

# Re:Monster

リ・モンスター 6

金斬児狐  
Kanekiro Koutetsu



# RE:MONSTER

*-Monster Reincarnation Chronicle Starting After  
Being Stabbed To Death-*

**- VOLUME 6 -**

**-AUTHOR-**  
**Kanekiru Kogitsune**

**-ILLUSTRATOR-**  
**Yamada**

**[Re:Monster Wiki]**

スペ星

超強力な魔術を  
駆使する魔導鬼・  
亞種。

ブラ里

血と剣を支配する  
ブラッディロード  
血劍鬼・亞種。

カナ美

アポ朗と共に生まれ育った  
仲間にして正妻。  
現在の種族は吸血貴族・  
亞種。

ミノ吉

ミノタウロス  
牛頭鬼・新種となったアポ朗の親友。  
超重量級の身体と武具により、  
圧倒的な実力を誇る。

セイ治

守りと癒しに優れた  
セイントロード  
聖光鬼・亞種。

イロ腐

あらゆるものを  
腐らせる鬼腐人・  
亞種。

アポ朗

ゴブリンに転生した主人公。  
アボソーブション  
【吸喰能力】によって、  
喰えば喰うほど強くなる。  
アボスルロード  
現在は使徒鬼・絶滅種に  
ランクアップ  
【存在進化】している。

クギ芽

全てを見通す目を  
くぎめき  
持つ九祇眼鬼・  
亞種。

アス江

地と雷を操る巨体の  
アースロード  
地雷鬼・亞種。  
ミノ吉の恋人でもある。

Main Characters

主な登場人物

# DAY 221

Right now, the Female Samurai is the shop manager, working as hard as she can managing the headquarters in the Royal Capital when I'm not around. Even if something unexpected were to happen that the Female Samurai wouldn't be able to handle, she would still be able to communicate with me through the ear cuff, making it possible for her to receive instructions even from far away.

With <Solitude>'s helping hands functioning as the manpower, they're likely to be able to deal with it as long as it's nothing major.

Therefore, it isn't necessary for me to stay in the Royal Capital.

Because it became clear to me that, everything I've done up until now, can be considered as the actions of a simple ogre, my place of activity will, sooner or later, gradually steer away from the Sternbild Kingdom.

Though there are several reasons, the biggest one is the regrettable fact that the only [Age of the Gods] dungeons in the Kingdom are of [Demigod] rank, and there are only a few of them.

I think that from now on I'll strengthen my main force by conquering an [Age of the Gods] dungeon not by myself but with Kanami-chan and the [8 Demon Generals] as well. I'm planning to do a [God] rank, which is a rank higher than [Demigod] rank. I did think about challenging a [Great God] rank, but there are only 5 of them in the world. Regardless, I will need to leave the Kingdom whatever I do.

Of course, I am still able to enjoy a [Demigod] rank, but seeing as there are so few around here, we'd finish capturing them in no time.

That's why I decided to go to an [Age of the Gods] dungeon outside the Kingdom. I considered first diving into a [Demigod] rank dungeon and then switch to a higher difficulty [God] rank one.

I felt that it would be too early for the group, aside from me, to challenge a [God] rank dungeon. But I already challenged a [Demigod] rank dungeon and because Minokichi-kun and the others knew that, they were set on conquering a [God] rank dungeon

without fail. And as I wanted to challenge one myself, I didn't plan on changing the difficulty for the moment.

We agreed that if we are unable to go through the early levels of the dungeon the way we want, we would immediately change to a different dungeon.

Because the lower levels of a [God] rank are somewhat similar to the depths of the middle layer of a [Demigod] rank. It's pretty difficult to stay alive.

Still, we're only considering going into a [God] rank dungeon. Considering the most prominent out of all the potential places, it'll likely be the Demon Empire.

The Demon Empire is on very bad terms with the Holy Kingdom. The [Age of the Gods dungeon] there is called [Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain].

Even if the national relations are bad, it won't turn into a large-scale war that easily. The current situation is more like that off a cat-and-mouse game between spies and some small skirmishes.

The [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] has a structure that is different from the underground of a conventional dungeon. It's one of the dungeons classified as a natural enclosure, which I haven't challenged before.

The natural enclosure model can be easily explained as a dungeon that has its exterior and interior separated by a special area called a [Border Place], turning it into a huge [Boundary Range] of which the entire interior became a dungeon.

A natural enclosure model can come in different shapes and sizes, such as a large valley or a great forest. This time around, the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] is a volcano type that is classified as a natural enclose with a particular high degree of difficulty.

It's a rising spiral-shaped volcano with the dungeon boss' lair in the center. On top, it's a place where harmful volcano gasses gush out, a place where countless rivers of lava flow around, a place with a cruel environment that resembled a forest of blazing trees, including plants-like dungeon monsters that adapted to it.

The many dungeon monsters that frequently appear here are formidable adversaries. Their types are aligned to rock and flames. The path of an adventurer conquering the dungeon is being blocked every step of the way by heinous traps everywhere. The

special characteristic of these traps comes from the area they're set up in: they're related to lava.

On top, the dungeon boss here is a high-ranking [Wisdom Dragon]. It's an uncaptured dungeon with a long history. No one has been able to fully go through it yet.

It's still unconquered because it's packed with frequently appearing field bosses — which are of the same rank as the floor bosses that appear in a conventional underground dungeon. On top, anyone that arrives at the center of the spiral-shaped volcano, is slaughtered. That means that nobody has been able to beat the powerful dungeon boss.

Because there aren't a lot of people challenging this dungeon, it's only natural that the accumulated information on this dungeon is scarce.

Its location is on the border of the Demon Empire and the Holy Kingdom, causing adventurers of both countries to try and challenge it. It's considerably more difficult than any other [God] rank natural enclosures.

To give a rough example: It began by a reckless, strong adventurer seeking a way to conquer it and assembling a party mixed out of good and bad people. If you trace back history, this mighty warrior that could match a thousand belonged to either the Holy Kingdom or the Demon Empire. His reputation even surpassed 6 [Legendary Heroes]. He challenged the dungeon with a great number of associates.

During the time they challenged the dungeon, they displayed an overwhelming power as a unit. It was thought that their time needed to conquer the dungeon would be short.

All of their members had experience in conquering at least a [Demigod] ranked dungeon. The one leading them even succeeded in conquering a [God] ranked dungeon.

However, that was the last anyone heard of these [Legendary Heroes].

Not one person of the party that included [Legendary Heroes] had returned. It's not clear what happened.

However, violent battle noises resounded at the foot of the mountain during the time the [Legendary Heroes] were challenging the dungeon and a [Wisdom Dragon] was seen flying high in the sky. Moreover, the sounds didn't subside for several days. Looks like it was possible to reach the dungeon boss' lair, but it's very likely they were defeated.

From the bottom of my heart, I personally wanted to eat the [Legendary Hero] that was said to be so strong. If only he would be around in the present.

However even with a [Legendary Hero] challenging it, there wasn't anyone that has conquered this dungeon. The main reason looks to be the fact that the dungeon boss is a not a Lesser Dragon, but a genuine one.

At any rate, unlike an underground structure where space is restricted to some degree, the dungeon boss of this natural enclosure was a [Wisdom Dragon]. They are able to freely soar through the sky, with the exception of a Water Dragon. The characteristics of this kind of dragon include its high intelligence and its ability to draw from a huge amount of magic power. It uses an incredible magic air attack that far surpasses any human one. This makes the degree of difficulty jump up.

Even in the best circumstance, it would be difficult to get past its huge body and super-hard scales. On top, there's its saturation attack<sup>[1]</sup> that causes a downpour that restricts any kind of counterattack. Even for someone like a [Legendary Hero], a hard fight would be inevitable.

Moreover, because it's a [God] rank, could it be that the companions of the [Legendary Hero] wouldn't be able to resist a lot of blows and were murdered before long?

The [Legendary Heroes] might not have been able to develop the techniques that would have prevented them from being trampled. I give a silent prayer in tribute.

How would it taste? I decided to keep this deep desire for myself.

By the way, there were precious minerals here that were appropriate to the overall level of difficulty. And because the rare item drops from the dungeon monsters will become featured products hereafter, there's merit to trying to conquer the dungeon, even if it's not possible to go after the dungeon boss.

And while I also examined the other prospects, and they each had their own merits, the [Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain] is the one that kept popping in my head.

If you really want to attempt one, it's best to try here.

However, 2 of my 8 Demon Generals complained {Hey! It's unreasonably hot in there. Nevertheless, it might be a feast for my eyes when the men are battling in that atmosphere and breaking a sweat... whether they like it or not..... \*slurp slurp (sfx)\*}

{Hey! The current me might be a burden just a little.....} It might not be something positive to say before entering the labyrinth, but it looks like it's necessary for me to get them motivated.

I could have decided that it would be better for the two demons that weren't motivated — Irofu-chan and Dodome-chan that became Kugime-chan — to leave. But seeing as the objective is to confirm the battle formation effect that forms when the 8 Demon Generals are together, and to see it in actual combat, I will take them along no matter what it takes.

Though I can order them to forcibly come along, at this point, I want to understand the reason behind why these two didn't want to come along.

The undead Irufo-chan is susceptible to flames, and Kugime-chan's afraid that big flaws in her battle abilities might make everyone anxious and less dependable when inside the labyrinth.

Because they both had a valid reason and because it's their first time, I'm going to gently persuade the both of them.

As for tomorrow.

I will perform the traditional mock battles that I normally have with Minokichi-kun for the entire day.

We haven't been using our special weapons recently, as the damage to the environment will become too big. Even if we didn't use our special weapons, the martial arts he learned from me still proved useful. Now Minokichi-kun is able to perfectly handle his superior physique and his strength has surely increased.

His unleashes fast fists continuously and they hit so hard that it can break bone. He adequately aims at my vital parts to destroy me.

Warding off all attacks, I increase my offense to break Minokichi-kun's posture and make him collapse, but because of his excellent physical ability, he was able to force himself to rally.

The Minokichi-kun from the past would have dropped to the ground from this for sure, ending the fight, but the current Minokichi-kun didn't seem to be phased by such

attacks anymore.

His rapid growth felt reliable, and I spontaneously smiled. Without taking a rest, I started to fight more seriously.

I am grateful having a partner that's close to my level, who I don't need to go easy on.

# DAY 222

With the morning training, I wanted to take the opportunity to convince the two reluctant demons to go to the dungeon. Their reaction was not favorable.

Well, I could have saved time if I was able to motivate and persuade them immediately, but it's not like you can persuade someone and change their opinion she had from the start so suddenly.

While I am continuing to try and persuade them, I didn't have the prospect of leaving the Sternbild Kingdom anytime soon.

So I immersed myself in work during the day, as I needed to finish any work I still had to do before it's too late.

Among the work to be done, is the advertising of the massage parlor that was finished on the first floor.

I quickly finished it, and the Tomboy Princess was the first one of the list of my invites of my possible client base.

Because it's only the Tomboy Princess and 10 others I invited, it's still a rather weak form of advertising. But I only needed up to 1 or 2 people as a personal butler and maid to take care of the guests and I entrusted the invites to the Tomboy Princess.

Since choosing people is troublesome, I didn't want to do it. And I wanted to use it as an opportunity to get a closer to the faction the Tomboy Princess is related to, as sign of good faith.

As a logical result, the First Queen was an invited guest.

She has the appearance of being just a little bit too motivated and she looks a lot younger than her actual age, while still having the allure of an adult.

Accompanying her was the shrewd Hero of Darkness as well as four maids. They stood behind the two, and I only know them by sight.

Oh my, it's somewhat unpleasant, because that I left the invites to the Tomboy Princess, there's a high probability that a lot of members (of the 5 Great Gods religion) will come. But as I started to get accustomed to the First Queen's quirks recently, I saw that they weren't as strange -- you could say that I stopped resisting it since it's their problem. It's not that I absolutely hate them.

Riding on the skeleton spider that I arranged for picking up the invitees, the Tomboy Princess arrived first with the First Queen. I saw that the Princess wore a meaningful smile. She probably used the invite as leverage to benefit from the First Queen in one way or another.

Judging from the wry smile of the Boy Knight, I was pretty sure I was right.

The Tomboy Princess hasn't concealed her true nature so much lately.

Seeing as their reason to be here was good, I thought it's better to see a bright smile than one that's covered with a hint of darkness.

In order to relieve their stress, I let the invitees take a stone sauna and receive an oil massage.

In order to take a stone sauna, you need to slip into special clothing, and you have to lie on a sheet that is spread over the bedrock.

Touching the stone directly is too hot, but by using the sheet it changes to the extent that is pleasantly warm. In 30 minutes, your body is also internally warmed up by infrared rays.

Since they haven't experienced this often, everyone seems to be pleased.

After her session was over, a lady with a smile from ear to ear said joyfully: "All tension that was accumulated in my body, disappeared."

She needs to hold on to that thought tightly, because I want her to become a regular customer by all means.

In order to rehydrate during the breaks, I prepared a fruit juice that was mixed with a small amount of spring water and salt from the labyrinth. It was quite popular.

I am planning to increase the variety in the future.

To avoid any issues with people during the oil massage, the masseuse and the guest had to have the same gender as a standard rule.

The oil that was used this time around was made out of materials that Dorian gathered from the Great Forest, combined with Dorian-san' rare nectar. It was something incredible, and its various effects showed immediately.

The first effect of the oil gives a beautiful, rejuvenated skin. But its main feature has a wondrous effect: through mysterious, hidden magic it efficiently burns any additional body fat from the inside.

You can actually feel it decrease straight after the first time you use it. It might be just a lucky side effect, but there's no magic medicine that exists that exhibits the same secondary effect.

This reliable, safe beauty massage oil is extremely useful and has a pleasant feeling.

Seeing everyone's eyes light up when I explained the oil's effects to the guests, was interesting.

All things considered, this is expected from Dorian-san. Not only does she excel in capturing the members of the opposite sex, she recently specialized in the area of beauty are as well.

Her oil mixture skill is very useful, because after taking it once, people will want use it more often, like drug repeaters.

I'm thinking about giving it as a superior souvenir this time around.

After the guests completed a full cycle, I listened to their opinions. In general, they were satisfied and gave considerably high evaluation.

All guests mentioned that they wanted to come again and start becoming a regular. Business-wise, the appointments that were made here are looking like a good sign.

Since all invited guests are looking to become regular customers, I want to cherish them.

Also, even the maids and butlers that were by their sides experienced it a little.

Like this, they'll spread news through word-of-mouth as well.

Because employees like maids and butlers are paid better wages than commoners, they may come around to relieve them of their daily stress.

And so, this method of advertising ended safely by the evening, as I sent the invitees back to their mansions in the same way they came: by skeleton spiders.

It's a comfortable ride, as the spiders don't have any problem with the snow-covered roads and there aren't a lot of shocks either. Furthermore, these sort of horse-drawn carriage that I offer to guests within the Royal Capital that made an appointment are prepared with special, luxurious items. I do expect them to use them their heart's content.

Even though sending the invitees on their way back went without a problem, not all of them returned on time.

Eight people didn't return and remained in the mansion, shrewdly staying for supper.

These eight were the Princess Tomboy, Boy Knight, the Hero of Darkness and the First Queen with her four maids.

I didn't want to do it at first, but the maids helped in a lot of different ways and when I saw the picture of the First Queen and the Hero of Darkness smack their lips over my cooking, while having a happy smile on their face, I wasn't particularly bothered by it.

As the person that cooked, it's hard to eat it and say that it's delicious.

After we finished the meal, I brought out the recently born Opushii to cut the tension and see the look on their faces. Her cheeks occasionally made a squishy noise when poked, while the First Queen was touching the jewels on her skin.

Opushii's mother, Redhead, was wearing a happy smile while taking care of her. She was talking with the First Queen and Hero of Darkness, who were love-struck. I noticed a friendly bond being developed between the mothers.

Though it might seem natural to me now, because of the relationship between me and the Tomboy Princess, there are three people standing there that are on a totally different social standing from each other. If anyone else was watching them pleasantly chatting with each other like this, they'd be flabbergasted.

If this would have happened outside, it would be considered Lèse-majesté<sup>[1]</sup>.

Well, at this late hour, lèse-majesté can be considered something trivial. And after it became late at night, the Tomboy Princess went home.

Nevertheless, the sight of a skeleton spider running through the streets of the Royal Capital under the street-light late at night, resembles a messenger from hell running around, searching for prey.

# DAY 223

In the end, we all got together and decided to challenge [Flames of the Fire Dragon Mountain].

It's the most useful one that I scouted, and it seems to yield the most profit, while still being located relatively close.

Thinking about the future and considering the Saint Kingdom, there's also the fact that it could prove rather convenient to establish a base in the Demon Empire.

Nevertheless, there were some problems before actually heading out.

And while these things can be solved relatively easily, they were slightly troublesome from time to time.

One of the problems, was the fact that Kugime-chan didn't want to go. It would have been inconvenient if she became a hindrance in the labyrinth. So in order to solve it, I tried to motivate her.

Looks like I got nowhere with subtle persuasion.

I first thought persuading her wouldn't be difficult. But it isn't like that at all.

But seeing as I didn't think it would be a good idea to be idle and waste time, it had gotten to the point where I needed to use force to get her to come.

That's why, during this chilly morning, while it was slowly snowing, we were facing each in the middle of the training area at the mansion.

Kugime-chan had a Japanese umbrella as an organic weapon and wielded a black, silver fan-type magic item [Tayu of Night Wind], made out of jade.

I just wielded 2 sticks of around 2 meters long that I cut out of a tree.

We both were equipped with our living armor -- I wore a training poncho because else my upper body would be naked.

Aside from my armor, the fact that my only offensive power are two tree sticks, while she has her Japanese umbrella that's her organic weapon and her fan that's magic item, it should overcome any difference that there is.

It's not only that this tree branch cannot parry an attack because it is easily broken through a direct hit, but it's also that it can't endure any strong attack I attempt. It will disintegrate before I even land it.

Normally, an overwhelming superiority in weapon quality like this would give someone some margin. However, with this she opens all of her nine eyes to the limit, most of which are normally closed, and opens them wide. Kugime-chan still held a tense expression as she still seemed scared of everything.

Based on the quality of our weapons, I would lose overwhelmingly when facing each other. Nevertheless, I took up a relaxed posture.

There were no particular problems with a handicap to this degree, as it didn't cause any useless strain on me. I was able to freely wield the two sticks that I obtained by only using my wrists and fingers and still be overbearing. I started to gradually approach Kugime-chan.

However, Kugime-chan took two steps back for every step I took forward. And the distance between just kept on increasing as Kugime-chan fell back six steps when I took two steps forward.

She accurately determined my range of my attack at the last moment. While I kept on pressing the attack, she stayed just outside of my range.

Kugime-chan also immediately reacted when I tried to throw a feint, as if she was able to see through it. She used the minimum of movements while giving me no chance at all.

After that I followed up with a real attack instead of a feint.

I flicked a small pebble on the ground with my tree branch, and aimed it at Kugime-chan's face that was holding a serious expression. I shot a second stone in the first's shadow. She understood it accurately and evaded it.

Apparently when she became a [Kugimeki · Subspecies], her ability to gather and process information were pushed to the maximum. Kugime-Chan seems to be able to predict my actions.

Even if it's a special technique, as long as it's up to a certain speed, Kugime-chan can recognize and deal with it. She can beat me to a punch as she already starts to move before I do. It looks like I am not able to approach her.

While I can do the same thing, it looks like Kugime-chan is faster than me.

However, even if she can predict everything, Kugime-chan's actual combat ability is still low.

Her physical ability is weaker than an [Ogre]'s, and her mobility, endurance and battle sense are embarrassing.

Because of this, it's difficult to display the full ability of her special foresight.

When I put a bit more serious effort into it, Kugime-chan's body wasn't able to react in time, even though she was able to predict it.

Despite that fact that I was going easy this time around, the shock of my hit took all the air out of her body and made her roll over the ground.

