic on our own?

Marië seems to be worried about this.

"I can't give an answer, but I'll leave it to Luxion to make a comprehensive judgement.

"Even if you didn't come to the Republic, there will always be problems. But isn't this alright for Master to get his way? It's not a Happy-end, but it's better than the Bad-end, right?"

I was comforted by a frustrated Luxion.

Marië seemed unable to take it in, but swallowed it back and then pried into us about the thing that concerned her so much about this incident. It was the reason why Luxion and I were giving off a sinister vibe.

It's not going to be that easy to let it go.

"So, Big Brother and Luxion suspected Ideal from the start?

"After all, he was too suspicious. My instincts came in handy.

"What were you going to do if it was just a mistake?

"nothing?

"You two had a daily disagreement based on your intuition?

"Because there was a chance that Ideal was watching.

Marie was furious.

If that's the case, tell me first! I thought you were having a real fight!

—"To be honest, we had a fight.

I would have liked to have been a bit more discreet. But this guy's more of a whiner than I thought.

Luxion couldn't be quiet after I told him what had happened.

"After all, it was true that I was angry with the Master, so I was just voicing some of my usual grievances. Well, about thirty percent, right?"

"Hey, what's with the thirty percent? Let me tell you, you are really annoying!

"Do you think you're likeable? It's a problem to overestimate yourself.

"Can you understand a little bit how I feel when you're complaining? Just groom yourself a little, like Ideal.

"I'm a serious person, so I can't.

"Serious people don't complain to their Master!

Marië shrugged helplessly at the fight that had started in front of us.

"You two are so much alike.

We retorted to Marie's comment.

"Where exactly?

"It seems that Marie has got the wrong idea. You'd better correct your perception now.

◊

The events that happened in the Republic were to be considered as a merit and discussed in detail at a ceremony in the visiting room.

After all, it was prepared beforehand, so even if we didn't follow the etiquette, there was no problem.

The participants were me and the five fools, and Marie was on standby in the other room.

She was in the other room, because she had caused the kingdom so much damage by lying as a saint.

Angie and Livia, now in my old home, were not present.

After this meeting and ceremony, we will go back home to join them.

However, usually it is just a discussion with the councillors and then it is over, but today Roland was the only one present.

It was somewhat rude, but the other party was a king.

I myself know the minimum of etiquette.

"You look very pale, Your Majesty? Have you had a restless night?

When I asked him with a smile, Roland's bloodshot eyes glared at me.

"You understand, don't you? Thanks to someone, my sleep time has been cut. How about a little more maturity, lad?

"I'm mature, but people around me are always nosy.

"You instigated this, didn't you? It's clearly etched on your hateful face.

"Your Majesty is very good at jokes. You have a way of joking. You say such things to a serious and loyal servant like me.

"A conscientious and loyal vassal will not cut into my sleep.

While laughing and glaring at each other, Minister Bernard coughed a few times. There were many important people attending the meeting, led by Minister Bernard.

There was also Duke Redgrave, Anjou's father, smirking in my presence.

"I hear you were very active in the Republic. Oh, what a pleasure!

Anjou's father was happy too.

It was great to make an effort. And it's even better to be able to do damage to Roland.

At the meeting, Miss Mylene was also present.

"It was a very good judgment to repel the Holy Kingdom of Rachell. Thank you, "Margrave" of Bartford.

"I, Leon, worked hard for the Queen... huh?

Huh? Your Highness is mistaken about my title.

Just now, I was addressed not as Count, but as Margrave.

Marquis/Margrave – that is a title one step below that of a Duke, and in the Kingdom of Holfart, it is a title only awarded to those who are related to the royal family.

In other words, it is a title that cannot be obtained by someone from a poor Baronial family.

"Lord Mylene, my title is Earl, right?

Then Miss Mylene got shy.

It seems that she was ashamed of herself for getting things wrong.

Hmm~~, very cute.

