The “Three Drunk Sages” is a reference to Rimuru-sama, the Celestial Emperor Elmesia of the Sorcerer’s Dynasty Sarion, and me, “Gard Myourmiles.” It is an acronym of these three names, and refers to a naming organization. 1

I don’t care about myself, but Her Majesty Elmesia is a heavenly person.

It is said that even for the nobility of a great country, there is usually a waiting list of several years for an audience with her. Even royalty can’t easily meet, even if they wanted to.

Her influence is immense.

It is said that Sarion’s national power is comparable to that of the Western Nations, and since it has been supporting such a superpower since the time of its rise, the prestige of Elmesia shines brightly down from above.

I hear that Her Majesty Elmesia is treated like a god in Sarion. I thought that Rimuru-sama was a very scary person to be casually drinking with such a person as her.

I cannot remember now why I was drinking with him, either. But thanks to that, even I can now call Her Majesty Elmesia as an older sister.

That’s why some people call us the Three Drunk Sages, but it’s not known that we three are involved in the Three Drunk Sages.

This is a top-secret matter, and only a few people know about it.

In the Monster Kingdom, only Benimaru-dono and Souei-dono are known to be involved in this matter.

Souei-dono has helped me by lending his subordinates, so I can’t keep it a secret from him.

As for Benimaru-dono, Rimuru-sama called out to him…

“You will get married one day, won’t you?”

“No, I don’t think so…”

“Well in preparation for that time, you need to hide this from your wife and save up some pocket money, right?”

“No, my salary is enough—”

“You idiot! If you don’t at least keep your annual income stashed away, it’s going to be hard to go out drinking with your male friends!”

“Is that so!?”

“Yes, that’s right. That’s what a man’s worth is all about!”

I remember him having a conversation like that.

It may seem slightly wrong, but it’s not something I would interfere with. I wisely ignored it and avoided getting involved.

Besides, the annual income of Benimaru-dono, the Minister of War, is the same as mine. And with six hundred gold coins, I don’t there’s any drink he can’t afford.

Well, that’s not important.

For some reason, Rimuru-sama is afraid that Shuna-sama will find out about his plan.

The reason Rimuru-sama invited Benimaru-dono is because he wants Shuna-sama’s older brother to keep an eye on her, and to get her to agree with him.

Anyway, I got Benimaru-dono as a collaborator, and borrowed some of Souei-dono’s subordinates. The Three Drunk Sages’ secret society plan has been set in motion with them as the executing unit.

Rimuru-sama’s point of view is very interesting.

The crux of the plan is the transformation of the relationship between the three drunk sages.

The plan was to gain complete control of the Three Drunk Sages, the secret society that serves as a device of violence, and to encourage clean conflict on the surface.

If you only create one giant organization, it will eventually rot from within. It was decided to set up two organizations in the first place because we knew there would be people who would have a grudge against the Jura Tempest Federation.

By making them compete with each other, we hope to revitalize our business. In addition, by making them compete with each other, the two organizations would be encouraged to cooperate with one another.

In this way, we are trying to prevent the organization from becoming corrupt.

When the organization was founded, I was impressed because I would never have been able to think that far into the future.

My role was to unite the two organizations.

Older Sister is the one in charge of uniting the survivors of the Rosso clan with King Dolan of the Dolan General Kingdom at the center. Then, the “Western General Trading Company” was established by those who have enmity against our monster country.

In order to counter this, it was necessary for me to establish the “Four Nations Trade Federation” at the earliest opportunity.

As planned, we set up an umbrella organization involving the leading figures of the Blumund Kingdom, the Farmenas Kingdom and the Dwarven Kingdom.

The merchants I took in after the Founding Festival became my hands and feet.

The number of business partners has decreased drastically, and they are on the verge of being ostracized by their homeland and abandoned by their families. So when the time was right, I reached out and offered my help.

I offered them a living if they would work for me, and few would be so foolish as to refuse that offer.

Of course, there were still a few who did.

Because this was reported in newspapers world-wide, their names have been sold in a bad way. Few people would trust such a person and hire them, so it was obvious that this was the last helping hand they would get.

The reporters did a great job too. Needless to say, it was terrifying how Rimuru-sama and Diablo-dono guided it.

Thanks to that, my work went well. I owe it to them for making it so interesting.

Of course, some of them would be aware of our intentions, and more than a few of them were, but doing anything about it would be useless. Also, they have no reason to complain about the payment, since we are not lying about it.

It was their pride that was the problem, but that was about it. A merchant is a cash cow, and most things are acceptable if it makes a profit.

Demonstrating competence would increase their position and salary. Their complaints gradually disappeared, and they pledged their loyalty to me.

I even got the former head of the store, Bach, involved.

He had become a respectable manager while paying off his debts to me, and I left him with the job on the condition that he would pay off the rest of his debts.

He felt that he owed me a debt of gratitude, so he did a lot more than I expected.