She stopped rolling after a few times, but it was still impossible for Kugime-chan to get up.

Bearing the pain, she curled up like an embryo and started slightly trembling.

Becoming like this after a hit, there's no way Kugime-chan will get motivated to challenge the labyrinth.

While Kugime-chan does have a strong sense of responsibility, her anxiety will become a burden to the others.

However, if you ask me, I don't see an issue with her low combat capabilities.

Any defensive problems can be overcome with strengthened protective gear. On top, we should protect the ones around us. I decide she can go together with Sei, who has the ability to shield herself as well as her companion.

And even then, she doesn't need to be directly involved in combat. Because Kugime-chan can sense her surroundings more precisely than I can, there are a lot of scenarios where she can function as a living radar, in order to detect enemies and traps early on.

Therefore, I find that her becoming a burden due to the lack of her combat abilities, is only an imaginary fear of Kugime-chan.

Kugime-chan won't actively participate in combat and her combat prowess is more than enough to protect herself on her own for a few seconds.

As such, the minimum requirement is fulfilled.

Because of this, her anxiety will disappear if she tries once.

Because suffering such a loss will have hit her mental state, there was certainly a need to improve it.

Since Kugime-chan is still showing some anxiety to challenge a [God] rank dungeon, it cannot be said that I succeeded in persuading her smoothly. I made her reluctantly go through a strict training regime today. I will force her to become more confident and ready.

-- Ok, ok, I can immediately cure it if I break an arm or two, and even if internal organs would burst, I have some effective medicine to cure it. -- So for your peace of mind, let's give you some personal training for as long as you need to settle your anxiety.

Kugime-chan's expression was dyed in despair when I casually mentioned it, as if it's

something that she couldn't imagine.

Half a day has passed since our training started.

Since then, Kugime-chan has rolled over the ground hundreds of times. And while she suffered a few comminuted fractures<sup>[1]</sup> and organ bursts, our training session ended safely.

I had to forcefully end it because Kugime-chan entered a state where she was not able to move anymore for the rest of the day, no matter what I did. While I do think it's still possible to go on, I decided to let it go.

I don't want to agitate her any further after all the things she's been through.

Bleeding from her entire body, having half the bones in her body crushed; injuries of all sizes were healed at high speed. I forced Kugime-chan to keep on fighting, to show her she has nothing to be afraid of.

It tried to motivate her in the beginning, but seeing as it didn't have an effect, I decided to keep my thoughts for myself.

# DAY 224

Because of yesterday's training, Kugime-chan was in a lifeless state and looked like a zombie. But in the end, she made splendid progress.

As a sort of experiment, I had Minokichi-kun attack her with his battle-axe, and her reaction time was faster when compared to before. The attack got avoided completely.

Since Minokichi-kun is quite stubborn by nature, he went for a serious attack. But it didn't hit and even the aftereffect was completely avoided.

While the result would probably be different if Minokichi-kun used his full ability, Kugime-chan's defense does seem to have increased and she's even smiling slightly. Is this the result of yesterday's hell training?

Though her offense doesn't stand a chance and is still useless, she can at least protect herself. This much won't become a problem in the dungeon.

Though even like this, it would be a problem to challenge the labyrinth if she's still slightly insecure. Though when I asked her, she seemed full of determination to go to the dungeon.

I was relieved that she completely changed her mind.

This is a good sign: {Please spare me from training with the two of you!} and she begged earnestly.

Minokichi, who was standing nearby, was looking very pleased.

Oh well, that's one problem down.

Because the issue with Kugime-chan was resolved, I began working on the next problem today.

The next issue is related to Irofu-chan. Like with Kugime-chan, I gave up on gently persuading Irofu-chan, and decided to force it. I confronted Irofu-chan at the training grounds.

But Irofu-chan is not in her usual state.

Her expression is filled with desire and she's slobbering all over. This is definitely not normal. She's intensely staring at me with crazy eyes.

If it was only that, it would have been okay but the emitted insanity and the physical power related to the [God of Corrosion Divine's Protection] had turned the thick layer of snow in her vicinity into something purple of indeterminable origin.



Additionally, she is wielding a purple short spear in her right hand. A dark corrosive liquid is dripping from the tip. It mixes with what is covering the snow on the ground and creates a dark purple gas.

The gas that was like a poison mist starts wriggling with the purpose of producing an image behind Irofu-chan of the God of Corrosion holding a book and a writing brush.

The reason she entered an obviously abnormal state is because Irofu-chan became extremely motivated after I promised to grant her one wish within the range of my abilities if she wins.

Irofu-chan was as slippery as an eel and evaded my persuasion attempts, so I aimed to finish this quickly by dangling a carrot in front of her. Looks like she took the bait.

Frankly, I found it a bit hasty. This is the first time I saw Irofu-chan like this, and it seems to be considerably dangerous.

I can sense the danger even when while we're still standing across from each other.

Especially the illusion of the divine spirit of the God of Corrosion behind her looks particularly menacing.

It looks like she's intentionally moving her arms \*rustle rustle (sfx)\*, making the dark purple mist that was creating the illusion disperse throughout the vicinity. Anything the gas touches is dissolved without exception.

Even the snow and the ground below are being corroded. It's easy to imagine any living thing being caught just rotting away.

Nevertheless, even taking into account this special ability, I'll probably be able to win based on combat prowess.

But, how should I put it. The mental pressure is overwhelming?

If possible, I'd rather not fight, that's what I wish for. However, it's scary that she's beyond the point to hear anything anymore.

In the end, I won. I only won by a small margin though. While I overwhelmed her in actual combat, I was over-awed by her intense tenacity.

I broke both her arms and legs. But I experienced a certain sort of fear as she kept on approaching by wriggling her body like a green caterpillar.

Even when I accurately jolted her brain, she still kept on moving exactly like a zombie.

While I didn't suffer a single injury in the end, I suffered such mental impact that this game became some sort of a trauma. From this day onward, I vowed to myself to never bet with Irofu-chan again.

Though a lot of unexpected things happened in the process, I was safely able to convince both of them and solve their issues.

It was finally over.

Though it will still be several days from now, when we can finally leave the Royal Capital after solving these small problems.

Anyway, let's quickly push the preparations forward.

# DAY 225

Today, the wind has been blowing snow around non-stop since this morning.

It's violently moving around a mixture of ice and snow, and the snowfall has reached a height where it could bury me.

Because the sky is covered with dark clouds, there's no sunshine at all. Today doesn't seem to be a bright day at all.

Since the weather is getting considerably rougher, I'll have to stop doing the training outside, even if I intend to still do them as much as possible in the open.

The members of <Solitude> have grown remarkably recently, but it is necessary to occasionally take a break.

So after doing a light indoor training today, I decided to make them study. It is important that each of them is able to think for themselves.

The more they know, the more likely they are able to help when push comes to shove. They might offer suggestions and ideas that I didn't think of.

It's not only about the three R's, but it's also absolutely necessary for us to know first-aid because we place ourselves in battle all the time.

For the members of <Solitude>, who haven't received any education up to this moment, absorbing knowledge now might prove useful for them in the future.

Though it does not change their purpose in Parabellum, it is an opportunity for them to become self-aware of their talents in studying. They may find work they'd want to do.

And above all, if they grow big and only become meatheads, it would be difficult to have them help in managing the organization. If I wanted them to be in charge of accounting or planning, in order to lighten my load, I will need someone that can perform white-collar tasks.

While they are studying diligently, I take advantage of the spare time in between to cook and sew. It was a considerably relaxed day.

Seeing the children study on a snowy day, I enjoyed myself very well spending time teaching them.

# DAY 226

The weather was completely different from yesterday - clear skies today.

The only thing that was left from yesterday, is the remaining snow. The sunlight is pouring down and reflect on it, spreading in to a world of silvery white.

White smoke rises from a chimney attached to a private house in the Royal Capital. The air was filled with the lively \*chatter chatter (sfx)\* from the townsfolk.

The early morning was a bit chilly, but comfortable. I could hear the fluttering of wings and laughter outside of the training grounds.

When I look up at the sky, where I'm hearing the sound, I saw Snow Fairies of around 15 centimeters with thin wings made out of ice dancing around. Their dancing is beautiful. Each time their wings move, ice flakes twirl down. The sunlight reflecting on it makes it glisten and brighten in a rainbow color. Unintentionally, I became fascinated by this magical spectacle. The dancing snow fairies only appear in the Sternbild Kingdom during this season. It's a type of monster that's as vicious as it is lovely.

Not taking into account their size, they're nymphs of unparalleled beauty clothed in lovely dresses. Though as soon as someone tries to capture them to either admire or sell them, they counterattack when you least expect it.

More in detail, they have the special characteristic to transform their entire body into ice by using a freezing ability and fully utilize their surroundings. While they're small, their battle prowess is high because they get support from the environment.

However, as long as you don't provoke them, it looks like they'll ignore you? So for now, I just enjoy the spectacle of them dancing around.

Though I am gradually starting to wonder what they taste like. For now, I try to capture one that's within range with a string that shoots from my fingertips.

I manipulate the thread coming from the tip of my finger and create a net. I was able to easily collect 10 of them. However, the thread restraining them is frozen in an

instant. It became a sphere of ice, and was broken in the following moment.

The broken pieces fall down \*pitter-patter(sfx)\* and are quickly buried within the snow below.

Hrm, apparently their freezing ability is stronger than I thought. Their physical strength also seems higher than their outward appearance indicates.

When thinking about it, I might have aggravated them because I tried to capture them. All 10 of them changed their gentle smile into an expression of resentment as they fly into a nose dive.

They grip a thrusting sword formed out of pure ice in their hand and generated a countless amount of ice stakes, bigger than themselves, behind them. Everything is pointed at me.

Filled with an urge to kill, the 10 of them get in formation and fly towards me. The scene was something admirable and reminded me of a pack of black wolves hunting in group.

While admiring them, I shot out net woven with a heavy, strong golden thread. The snow fairies panic and spread out, but I round them up without missing one.

The caught snow fairies struggle and try to freeze the golden thread. While it did freeze over, it didn't break this time around.

I was able to catch the ice sphere in the sky as it was pulled down by gravity and fell down. I crushed the ice with my silver hand and scoped out the contents.

The snow fairies inside were restrained by the golden thread. One starts to shriek with a high-pitched voice. I break her neck with a snap and ate it in one go.

While they look humanoid, their body looks insect-like. It reminds me of the green caterpillars in the Kuiderun Great Forest.

Its thick, creamy taste is unique and delicious. As a seasonal snack, it might be considerably good.

In order to directly take advantage of it, I collect them and around noon, I opt to drink some liquor with Minokichi-kun.

The compatibility between the liquor and the snow fairies is considerably good; it's regrettable I only have a few of them.

We're a little dissatisfied because of it, but it's not a problem as having some liquor around noon is the best.

Today was a good day.

With that, we'll leave the Royal Capital in 2 days.

The massage parlor and the stone sauna will open tomorrow, and after I've overseen that, we'll leave.

On top, while traveling, what kind of powerful enemies are we going to meet in the future? Can I find ingredients that I haven't eaten yet, like the snow fairies? As time passed, my chest swelled up with expectations.

# DAY 227

Because of today's fine weather, today will be memorable day as the massage business starts in full swing.

I advertised it in the store earlier, and the invited guests who experienced a tour might have had a wide word-of-mouth.

A lady and her daughters arrived a short while after the opening on the skeleton spiders that functioned as a carriage.

There are a lot more people than I imagined, so they needed to wait a moderate amount of time.

Because people get dissatisfied when they have to wait too long, I lead them to an area that offered sweets made from the Bearbees of the Kuuderun Great Forest. With this, I was able to take their mind off of waiting, as it seemed surprisingly good.

Before now, they hadn't enjoyed anything so sweet before, and they were able to kill time by pleasantly chatting with acquaintances.

It's performing quite well, for an opening. It seemed that overall, everyone was satisfied, and the sales of the day are far beyond what I imagined.

Moreover, when you think that it might continue like this in the future, it's likely to become profitable.

The aftereffect of the oil is so good, but there was little to no hope for the lady and her daughters to purchase any. Because I don't have enough quantity to sell, I respectfully decline. It's something I have to repeat continuously.

Regular products deteriorate when mass-produced. Could it be more profitable to sell this in small quantities? I put that thought in the back of my head for the business I might do in the future.

The Tomboy Princess arrives in the evening to offer her congratulations. In addition, it became a feast.

The Tomboy Princess brought a large amount of alcohol. The alcohol is an excellent quality that is made with a great deal of effort by craftsmen. They all taste slightly different.

I was excited to sample the barrels one by one. I tried to choose one that I liked the most, but I found different pleasures in each of them, so I had to try again.

After all, the craftsmen made this liquor with pride, so it became more delicious at the party.

# DAY 228

Today, we leave the Royal Capital. We're a party of 9 demons: me and the [8 Demon Generals].

Redhead is staying behind to take care of Opushii, who has recently reached the phase where she started crawling. Redhead's body is not yet in normal condition. Seeing as we're going to a faraway place and it's cold outside, I told her to stay inside.

Auro, Argento and Oniwaka also seem to want to challenge the place.

Since we don't know anything about the dungeon we're attempting to conquer, we can't afford it. If it's too difficult, these three will surely become a burden.

On top, we don't have a base in the Atarakua Demon Empire yet.

I'm not sure if the security there is similar to the degree of safety in the Sternbild Kingdom. It might not be. It would be the worst if they're taken hostage, and there's even the possibility of them being killed.

Therefore, I leave them behind this time. There are the other members as well.

Since we can still keep in touch through the ear cuffs, we'll be leaving either way. Since the Tomboy Princess also left a liaison, I don't worry too much.

And with that, we leave the Royal Capital.

Looks like there's a group at the gate that's come to see us off. There were the Tomboy Princess and Boy Knight, as well as the First Queen and the Hero of Darkness.

There are persons waving sadly, and a lot of people are asking for various souvenirs.

As we're being seen off by everyone, we leave on the Skeleton Centipede.

After we advanced a bit in our departure, and I confirmed that there's no one in our neighborhood, we get off the skeleton centipede.

It'll be a longer journey than last time.

If we were traveling by a normal carriage, we'd need a month to cover the distance. Even with a skeleton centipede, quite some time is needed. And since I'd like to minimize the travel time as much as possible, we transfer from the skeleton centipede to a special one.

It's a version the skeleton centipede I made first, but took some time to remodel it. The result is a Skeleton Centipede that's almost 3 times the size.

It's a lot bigger than a semi-trailer. Does that make it easier to picture it?

In order to keep them apart in the future, let's call this remodeled carriage a Great Skeleton Centipede.

The Great Skeleton Centipede makes for a comfortable trip since it's equipped with a lot of different features to make life easier.

Not even mentioning the single beds, it not only has a kitchen counter, a refrigerator and washing machine, but it's also fully equipped with a restroom and a bath.

Aside from being able to just live here, it's on a level where you can live in an environment that's far superior compared to general private houses. You could say that the Great Skeleton Centipede is, in other words, something like a huge camper.

It can move and transform itself for self-defense. You might call it a moving fortress?

And with that, we continued riding on the Great Skeleton Centipede today.

There's no need to stop regularly now, because you can cook, wash and go to the bathroom on the Great Centipede. We pass the time during the day by studying or playing and while we're sleeping at night, we advance.

We're going to the destination in a straight line wherever possible. Any obstacle is traversed and we keep on going forward.

There's a forest and a valley en route that's dominated by monsters. I worried that we'd be attacked while we were progressing, but it never happened.

They're likely overwhelmed by the size, speed and grotesqueness of the Great

Skeleton Centipede. Then again, it's also coated with [Hiding], which might have had its effect.

It looks like we might be arriving earlier than expected.

# DAY 229

Today we continue traveling the entire day. It's nice. It's very nice.

I want to cover the distance with the remote destination as fast as possible, so the fact that we can keep on going without having to rest is nice. We haven't stopped since we left.

It's hard to do our daily training exercises, so with the way things are going, our bodies might become dull.

Because of that, I prepared a special area on top of the roof of the Great Skeleton Centipede.

The members can't spar as freely as they're used to, but at least it's possible to do some muscle exercises.

When we actually tried it out, it was quite comfortable. After a long workout, my body is burning, which is quite right, as there's snow and a cold wind is blowing.

I take some time taking in the changing surroundings and realize that traveling around actually feels quite good.

During the workout, we've advanced into grasslands with a gentle slope. The best part of the Great Skeleton Centipede is that it can push forward through the fallen snow in a splendid fashion.

A large amount of snow is being blown off to the sides by explosions. When there's still some slow lying, it jumps over it and its being carried to the back.

Snowflakes are dancing down, and it glistens as it reflects sunlight.

When we pass a lake that's covered by ice, I can see a beautiful woman dressed in silver-blue clothes in the center of the lake. It's probably a kind of nymph.

I only briefly glanced as the beautiful, picturesque woman, but if one approached carelessly, they'd be entranced. In the end you'd probably dry up completely and be

killed.

She seems to have noticed us as well, but we were already far away by that time.

After that, I was able to spot “Snow Eaters” that were gathering around “Snow Golems”.

The [Snow Eaters] are a type of earthworm monster that has a body of around 50 centimeters made out of blue crystal. It feeds on the magical power that is stored in the snow golems.

Even though these fellows do not attack anything other than snow golems, since they do release a strong freezing gas into a vicinity of several meters after they finish eating the snow golems, it’s necessary to pay attention to it.

Because the freezing gas that’s being released is like liquid nitrogen, I cannot get away with taking it directly.

It’ll probably be the case that I’ll turn into a living ice sculpture when I come in contact with the freezing gas. But the Snow Eater is still a monster that can be easily exterminated with fire, so they won’t be a problem if I’m careful.

While we keep on going forward, I realize that there’s still a lot of interesting existences in this world.

# DAY 230

Around noon, we arrive on a hilltop overlooking the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara. It's the city in the Atarakua Demon Empire that's closest to the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain], an Age of the Gods Dungeon that is [God Ranked].

I honestly didn't expect to arrive so fast. Even if there were borders, mountains and rivers, I ignored them and advanced in a straight line. We really arrived quite fast.

The advantage of undead is that it doesn't become tired. I shudder at the result of my creation.

My goal is to gather information on the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] before challenging it, so we'll be spending several days in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara.

I still want to hide my Great Skeleton Centipede, so I secretly put it in my item box and we approach on the normal Skeleton Centipede.

It looks like there's a procedure for entering the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara, like there was in the Sternbild Kingdom. We had to queue in a long line to make it to the gate.

The line is made out a lot of demihumans that make up most of the population in the Atarakua Demon Empire. It's a different scene from the Sternbild Kingdom that's mostly humans.

However, even among the [Demons] here, it's not like we don't stand out.

Minokichi-kun with his huge, flashy appearance, is interested in his surrounding and looking around restlessly. While he's just looking around, it might seem like he's looking for prey if you're not used to it.

On top, the skeleton centipede is also throwing big eyes because of its strange form and the fact that it's not being pulled by a beast type monster, nor are they in the neighborhood. It's self-propelled.

Kanami-chan and Burasato are the last 2 reasons why we stand out so much. There's

a difference in class. Everyone is an existence that attracts attention.

Well, we're used to the attention. We don't mind it, and I pay the admission fee at the gate with currency from the Atarakua Demon Empire that I obtained beforehand.

Even after a few glances, the difference with the Sternbild Kingdom is noticeable.

There's a plot where small houses are lined up like a row of doghouses next to a plot of houses lined up that are big enough for a troll to comfortably live in. Based on size, there's hardly any unity.

Aside from wood and bricks, there's also wide variety of building materials used to create them.

There are a lot of dishes that I haven't seen in the Sternbild Kingdom that are being sold in the shops. The lingering smells everywhere stimulate the appetite.

After we visit a lot of different places because they are interesting, we quickly find a high-quality hotel and check-in. Even if the style is a bit different from the Kingdom, it's no problem being here. After we put away our luggage, I gave everyone some free time.