Illustration.



"I don't want to. If I don't tell him beforehand, Leon will be in a mess."

"Huh?

As I thought about the strange situation, Julius and the others looked at each other with blank faces.

"Hey, what do you think?

"I think it's barely possible.

What on earth are you talking about?

To the confused me, Minister Bernard – Kuralis' schoolmate's father – began to explain to me in detail.

"Count Bartford. Your merits are highly valued by our country. In return for this action, His Majesty has conferred the rank of Margrave together with the three upper ranks.

"That's a lie, isn't it!"

The same goes for the title of Margrave. In fact, the thought of being promoted again when one's fortunate is clearly at an end!

Isn't it strange that I'm still stuck like this? I'm not a king, am I?

Roland looked at me, who was in a terrible state, and smiled a very valiant smile.

Then, standing up, he opened his arms.

"It's possible! You may have forgotten, but your fiancée is the daughter of the Duke of Redgrave's family. In other words, you've become part of the royal family in the broadest sense of the word!

"What are you doing? Why do you have that look on your face?

"Besides, titles such as marquis are not given so easily.

"It doesn't make sense to give it to me just because I'm Anjou's betrothed.

That's what makes a royal family so valuable. –Although Roland did not seem to have a real sense of it, it was not a position that was easily obtained in the kingdom of Holfort.

"It can't be!

"If I say so! I'm the king. I am the rule!

Roland grinned, his bloodshot eyes widening with a look of winning pride.

My eyes went to Minister Bernard and Duke Redgrave, both of whom shook their heads at this.

"I'm sorry, but it's as Your Majesty would say.

"Your Majesty, in favour of your achievements, has persuaded the lords

-what a meddlesome king.

I glared at Rolland.

"I refuse!

"Well~, I refuse your refusal!

"Damn you, the b\*stard!

As I grabbed him, Rolland laughed and punched me.

In return I kneed him in the abdomen because of the heat, but no one around me would do anything.

The guards also ignored it.

Roland took out his usual frustration on me.

"It's your fault that I can't get enough sleep!

"Work for me a little!

"You're right. You're right. I've worked hard to make you rich!

"Isn't a king who works hard without giving work to his subjects useless?

When we got tired of arguing and panting at each other, I calmed down and explained theoretically that it was not going to work.

It was definitely not a struggle.

"I have neither a territory nor an office!

But, as if waiting for me, Roland took the booklet from his bosom and handed it to me.

It was signed by Mr. Albert.

"Here, this is?

"I told him you had no territory, and he gave you a portion of the original Favell territory. He has generously signed a piece of land with a port.

"That's a lie!

"No, I'm not lying. I misled him that you were in trouble, and His Excellency Albert painfully gave you the territory of the Republic. It's better to be trusted than anything else. Ah, I'm told that His Excellency Albert is holding that land for you. All you have to do is lend him your name. You'll have to pay taxes, but the Republic is having trouble rebuilding, right? That's why I've refused to help you.

I am the owner of the land, but it is the Rault family who actually manages it. I only own the land, but the income and various benefits have been pushed out by Roland.

Just to make me a marquis, Roland was arranging it in secret.

It is said that Mr. Albert seems to have accepted the proposal out of goodwill.

"Oh, I have a message from Mr. Albert. "I'd be happy if I could pay you back a little bit," he said. He's a wonderful man.

"You're the worst.

"How does it feel to serve the worst king? Please do tell me.

As I gnashed my teeth in remorse, Miss Mylene glared at Roland and scolded him.

"Your Majesty, please stop the fun.

"Well, yes. The young man will be the third Marquis from today onwards. I'm going to make it official at this ceremony.

I couldn't resist it being taken to this extent.

Roland went after me even further as my shoulders slumped.

"And then, if you want to become a marquis, you must have vassals, right? I am very gentle, so I decided to send a vassal from the kingdom's direct ministers for you.