There were other excellent human resources growing up.

When the King of Blumund heard from Fuze-dono, he gathered all his trusted advisors. He said that they were promoting human resource development in preparation for the coming day.

The Dwarven Kingdom had also dispatched some excellent civil servants.

The dwarves have a long life expectancy, so there is no way for them to rise through the ranks unless their superiors retire. And so, some quick-witted people who have taken advantage of this opportunity have come forward to offer themselves to me as well.

It’s good to be ambitious.

I heard that the Western General Trading Company, organized by older sister (Elmesia), has also signed up the elves, and with the participation of dwarf civil servants, there was no better rival than the Western General Trading Company.

However,

The Farmenas Kingdom, on the other hand, needed help to open a branch office, and the Freedom Association was willing to help, but the stability of the country was still the priority.

This is to be expected, so we are taking a long-term view and have given our support to the people who will grow up to be able to do so.

But now comes the hard part.

We didn’t have enough staff to expand into Western Nations.

As I watched the Three Drunk Sages expand, I envied the Three Drunk Sages from the bottom of my heart, as they continued to crush and absorb the underworld.

The underworld was fine, but an organization that was active in the public arena needed good people who could be trusted with the job. The people we scouted were sent to the Monster Country to be trained, but it would still take a few years for the buds to sprout.

By principle, it is out of the question, from my point of view, to entrust such an important job to a stranger.

When it comes to that, it is necessary to be very selective about the people we hire. And as I feared, we have been short of people to hire due to sending personnel to various countries.

Thus, I turned to Rimuru-sama for advice.

“Well, I’m in a bind. Our country’s human resources are monsters, so I am reluctant to send them out into human society.”

“Yes, that’s right. There are many excellent people, and I think they will be accepted once they start working together, but I wonder if it is still too early to do so.”

“I agree with you, Myourmiles-kun. If the person who looks down on you is too good, one will be jealous of them and vice-versa. It would be worse if they were persecuted or something, and I feel it’s not good to think about things in a hurry.”

Rimuru-sama and I agreed.

Then what should we do?

Just as we were pondering, Rimuru-sama came up with a solution.

“It can’t be helped. She seems to be very capable, and I’d like to ask her to cooperate in this matter as well.”

After saying this, he called up his direct subordinate, Testarossa-dono.

Testarossa-dono was a diplomat and was reputed to be a very talented person. I was introduced to her, but she was so beautiful that I was too nervous to have a proper conversation with her.

And then…

“Rimuru-sama, you wanted to see me?”

A smile, full of grace, and a look of extraordinary beauty.

The scent in the air was so overwhelming that I couldn’t help but be overwhelmed by it.

While I was stunned, a conversation between Rimuru-sama and Testarossa-dono was occurring beside me.

“To tell you the truth, we’re short on people.”

“I see, if that’s the case, please leave it to me. I’ll have my subordinates work with you.”

“Oh, yeah? Yes, that’d a big help. Also, this is a secret mission, so make sure to keep it a secret.”

“Oh my, it’s a secret between me and Rimuru-sama. I promise I won’t tell anyone. And of course, my subordinates as well. If they ever speak of this…”

Testarossa-dono laughed.

Seeing that smile, Rimuru-sama and I felt very confident that our secret would be kept strictly to the letter.

Thus, it was very easy to come to an agreement.

Then Testarossa-dono looked at me and smiled.

“I have strict orders that I am to be absolutely obedient to you, Gard-sama” she said.

When her voice reached my brain, I felt as if I were going to heaven.

“Gard-sama,”—that Testarossa-dono called me by my name.

“Thank you very much!”

I couldn’t help but answer with a gluttonous smile.

And so, with the help of Testarossa-dono, the plan began to take off almost scarily well.

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In just a few months, a branch of the “Four Nations Trade Federation” has been set up in every member country of the Council. It is small, enough to accommodate about ten staff members, but it should be enough for the time being.

This was a surprise to me, but an even more surprising event still awaited me.

I was elected as the representative of the Four Nations Trade Federation.

“Myourmiles-dono, whom Rimuru trusts, can trust me too. I’ll leave everything to you.”

When Gazel, the king, gave me encouragement, I was so nervous that I felt paralyzed.

As long as the king had said that, the dwarven officials had no objections. They may have been dissatisfied, but on the surface, they obediently followed.

“Because we are on the side of being helped, I don’t have any complaints at the moment. So, good luck with that.”

And Youm-dono.

Then I overheard him saying, “It must be hard for you to be pushed around by that guy, isn’t it?” but I smiled and replied, “That’s true for both of us. Thanks to you, I’ve been able to live a very pleasant life.”

Youm-dono laughed as well, so I think the feeling was mutual.

The King of Blumund was troublesome.

At first glance, he seemed to be a friendly man, but my gut feeling told me something else.

Drum Blumund—this man can’t be trusted.