Minokichi-kun and Asue-chan immediately went on a date. They linked their arms and left peacefully. Since both have a healthy appetite, they'll probably go out for dinner.

Burasato-san and Supesei-san also went out together. They're probably out to buy some rare or cursed swords and magic books.

Seiji-kun, Kugime-chan and Irofu-chan also left together. It looks like they'll be roaming around to properly tour the city. People might envy and pick a fight with Seiji-kun flanked by 2 beautiful women, but as it's Irofu-chan around, it should be OK.

Even in her dormant state, Irofu-chan's combat capabilities are high. I should rather worry that the men who succumbed to their jealousy won't be attacked by Irofu-chan.

And so, it's only Kanami-chan and me that are left. We're going to a bar together... This in order to gather information. It's certainly not for our selfish desire to drink the famous local liquors here. It really is for reconnaissance, okay?

Just to avoid any confusion in that regard.

And so, we saw the 7 demons off, or well, depart. We wanted to go to, but there was still something to be done.

First of all, I chopped off my right hand, and used it as material to create several clones that I threw out the window. Their shapes changed as the bodies flew out. They each scattered to perform their own tasks.

And as the hand that I lost regenerated, I took out some alcohol from the labyrinth and started to drink it. I moved it around several times to confirm its condition.

Seeing as there were no particular problems, Kanami-chan and I immediately went out to the bar. We swiftly entered a luxurious bar and ordered. There seemed to be a lot of eccentric alcohol and liquors.

They seemed to be highly combustible, so there were strict limitations and instructions with regards to fire. I drank everything on the overwhelming menu. They were all delicious.

Seeing as a lot of the drops in [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] are apparently similar to what we've been drinking, I got excited.

Everyone gathered for supper and we ate together, while I exchanged the information I collected today. There's a lot of information to memorize to begin with, so I intend to create a tool tomorrow that piles up all information we need to know.

I lay down on a warm bed as I prepared the schedule for tomorrow.

[Psalms of a Legendary Hero [Radiant Hero that Leads Troops] <Subcast> named [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] and [Benevolent Maria] pledged to <He who awakened a Psalm / Main Cast> Sigurd Ace Sven have emerged]

[Yatendouji's [Fate Plunder] has been activated]

[As a result, [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] and [Benevolent Maria] has been put under Yatendouji's control]

[Currently, [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] is awakened]

[Currently, [Benevolent Saint] is awakened]

[Yatendouji has the power to release both their frozen abilities

Do you want to release them?

<YES> <NO>]

Err?

I selected <NO> for the time being, and went to sleep.

# DAY 231

When I got up in the morning, the first thing I did was to find out Avenger's circumstances.

Avenger mentioned that he met 2 people listed in his Psalms [Radiant Hero that leads Troops] as sub-cast - [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] and [Benevolent Maria]. So I wanted to know ins and outs of what happened.

According to the story he told me, Avenger was traveling around the Sternbild Kingdom with Rusty Iron Knight and Scarface in order to train himself and they stopped by a certain village that was located near the border between the Sternbild Kingdom and the Kirika Empire.

While they originally didn't plan to stop by the village, they did because an energetic [Peddler] from the empire were carrying some famous tasty dairy products from the village.

Rusty Iron Knight, who wanted to eat it, mentioned {Since it's in the neighborhood, let's get some souvenirs, okay? It'll be fine}. Since it was an opportunity, they changed their plan.

With that, they should have gone back to their original destination after quickly buying the things they wanted to buy.

But, as they approached the village, Avenger spotted uneasiness and impatience on the faces of the villagers that was different from a normal person. A numerous amount of people were bandaged and you could see from a distance that the fence surrounding the houses and the village were destroyed recently.

Unexpectedly, they were able to easily enter the village. However, when they asked what happened, the villagers ran away in a hurry.

After a glance to look at each other, they could see that it was no good. And with that, Avenger's group noticed their blunder.

Avenger and Rusty Iron Knight are not ordinary citizens. They're people belonging to

the military, and presumed dead during the expedition in the Kuuderun Great Forest.

But if the fact that they had survived has come to light, that would cause a lot of problems. Thus when they head out, they had to hide their identity with [Anger Masks].

For that reason, the Avengers (Avenger and co.) who dropped by the village naturally had the masks equipped. If looked at objectively, an armed, masked group was coming over. Even if there were no problems in the village, it's normal to react like that.

While we were used to seeing the masks, the commoners were not and it surprised them. By the looks of it, it was already too late and the damage was done.

When I heard this, I instinctively thought they were stupid. But since it was a sloppy mistake that can be still recovered, as long as they make the best of it after this screw-up.

Therefore, I will not pursue it, and just give them a lecture.

After taking distance, people only looked at them from cover. Nobody seems to want to approach.

It's not that much of a problem.

However, the countless amount of gazes that are coming from cover are filled with fear and anger for the majority. The particularly strong ones seemed to look like they were looking at their sworn enemies for many years.

Additionally, they're equipped with hoes and clubs in the shade and are positioning themselves in the blind spot of the Avengers. Looks like there was a man who became too tense, and looked to physically attack them.

For a country village that was in an exclusive location, this does seem to be something abnormal indeed. The Avengers were convinced that there was something more.

The way things are going, the situation is not getting anywhere, but on top, since they might get attacked, troublesome things seem to accelerate. That's why the Avengers dropped their weapons and removed their masks. On top of that, they told their surroundings that they didn't intend to harm anyone.

He also mentioned he wanted to talk to the village chief in order to explain the

situation and sat down on the ground.

After that, he talked with a villager with a lot of wrinkles on his forehead that approached fearfully. After listening to their story, they were able to get invited to the village chief's house.

Thief troupe <Violent Firestorm Bears>.

That's the name of the group that became the current main worry of the village. Due to their sudden attack, the village was in a state of confusion.

War Bear, a redhead wielding a huge, double-edged battle axe was the leader of the <Violent Firestorm Bears>. Several day ago, they attacked the village while he was riding a "Luminescent Horse" that emitted a red light from its hooves.

Despite the sudden confusion, the village was capable of some self-defense and marched out together against them. A lot of thieves were killed.

While this was quite something on its own, eventually the defense was breached and several people were able to invade further in. Several young village girls were kidnapped at that time.

Wouldn't you say the reward for this brute force approach is worth the injuries they sustained? The thief troupe returned after that, leaving the message that if they want to have the village girls returned, they'll have to give up ransom. They'll be returned unhurt if they hand over the money. However, if they call in reinforcements, they won't guarantee their safety.

After the band of thieves left the village, the dead were buried without distinguishing between bandits or villagers, in order not to cause any problems. They were talking about the cost of repairing a broken houses in the near future.

In a village as small as this, all the residents are family.

They've known each other since childhood and they spend their daily life working with one another.

Therefore they'll pay if they can gather the ransom, in order to rescue the village girls. However, when taking into account to repair the houses on top of the demanded amount, it's not something they can easily pay.

It might be cold-hearted, but having a 100 villagers becoming dirt-poor for a few village girls is troubling in its own right.

They were still looking for different ways to do something, but a solution didn't present itself when the specified pay day came up.

The band of thieves mentioned a specified time in the evening, and that hour was approaching. As time passed by, the calmness of the villagers disappeared. The people were getting more and more anxious, and that's when the Avengers visited the village.

Due to the timing, it was as if they were part of the thief troupe. That ultimately led to the reaction of the villagers that tried to force a stand-off and attack.

Wasn't the mask a big reason as well? That thought crossed my mind.

Avenger, who loathes these kind of people, because they also annihilated his hometown, took on the bandit subjugation for almost no charge.

However, the other members didn't participate in the subjugation. Considering this, Avenger still followed it through until the end, because it's personal.

Besides, if Rusty Iron Knight and the others would participate as well, the reward wouldn't cover it.

Not knowing his reasoning, the village chief and the villagers, cautious because of the unusual signs Avenger was wearing, bowed deeply.

With that, he started the subjugation request in the evening. Several dozen goons who nonchalantly came to the village to collect the money were murdered by Avenger without any way to flee.

However, they didn't bring the village girls, so some were captured alive in order to find out the place where they are being held. With Parabellum's torture methods, everything was confessed.

After every piece of information was collected, they were disposed of. The corpse clean-up was left to Rusty Iron Knight and the others who stayed behind in the village.

The sun already set when he left. The moon and stars that are normally a source of light were hiding behind a countless amount of clouds, so he couldn't be seen. Though

there were lanterns, Avenger launched a surprise attack on the thief troupe. Since he became a hidden existence, even a light source like lanterns didn't spot him.

Since Avenger was able to utilize his superior perception ability that he obtained through nighttime training, he was able to maneuver around.

With that, Avenger's appearance was hiding under the cover of nighttime. It would help in assassinating the chief of the bear-men and the rest of the members of the thief troupe who were holding a feast in their base that is located in an open space in the forest.

With the safety of the village girls secured, and the band of thieves annihilated, the request would be completed.

But the place where the hideout of the thief troupe was located was burning so furiously, that he could be spot from a far off distance.

Wondering what it was, he erased every trace and rushed over as fast as he could; but it already seemed over before he arrived.

In the red glow during nighttime, Avenger saw, smelled and heard it all.

In the center of the <Violent Firestorm Bears>'s base, a tempestuous wildfire was blazing. The bodies of the thieves and several luminescent horses wore an expression of agony.

When rolled over, the bodies had countless amount of bruises and looked as bloated as a frog being beaten time and time again.

Since they were holding a feast just a minute ago, many dishes were scattered around in the neighborhood. Crushed alcohol barrels lay here and there, their contents being soaked up by the ground. There were broken longswords and a lot of damaged armor, such as breastplates that were heavily dented.

The thick smell of blood filled the scene. Black smoke was rising from the burning, simple, wooden tents. \*crackle crackle (sfx)\* There was a stink of scattered entrails, feces and urine.

Some were still breathing. However, the thieves were burned so badly that they couldn't move and were basically living their last moments with the flames crackling

around them.

As anyone could see, he understood that these were the left-overs of someone completely annihilating the band of thieves.

After confirming what happened, he looked for the village girls. They were standing slightly further from the spot where the wildfire occurred. They were roughed up and their clothes were ragged. Aside for that, Avenger discovered 2 beautiful women that wore armor that was clearly expensive.

It was obvious that these 2 beautiful women helped the village girls in this situation, but when he called them out to hear the circumstances, Avenger was attacked by the two of them.

They were the sub-cast of Avenger. That's how he encountered the [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] and [Benevolent Maria].

He did get suddenly attacked on his first time meeting them though. But the [Witch of the Bewitching Flame] and [Benevolent Maria] explained to Avenger afterwards that some thieves were sent out to collect the money and they mistook him for one of their companions.

They asked the village girls before attacking Avenger, but as they didn't recognize him, they acted. After all, it's said that he who strikes first, wins.

Because of that misunderstanding, they initiated the fight. Avenger was attacked by two people but won magnificently after a close fight.

If it was the Avenger of before, there might have been the possibility of him losing due to the natural but sophisticated cooperation between the two.

With only wearing common, mass produced armored, no magic items and with his strong Divine Protection and Arts prohibited in battle; he wasn't able to brandish the power he could before. However, since he trained himself for these situations, he was able to manage.

In the end, it resulted in a victory for him.

Avenger went easy on them and was able to win with some margin. He stunned the two and took their equipment. After he constricted them with sturdy rope, he went on

to explain the circumstances from before to the village girls.

After he managed to settle down the village girls, who started panicking after the two women were defeated. He told them to carry the two women who fainted and leave this place behind that basically looks like a slaughterhouse.

The village girls carried out the orders, while he went to pick up any loot that's still usable from the thief troupe and to put out the fire that was still raging.

After everything was finished up, he forcefully woke up the two women and explained the situation to them along with the village girls.

The two noticed that they were restricted when they got up and started to writhe, but they stopped struggling after hearing the circumstances.

As said, there was the misunderstanding where they thought Avenger was part of the thief troupe. But now, they understood and due to the flow of things, they ended up working for Avenger for a while as compensation.

And with that, I got the rough picture. To be honest, it's quite convenient that it went off without a hitch.

I reckoned it was probably destined through the Psalms. Like that, he could gain two people to work for him. But since the Avenger couldn't agree to it without my consent, he put it on hold.

After hearing out the story, I entrusted them to him. Concerning damage, Avenger was hardly injured. And while that was a great thing on its own, the little damage he did have was healed up by magic potions made by Alchemist-san.

In other words, there wasn't any damage.

Since the amount collected from the thief troupe isn't insignificant either, you could say quite some profit came out of it. So there isn't any reason to object.

The other thing about Avenger's sub-cast is that they'll likely be useful in the future as well.

There were some things I didn't understand yet and I wanted to ask them about that.

While I did think the sub-cast topic will be all right, I couldn't trust the information given by another person.

I interrogated both of them intensively, but since I didn't see any problems with it, I gave him permission.

As temporary members for now, they will work under Avenger. Since they're competent, I want them to do the best they can.

Aside from this exchange, I worked hard on gaining intelligence throughout the day.

However, since the alcohol in the Labyrinth City <Radha Lo Dara> is unrivaled, I can't help but have some drinks carelessly while gathering intelligence.

Yep, there's no helping it. It's inevitable.

# DAY 232

In the Labyrinth City <Radha Lo Dara>, there was one area called Stall Street. As the name suggests, it was a street where carts were lined up in a row. They were selling a variety of dishes such as spit-roast and yakisoba [1]. It felt like a pleasant place to hang around.

After finishing a light morning training in the free training area, I gave everyone some free time. Together with Kanami-chan, I went for lunch.

In fact, we went to this Stall Street, since the dishes were made out of an abundance of dropped ingredients that were taken back home from the derived dungeon. It was very tasty.

The thick meat is fried on an iron plate that has a high temperature. It was giving off a smell that stimulates the appetite.

Due to the combination of smells and sound, saliva spontaneously began to flow from my mouth.

The meat was wrapped in a fresh vegetable. Eating the meat became even more delicious because of a peculiar sweetness from the vegetable. Thick meat and fresh vegetables, this combination is the best.

But what surpassed that, was the alcohol.

I drank a liquor with a high percentage of alcohol which burnt my throat, but it was so good, that I became addicted after drinking just one sip.

Personally, I'd rather it even higher than the Elven wine.

Well, while personal tastes differ, there was still a difference.

And as we ate several dishes while walking, I enjoyed it considerably.

Like this, there's the advantage that I can enjoy the delicious cooking of each stall.

Since the ones that are aiming for the dungeon are diving it as we speak, the main customers here are the ones that come back from the derived dungeon.

Because of their profession, we are trying to gather a lot of information on how to capture the dungeon. Using alcohol, it's easy to get them to become talkative. Including the blood, sweat and carelessness of returning safely from a dungeon, a lot of information leaks out that's normally not shared.

Even the information that I'm not able to hear normally, I can divert it from the noise through [Wiretapping]. While there are a lot of bars, but information gathering here is efficient.

I thoroughly enjoyed the dishes from the stands while collecting information, and I slowly returned to the hotel while looking at the things presented in the various shops.

After doing various things with Kanami-chan at night, we became a bit hungry. So I took out enough "Grief Charybdis", "Aquarium · Ball Golem" and "Crimson Armed Gemineuvia" for two people.

Ability learned: [Great Whirlpool of Disastrous Waters]

Ability learned: [Wail of Sorrow]

Ability learned: [Effective Terrain: Water]

Ability learned: [Emergency Retreat]

Ability learned: [High Compression]

Ability learned: [Hard Sphere]

Ability learned: [Boiling Red Arms]

Ability learned: [Duplicate Existence]

Ability learned: [Reconstruct Existence]

Everything was delicious. But if I dare decide the best, I'd have to say it might be

Crimson Armed Gemineuvia. Especially the arms were the best.

The meat was so soft it melted in my mouth, and as it gave a tingling sensation, the taste became even better.

Because Kanami-chan liked it as well, I promised we'd go capture it together.

While the internal organs of the Shark Head · Bolt Wyrm were still remaining, I decided to keep it in order to enjoy it later.

# DAY 233

I decided to make a base in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara. It could be said that I thoroughly enjoy it here, but it's not only that.

I'm thinking about integrating it with Parabellum so it can trade with the Sternbild Kingdom in the future. I've been thinking for quite a while about having a base in another country to be able to hide in.

While this is an extreme example, but let's assume the countries around the Kingdom are conspiring together in order to crush it. As their trading partner, we can't stay silent. But if we work alongside them as trading partner, people will be talking about our connection.

Most of our staff will escape after being warned by the Kingdom. The other that remain will yield to the pressure before long. If the impression is created that we're being blackballed by 2 or more countries a lot of fruitless effort is needed to turn it back around.

Even if we'd give the Tomboy Princess some help, the Kingdom still wouldn't be able to oppose all of their neighboring countries. In the end, the collapse of the Kingdom would be unavoidable.

Even with the Tomboy Princess, even with the First Queen, the power difference between nations is too big. When that happens, it be obvious for the nation to cut us off.

Some things cannot be forced by military prowess alone, or it would be very hard to do. Again, that's a very extreme example. Most likely will never happen.

However, there's still the possibility that something similar occurs, and in case of any emergency, I want to avoid those issues.

That's why today, I secretly create a subsidiary firm for Parabellum: labyrinth company Snake's Heart was founded. However, since Snake's Heart was just formed, naturally there's no store at the base yet.

I did contact a member already to come this way and become a sales clerk, and I'm holding a number of commodities in my item box for a while.

However, there's no store. There's no location that can do business as its core function as well as function as a base.

Therefore, I went to a big real estate that buys and sells land and houses in order to buy a store. However, some negotiation is needed.

I might create a clone as a replacement to hide the connection between Snake's Heart and Parabellum as much as possible. This time around I decide to use my abilities [Shapeshift] and [Metamorphosis] to create an entire different persona.

After all, it's easier to directly engage in business discussion by using the clone. On top, it has the [30% Price Decrease] effect.

Using my abilities, I transform my face into that of a young, sincere businessman with blonde hair and blue eyes.

I choose immaculate, elegant clothes that stood out and I wear some accessories, while making sure it doesn't become tasteless.

I look into the mirror in order to confirm that no one will know it's me if they see me.

Then again, Kanami-chan can see through my disguise with just one glance, but that doesn't mean anyone else can see through it, right?

That aside, how about I go outside alone after finishing my transformation. I decide to make some rounds.

I used [Intermediate Summoning: Fishman] promptly, but as expected, it's unnatural for the fishmen to be on land. I wanted to use the lungfish-type Gillman that are able to live on land, but seeing as they're quite rare, I stop it for now.

So, as a compromise, I summon a black skeleton with [Lesser Summoning: Undead] and coated it with my clone. Normally the process is finished at this stage, but I added some other small features with [Metamorphosis].

Like that, a conspicuous old butler with white hair was born. He stood immovable, wearing a high-quality butler uniform. Due to his old age, he carries an atmosphere

that will reprimand anyone misconducting himself.

I created him in order to follow around my transformed appearance. It looks like that was the correct idea.

After the preparations were complete, I took a normal carriage instead of the Skeleton Centipede and directly went to the real estate agency.

I arrive at the real estate agency. It was a large building of three stories high. It was made out of many building materials, such as wood and marble, gathered from the labyrinth.

Just from a glance, I could understand that it costed more than anything in the neighborhood. The financial power and authority of the company was clearly shown.

The only thing more overbearing, is the gut of a small merchant? Meh, I disregarded it and swiftly went inside to tell the clerk what I wanted.

After I had to wait for quite a while, I was guided to a room in the back.

It was quite comfortable. There was a sofa of decent quality and I was served the same tea and cake that the Tomboy Princess has. I thoroughly enjoyed it without holding back, as the negotiator entered the room.

It was a young person. He was a slender man who wore round glasses. He put up an everlasting smile. To be honest, it looked pretty suspicious, so I quickly pushed the talk forward.