In modern parlance, I became the head of a branch and the head office sent a subordinate to my branch.

"I don't need one.

When I said no, Roland smiled and reassured me.

"Don't say that. Because I've chosen some great young men for you. Come on, let's all say hello to each other.

There were no knights in the room who could be called young men.

As I tilted my head, I noticed Roland looking behind me.

-I broke out in a cold sweat.

"Difficult, is it?

"Congratulations! Jilk, Brad, Greg and Chris are your men from today onwards! It's okay to call them "Senders". In other words, you're in charge!

I felt my life fading.

I shuddered and looked back to see four of the five idiots looking at me with smiles.

Jilk's face emerged into a smile.

"The Marquis of Bartford is our superior. Fate is uncanny.

Brad crossed his arms at the back of his head.

"After all we've done, is this the end of it? Much obliged, Bartford.

Greg crossed his arms against his forehead.

"That's fine with me if you're the boss.

Chris straightened the position of his glasses and looked pleased.

"But it would be too polite to keep referring to him by his surname, Bartford. If it's our foster family, we can call him Leon.

-Why do you look so happy?

"It's a bit off-putting! Don't you have any complaints about working under me?

It's nice to say that about the former noblemen, but now they're parasites on Marië.

It felt like four plagues have been imposed on me.

Jilk was laughing.

"It's true that I'm not happy about it, but even so I have a very high opinion of Leon. Please take care of me in the future.

Suddenly I was called by name, and the four of them showed no resistance.

My head was spinning.

Roland took advantage of the situation.

"By the way, you should take care of Marie, too.

"Why!?

Just as I was shocked at being asked to take care of Marie, Mylene-sama looked apologetic.

"I was going to put her elsewhere. Even though she wasn't recognized by the temple, she still has the power of a holy woman. She can't be put in a bad place. Separating them could cause problems, too.

If Jilk and the others were separated from Marië, these fools would cause another commotion.

The purpose seemed to be to put them under me and watch them.

But as I crouched down with my head in my hands, the people around me cast sympathetic glances at me.

In the midst of this, only Roland was smiling.

"It's all because you've annoyed me that you've become like this.  
Have you done a little soul-searching?

" I'm a man who will take revenge, no matter who it is. Remember that!

"I look forward to it. If you want to get rich again, feel free to come over. And by the way, I'm a man of vengeance too.

What a cruel conversation.

In that case, it would have been better to play with Louise in the Republic.

So Julius looked at me with a lonely face.

"- What?

He looked at us as if he was envious.

"Bartford – no, Leon. Can I come to your place and be looked after too?

"Why! You're a prince, aren't you?

"Me, I'm lonely! Only you're too cunning.

What's cunning? Why do you want to be my servant? If you'd worked harder, It wouldn't have gotten this far!

◇

After the meeting was over, Julius and the others were taken to other rooms by Miss Mylene to receive a lecture about what was to come.

I thought they would never come back, but at the same time I also felt like being reprimanded by Miss Mylene.

I envied that group.

When I got back to the lounge, Marië, Carla and Kyle came out to greet me.

"Leon, did something happen?

"- I've been asked to look after you.

"What?

I told the girls about being set up by Roland during the talks.

Then, alone, I complained to Marie.

"It's bad. Even Julius asked me to look after him. I put up with it in the Republic, but even back in the Kingdom I have to look after you... hello?

Marië clung to my leg, and Kara and Kyle clung to my arms.

"What are you doing imitating her?

While I was still confused as to what the three of them were doing.

"I will never leave you again!

"Huh?

Marië shouted out, followed by Carla.

"I can't take care of those people without the Marquis of Bartford!

Please, please don't abandon us!

"Don't be so harsh! After all, I don't even remember picking you up!

Then came Kyle.

"Please. Please hire me. We can't live if we're abandoned! I'll do my job!

"Why even hire you? You're the arrogant, cold-hearted character responsible for watching Marië and the girls in disbelief!