And sure enough, negotiations with the King of Blumund were not going to be easy.

“Ho-ho-ho, you are the representative of the federation, so you will have unimaginable power in the future. If Myourmiles-dono is going to take over the reins, I’ll be at ease too.”

Is it that bad? I wondered, but it could be, depending on how things unfolded.

“Ha-ha, I’m honored. Well, I’ll see you in the future—”

“By the way…”

Here it comes! I braced myself.

“In my country, we are in the process of training our staff for Rimuru-dono’s project. We would, naturally, want to expect job security.”

“Of course, of course. In fact, the plan won’t be able to move forward without the cooperation of those people.”

“Well, I am relieved to hear that. Then, of course, you are aware of the situation in our country, are you not?”

“The situation, sir?”

I didn’t know what he was talking about, so I didn’t bother to answer the question.

Then the King of Blumund, with a friendly smile, said something that made me want to scream at him like an idiot.

“Let me put it simply. We have abolished all agriculture in our country. We are now selling off all the food stored in the national treasury to keep the people in line. We need your support.

“What!?”

I couldn’t help but exclaim, but I think it couldn’t be helped.

“Mmm, of course I’ll do everything I can, but I’m afraid I’m the only one…”

“Well, I’m sure Rimuru-dono will smile and give us permission. He has built the ‘World Station’ of the Magic Train in our country, and I am sure that you will not abandon us for responding to your spirit. “

That’s unreasonable!

I want to scream at him for his absurd logic, but somewhere in my heart I am convinced.

This man had staked the fate of the nation on Rimuru-sama’s plan.

Would this be considered an incredible act of stupidity or a wise decision? No, no…

I must prove that he made the right decision.

Because if this is seen as a fool’s errand, it would mean that Rimuru-sama’s plan has failed.

We have no manpower to begin with, and it would be a great help to us if all the people of the Blumund Kingdom were to work for us.

Therefore, I had only one answer.

“That’s right. King of Blumund, I swear to you that I will take responsibility for hiring all of Blumund’s people. Of course, you will leave the food aid to me as an advance on my salary!”

“Ho-ho-ho, Myourmiles-dono is reliable! I would like to be able to continue relying and helping you with various things in the future as well. Therefore, please call me “Drum”.

Well, what a surprise.

A mere merchant like me is allowed to call him by his name?

“Oh, I’m afraid not…”

It could be a trap, so I refused it for the time being…

“Myourmiles—no, I’m going to go ahead and call you Gard-dono.”

“No, no, no, no, I’m just a former commoner who was taken in by Rimuru-sama…”

“Ho-ho-ho, no need for modesty. Nobody would think of Gard-dono, who is a friend of not only Rimuru-dono, but also Her Majesty Elmesia, as a mere commoner.”

“Even I can’t call her by her name,” King Blumund said with a straight face.

Although he is acquainted with Rimuru-sama and knows him well enough to be on friendly terms, the expression on his face tells me that to Her Majesty the Emperor of Sarion, a superpower, he’s nothing more than an insignificant member of the royal family.

There’s no denying it.

I have turned my back on this fact, but I have to admit that older sister is an extraordinary person.

If so, I assume that this is the reason that the King of Blumund wants to have a close relationship with me.

It’s an honor to call him by name, and it’s also a great way to build a good relationship.

But what to do…well, don’t bother.

Come to think of it, it’s not the name of the country over there. Prince Figaro is the representative of the country, so it’s okay.

“Then, with His Majesty Drum—”

“Wait, wait, let’s be on equal footing here. Even with Drum-chan…”

“No, no, that’s not right! I mean, it’s absurd!”

“Is that so?”

“Yes, it is! I understand. Well, then may I call you Drum-dono from now on?”

I was afraid to change the name, since it was the person himself who had asked me to do so. I didn’t want to be arrested for being rude, though I didn’t believe that was likely.

As a result, Drum-dono laughed happily at me.

“Well, I’m glad to hear that. Being friends with Gard-dono, I feel as if I have become a great person,” said Drum-dono. “I look forward to working with you as a friend in the future!”

Before I knew it, I had become friends with Drum-dono.

I didn’t know if I was allowed to do that, and I asked for help from others to see if they would disagree.

And yet…

Behind Drum-dono stood a group of stern-looking ministers, but no one complained. On the contrary, everyone was smiling happily, as if they were relieved.

I had no choice but to realize that the Blumund Kingdom was serious.

They had invested everything they had in the Four Nations Trade Federation, a supranational organization represented by me, and they were betting their country’s survival by joining forces with it.

That’s an unbelievable gamble.

It’s not easy for me to make a decision like this. In that sense, this Drum Blumund is undoubtedly an impressive man.

“I wish to build a good relationship with you for a long time. Please guide me as a friend, so that I do not become a ‘fox that borrows the power of the tiger.’”

I replied to Drum-dono with sincere respect.