The requirements I had for the store this time around:

1. The location should be equally far from the 3 derived dungeons that Radha Lo Dara hosts.
2. The store shouldn't be small.

It's those two.

If you draw a line between the 3 derived dungeons, it nearly forms an exact triangle.

So the store should be in the middle of that triangle. Everything located in the center makes it a popular place. Lodgings and various facilities are already established there.

You could say that it's highly unlikely that a good spot is left.

As expected, no normal lot remained, it was impossible to find one.

However, there was one lot left, because there were some problems with it.

When hearing about it in detail, I found out that the building was a huge mansion that held all the loot and prisoners of war during old times.

The mansion was located slightly north of the center of the triangle. It was 3 stories high with a basement and it had a “工” structure when looking from above.

It was around 5 meters in height and around it was a square-formed wall that was approximately 50cm wide and 80cm high. It has a lot of potential to be used as a base.

As for the area it was located in, it looked perfectly located. I would be able to create a store on the spot that functioned similarly to the flagship store in the Royal Capital.

However, currently, a lot of illegal immigrants have been occupying the building for a few months.

It wouldn't have been a problem if it were simple hooligans or poor people settling in. Regrettably though, the type of people that had settled there didn't have high morals. They were groups that were very well versed in backroom deals and kidnapping.

While they obviously did try to evict them several times, everything they've tried seems to have failed.

Because there was quite a strong person mixed in to the group that was occupying, it became a rather troublesome topic.

Naturally, after hearing the circumstances, I kept negotiating.

This opportunity is too good to pass up. All the more since the building has such a history. It's a good thing, because I can pick up a property that's better than expected for a cheap price.

Because of that, I want talk to the person in charge by all means. After the one in charge, who is a middle-aged person, came around, we continued the negotiations. After that, I negotiated directly with an elderly person, who is the agency's president. I finally decided to buy it.

It didn't become a lot cheaper compared to the original discussion, but we agreed that I could remodel the store of a bargain price if I can evict the kidnappers.

Man, that's a really good deal.

By the way, did you think I would keep this appearance when heading back?

A little while later, during the night, dozens of kidnappers that were unlawfully staying in the building mysteriously disappeared.

Oh, actually, it might be that the illegal immigrants were sent by a rival company, but the reason why wasn't very clear.

While I didn't gain any abilities, I was quite lucky to get loot that I could use in various ways.

# DAY 234

Having gathered almost all the information I wanted, we spent the rest of yesterday preparing for our hunt. We shopped for magic items that reduced the damage from the intense heat that's a terrain effect. Starting early in the morning, we went on to challenge the dungeon we chose for this trip, [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

[Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] is a dungeon near the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara. It's located around 30 minutes away by carriage. Unfortunately, we can't savor its magnificence today due to the bad weather.

During the night, it gave off a red shine because of lava that is continuously being spit out. Added to that are thick, black clouds enshrined in the sky with lightning shooting through it frequently. It's a spectacular sight.

We left Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara by riding the Skeleton Centipede. In a rumbling fashion, it advanced by kicking up the snow, creating a ditch.

And after around 10 minutes, I'd say?

While I was having a small talk with the other 8 demons, we arrive at the Boundary Place that encloses the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

If anyone went through the information that I collected, they'd understand it at first sight. We didn't only hear it, but we could actually see it. This certainly was the place.

The world of white we have been in up until now, transformed into one big wasteland filled only with barren rocks.

And as if the world changed, there's was not a single trace of the snow that kept on falling.

It's divided so clearly, that if someone ends up here by mistake, he must be quite the fool.

The temperature within the [Boundary Range] is also different. Outside, it's numbingly cold, inside it's hot and humid.

I'm thoroughly admiring one of the many mysteries in this world, safely outside of the [Boundary Range]. After that, we officially started to climb the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

As soon as we started to climb the mountain, the temperature shot up. It goes past the stage of just being hot and humid, to the stage where feels like you're totally standing near the flames of hell.

Even the saliva inside my mouth has evaporated, making it hard to breathe. I began to feel a pain like my whole body is gradually being roasted. Surely this is a terrain damage effect.

If you don't prepare for it, your physical strength is being reduced over time \*grinding sound (sfx)\*. You might even be dead before you notice it.

The main cause of this can easily be seen; it's no doubt the lava that gushing forth everywhere. Even the radiant heat that's being emitted from the lava is no joke. Because of it, the Skeleton Centipede that's covered with my clones is gradually being burnt by the terrestrial heat that's not insignificant as well. \*slowly happening (sfx)\*

If it rolls over carelessly, it will certainly be burned. It really is [God] rank.

While we're not even close to encountering dungeon monsters, the motivation and physical strength of the challengers is constantly being gnawed at from the moment they entered.

If I didn't collect the information beforehand, Irofu-chan, who was vulnerable to fire, would have been whining incessantly {I want to go back, I want to go back, I want to go back, I want to go back!!}.

It's so unpleasant that the others aside from Asue-chan might have wanted to return as well. Minokichi-kun and I don't really need any countermeasure against the heat.

At any rate, through [Fireproof Slime Secretion] and [Complete Heat Resistance], I was able to almost completely nullify the terrain effects.

While I could feel the heat to a certain extent, there don't seem to be any particular problems.

Minokichi-kun seems to be comfortable as his [Demigod of Fire's Divine Protection]

seems to nullify the terrain damage. His condition looks a lot better.

While Asue-chan is not able to endure it completely, an [Earth Lord · Subspecies] is naturally able to mine in volcanoes. Her natural tolerance is the highest of our group.

There don't seem to be any problems for her as I prepared some heat resistant equipment as well.

For the other 6 demons that don't have the same benefits as us, I prepared the magic items [Ice-cooled Underwear], [Cooling Long Coats], and [Heatproof Combat Boots] for them to wear. I also had them drink the magic medicine [Cool Liquid] that creates an external cooling slime membrane.

The heat seems to have weakened considerably for them.

Though Irufo-chan is still weary, she'll just have to do her best.

Since all preparations are finished, shall we go on? We got off the Skeleton Centipede and advanced several meters. We got ambushed immediately.

The dungeon monsters "Lava Army Fishman" suddenly jumped out of the ground and attacked.

It can swim freely through the lava and magma. It looks like a shell fish of around one meter, wearing a red heavy armor glowing red because of the heat. Its charge has tremendous destructive power. On top, its solid, heavy, lava armor isn't even dented by an attack.

There are basically dozens of them. With only so many, they are able attack a large crowd of a several hundred people. They're known as the most difficult dungeon monsters of the upper layer of [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

I've heard mentions that around 30% of the deaths in the upper layer are caused by these fellows.

Of course, they all were delicious.

As expected, there was a difference in the amount of experience divided among the 9 members, but as the "Male Lava Army Fish" are coming in a dozen at a time, it's quite efficient. They were delicious in a lot of ways for our party. Grilled fish is naturally still

the best.

[Ability learned [Magma Migration]]

Due to this ability, I'm now able to swim in lava. Looks like I can even use this in a place where lava doesn't exist. Obtaining this might be a lucky omen.

By the way, for now, we're currently standing around to see if there are any gaps in my brain map that I need to fill. Let's go rotate clockwise around the [Boundary Range]?

# DAY 235

One of the main things about [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] is that there's no safety zone.

Of course I don't need to mention the fact that the dungeon monsters are attacking day and night, and it's also annoying that the terrain features change from time to time.

If you get careless for a moment at a smooth spot with no lava around, it will suddenly gush out from under your feet. There are also the natural, fatal volcano gasses that come in out of nowhere.

Actually, the moment you let your guard down and take a rest, you're dead.

In other words, it's hard for challengers to rest. In our case, I transform the Skeleton Centipede into a temporary base. Compared to anyone else, this makes taking a rest possible, which makes our lives considerably easier.

I easily make the base and let Kanami-chan and the others take some rest in the skeleton centipede because she seemed to have become considerably fatigued from yesterday. I took up guard duty for the entire night because I have [Tireless].

I slaughtered a lot of dungeon monsters by myself. It would be more beneficial if everyone was there as well, but it can't be helped.

At any rate, with Seiji-kun and Kugime-chan's stamina fully refreshed there after taking a rest, we were able to start today's capture in an almost perfect state.

Since we spent all day yesterday memorizing the map, making it quite favorable.

Though my clones couldn't go very far ahead because the dungeon monsters were a lot stronger than them, I created as many as I could, and let them carry [Parasites]. Combined with the wide area search from Kugime-chan. We were already able to map out 40% through this.

In addition, we were able to discover quite a few field bosses because of it. I'd say our

conquering attempt is going well so far.

However, [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] is even larger than I expected. We were able avoid continuously battling the dungeon heroes as well as the terrain effects. We finished our rotation of the outer edge that we started yesterday by noon today, a little ahead of schedule.

That aside, because it ended up well, we took a break to go for lunch. Judging from our previous fights, I feel that we can continue challenging the dungeon, so I decided to hunt a field boss this time around.

The real conquering starts here.

With [Job · Sentinel] on top of [Phased Radar Array], the rough direction of the field boss that is further off is shown to me. Kugime-chan is able to pinpoint its position with her abilities.

Like this we are able to make a beeline for it without wasting any time.

We're still facing a large amount of dungeon monsters when going through the area with the field boss, though less because we're going in a straight line instead of roaming around.

"Cursed Flame Skull Legion", skulls freely floating in midair, covered in a black curse flame.

"Flying Killer Butterflies", carnivorous butterflies that are as big as a man. They hide themselves in the shadow and hunt for prey with sharp tentacles. Their scales hold a high glamor effect that spread around flame illusions.

"Bursting Bomb Bats" fly at high speed by using their fire wings. They attack challengers from their blind spot and blow themselves up one after another.

"Great Lava Licking Slimes" have the habit of mimicking lava, waiting to ambush targets passing by. They are capable of high speed movement, can generate volcanic gasses and shoots out acid body fluids.

"Vulcan Crimson Lizard Lords" live in the lava and magma. They have a big frame and burning dorsal fins. They wield a pair of red hot swords.

And so on.

We're intercepting them while covering each other, and are progressing smoothly.

While the dungeon monsters we're encountering here are surely stronger than outside the dungeon, as long as we can sense their existence beforehand, we can prepare to take them on. No critical situations occurred.

Like that, we trudged on and reached our destination. \*thud thud (sfx)\*

Countless lava pillars are standing close together, each one as thick as the bottom of a big tree trunk.

Because of these lava pillars, there are a lot of blind spots and it's hard for everyone to cooperate with each other because of how close the pillars are to each other.

In between the lava pillars, there's a place where the ground is subtly indented. Looks like it's filled with poisonous fumes because they're heavier than air. I can spot it leaking from delicate cracks at the bottom of the lava pillars.

The lava pillars seem to retain a high temperature though, they're hot. If you took measures, you won't take damage, but it's still too hot.

At first, I judged that it wasn't a good battlefield. I spotted the field boss at a distance, albeit a bit late.

The moment the field boss noticed our existence, he came at us at high speed.

Though we could temporarily withdraw for now, but we assumed that it'd be easier to fight in the pit than in the forest of lava pillars. His subordinates appeared from in between the lava pillars.

Its entire muscular body is covered by red, hard, magic metal spikes. Its four thick, tough, strong arms are tightly gripping a club made out of lava. Six golden eyes are looking out while skittering around restlessly.

Six very long tails are growing from its behind and are skillfully moving back and forth. \*zig zag (sfx)\* Its big, thick legs are straddling a lava pillar of about 5 meter high with its strong toes creating a foothold with its strong grip.

The name of this first field boss is “Volcanic Ape General”, it’s a large monkey that has made the forest of lava pillars his territory.

The four-armed Volcanic Ape General leads a lot of two-armed Volcanic Apes that are about half its size. Its strong presence is able to overwhelm and stop anyone in the neighborhood in its track.

Its golden eyes are observing us in detail. If we show any openings in our defense, it’ll probably attack immediately.

The surrounding Volcanic Apes are already standing ready and can spring into action at any time. They’re waiting on the orders of its leader.

It’s indeed a [God] rank boss. It looks to be very tough, not only individually, but as leader of the pack as well.

The battle didn’t start immediately, as we just stared at each other for a while. A strange silence spreads around the area. You could hear the earth shaking, the lava gushing out and the cries and screams of the dungeon monsters far away.



Aside from our breathing, there's only a small sound of metal rustling. We're glaring at each other for several dozen seconds. It's the Volcanic Ape General that becomes impatient and acts first.

The Volcanic Ape General's first attack is an overwhelming roar that breaks a lot of lava pillars in the area.

Even a wyvern would be frozen for a moment if it was standing in short range, it surely had an effect on us. Though it's not like we couldn't move completely, but our bodies are moving slower than we want.

Not missing a beat, the Volcanic Ape General jumps up high. Raising the lava club that he holds with all 4 hands, he aims to attack while falling with full power.

Using [Law of Gravity] I held him back slightly by holding him in the air for an instant. Right before that, as planned, Minokichi-kun and the others took advantage of that opening to shoot [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Destructive Shot].

Combination attack [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Destructive Shot] is the attack of all 8 demons bundled up by a mysterious power and transformed into something like a black flash. The Volcano Ape General tried to defend against the attack with his club because he couldn't avoid in midair. However it was to no avail, as everything except for its head fully disintegrated. Right after that it falls down from the sky like a brick. \*spinning (sfx)\*

The destructive power of the combo attack doesn't just stop with killing the Volcanic Ape General; a countless amount of lava pillars and unlucky Volcanic Apes were caught up and vanished without a trace. It also opened up a gap in the dark clouds.

Sunlight breaks through the hole that just opened up and illuminated the wake of destruction. The spectacle petrified the surviving Volcanic Apes that stood in the back.

Of course, we didn't give the rest of the Volcanic Apes any chance to escape. Shot down from a distance with [Pressurized Lightning Cannon], limbs cut off with [Paralyzing Fiery Adamantine Claws]; they were cleaned up with several abilities.

No time was wasted chasing the dungeon monster as they basically didn't run away. There was no point as the hunt was finished up in a matter of minutes.

After the battle was over, I threw the corpses of the Volcanic Apes into my [Item Box].

[Field Boss [Volcanic Ape General] successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been Awarded the [Flame Ape General's Coffin] as a first time subjugation bonus]

Like that, the battle against the first field boss ended, though I was a bit disappointed. A flawless victory. However, as a result of using all energy in that opening combo attack, all 8 demons were exhausted.

Even Minokichi-kun's breath was disordered. He lay down on the ground to rest.

Seiji-kun was lying down like a frail child who fainted half a minute ago. Looks like he is not able to move because his body was burnt by the geothermal heat.

Improved from the previous time I tried it, I put everyone in a simple, temporary resting station made from the skeleton centipede. After that, I took the large treasure chest that had appeared. I decided to hang on to it for now and took a slightly long rest.

A little bit later, I decided to eat the head of the Volcanic Ape General that had rolled in front of my feet. It was pleasantly burnt by the geothermal heat and gave off a fragrant smell.

A gulp resounded from my throat. I gave in to my appetite and swallowed it in one bite.

Ability learned: [Earthquake Club Smash]

Ability learned: [Herculean Strength]

Ability learned: [Blazing Body]

The strength and satisfying feeling that filled my body the moment I ate it, was the best ever.

It probably caused a glow to come out of my mouth and eyes.

# DAY 236

We got out of the Volcanic Ape General's lava pillar forest today -- We decided to hunt a field boss that lived in a huge lava lake.

While checking it out yesterday, I didn't feel its presence moving around in the center of the lake. It might have been battling with the Volcanic Ape General about claiming it's home territory. Since the latter has disappeared now because we hunted it, it might have been easier for him to claim it.

So the lava lake will become the next battlefield, it's located at the bottom of a steep, depression in the terrain.

It's a huge, circular lava lake of around 8 kilometers in diameter. Most of the lava on the surface has cooled and became black. A countless amount of red cracks had appeared on the black surface in a fluid pattern.

From afar, it's an extremely beautiful place. When the sun goes down, it looks like hell's kitchen. I find it a fantastic spectacle.

However, fighting there won't be something simple.

The lava lake isn't only a place that has such a high temperature that it's even difficult to approach it with fire and heat-resistant equipment; but it's also dangerous because it sometimes blows out lava like a small geyser, making it rain down. On top, it generates fatal volcanic glasses and high temperature steam everywhere.

If you want to get to the center of the lava lake, you need to travel over a countless amount of floating islands. Because the islands are floating on the lava, they lack stability a little bit. When the balance is one-side too much, it'll sway in a big way. In a worst case scenario, it would even topple.

On top of these circumstances, we'll have to fend off a countless amount of dungeon monsters attacking us relentlessly. It's not something insignificant.

Did most of the challengers give up when arriving here, or did they already die before that?

Only 3 demons went forward, Minokichi-kun, Asue-chan and I.

Because I judged that fighting in the lava lake is too severe for the others, I have them knock down the dungeon monsters on the edge of the lake. This way, they can do their due diligently by collecting valuable item drops.

In a normal situation, it'd be sheer madness to spread out your battle assets like that.

However, with Burasato-san acting as the vanguard, Kanami-chan, Irofu-chan in the middle and Seiji-san Supesei-san and Kugime-chan in the back; I'm not worried because they have enough battle potential on their own even if we're not around.

Each going our own way, we concentrate all our effort to our tasks ahead.

We safely arrived at the center of the lava lake while having a hard time on the floating islands in a lot of different ways. And with that, the battle begins.

The boss here is “Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir”. It's a huge ammonite<sup>[1]</sup> that is easily 100 meters in length.

Its main body is usually concealed in the seething lava. It's basically a coward with a huge overwhelming big frame. It uses a countless of snake-like tentacles to attack troublesome challenger parties that arrive on the floating islands within a 50 meter diameter.

I can distinguish at least 100 snake-like tentacles that are apparently divided in 2 types. They each dish out different attacks. On one hand, there are long, thick tentacles like trees that aim to wrap around people and apply strong pressure. On the other hand, there are small, thin tentacles around the size of woman's body that shoot out lava cannonballs from the snake's mouth.

It sets off a multilateral, synchronized attack. While it's aimed at the entire region, we cope by compensating for each other's flaws.

While Minokichi-kun defends most of the attacks with his shield and counters with a strong attack to cut off the tentacles. Furthermore, Asue-chan and Minokichi-kun join up together and dish out wide area attacks and smash attacks with high maneuverability. While supporting both demons, I also do some damage here and there.

Because we understood each other's habits, we were able to fight without receiving

too much damage.

However, Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir seems to have strong regeneration abilities. New tentacles grew from the ones that were cut off.

With [Unhealing Cursed Wound], I was able to delay regeneration somewhat. It was as tedious as expected.

I want to fell its body in one swoop, because over time we will be gradually weakened. But I'll have to reluctantly slash and cut off an infinite amount of tentacles because its main body is hidden in the lava at the moment.

We repeated it for a few minutes, but there wasn't any changes. I cut and cut, but it keeps on regenerating. And that's it. There isn't a single sign that the main body will come up.

The way things were going, I judged that it would take too much time. So I use [Exoskeleton] and take out [Thundershark Dragonlord's Scales].

On top, I use [Magma Migration] in parallel and dive into the lava.

Thanks to that ability, I was able to smoothly swim in the lava.

Swimming in lava feels mysterious. While it's somewhat stickier than water, but it's not bad.

After getting accustomed to swimming in lava to some degree, I used [Illogical Adamantine Strength] to forcefully pull up the hidden body of Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir.

After being raised for about 20 meters, its real body comes out of the spiral shell like a spiral-shaped snail and starts biting. I took a sip while it's alive \*slurp slurp (sfx)\*

Of course, Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir's body immediately reacted to that simple bite with a jarring shriek and gets into a [Frenzy]. It starts attacking relentlessly with its tentacles.

It's a fierce attack that assaults a wide area with no break in between. I apply [Black Demon King's Laminated Dragon Armor], [Endure], [Black Undead Knight Cloths] and [Physical Attack Tolerance] on top of the [Lightning Shark Dragon Lord's Placoid

Scales] that I'm wearing. I'm not sure what would have happened if I didn't use all of this.