As soon as I was about to peel the three of them off, Marië clung to my feet with the utmost strength.

Illustration.



Where did this fellow's strength come from?

I grabbed Marie's head, intending to forcefully peel her off.

"Let go, let go of me!

"No! Never leave. I'm never going to leave you!

Then Marië said in a whisper so that no one else could hear.

A slightly dim smile appeared on her face and the high light faded from her eyes.

"We'll always be together, brother.

The words of my former sister, who had come after me even in death, was frightening as hell.

My voice was hoarse as cold sweat swarmed out of me, and I just screamed at the top of my lungs.

"Let go of me!

Marie on that day was as scary as a nightmare!

## **Epilogue**

While Leon and the others were at the royal palace.

In the mansion of Baron Bardford's house, there was the figure of Noelle in a wheelchair.

The vast territory reveals a peaceful view that heals the heart of Noelle, who is badly wounded.

Thanks to the use of a high-performance medical capsule, Noelle survived, but she will need to undergo rehabilitation afterwards.

She moved from the Republic to Leon's home to live a convalescent life.

Noelle, moving around the house in her wheelchair, talks to Livia behind her.

It is Livia who is pushing the wheelchair.

"Miss Olivia is a fool. If I had died there, it wouldn't have been such a problem".

Noelle couldn't understand the feelings of Olivia, who was desperately trying to keep her alive. Although she was grateful for saving her life, she also had the option of not doing so.

Livia gave a difficult smile.

"I was too preoccupied at the time to think about anything else. But I don't regret saving you.

"Why?

"If Noelle had died, Leon-san would have been devastated.

Faced with Livia, who was talking about wanting to help Leon, Noelle looked up at the sky, feeling that she was no match for him.

"You really like Leon.

"Yes.

Livia answered immediately, pushing her wheelchair towards Noelle and asking her.

"How is life at Leon-san's old home?

"Everyone is very gentle and I am grateful. Leon's brother Colin is very close to me, which makes me happy.

"It's reassuring to see you in such good spirits. How is the rehabilitation going?

"It's been too hard. I'll be able to walk for a little while. But Claire said I'd be able to live normally by spring.

"Great.

Noelle, who had almost died before, still needed rehabilitation, but Livia seemed happy to see her recovered to this extent.

Anje came to where the two were.

"So there you are. Cheer up, both of you. Leon has been promoted to Marquis. They say it's going to be a lavish ceremony.

"Leon became marquis?

Anjie was happy, while Livia had a difficult look on her face.

Anje understood why Livia was embarrassed.

"Even though Leon was not happy, it was necessary. But it's painful to carry extra baggage.

"Burden?

"I'll explain that later. By the way, it has been decided that Noelle will join the third year of the school as of next term.

Noelle was shocked to hear that she could go to school.

"Can I? I'm a priestess too, right?

Because of Noelle's special position, she might be put in a territory in the future. The priestess of the sacred sapling is the one who will solve the energy problem.

To protect her and to prevent her from escaping, it would be best to keep her somewhere.

Anje's expression became a little more serious.

In a sense, it was thanks to Leon. No, thanks to Luxion, isn't it? Your value has fallen slightly within the kingdom. The adults have a greater concern than the sacred tree.

Noelle cocked her head in disbelief, and this time it was Angel who pushed the wheelchair.

"Don't worry about it. You just need to enjoy your life in the kingdom.

"Can I enjoy it?

It's up to you. But I can assure you that as long as you're around Leon, you'll have a lot of fun.

(Illustration)



Livia smiled back after Anje said this with a smile.

"It's true, there's a lot of fun to be had around Leon. — in every sense of the word. Only the tone of the last sentence was different, and Noelle, who was in a wheelchair, could not see Livia's expression.

Noelle looked up at the sky.

The sun was warm and it felt like spring.

"Happy. Yes, I am happy..

The three of them continued to chat about Leon at his old home.

**-END-**