If the field bosses are like this, what will the dungeon boss be like?

I did expect it, but it still feels a little uneasy.

As I'm eating the main body of Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir I experience a entirely new taste and texture, so I decide to thoroughly enjoy it.

However, as I'm excitedly eating, Minokichi-kun's jealously stares at me with a painful gaze.

He's drooling as he's staring. It was somewhat reminiscent of our lives as goblins.

I've eaten more than half of Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir, but I enthusiastically kept on going because I felt that there's still more than enough to share with the others. One of the tentacles I chopped off was still moving energetically as I roasted it in the lava in order to reluctantly let them have a bit.

Since they're still staring at me while eating \*munch munch (sfx)\*, I mentioned {These tentacles are as delicious as the main body}. They should let it go, as I do intend to let them eat it as well some other time.

[Field Boss [Magma Ammonoid · Sirpendir] successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been awarded the [Spiral-shelled King's Gravekeeper] as a first time subjugation bonus]

[Ability learned: [Shut-in Structure]]

[Ability learned: [Lava Lurker]]

[Ability learned: [Wild Spree of Snake Tentacles]]

After we stop eating excitedly, only the huge spiral-shaped shell where it hid itself in remained.

Because there are a countless amount of different gems embedded in the spiral-shaped shell, it was very valuable. Since it's useful as material as well, I stored it in my item box along with the treasure chest that appeared.

With this the subjugation safely ended. We returned with dozens of tentacles that I cut off as souvenirs. Kanami-chan and the others were waiting with a triumphant look on their faces, as they displayed a large amount of loot.

Since they're all in high spirits, I share the tentacles with them. While its taste and texture is inferior to that of the main body, which is the best, they do still have a particular flavor.

Like that, everyone had a delicious meal.

# DAY 237

Today we will be energetically hunting a field boss.

We were halfway climbing a mountain side in high spirits en route to the next field boss when suddenly Asue-chan swung her ice axe down, that she was carrying on her shoulder, on what looked to be a common dark red rock wall.

I was wondering if Asue-chan spotted a brittle area in the rock face, because what should be considerably hard rock was excavated in the blink of an eye.

And after she dug around 50 centimeters deep, minerals that transformed into ingot started to appear and were dug up with each swing of her ice axe.

While I was surprised at first, it looks like Asue-chan was apparently able to identify spots that were a mining point.

She was able to see through something that even I wasn't able to discern, as expected of Asue-chan. All of us praised her.

Asue-chan was thoroughly embarrassed. I decided to let her keep on mining until the vein was exhausted.

By the way, about the mining point, while they're very difficult to spot because they're not a lot different from their neighborhood, they're different when you dig there. It's an area where rare minerals can be easily mined in large quantities.

But why were minerals mined at mining point already transformed into ingots? It peaked my interest. I guess since it can happen, it will happen<sup>[1]</sup>.

While we're waiting for the mining to end, we continued to investigate the effect of the battle formation [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Formless] against a dungeon monsters.

Everyone would be able to get a grasp to a certain extent of the raw destructive power of combination attack [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Destructive Shot] after the battle with the Volcanic Ape General, but there are still a lot of question marks.

The effect is invoked the moment 2 of the 8 demons are together and its effect increases and decreases depending on the number that join the battle.

It turns out that the effect of [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Formless] would be different depending on their roles and positions. It could become a form specialized in offense, defense, stealth or detection.

While subtly changing the combinations during the fight, we were able to identify several very useful patterns.

During the investigation, we were able to raise our levels and obtain some drops as well. You could really say it was time well spent.

After Asue-chan was done mining after around 1 hour.

She would have finished mining after several minutes if it was only in one place, but apparently some other mining spots were located near the one she initially found. While mining one, Asue-chan would find another, and she would mine that one as well. This cycle repeated itself several times.

In the end, while it took more time, all the minerals that were mined, were rare. Both the quality and quantity were magnificent.

I absorbed some of the mined minerals with my silver arm and took in the sweltering heat of my surroundings which I'm able to compress and emit and used special ability called "Accumulated Heat Corundum Smelter". The blacksmith masters will be very pleased with this much. I'm sure it would be able to stimulate their creative impulses and they'd be able to invent a lot of things.

While setting those expectations, we resumed our advance.

The area of the next field boss of the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] was a mountainside, where a countless amount of volcanic rocks in all sorts of shapes and sizes were spread out in a disorderly fashion. It also looks like a place out of Hell.

The volcanic rock had already solidified, because not a lot of lava gushed out. It's easy to go ahead though, because it wasn't hotter than before.

However, the difficulty of traveling up the mountainside was like going through the deepest levels of a [Demigod] rank dungeon. The dungeon monsters that appeared

were tougher than before, and since they fought with a high level of intellect, it was quite troublesome to pass through.

Without exception, they always acted in packs and leveraged the topography that naturally created a lot of blind spots to launch surprise attacks. Occasionally they ambushed us with a pincer attack.

Since we went directly for the field boss, I generally held back on the amount of battles. Still, we fought continuously from one battle to the next, and as expected, the damage taken increased. Kugime-chan and I were somehow able to deal with the surprise pincer attacks, and Seiji-kun continuously healed us. But the fatigue accumulated through combat and the harsh environment is never negligible.

Because of that, the speed of our progress declined either way, but we were able to gain levels through the huge amount of experience we gained during our climb, so it was OK.

Slowly but steadily, we advanced, and around by the time evening fell, we finally discovered the third field boss.

The 3rd field boss – Large Vulcan Golden Elephant, a gigantic gold elephant walking on 2 legs, armed with a simple battle-axe.

Its height is about 25 meters, and its body looked like massive crag that easily surpassed Balor.

Overall, it's amazingly thick, massive, humongous. The legs that supported the massive figure, looked steady, as if rooted into the earth.

It's essentially naked, but it did wear a dark silver loincloth that covered his privates and functioned somewhat as armor. I can't discern any wounds on its golden skin. I assumed It had some kind of natural protection.

Perhaps you couldn't cut its skin with a superficial attack. In addition to its massive figure, you'd have to be able to cut through its tenacious muscles and crush its bones. I found its difficulty level disgusting.

On top, a huge trunk extended to all the way down to its feet, it was essentially a third arm as well as a club that would mercilessly strike down any adversary.

It swung from left to right every time it moved, and whenever the trunk collided with the surrounding volcanic rocks, they were crushed with ease. How much destructive power will it have if swung seriously?

Four ivory tusks that resembled battering rams grew on both sides of its trunk, curving valiantly. They were majestic appearances that confidently displayed not a single scratch.

It certainly has the highest offensive and defensive power of everything I've fought up until now.

From a physical perspective, it certainly felt like a considerably difficult match-up. The fact that it wielded a battle-axe that was bigger than Minokichi-kun's was troublesome.

The unrefined battle-axe looked to kill the target by crushing it rather than cutting it. A single blow from the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant had a speed that you wouldn't expect from that weight. Its ridiculous strength was at such a level that it could only be barely defended by me or Minokichi-kun.

That's what I thought when I saw the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant chop off the neck of a Magma Lizard while I was observing it to gather intelligence.

A Magma Lizard is a kind of drake walking on 4 feet, a dungeon monster of around 10 meters that infested the mountainside.

While its combat ability was appropriate for a drake, it was killed by a single blow. That's how strong the offensive abilities of the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant are.

It certainly is a powerful enemy, a moment of carelessness will mean death. Large Vulcan Golden Elephant was an opponent of that level.

Naturally, one would be intimidated and would run home without any reason, but after observing it, I judged that we'd have a chance of winning. So we challenged it to a fight.

A single blow of the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant is fatal. The speed of the attacks was also very hard to deal with, as he dished a lot of unmixed physical attacks. But because there weren't a lot of special attacks, I was able to somehow deal with it if I was careful.

I did have some trouble seeing all attacks the accumulated damage of the continuous, relentless assault exceeded my overwhelming defensive power.

Probably it would be even more severe if we came here in our state from before, it certainly helped a lot that we had the benefits of raising our levels through the earlier battles.

With our remaining power, we might be able to subjugate the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant.

However, it didn't go smoothly. At the worst possible time while we were fighting the field boss, a [Trespasser] was approaching.

If the [Trespasser] was a normal dungeon monster, nobody would be concerned.

The ones approaching were somehow several ranks higher than the Magma Lizards that lived on this mountainside.

The one that approached were was the king of the Bull Orcs and Orcs that lived inside the volcano. He roughly resembled a warrior with the head of a boar, and slaughtered his enemies with two huge butcher knifes that he wielded.

I look up to see a massive figure of approximately 6 meters in height, his body covered by bristle while wearing a minimum amount of clothes and decorations. He was overflowing with a wild, barbarous charm.

The name of this warrior was Vulcan Bull Orc King.

The top dog of the orcs that went through [Rank-up] —— Bull Orcs —— Vulcan Bull Orc King was the 4th field boss. In other words, because of this [Trespasser], we had to keep 2 field bosses company at the same time.

It became a lot more likely that there would be casualties.

Because the 9 of us were the main force, the loss of even a single demon would be greater than the potential profit of this dungeon capture.

However, fortunately, Kugime-chan was able to spot the [Trespasser] before he arrived because she was monitoring the area.

Feeling relieved that he was discovered right before he actually crashed the party, I left the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant to the others, and decided to fight the Vulcan Bull Orc King with just 1 demon, me.

Since it does seem that there's still a way to go before the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant was at its limit, it might defeat everyone. Without a doubt.

Still I entrusted it to them. I erased any sign of myself and approached the Vulcan Bull Orc King from behind.

I wore the best exoskeleton I had for battling on land, [Red Bear Beast King's Prestige], and used [Three Steps of Destruction]. On top, I executed [Surging Destructive Fists of Flesh Crushing]. It was a triple folded attack that could slaughter a collection of several drakes that I drove into his spinal column.

While the back is surely more durable than the front, when touching the skin I certainly felt the reaction of its spine shatter and internal organs explode.

The fur and skin of the Vulcan Bull Orc King that looked similar to polished, dark red metal was deeply indented by my fist. The massive figure was blown forward spinning, and rolled over the ground violently.

It'd be nice if it would have been finished with just this, but it didn't seem to go so conveniently.

The Vulcan Bull Orc King vomited a large amount of blood from its mouth just once, and slowly stood up with steam being generated from its whole body burning.

The muscles of his body expanded vigorously and when he exhaled, a blue flame was blended in.

With his ferocious standing posture, it looked as if he didn't feel any damage from before. The field boss didn't look dandy, so was it showing his experience?

# DAY 238

The Vulcan Bull Orc King is very tough, the fight continued until the day changed was both physically and mentally tiring.

This guy. That it was able to endure the 3 fold surprise attack, is an indicator of impressive individual ability. It began to summon subordinates with a magic item a few minutes after the battle started. With that, a battle of endurance began.

It probably does this whenever its health falls below a certain amount, in order to regenerate in the meantime.

I wanted to kill it without giving him a moment to recover. However, the summoned subordinates didn't move disorderly at all and approached as if they were one living entity.

It would be difficult to challenge them as a single demon, so to match their numbers, I countered with [Lesser Summoning: Giant].

However, the Vulcan Bull Orc King might have used [Greater Summoning: Demonkin].

The High Orc Mages and Bull Orc Knight Lords that were summoned one after another possessed high intelligence and wielded weapons of high quality. The Black Fomorians could only take a dozen hits before they reached their limit. In their final moments, they used [Human Bomb] and exploded spectacularly.

The overall combat capabilities of the subordinates was pretty even, and they kept on cutting each other down for a short while.

In fact, the area was transformed with the bodies as they kept piling on top of one another. I'd say there were around 10 flesh piles.

As we kept on summoning them, the Vulcan Bull Orc King charging at me, trampling over the bodies of his subordinates.

From then on, it became serious again.

The Vulcan Bull Orc King was similar to the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant. They were field bosses that specialized in close combat.

My Surging Destructive Fists of Flesh Crushing were blocked by a swing of his 2 butcher knives. Each blow held a destructive force capable of easily massacring a drake.

With abilities like [Complete Physical Attack Resistance] and [Body Restoration], it's so tough that it won't die easily even if his head was blown off. Its nearly unlimited endurance is so magnificent that he won't get completely exhausted even if he kept on going at it with the best of his abilities.

Its [Intuition] granted it superior perception so it was hard to attack him from the front and because it's a wild boar, he was faster than he appeared. Its big frame was surprisingly agile, full of muscles and hardly held any fat.

It took a reasonable distance from me by executing several consecutive high-speed back-flips. After dodging the stab of my vermillion spear by easily jumping in the air, it turned around and tried to crush my head with its cleaver.

From time to time it dispelled my predictions by acting eccentrically such as bouncing its body. My exoskeleton was broken several times by its cleaver to the extent that my entrails were spread out.

Even after I hardened my defenses, I received a certain amount of damage. Most likely, it has an ability along the lines of [Penetrating Physical Damage].

While its offensive and defensive power were slightly inferior to the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant from before, the Vulcan Bull Orc King made up for it through his high movement speed and natural agility. In all honesty, even the fight against the Water Hero's party cannot be compared to this warrior.

Analyzing the general situation, it seems like you can't kill the Vulcan Bull Orc King in battle by cutting and shaving off his absurd stamina. In the time that it would take, his opponent would certainly be exhausted.

Pulling out his heart, crushing his head, eating his internal organs raw; I destroyed his body to such an extent that it should've normally died a dozen times over. I was able to finally kill him after I instinctively exhausted his body.

Incidentally, in parallel the Large Vulcan Golden Elephant was about to die and unleashed his hidden power. A golden surge spread over its body. It felt like it forcefully made him more powerful. Minokichi-kun and the others took advantage of that moment and instantly used combination attack [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Destructive Shot]. They were successfully able to hit it and barely obtained victory like that.

Like that, we were able to subjugate both of them successfully. But after the fight was finished, we became exhausted and were covered all over with wounds.

Especially because of the backlash of using all of one's power in the combination attack, the fatigue of the 8 demons passed over their peak.

Even Minokichi-kun was not able to move and when I arrived, Seiji-kun and Kugime-chan were unconscious.

[Field Boss [Large Vulcan Golden Elephant] successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been awarded the [Coffin of the Gigantic Elephant Soldier] as a first time subjugation bonus]

[Field Boss [Vulcan Bull Orc King] successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been awarded the [Mausoleum of the Wild Boar King] as a first time subjugation bonus]

Since the 8 demons couldn't move, they were gradually being cooked by the geothermal heat. If left like this, they'd suffer terrible burns.

You could say that they were somewhat protected by their armor, but as time passes by, the damage from the heat passes deeper into the body. If it comes to that, it'll be harder to treat than a surface burn.

As I could still move because of [Tireless], I set up the Skeleton Centipede as a temporary base. I picked them all up from the ground, as they still weren't able to move, and put them in, in order to avoid them getting burned.

I also spontaneously threw the countless amount of corpses and both chests into my

item box. After all that was over, I was finally able to take a break.

Because of my recovery abilities, I was already able to recover a little bit very quickly. While 3 minutes would be enough for me, the others needed more rest. Fortunately, there were no signs of dungeon monsters in our vicinity and we were able to restore a considerable part of our health.

While taking the break, we were talking about what we'd do next.

You could say that we hadn't recovered perfectly, as Seiji-kun and Kugime-chan still weren't back to their normal condition.

Anything is possible when forced though.

But it's needed to not overdo it. Right now, it was necessary to rest.

Because of that, we decided to descend to the [Boundary Range] and get to the safety zone.

Since it would take some time on foot, we went on straight with the Skeleton Centipede.

Tomorrow, we'll pick up where we left off and challenge the 5th field boss. But for today, I want to sleep soundly and recover.

We'll have the 2 field bosses as breakfast tomorrow morning. As for today, we'll have a pork party with the large amount of orcs and bull orcs.

# DAY 239

Yesterday we rested the entire day, and now we're all in excellent condition.

Our injuries were healed, our physical strength that had been lost was back, and our nearly depleted mana was fully recovered.

In addition, for breakfast we had Large Vulcan Golden Elephant and Vulcan Bull Orc King.

[Ability learned: [Mammoth Lord]]

[Ability learned: [Penetrating Physical Damage]]

[Ability learned: [Summon: Greater Demon]]

[Ability learned: [War Elephant Attack]]

[Ability learned: [Giant Elephant Body]]

[Ability learned: [Elephant's Lucky Wealth]]

Upon obtaining the field boss's abilities, I wanted to dance with joy. However, I still needed to know what these abilities do. Later on, when I have time, I'll test them out.

Now that we are fully rested, we wanted to continue our conquest from the middle of the dungeon with full strength, so we moved on the Greater Skeleton Centipede.

Yesterday's descent, thanks to the use of the Greater Skeleton Centipede, was quite easy and fast. But, as we went back to the place where we were yesterday, resistance from monsters encountered on the way was rising rapidly. As such, when we finally arrived in the middle of the dungeon the [Greater Skeleton Centipede] was severely damaged.

Although we avoided attacks as best as we could with Kugime-chan's radar, we were able to move at full speed, but as expected we couldn't get through without it taking

any damage.

There was a lot of intense damage scattered all over our ride. I think I will fix it later.

With that said, thanks to the Greater Skeleton Centipede that was used to reduce the time needed to cross to our destination, we now resume our conquest.

When you cross the stony slopes of volcanic rock where our fight took place yesterday you will come upon a forest of flaming trees.

Many of the trees growing in that forest have leaves that burn constantly with fire while generating heat that is at the same level as the lava lake.

If only the flames grew on a few of them... However, as there were several hundred thousand of them, they became a problem.

Irofu and Kanami had expressions of discontent since they are weak to the heat, but that issue was addressed with frequent use of [Hyper Cooling Liquid] which can be obtained quite often from all monster species living on the hills.

[Hyper Cooling liquid] is the higher grade version of [Cooling Liquid] obtained in the Labyrinth City Radha Lo Dara, with enhanced effects and time duration.

Although it's a very expensive consumable item, in high heat areas like the [Forest of Flaming Trees], it becomes one of the indispensable essentials.

The dungeon monsters living here had an outward appearance very similar to the flaming trees, Flame Treant as well as their stronger kin Lava Treant, and as such are hard to spot among them. They love to attack from blind spots with their flaming branches, as well as using magic to control the high temperatures in the forest fire of the countless trees; their attacks were very distressing.

Thanks to Kugime in the role of a scout with her ability to observe the surroundings, even if they tried to sneak up, we found them and proceeded onward without any problems.

Although we were attacked by large groups of Volcanic Apes, two of our vanguards were fighting with enthusiasm. Minokichi-kun and Burasato-san had a great mood after yesterday's rest and easily slaughtered them.

We received a huge amount of experience and combat skills after yesterday's battle with the field bosses so our battle strength has been greatly increased.

We continued moving without any problems before arriving before a large flaming tree that stood alone in the center of a large circular clearing with a diameter of one kilometer.

This large flaming tree has a height of about 150 meters, with a trunk as thick as six ordinary flaming trees.

The color of its bark was close to blackish gray. Located on its trunk was something that looked like a screaming human face.

But what was more characteristic was the color of the flame.

The branches that spread through the sky above us were aflame with a clear blue fire. It was a beautiful and fascinating spectacle, with a somehow demonic glow.

This huge flaming tree was the 5th field boss, the Blue Flame Devil Treant, and it was the last field boss that we could gather information about from the previous explorers.

Because of the lack of information from here on out, we'll have to tread carefully, but we'll think about that after defeating the Blue Flame Devil Treant.

The Blue Flame Devil Treant can be described as a kind of mobile [Devil Treant], one of the strongest among the species of [Devil Treant]. It is difficult to stop this enemy, as it can quickly shrug off any damage dealt.

It gathers natural magic from its surroundings via its vast roots, which it uses to heal any kind of wound in the blink of an eye, and its healing magic is especially powerful in this environment.

Although its magical attacks are seemingly classified as those with minimal offensive power, it instantly creates a powerful and sustained barrage of spells; it can be a very troublesome opponent.

Even high level combatants can be destroyed with enough time. As the Blue Flame Devil Treant is probably the last field boss on the hillside, it should be the fiercest opponent so far when confronted directly.

But it is fortunate that the Blue Flame Devil Treant will not move from its position, and as such can be attacked from afar with a preemptive strike.

So, it was decided that we will quickly obliterate it.

According to information obtained from previous explorers, the Blue Flame Devil Treant starts to react when opponents venture within 200 meters. This also seems to be the farthest range of its branches, so it will not react as long there are no loud sounds.

Since the Blue Flame Devil Treant is a formidable enemy, I took some time to carefully plan the strongest attack method we could use against it.

I changed my silver arm into a gun and loaded the [Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazikli Bey)].

After undergoing the same processes as when I killed Balor, as well as activating the abilities that I hadn't acquired at the time, such as [Penetrating Physical Damage], [Bee Sting] and [Silent Pierce], I was curious how it will work all together simultaneously.

Without much delay, after finishing the preparation, I shot [Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazikli Bey)].

Because of the effect of [Silent Pierce], there was no sound made from the shot. There was only the flash of a scarlet line, which immediately struck the body of Blue Flame Devil Treant with an incredibly powerful blast.

Once affected from the shot, the whole body of the Blue Flame Devil Treant bent in the shape of the letter "r".

How flexible can it be that it does not break when bent so far, and how dense is the trunk to not be breached fully by such a powerful penetrating attack? Extremely shocked, as the strike only reached three meters into the trunk, I activated the ability of my spear [Army of Blood-dyed Crimson Spears].

As a result, within a radius of a hundred meters from the red spear began to emerge countless copies that mercilessly tore the body of the Blue Flame Devil Treant from the inside.

Slanting from the impact, while the inside is ripped apart by countless spears, the Blue

Flame Devil Treant tried to heal itself with its healing abilities until the roots can no longer absorb magic.

As it was reaching the end of its healing capabilities, with its base having been destroyed, the upper part of the Blue Flame Devil Treant began to fall while making cracking sounds like a skyscraper.

While significantly losing its height, but being still alive, it changes its fallen branches with the blue flames into the Flame Treant variant: Flame Devil Treant.

The number of those was about 500. With time, and their number will further increase.

Although Flame Devil Treants as defenders of the Blue Flame Devil Treant individually weren't very strong, their sheer number was a problem.

But our attack was not over yet.

Directed at the fallen parts, Kanami-chan and the others prepared [8 Demons Annihilation Formation · Destructive Shot].

Increasing its power with the formation effect from the [Face Of Emptiness of the 8 Demon Generals], it has become a huge black flash that went on through the Blue Flame Devil Treant and a horde of Flame Devil Treants while mercilessly destroying everything in its path.

All that's left is debris that flips in the air and crashes down to the ground.

[Field Boss [Blue Flame Devil Treant] successfully eliminated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been awarded the [Grave of the Diabolical Tree] as a first time subjugation bonus]

The main body is decreased significantly, but some still remains.

There is a lot of debris, so we can collect enough material.

We began removing the remaining Flame Devil Treant that were not caught in the attack and collecting the debris from the Blue Flame Devil Treant, which has stopped

moving.

The united attack certainly has tremendous destructive power, but also a big backlash leaving many openings, and you have to take a rest carefully, after you use it. This time however, it was done just right.

As we have no information on the area, I have sent out my Black Fomorians infested with [Parasite] to scout, but as they quickly died I learned very little.

Because of this, we will need to move even more cautiously from here on and we must use every moment of rest we get as effectively as possible.

# DAY 240

We've gotten out of the forest of blazing trees. As for the reward for the challengers that passed through hardships to get here, a large amount of rare minerals can be easily mined here. This seems to be a place that provides a profit that greatly exceeds the troubles.

There seem to be digging sites everywhere. The moment we arrived here, Asue-chan was overjoyed with excitement. She was unintentionally crying. She murmured {Could this be paradise?}

While Asue-chan went towards the mining spot that was closest by, she mentioned to us in the back that she won't move until everything was dug up completely. And so, we decided to mine together today.

Since this is a place you can't come easily, we should seize the opportunities as they come by.

As Asue-chan pointed out the dig sites, we scattered and started to work.

With a one-handed magic pick, I started digging. It somehow reminded me of the time we were expanding the base in the Kuuderun Great Forest.

While reminiscing a lot of different things from that day up until now, we kept on digging relentlessly.

Even if there weren't a lot, Lava Golems wandered around sporadically. We spontaneously split up in different groups.

Kanami-chan and me.

Minokichi-kun and Asue-chan.

Burasato-san and Supesei-san.

Seiji-kun, Irofu-chan and Kugime-chan.

That's the situation.

We hunted the Lava Golems when we got tired of digging, we mined and we took breaks, we mined and we hunted. As we kept repeating ourselves, the day passed by in no time.

By nightfall, Asue-chan seemed satisfied. We planned to continue our dungeon delving tomorrow.

By the way, the amount of minerals we collected by today's effort reached up to five times the amount that we obtained up until now.

I honestly think we mined too much. Ah well, it's not something to worry about.

At any rate, the difference between the crater and the top became a little longer.

I expected the 9th dungeon boss to be an earth-type. We lay down in preparation for tomorrow.

An announcement entered my mind.

[Steel Crowback of the [18 Demon Warlords] has awaken]

[Title [Battle Beast of Steel] is given]

[Doriane of the [18 Demon Warlords] has awoken]

[Title [Beautiful Flower] is given]

I understood that two people became part of the [18 Demon Warlords].

I'll take it into consideration for tomorrow, as I'm sleepy. And with that, I slept.

# DAY 241

Thanks to Asue, we spent the night in an underground lair. We could have relaxed in a broken camp, but we decided to spend the night underground.

The ground was stable, so we did not have to be afraid of changes in the landscape. Because monster appearances are pretty rare, it was possible to relax.

Besides, even if monsters did decide to attack us while we slept, we could still deal with them. Nonetheless, it would obviously be better if there was less unnecessary work. It was a good thing there were no monsters that could move underground. This lair will remain because it is quite convenient.

While staying underground was more dangerous in the event of an attack, there was only a certain direction in which the monsters could attack from. In addition, Asue's fortified walls made it much easier to defend under such circumstances. As well as the main entrance of the cave, we had created three more exits which I had concealed through [Hide]. Even if one collapsed, there was nothing to worry about.

Using my new skill [Summon: Greater Demon], I created strong guards and positioned them outside the cave. They could act as an alarm if anything were to happen.

The [Black Orc Guard Knight] was armed with a huge black shield. The [Black Minotaur] held a large axe in one of its hands. They were spread apart to protect each doorway and to better cope with incoming monsters.

Even against the local monsters, they were capable of holding out for some time, and so no one would be caught off guard.

The only problem was that the inside of the cave was very hot. It was enough to possibly induce heat stress. To counter this problem, we decided to use the Skeleton Centipede.

It had solid framework and we added heat-resisting magic items to cover the walls. As a result, the intense heat died down to a pleasant sort of warmth. We were thus able to sleep peacefully in the Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain.

Further on in the dungeon, sleep will probably be harder to obtain because of the constant and relentless attack from monsters. One needed to sleep soundly now as it might be the last chance to do so.

As such, we slept soundly while recovering completely from yesterday's exhaustion.

We woke up at around the same time and exchanged greetings while leaving the cave. Although there was no sun out here, Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain was as bright as day due to the lava that flowed everywhere. With bright lights everywhere, it was difficult to find a dark area in the dungeon.

Well, that wasn't really a problem so we went out to have breakfast. Breakfast was important as it would allow us to have a reserve of energy for today's conquest.

Having a delicious breakfast will significantly affect the results. As a result, today's main dish was the [Black Orc Guard Knight] and [Black Minotaur] who had finished their security task.

Because of their [Divine Protection] and strong abilities, they looked pretty tasty.

Upon having such thoughts, drool flowed freely from my mouth. We did have the option of not eating them because they were a solid fighting force, but their presence would certainly attract packs of monsters.

Having more members in a party will result in more monsters appearing to go up against them. At the moment, we were already at the limit and if we considered taking them with us, I could not imagine how many more monsters would be attracted.

In the 1st place, taking them with us was completely unnecessary. I can just as easily summon them on the spot if needed.

Therefore, taking risks and dragging them along was not an option. But at the same time leaving them behind feels like the wrong thing to do.

Summoning can be classified to 3 types: [Lesser Summoning], [Intermediate Summoning], and [Greater Summoning]. Starting from [Intermediate Summoning], summoned beings have intelligence.

[Summon: Greater Demon] results in demons possessing an average person's level of intelligence. They can express human emotions, and communicate clearly with others.

Compared with the puppets summoned with lower skills, they were sentient organisms. They were also completely subordinate to my will, and if necessary, would not hesitate to give up their lives.

If I were to leave them, they would most likely wait and continue battling monsters. The last thing they would say would be "Master... I'm sorry if I disappointed you... and left this world before you..." or something along those lines.

Moreover, in order to determine their fighting strength, I had sent one earlier against a Lava Golem. He died uttering such words so I'm almost sure of it.

Not that it would matter whether they have intelligence or not, but it seems strange to leave them here rather than to eat them.

So in order to save us the trouble of cutting them to pieces, I gave them the order to destroy each other. While waiting for them to finish, we started preparing to leave. After waiting a little, I took apart the last remaining demon and we were left with a big pile of meat.

Since blood was still over the food, I removed it using [Hydro Hand]. Since heat generated on the ground was high, I placed a large pan on some rocks and fried the meat.

The thick meat of the [Black Orc Guard Knight] and [Black Minotaur] was an indicator of how good it was. The sight of it being fried stimulated the eyes and ears and the smell was enticing.

Subconsciously, I started remembering the grill feast with all the roasted pork and high-quality beef. After thinking that eating only meat is bad for one's health, I gathered some vegetables sprouting in the labyrinth and washed them. The combination of the soft meat melting in the mouth and the fresh, crisp vegetables is the best!

Consuming mouthfuls of meat and vegetables furiously, I start thinking of adding Blue Flame Devil Treant bits. This would add a subtle sweetness that oozes when chewed and would certainly make this better.

Ability learned: [Plant Control]

Eating this delicious food and even getting an ability, I am obviously lucky today. Maybe something good will happen in the conquest.

...

After gaining the strength for today and checking our equipment, I contacted Rusty Iron Knight and Doriane who had awakened as one of the 18 Demon Warlords.

I wonder what caused the awakening of the 18 Demon Warlords. I asked how each were different from before and after the awakening as well as the current news. Summarizing what I heard from the both of them, I still did not understand why.

When they came to their senses, they already had their respective titles, and it is difficult to explain in words, even for me.

Indeed, since "the passage of time and the fulfillment of the conditions were met" they had both awakened. Apparently, these conditions are unique for all, I concluded from listening to their stories.

After the awakening, we realized that the overall effect was the cumulative growth in abilities and an incredible leap in the ability of a few particular ones.

Rusty Iron Knight, a fighter, got a significant boost to his fighting abilities and Doriane-san made significant progress in the field of aromatherapy and relaxation.

Curious on how strong he became, I decided to arrange a fistfight between Rusty Iron Knight and Avenger.

The earlier fights between Avenger and Rusty Iron Knight were close, forcing him to go on the defense reluctantly. This time, not only was Rusty Iron Knight able to strike back, he was able to fight with Avenger on equal terms.

After a short standoff between them, Rusty Iron Knight rushed towards Avenger.

Rusty Iron Knight threw strong left and right combinations which could have broke rocks. Avenger ducked the approaching punches so swiftly that afterimages could be seen.

Counterattacking, Avenger threw a hurricane-like uppercut.

Sensing that his jaw would be crushed if it hit, Rusty Iron Knight dodged by bending backward. Although a direct hit was prevented, Rusty Iron Knight's posture crumbled.

Avenger, not missing the opportunity, continued with a low right kick. An ordinary person would have had a fracture, but Rusty Iron Knight was able to endure the attack with his foot.

While enduring the destructive power of the kick, Rusty Iron Knight threw his palm at the chin of Avenger. He avoided this by twisting his neck.

Rusty Iron Knight, hoping for this moment, placed one arm around the neck of Avenger and fixed the other hand around the back of his head.

While both skillfully breaking Avenger's posture and restraining him, Rusty Iron Knight started kneeing him with a level of strength that would surely put a dent in iron.

Because the neck hold limits one's movement, it is difficult to prevent continuous knee kicks. Because the force exerted from the hands and feet are different, it is hard to stop the force of the kick.

If Rusty Iron Knight's opponent is unable to break free from the restraint, his internal organs or his head might be crushed to a pulp. His relentless attack was indeed that devastating.

However, his opponent right now was Avenger, one of the figures chosen by God. He would not fall, even at this level.

Avenger was able to block most of the knee attacks approaching his body even though his movements were restrained. But still, his defense cannot be said to be perfect so a number of shots were able to hit their mark.

Avenger was rapidly shaking his head to loosen the hold while enduring all the attacks coming at him. Not missing the opportunity at one attack's interval, Avenger threw his shoulder at Rusty Iron Knight's chest.

The violent collision blasted Rusty Iron Knight away and he endured the severe pain without a change in expression. It became hard for him to breathe but still, he did not fall.

He certainly failed to win, but he was able to get in a couple of serious blows and give Avenger a tough fight. For Rusty Iron Knight who, in a short time, was caught up in strength by his own pupil Redhead (currently located in the Royal Capital), this strength gain was most welcome.

After the bloody morning workout, Avenger had a warm smile on his face, satisfied that the new power had given him a decent rival.

They were the couple who pursued strength greedily, and were suited to each other. They could easily be called either the best of friends or the worst of rivals.

As for Doriane-san, the constant guest of "Hot Springs Village" Parabellum, she was ready to judge her skills by using Father Elf as a test subject.

It was still early in the morning, but Father Elf was already awake and heading over in order to take a morning bath. He was just in time for the experiment.

He was reluctant at first; but after realizing that he could experience the new development of Doriane-san for free, he happily agreed.

His once proud appearance now seemed like a mere illusion as a relaxed smile appeared on his face. Well, it's best to leave it at that.

Secreting a unique massage oil from her palm, Doriane-san stood over the half-naked Father Elf lying prone on the massage bed. She skillfully massaged the skin of Father Elf without any wasted movements.

The unique oil was gradually absorbed by his skin, and its effect began to emerge. In less than a minute, the consciousness of Father Elf began to float. Drool began to drip out of his mouth through the hole in the massage bed that had been designed exactly for this situation. It was proof that her abilities had profoundly grown and that he was experiencing unbelievable pleasure.

Recently, Father Elf had become accustomed to the massage at the hot springs. I wondered what had become of her skills to make him enter such a trance.

It will be necessary to try it out after capturing this dungeon, I thought, looking at the happy face of Father Elf.

...

After finishing with the investigation, and leaving the details to these two, we started today's conquest.

After a short walk, we came out of the treasure area, into a very different terrain from the previous zone.

Cliffs extending endlessly with a height of about fifty meters were to the left and right, and from the edge began a wide river of lava; the shore on the opposite side could not be seen.

After crossing this vast river, you would get to the gates of the spiral tower located in the heart of the volcano. However, the flow of lava to the opposite shore seemed endless. It was not going to be easy to cross.

There were three factors that made crossing difficult.

The first obstacle was the enormous heat emitted by the river. It was possible to go by jumping from the hillside, but the jump would be difficult. About fifty meters in, the heat could seriously burn us and we could become grilled meat. In fact, in order to make sure, I made a clone for reconnaissance and it burnt up without even traveling a few hundred meters. If this happened from the radiation of heat alone, what would happen if one was to fall? Well, I'd be fine, but the rest would die for sure.

The second obstacle were the areas where gravity behaved strangely. Above the main flow of the river, some areas had huge chunks of metal floating in the air without melting despite being exposed to steam and the radiant heat of lava. While some were suspended in the air, the other blocks of metal were not. Even if you tried to fly to get across, you had to be careful of the areas with irregular gravity.

I thought that these lumps of metal would be pretty hot, but from the observations of Kugime-chan, they absorb the heat emitted by the lava river and compress it. As a result, the surface was quite cold, even for those that were just on top of the river. After I tried touching one with my hand, it was just a little warm.

The temperature thus posed no problems. The metal lumps varied in size and their distance from each other ranged from a few meters to hundreds of meters away, so although they moved slowly, you could choose a route and move to another one before it broke. Thus, choosing an optimal metal lump and route, it would be possible to cross the river of lava.

It's just that there were not only places with weak gravitational pull, there were also places with strong ones, sometimes making floating lumps of metal fall into the river of lava with a splash.

This is probably a trap for explorers with the ability to fly. Even if one could fly it still wasn't safer than choosing a path from the metal blocks. If caught off guard, falling metal mass would become a serious threat.

It would be impossible to relax here with things being pulled up to the sky. The irregular gravity makes metal blocks float in the air and countless streams of lava also float around, looking like huge snakes hovering in space.

Although the smaller streams seemed fairly safe, it wasn't the case. We just witnessed a spectacle where one covered several blocks of steel. And at that size, if you are not lucky enough to escape, even your bones would surely disappear.

Lastly, this was also a living area for dungeon monsters. They were like those encountered before, but there were also some other demonic species.

For example:

- Steel Demonic Monkey: Has dark red colored skin, a muscular metal-like body and two wings.
- Bloody Red Devil Rider: Rode a pale white horse with a steel mane and held spears, lances and kite shields. It wore sinister-looking armor on its body dyed with the blood of its prey.
- Large-mouth Shark Devil: Has a huge body of more than ten meters, covered with black and silver scales. A third of its body was an incredibly large mouth with lots of individual sharp teeth the size of a dagger.
- Lesser Lava Demon: Standing at around two meters, with a lion-like head with dark red horns and crimson-colored skin. Also on its back were bat wings, and his feet were like those of a predator with sharp claws. They also held a variety of weapons.
- Greater Lava Demon: Stronger versions of the Lesser Lava Demons who accompany them and were around three meters tall.

Some waited on metal lumps, others flew around, and others appeared with the eruption of lava.

In such a place where it was necessary to constantly monitor the entire environment, it was going to become a huge struggle for us.

Because of the possibility of falling chunks of metal into the lava, boulders, or eruption of lava flows in this place, we needed to be fast on our feet and also in destroying enemies.

But there were those with weak endurance like Kugime and Seiji. Irofu and Kanami were also quite weak to heat; and even though we can take measures against the heat, we could not assure that there would be no accidents.

So I carried Kanami-chan on my right shoulder. Meanwhile, Minokichi had Seiji and Irofu on his shoulders. Asue had Kugime, and Supesei was on Burasato.

With this, we had good mobility without greatly reducing our combat capabilities. With preparations finished, I ran ahead while Minokichi, Asue, and Burasato-san followed.

Incoming dungeon monsters were easily detected by Kugime-chan thus they were not able to ambush us and we were ready for them.

Let me explain a little more. Sitting on my shoulder was Kanami-chan armed with [Failnaught] obtained from the Elves.

While drawing the bow with the strength of a [Vampire Noble - Variant] until it creaks, she produced bluish silver magic arrows, [Demonic Freezing Arrow] that were created from her strong ice magic and released them at frightening speed.

The arrow released slips through the defense of the approaching Steel Demonic Monkey and hit its forehead.

When the arrow pierces the body of the Steel Demonic Monkey, the magic in the arrow is released. Red spikes from the creature's own frozen blood pierces its body from the inside.

Though the damage from the attack was great, it was not enough to kill the devil with its high life force. It had high resilience, and these wounds would disappear in a few

minutes. Only this time he was not so lucky with the environment.

The surrounding flames instantly melted the ice. The water evaporated so quickly resulting in a steam explosion that scattered pieces of the Steel Demonic Monkey around leaving in its place only his equipment.

On the other hand, Kugime, with mystical rays emanating from her, triggered an attack from a Large-mouth Shark Devil.

Her voice produced rays in different directions, and it became a collateral attack after a while. The truth was that its power was not quite big, but the furious [Large-mouth Devil Shark] immediately jumped out from hiding at this point. Irofu threw small knives into its metal fins, after which it began to decompose while robbing it of the ability to move.

As expected, with its fins completely rotten, it no longer had the ability to move. While struggling to move like a fish on land, the Large-mouth Shark Devil became easy prey.

Here it suffered kicks from Asue, who was carrying Kugime. From these kicks, the local monster flew. After moving like so for a while, we arrived at a little oddly shaped, fairly large lump of metal which had Bloody Red Devil Riders waiting in a line.

There were ten of them with well-coordinated movements as they pointed their spears at us. They rushed forward. Because of the awkward shape of the metal lumps, we had nowhere to flee from them.

As there was nothing else we could do, Minokichi took a defensive position. His defensive stance looked unbreakable but the Bloody Red Devil Riders continued to accelerate while aiming at his stomach with spears from all sides.

Just a few seconds before the collision with Minokichi, a huge chunk of iron shot up from the ground in front of him.

It was not me, but Asue-chan. Conventional riders would have crashed into the obstacle, but the Bloody Red Devil Riders spurred their horses to jump.

Suddenly I witnessed a heroic spectacle. With their feet off the ground, the Bloody Red Devil Riders could not dodge any attacks, and they took the strongest of Supesei's heat magic that she had recently learned. The magic was called [Demonic Bullets Lava Dragon].

Having released more than a dozen fire blocks that were each about the size of an ogre, she mercilessly shot them at the Bloody Red Devil Riders.

The strength of the shells was able to completely destroy the mighty ramparts, and her opponents faced certain death.

In addition, these lumps in collision with the enemy had the effect of exploding. Even if they somehow managed to avoid the attack, they would all get caught in the radius of destruction, and be knocked down by the blast and shrapnel.

In the end, there were still a few surviving Bloody Red Devil Riders, but they were wounded and their movements became very sluggish.

To finish them didn't take long. Nonetheless, this meeting had caused reasonable difficulty.

It was extremely dangerous to linger in one place as the strength of the monsters quickly increased. They ignored all injuries except the most severe wounds. As a result, they were able to move forward very quickly.

With difficulty we finally managed to cross the river of lava in a couple of hours, and saw the entrance to the spiral volcano.

The battle with the monsters on the top of the metal lumps had taken a lot of time, but we had finally almost reached our destination. Yet in the way was a large obstacle. It was a local field boss. He was waiting for us on a huge block of metal, right in front of the spiral volcano.

Dungeon boss called [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"]

It was a seven meter demonic version of the Minotaur. The major differences were the huge black bat wings on his back and the ominous looking armor which he was wearing. Instead of the usual axes, he was armed with a huge black scythe.

Of course there were differences in the details. Covering his whole body were black and red bristles, which would probably injure us if we touched them.

Between the two horns on his forehead was a third golden eye, which was superimposed on the enemy while giving a variety of negative statuses such as [Demonic Eye].

I had [Demonic Gaze Immunity] and Kugime-chan and Kanami also possessed [Demonic Eyes], but the others wouldn't be able to fight him head-on quite so easily.

The [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"] aimed a black substance from his mouth at us while waving his scythe. Black fire erupted onto the ground and he smashed his scythe downwards. Amazingly, it turned into a black tornado which quickly approached us.

[Dungeon Boss [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"] successfully defeated]

[Achiever Yatendouji has been awarded the [Monument of the Flaming Taurus Demon] as a first time subjugation bonus]

It had been an extremely difficult battle, but we had won in the end.

[Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"], out of all the monsters that we met here, was undoubtedly the strongest. Despite his appearance, he was very nimble and covered in shadow, making it difficult to see him. He also moved three times faster than what we had thought.

His incredible strength was enough to counter the defense of Minokichi-kun. And while he was very strong in close combat, he also used a black substance which had a [Cursing] effect.

Those touching it immediately fell under some negative status, which was active for a long time. It was sticky like mucus and hard to remove. Protection from it was quite difficult, so even owners of [Resistance] could not relax. It also caused excruciating pain to its victims. I had experienced it once, and I was not so eager to do so again.

Those were his strengths, so I basically had to take him on by myself while covering the rest.

If that wasn't enough, [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"] also had the ability to summon other demons.

If I did not have [Greater Summoning: Demon], we would have been overwhelmed with crowds of Taurus Demons.

A few dozen wouldn't be difficult to deal with, but several hundred would be nearly

impossible.

Nonetheless, we defeated the [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"], and safely reached the entrance to the spiral volcano.

It didn't seem wise to continue with such injuries and fatigue, as it would make going further much more difficult. I had already collected some new trophies for my item box, so it was decided to spend the night in front of the gate.

There was certainly a chance that we would get attacked by very strong monsters, but the intervals between attacks were less here. Thankfully, we could rest and recover.

We had [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"] and [Taurus Demons] for dinner, and went to bed early in preparation for tomorrow.

Ability learned: [Hellfire]

Ability learned: [Aspect of a Demon]

Ability learned: [Soul Hunting Scythe]

Ability learned: [Summon: Lesser Fiend]

Ability learned: [Summon: Fiend]

Ability learned: [Summon: Greater Fiend]

I wonder why [Summon: Fiend] rose from Lesser to Greater straight away.

Using the Skeleton Centipede increases comfort even in a harsh environment, and thus we could comfortably relax for the rest of the day.

Today's [Synthesis] results:

[Summon: Lesser Fiend] + [Summon: Fiend] + [Summon: Greater Fiend] = [Summon Archfiend]

[Escape] + [Emergency Retreat] = [Emergency Escape]

[Black Demon's Charge] + [Elephant's Roar] = [Black Demon King's Mad Advance]

[Improved Cutting Power] + [Increase Stabbing Force] = [Great Slash Penetration Enhancement]

[Vampirephilia] + [Blood Eater Beast] = [Blood Vampire]

[Storm Sword Dance] + [Acrobatics Sword Dance] = [Storm-Song Sword Dance]

[Black Demon's Roar] + [Wyvern's Roar] + [Wailing Wyvern's Body] + [Ghost Cry] + [Voice of Death] = [Death-Dealing Roar (Desperado)]

## DAY 242

Using yesterday's synthesis of [Summon: Archfiend], I was able to call on a [Black Taurus Demon Lord].

As expected, I could not summon the [Taurus Demon Lord "Adada"] as it was a dungeon boss of the [God] class. It turns out that there really isn't anything that can be done about that.

True, there wasn't ever a high chance of succeeding, and the fact that I was able to summon the [Black Taurus Demon Lord] is lucky in itself.

After I level up my summoning even more, maybe I can call on him, but I won't be able to find out until I do.

I immediately decided to gauge the strength of the summoned [Black Taurus Demon Lord], and he was quite strong.

I consumed a relatively large amount of mana while summoning him and it took quite some time. However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

He seemed strong enough, he could fly, and his body could engage in a variety of abilities.

Since I wanted to know what else I could summon apart from the [Black Taurus Demon Lord], I tried many things that seemed possible. It was likely that with this skill, I would soon be able to call upon something else as well.



As we were done with the [Black Minotaur], we had Black Taurus Demon Lords for breakfast.

Their meat was a little tough; but with every bite my mouth was filled with a huge amount of meat juice, the taste of which I quite liked.

Of course it wasn't as good as the [Taurus Demon Lord Adada] which we had eaten yesterday, but the difference wasn't that noticeable. Overall, we all thought it was excellent meat.

Yet, I wonder how delicious it would be if I gave it to the Sisters to prepare?

Now it has become necessary to quickly finish the dungeon so I can ask them to cook it!

Speaking of which, we finished breakfast and revitalized ourselves, and were ready to conquer the spiral volcano.

In order to get to the top of the volcano, we had to climb the spiral road that twisted up and around its slope.

One could immediately fly to the top, but there were likely to be traps involving high gravity areas.

There might even be something even worse. Just before reaching the summit, the volcano might erupt, and there would be nothing you could do to avoid being cooked alive.

There were black clouds gathering around the summit, and a large amount of lightning strikes could be seen within them. I decided not to fly to avoid being struck by the lightning. Putting all things together with gravity, lightning, or whatever traps there could be, the bottom line is that I just did not want to fall from that height.

Anyway, it didn't matter what might have happened while flying because many in our group could not do so, so there was no alternative than to walk up the slope.

The spiral mountain road was made of solidified lava, about one meter wide, which made it a difficult trip.

The path was large enough to climb; but when fighting groups of monsters, the space

would become quite narrow.

To progress, we would inevitably have to fight off waves of monsters that were waiting for us.

Running away wasn't an option, as there was nowhere to go, and if we turned our backs on the enemy we would immediately be destroyed. We had no choice but to fight.

The place was enjoyable in terms of the difficulty of the individual monsters encountered. Each monster was quite strong but not overwhelmingly so.

The strength of the demons that this dungeon could provide was equal to that of a [Demigod] class dungeon boss. However, the difficulty arose as they would be attacking in groups.

Fortunately, the [God] class monsters (of the Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain dungeon) were pretty small, and the size of their groups wasn't too big. Even if we encountered a large group, our party contained more than a few fighters.

In this place, the individual field bosses were much stronger than the mobs of monsters, but overcoming them through our sheer numbers was easy.

In fact, at this level, Minokichi or Kanami could come here and defeat monsters quite comfortably.

I found that this was much easier than when I conquered the underground [Demigod] Rank dungeon.

There were some problems, but there wasn't any serious injuries.

Nonetheless, the numbers of monsters was extremely large.

We fought battle after battle without rest, and with the accumulated fatigue, the motions of my friends became much slower.

Of course, we were being treated by Seiji, and he relieved us of our fatigue, but removing it was no simple task.

This started to exhaust us, and there was also some damage to our equipment.

It wasn't damaged to such a degree that it would break, but our reactions had become slower and large amounts of scars have been carved into the armor.

Although there was a lot of damage, our frequent maintenance ensured that nothing was destroyed. Just in case of an emergency, we should be more careful in the future.

As we continued up the slope we found a small den in the evening. I summoned a [Black Taurus Demon Lord] and made him guard the entrance. With that, we could spend the night without any problems. However, tomorrow is the battle with the boss of the dungeon.

Thus, for the sake of tomorrow's battle, today we will prepare and rest.

The results of today's synthesis:

[Giant King's Supreme Strike] + [Giant's Iron Hammer] + [Armor Collapse] + [Overkill] + [Surging Destructive Fists of Flesh Crushing] + [Pressurized Thunder Cannon] = [Divine Destruction of the Black Demon]

[Illogical Adamantine Strength] + [Berserker Mode] + [Heightened Stamina] + [Body of Giant Elephant] + [Herculean Strength] + [Rhinoceros Bone Body Armor] = [Renovate Tyrannical Power of the Black Demon]

[Pyrokinesis] + [Hydro Hand] + [Electromaster] + [Aero Master] + [Earth Control] + [Plant Control] + [Photon Ruler] + [Gravity Law] + [Elemental (Spirit User)] = [All Creation]

[Echoing Arms of the Thunderstorm] + [Bright Red Arms of Boiling] = [Bright Arms of the Thunderstorm]

[Unhealing Cursed Wound] + [Curse Flame] = [Sizzling Cursed Wounds]

[Improved Digestion] + [The Swallow of Great Whale] = [The Ingestion of Giant Whale]

# DAY 243

After resting, our group was in an excellent state. Most of our mental and physical fatigue was gone, our mana was replenished, and my comrades were eager for battle.

We were ready for the forthcoming battle with the boss that was undoubtedly going to be difficult.

We checked the state of everyone in the group and examined all of our equipment.

We repaired even the smallest damage to make sure we didn't lose because of it. We were fortunate that the main damage we sustained were small holes in our clothes.

After checking over everything several times, we had breakfast as usual. After finishing his mission of protecting us, the [Black Taurus Demon Lord] was served as breakfast with vegetables and rice that we had gathered in the maze. We ate for longer than usual to enjoy its taste.

The breakfast took place in silence. We all understood that, depending on how this battle plays out, one or more of us could die. Naturally, we're not going to lose, but this could be our final meal together.

Knowing this, our faces were filled with determination.

What lay ahead of us was not just the strongest monster here, but the original source of all the power in this place, a being that was on a higher level of existence than us.

Thinking about our overall safety, the right option would be to retreat here.

By now, we had achieved a good result, and there was no need to take a risk that had such a high chance of death.

Besides this dungeon, there are still many places where you can gain power and then come back with confidence.

But that wasn't our style, and there was not even one mention of turning back.

Besides, did any one of us even know how to return back from here?

Probably not. All those that were gathered here were fools for not thinking about that earlier.

Having finished a long breakfast with a little break, we proceeded to the top.

The end of the spiral mountain road was a hundred meters from the caves, but there were no monsters in sight.

At the end of the long path was the volcano crater, looking like the entrance to hell. We were so close to the lava that it would be hard to get any closer without starting to burn.

If you were unfortunate enough to fall down you wouldn't even reach the bottom. Long before that you would burn up and be turned into ash.

Despite drinking the [Cooling Liquid] and wrapping themselves in heat-resisting cloth, the skin of Kanami-chan and the others slowly began to roast.

At the center of the crater, there was a huge lump of iron floating in the air. As it was flat and round, with a diameter of up to several hundred meters, it was a place suited for battle. It looked like someone had prepared a God's Arena.

Several blocks of steel led to the arena, but the boss was nowhere to be seen.

From what I could tell, stepping onto it would cause the path to it to immediately disappear. This would be followed by the appearance of the dungeon boss in the center.

That is, the identity of the boss would only be revealed after we stepped onto the arena. But once that happened there would be no turning back.

All this was well understood, and we exchanged glances and nodded silently.

So the decision was made and we set foot onto the floating chunk of iron.

Hanging over a fiery abyss was the arena on which we were going to put our lives on the line.

Truly a suitable place for the boss of the dungeon.

On the way to the arena, as expected, the lumps of metal immediately fell straight into the abyss.

A few seconds later, after we were on the scene, all of them were gone. The place was shook by a deafening roar so powerful, it seemed the world was about to crumble.

This roar, not just imposed for all to hear, had various bad effects - in the worst case, it could even kill.

After that first attack, I used [Phased Array Radar] and [Sense Area] before detecting a huge living being directly above us in the volcanic crater.

Looking at the black clouds, I saw a scarlet coloured flying object.

With folded wings, he dived into the arena. When he was almost at the surface, he spread his broad wings to significantly soften the blow of the landing.

The wind generated by this sudden deceleration was immense. Seiji-kun and Kugime-chan almost flew off the arena.

It was still not fully able to reduce the momentum of the fall, resulting in a very strong impact. I thought that he was going to flip over the entire arena.

Fortunately the shaking did not last long, and when it stabilized, a few dozen meters from us stood the creature that we had come to slay.

The creature that had fallen from the sky was a huge scarlet [Wisdom Dragon].

The official name of this place was Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain, so it should have been expected. I really did not want to be surprised after meeting a dragon here.

The length of its body, which exceeded 100 meters, was flawlessly covered with beautiful scarlet scales. The membranes on the wings looked like they were made out of steel, and his muscled legs easily supported a body that weighed several tens of tons. Overflowing with energy, these same legs ended in huge claws, which were not inferior to demonic swords.

Behind his back were wings that easily exceeded two hundred meters in length.

From his neck that was as thick as his body, there was a head resembling a cross between lizard and a crocodile.

He curiously studied us with his nine golden dragon eyes.

From his huge jaws, capable of swallowing a whole house and armed with sharp white teeth, came a burst of dragon flames.

It was a titanic sentient being, with a gaze able to rob foes of their fighting spirit.

And now that gaze was set upon us.

"Well done for getting here to the final test. My name is [Ignatos], proud heir of the [Dragon Emperor Red Flame], [Scarlet Dragon Emperor]. Under the oath between me and my wife and God, I stand here as the owner of the mountain."

"If you don't want to be wiped out by my fire, you can try to take my life. I am putting my life on the line, so I'll fight you with my full strength."

He made his statement in a deep, resonating voice.

Originally, dragons, on par with the giants, were the most powerful race in the world.

And even among others, this eye-catching scarlet Dragon Emperor was equivalent in power to natural disasters. He was indeed the ruler of [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

Standing before the Emperor of Red Dragons, and influenced by only one thing, Kanami-chan and the company swallowed their saliva while tightening their grip on their weapons.

We fully understood the wonder of this creature, but right now we were preoccupied with other thoughts.

How would his thick legs taste? If we were able to split his thick skull and eat its contents, would we still experience the same pleasure? If I absorbed his inner power, how strong would it be?

If we were to snatch his heart and fry it, what would it smell like? And how many days would it take us to gobble up such a behemoth???

Thinking only of this, we looked at the [Scarlet Dragon Emperor] as a rare and super high quality ingredient.

Faced with this unprecedented attitude towards himself, the [Emperor of Red Dragons] looked on with discontentment. Well, who cares?

Now, we only wanted to catch the scarlet dragon. This was the most delicious of all the ingredients that had been shown before us!!!

We would eagerly devour the flesh of the [Scarlet Dragon Emperor]!!!

Thus, for the sake of satisfying our appetite, we started to hunt the dragon.

# DAY 244

Honestly, we didn't consider the risks. Just why did we have to prioritize our appetite first?

There are no regrets though, so we'll just have to be careful. As much as possible, I'd like to stick with it till the end.

The battle against the Crimson Dragon Emperor had been going on since yesterday. But on today's morning, we were finally about to finish.

It was terrifying. After all, the Crimson Dragon Emperor was ridiculously strong. The damage we sustained was enormous.

Us nine demons continued to fight until today. However it was only Minokichi-kun, who boasts a strong body, Kanami-chan, who was acting efficiently in the back, and me, who still has some hidden trump cards, that were still able to fight.

Thankfully no one died. The other six demons wouldn't be moving for a while due to their current conditions.

First up, Burasato-san had attacked at close range with great intensity.

Thanks to her experience and skill, she was able to crack through the tough dragon scales with her sword techniques, managing to damage the thick dragon shells. By combining her abilities, she was able to deeply cut the flesh underneath, causing the dragon to steadily accumulate damage.

While in the middle of the battle, Burasato was somehow able to dominate the purple dragon blood by force.

The Crimson Dragon Emperor's blood contained a large amount of dissolved magic, turning it into a dangerous substance that can cause one to die from madness if they came into contact with it.

Even though she is a Blood Lord Subspecies specialized in controlling and using blood as a weapon, what she did was definitely not an easy task.

It was a reckless move, something that a normal Blood Lord wouldn't even think of in the first place. Even if they were able to control it, using it would only result in death.

However, Burasato took things slowly and carefully, making it possible.

All of the draconic blood controlled by her converged into a giant sword-like weapon.

After that, she swung it with all her might in combination with her Sword Techniques.

The length of the dragon blood sword was nearly dozens of meters and yet despite that, the speed at which it was swung was almost impossible to see. The attack succeeded in cutting the roots of the two pairs of wings that grew on the back of the Dragon Emperor.

Draconic blood has the capability to inhibit one's abilities, and with Burasato managing to take control of the blood, the Crimson Dragon Emperor seemed to be affected by his own blood as well.

With its regeneration slowed down and having lost its means of escaping to the sky, the enemy was now inevitably locked in combat.

Although it was a magnificent result, the price to pay for using dragon blood was heavy.

Although Burasato had only wielded it momentarily, she began vomiting blood repeatedly and her whole body became dyed in red. Beneath her armor, her skin and muscles were being torn apart.

As such, her body was in tatters. It was the price to pay for doing something so reckless. Still, her willpower kept her fighting while she was being healed.

After reaching her limits, Burasato went to the rear to recover and drank several recovery potions. Even if one was at their limits, with several potions ingested for recovery, they would be able to recover.

After her came Supesei-san. She dealt a staggering blow to the Crimson Dragon Emperor thanks to the magic that she was able to prepare, using the time given by our vanguard.

Regrettably, the Crimson Dragon Emperor had the skill [Flame Nullification] and as a

result, Supesei's powerful Fire Magic had no effect. Still, she made full use of her wide variety of magic by combining them together, playing an active role in many occasions.

Since she was fighting from the back, she did not suffer any severe physical injuries. However, due to the consecutive use of high-powered magic, her once enormous magic power was now depleted.

The side effects were quite strong but thanks to a last minute [Mana Vitamin] and [Concentrated Mana Potion], she didn't suffer from magic deficiency. Although if she had acted a little more recklessly, she would have lost consciousness.

Right now, she was lying down besides Burasato while waiting until her magic power naturally recovered slightly.

In order to protect those in the back from the Crimson Dragon Emperor's flames, Asue-chan had brought out a conveniently sized lump of heat absorbing metal and held it with all of her might. The lump of metal was something I had collected back in the large river.

Although it cannot completely stop the Dragon's flames, it was still able to absorb most of the attack and protect those in back.

However, after ten minutes of resisting, the lump of metal could no longer endure the heat and resulted in severe burns on Asue's arms and legs.

It was only due to her equipment and Seiji-kun's treatment that her limbs were not fully burnt. Nonetheless, the burns on her limbs were still quite severe.

In addition to that, her endurance had reached its limit due to the intense movements she had undertook. Right now, she was lying down and recovering in the same manner as Supesei.

As for Seiji and Kugime, since their bodies were not physically fit, they had passed out from magic deficiency.

Because Seiji pushed himself to the limit in healing everyone, he had eventually run out of magic power.

Among us 9 demons, only Seiji and I can heal others. But, because I was busy dealing with the dragon, it was all up to him to perform the necessary medical treatment on

the others.

As a Saint Lord subspecies, Seiji has the capability to heal everyone. He has never had any problems. That was up til now.

While I did help out, it was only a bit in order to close the gap. Seiji-kun had to use his abilities beyond conventional limits.

Even if he was vomiting blood, he probably would've continued healing everybody. If it weren't for him, someone probably would have died.

As a result, he started suffering from magic deficiency. Right now, he's sleeping peacefully with the others. Once he gets up, I intend to praise him for his great efforts.

Kugime-chan observed the whole body of the Crimson Dragon Emperor. Every time she foresaw an attack, she would inform everyone about it. At this particular time, she was looking for the very few weak points that were common to all of Dragon kind.



There was only one weak point in the scales of the dragon's body; the part known as the [Dragon's Reverse Scale].

Naturally, there are probably countless number of scales covering that part but looking for another weakness right now was impossible.

Besides, the Dragon was spewing out a lot of magical power which hampered Kugime-chan's perception.

You'd need the same amount of magical power to cancel the effect. Though Kugime-chan managed to do it somehow, she started to bleed from her eyes and nose due to the extreme strain it caused on her brain. Still, she managed to find the weak spot.

However, due to this, Kugime-chan ended up with Magic Deficiency. Although thanks to her, it was now possible to find and attack the [Dragon's Reverse Scale]. She did great.

As for Irofu-chan, she kept the dragon from flying.

She played an active part by using her corrosive attack while hiding herself behind everyone else.

Unfortunately, when Burasato cut off the wings, Irofu was caught by an attack from the tail of the Crimson Dragon Emperor. As a result, she got blown away by the impact.

Although she managed to escape the fate of being fully crushed, she still suffered grave injuries, her lower half having been turned to mush.

I quickly treated her with my [Blood Elixir] though she didn't regain consciousness. For now, I rolled her close to Supesei while healing her.

Among everyone, Irofu had the most severe injuries. Well, she did mumble the words {Overwhelming pathos..... a handsome man and a wild beast..... dripping with sweat as their flesh clash.....}, so it was unlikely that she would die.

Irofu-chan; she probably wouldn't die even if someone tried to kill her.

With the current condition of six Demons, only us three Demons were left standing up against the Crimson Dragon Emperor.

As the dragon was stuck to the ground, his strength had been reduced to approximately a quarter of what it had been at the start.

The accumulated damage on his beautiful scales was visible and most of his strong limbs had been severed. His four wings are already gone with half being severed by Burasato-san's blood sword and the other by me and Minokichi-kun. Right now, the severed parts were lying around somewhere nearby.

Some of his huge internal organs had already spilled out from the numerous injuries surrounding his body, having been pushed out by flowing blood.

He was still alive even in this state. The Crimson Dragon Emperor was truly really strong.

It doesn't matter. It wouldn't change the fact that he will die soon.

With the Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazıklı Bey), I pierced the reverse scale located on his throats. Half of my spear's handle was buried in his throat in the process.

Pulling it out, I then followed by thrusting the vermilion spear towards the golden eye located in the middle of the dragon's forehead.

I then triggered the spear's special ability, [Army of the Bloody Vermilion Spear], annihilating the dragon's brain and other internal organs.

However, even though most of his brain had been destroyed, the Crimson Dragon Emperor did not die. Rather than dying, he even tried to bite me.

- This kind of vitality, isn't it ridiculous!?

Not wanting another counter attack, I activated [Sizzling Cursed Wounds].

With this, even [Flame Nullification] would not be able to stop the Abnormal Conditions (Bad Status).

Even if it only impairs his regenerative ability a little, he would still surely die.

As expected, what life was left in the Crimson Dragon Emperor disappeared from his eyes.

With this, I guess we've finally captured [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

[Field Boss [Crimson Dragon Emperor - "Fleyv Ignatus"] has been successfully subjugated]

[As a bonus for being the first to subjugate, the treasure chest [Crimson Emperor's Tomb] will be given]

.....Huh. Apparently, there's still more.

Hearing such a shocking announcement, I couldn't help but feel exhausted. While contemplating the announcement, I quickly collected the treasure chest and the body of the Crimson Dragon Emperor.

After that, the missing ladder reappeared.

It seems like we can finally leave the arena.

Soon, there was a new spiral path leading to the bottom of the crater.

The wall of rocks in the crater changed to accommodate the new path. It was also possible to go back to the dungeon entrance by flying or by going through the floating mass of metal located on the opposite side.

In addition, I sensed several creatures flying from the bottom of the crater.

According to [Phased Radar Array] and [Sense Area], there were six of them.

Moreover, there was a unique reaction that made it seem like their bodies had just been created.

If I were to guess, it looks like the dungeon boss who created them was waiting at the bottom of the crater.

Moreover, the opponents are troublesome when I think about it. The 6 flew up with great vigor from the bottom up towards the arena, showing their true appearance.

Three "Heat Dragons", two "Fire Dragons", and one "Flame Dragon". However, they felt more like a single entity.

The length of the Heat Dragons were around 15 meters, the Fire Dragons around 20 meters, and the Flame Dragon around 30 meters long. After having fought against the Crimson Dragon Emperor, they might look small when compared to him but they're still huge.

By the way, it is said that a normal Heat Dragon is capable of fighting against a Fomorian.

Normally, it's not something I would consider as an enemy. However, taking into account the benefits it receives from the dungeon and the geographical advantage, it's now a formidable opponent.

Including the Fire Dragons which are higher-ranked Heat Dragons, and also the Flame Dragon which is even more powerful, we cannot fight them carelessly.

While I started planning, the six dragons remained hovering dozens of meters above us.

Together, they simultaneously used their [Dragon Breath].

Their dragon breath mixed into one seamlessly, significantly raising the heat.

Just one breath was already strong and now there were six of them combined.

If I were to try and endure the attack with my [Resistance], I would be overwhelmed by the heat.

If it hits the arena, it would instantly cover the entire place with crimson flames.

Not holding back at all, I used [All Creation] on the descending breath, compressing it as it approached. I thought it would be harder but compressing it was easier than expected.

Even though the fire ball was made by six dragons, it couldn't be compared to that of the Crimson Dragon Emperor.

Though it's certainly strong, the power is still not to that extent.

The once huge fire ball had been reduced to one meter in size. While it continued to burn, I still kept on compressing it.

I wonder what would happen if I used [Greater Compression] on it? I tried it out.

As a result, the breath became thumb-sized and resembled a precious gem that was shining brightly.

Putting that aside, the dragons were left dumbfounded after seeing such a spectacle.

Having obtained this Flame Gem, I ate it with the help of [Absorb Magic].

After doing so, I felt satisfied. It was the unique feeling of something which had been lost being replenished.

To be frank, it wasn't delicious since there was/it had no taste. Still, a fireball made from the magic of six dragons was more than enough to recover my own power.

I felt relieved for managing to absorb the magic power of the dragon's breath. Knowing this however, I couldn't help but think that I should've done this from the start. Well, I'll just keep that tidbit to myself.

Meanwhile, the dragons were now descending straight towards me. They probably thought that their breath was useless against me.

And it looked like they had decided to kill me up close and personal. With their eyes set on me, they roared fiercely and bared their sharp fangs.

Anyways, fighting them head on would just exhaust me. Instead, I used [All Creation] to increase the gravity around them by a factor of ten.

Unable to withstand the burden, the dragons crashed onto the arena one by one.

The impact was terrific, managing to tear and rip through their tough dragon scales. I guess I could say that their posture during their fall was bad? There was even one which had all of the bones in its thick limbs broken.

Though the pain angered them, they couldn't move at all due to the powerful force weighing them down.

They writhed painfully as they continued to endure the force.

I approached the dragons while keeping my guard up. With my vermillion spear, I

stabbed each dragon once and gouged their hearts out.

After doing so, I then collected all the corpses.

For managing to obtain a large amount of Dragon ingredients, I am thankful.

However, even though I've already defeated the dragons, there were more coming up.

This time, I could perceive twelve of them, twice as many as before.

Even if it's that much, I think I can still deal with them no matter what.

However, there were six demons that couldn't move and if I tried to protect them at the same time, the fight could become very tough.

Even if they were to advance or pull back, there were still a lot of risks.

Besides, even though Minokichi-kun and Kanami-chan can still move, they can't fight at full strength. Even with a Gods [Divine Protection], even if their minds and bodies had been toughened by daily training, as a species, there surely exists a physical limit.

Having just finished the fight against the Crimson Dragon Emperor, the two would likely reach their limits if they attempted to fight the dragons without any rest.

In this case, I was the only demon who could still fight.

Still, I don't know if even [Summon Archfiend] can keep them safe and if possible, I don't want such a disadvantageous situation to appear.

In this situation, wouldn't we get eaten by the dragons? Or maybe we would just be burnt down to the ground and turned into ash.

I'd want to avoid that at all costs.

There are others waiting for us to return and I still want to do some more things.

In that case, I can only propose an absurd plan.

First, I will have Minokichi-kun and Kanami-chan protect the six demons in the arena.

Meanwhile, I will head down to the bottom of the crater and reduce the number of dragons so that the two could handle them. After doing so, I will go and defeat the Dungeon Boss by myself.

By doing so, the capture can be completed and I can return without any regrets. It's something that can't even be called a plan.

When I told them, they complained about it but... well, there's no other choice.

Because it's a plan mixed with my own interests, I just listened to their complaints.

For some reason, unrelated complains were mixed in as well though I just set those aside.

After hearing out their words, I carried out my plan.

As for them, they said something like {Well... Since its Aporou, there's no helping it.} before letting me go.

It was probably the result of the trust that I have built from them since the beginning. They most likely believed that I would be able to carry out this absurd plan.

Entrusting them with the rest, I jumped off the arena.

Minokichi-kun blamed himself for his weakness and injuries, but was determined to succeed in his goal of protecting the other six demons.

Although she worried about my safe return, Kanami-chan waved goodbye with a beautiful smile that would have charmed anyone looking at her.

"Well then, I'm going, I leave the rest to you."

Holding onto a red spear and cursed spear, Aporou, the black demon Apostle Lord, jumped off the arena. As Aporou began to fall, a tremendous amount of pressurised hot air blew past him. He had avoided the normal route which was the spiral path along the walls of the crater. As a result, he approached his destination extremely quickly.

Because of the speed of the fall, the temperature change was immediate, and very soon the heat reached a point where the fireproof outfit in which he was dressed reached

its limit.

The magic items, which had cost a lot of money and up till this time had performed their duties properly, disintegrated in less than 10 seconds from the beginning of the fall.

The heat did not weaken, but only intensified, and it began to disintegrate the armor that protected his upper body, leaving him in his pants alone, which were now his only armor.

Fortunately, having [Jolite Liquid], [Refractory Mucus Secretion] and [Complete Fire Resistance], he was not in any real danger.

The fall was only safe because he was Aporou, and so the heat was still easy to deal with. Anyone else in his place would have turned into ashes long ago.

Below the arena, there was only a blazing inferno.

But in these flames of hell there were still monsters.

These monsters were dragons, long known as one of the mightiest species. Covered with bright red scales, and possessing a huge body, they carried destruction with them.

They approached in a group of twelve. ♣ 6 [Red Dragons] ♣ 4 [Flaming dragons] ♣ 2 [Purple dragons]

If the dragons were to attack outside of the dungeon, they held enough power to easily destroy a large kingdom.

The twelve Dragons looked down on the defenseless demon who was seemingly taunting them.

Unlike the wyverns, dragons have sharp intelligence.

To them, it appeared that he had decided to commit suicide by jumping off the arena.

And even if this wasn't the case, a demon capable of flight, in the eyes of dragons, looked pretty pathetic.

To them, he was seemingly bringing himself on a platter for lunch.

The manner in which he wanted to commit suicide also seemed stupid. And so the dragons thought, who knew nothing about Aporou.

However, they had to obey the orders of Flame Dragon Empress, "Mustaria Ignatos" and kill the intruder at any cost. Using the magical power contained in their throats, they directed their flames towards Aporou.

All at once, the twelve of them opened fire.

The sight of it was like a volcanic eruption, and it seemed like anything within attack range would be turned into ashes. If such an attack hit directly, then perhaps even Aporou would not survive.

However, that was before he had evolved. Instead, Aporou just smiled wickedly.

If a lizard has just learned how to fly, tell it not to be conceited.

"On the road"

[Aporou used combat art [Multiple Lightning Cross]]

[Aporou used combat art [Killer Breath]]

Due to the profession [Holy Knight (Crusader)], he was able to use [Crusades Attack]. Even without [Groin Attacks] and [Multiple Lightning Cross], it still has great damage. It had a large radius of destruction, and thus was an excellent fighting art.

In addition, Aporou had the ability [Grand Cross Smash], adding a bonus to the attack and further increasing attack power. It was enough to punch their breath. He also held the profession [Dragon Slayer] and combat art [Killer Breath].

As the name states, this combat technique was very effective against breath attacks.

Aporou performed just two fighting techniques with his spears, but in the next instant the area in front of him was covered in red flashes. The space in front of him exploded with large amounts of cuts and strikes.

The flames, previously on course at Aporou, were cut into 4 pieces as easily as paper.

However, although the flames had been split into parts, they had not yet lost all of their power. As such, the attack was not completely prevented.

Luckily, the cuts resulted in the flames splitting around Aporou and escaping upwards towards the sky, leaving him unharmed.

They rose hundreds of meters with a terrible roar, and finally dissipated near the top.

This slightly surprised Minokichi-kun and the other demons at the top, but they were unharmed as it did not quite reach them.

The first attack of the dragons was a complete failure.

As such, the dragons were stunned to see Aporou unharmed from their attack.

Even after witnessing his response, they could still not comprehend how such an action was possible. Because of their confusion, their next response was even slower than that of the wyverns.

Laughing at the dragons, Aporou activated the [Death Dealing Roar (Desperado)] and used [All Creation] so that anyone apart from the dragons wouldn't be harmed.

"Die."

The short phrase had enough strength to instantly kill six of the red dragons.

With all of their life force drained out of them, their enormous bodies crashed to the ground.

The rest of the dragons which had survived, the flaming dragons and purple dragons, did not die. However, it could not be said that they had escaped the attack unharmed.

The flaming dragons had become dull in their movements and their speed had visibly decreased.

They beat their wings desperately while trying to maintain their flight, releasing huge amounts of energy.

They could not understand what was happening to them.

The strongest of the three types, the purple dragons, only slowed down slightly.

Realising that part of their group had perished, the dragons recovered from the attack and glared at Aporou angrily.

The Dragons then focused on him with magical power burning in their eyes.

Usually, living organisms would be rendered helpless under the concentrated power of such a gaze, and some may have even died.

For dragons, this common method of attack allowed them to suppress the opponent's attacks and allow an easy victory.

If they had used it against any normal opponent, it would have been quite effective.

Unfortunately, it was the wrong move to make as the opponent they faced easily surpassed the classification of 'normal'.

And so, throwing their evil glances at him, the dragons stared straight into the eyes of Aporou.

He responded by activating [Deadly Evil Eye], and immediately the predator became the prey.

The dragons could have eventually recovered from the negative effects of [Deadly Evil Eye], but they were still under the influence of [Death-Dealing Roar (Desperado)]. Thus the effect of the attack was multiplied and the power was significantly increased.

Almost immediately, the four flaming dragons stopped beating their wings and fell into the fiery abyss.

As things stood, ten of the twelve dragons had already lost their lives without much of a fight.

The scene was not something that the average person could fathom, but even for [The Legendary Hero], it looked quite unreal.

The remaining dragons were a superior species than the others.

Although they had been reduced to a weaker state by their injuries, pride allowed

them to roar and with bloodshot eyes they flew at him as though he was their sworn enemy.

"Gaaoooooo!!!"

In response to this, Aporou grinned ferociously.

He looked as though he had been waiting for a good catch of catfish which had just ran straight into him.

"Shii??"

Transparent black wings grew behind Aporou through his [Elytron Generation] and rapidly beat the air. The power of the wings sent strong waves of air away from him.

The distance between him and the purple dragons seemed to instantly disappear as he flew forward.

[Aporou used Combat Arts [Headhunting]

His Job [Vorpal Punisher] and Battle Art [Headhunting] made both his red and cursed spears coordinate in the timing of their attack.

Two sets of red flashes later, the heads of the purple dragons were cleanly cut off.

The power of the blow was such that the durable dragon scales provided no resistance, easily cutting through the flesh.

The severed heads of the purple dragons retained their life for just a second, enough for Aporou to see his victorious reflection in their eyes.

"Beautiful, the blood of this purple dragon."

He tore off the necks vigorously, ejecting a huge fountain of blood. Since it didn't evaporate from the heat, he poured it all over his own body.

Since dragon blood was high in magical potency, spilling it on oneself in such a quantity was quite dangerous. An ordinary person would immediately begin to collapse in agony from the pain, and it would not be surprising if their whole body

began to disintegrate.

"Oh, this thing is better than I thought. It doesn't feel that bad".

Indeed, the blood served the opposite effect on Aporou, and strengthened him instead of inflicting any harm.

After activating [Bloodsucking Vampire], the fresh purple dragon blood further replenished Aporou's strength.

He then retained his self-control, and the blood on his whole body gradually evaporated. He quickly collected the bodies of 12 dragons, and began to hurry downwards towards what he was sure was certain hell.

During his flight, Aporou encountered three waves of ferocious dragons. The number of dragons increased as well as the quality of their attacks. Soon, the fighting had increased in difficulty and he could no longer kill them instantly.

Enough time had passed since he had left and there could soon be an attack on Kanami-chan and the other demons. Now that he considered how long he had been flying, it was likely that the battle had re-begun in the arena.

He was not really worried about their ability, but rather if they were able to recover in the time that he had bought them. However, he was now approaching the bottom of the volcano and had no time to be distracted by someone else's battle.

"This... truly, it is huge".

He saw lava that glowed like the sun, and in it floated an enormous mass of metal, the "final arena."

The temperature here was so intense that his internal organs began to bake from the heat. Here, at the bottom of hell, one dragon waited for Aporou.

This dragon was quite similar to the one that the nine demons had just beaten.

It was probably of the same race or a close relative species.

This one differed from the Crimson Dragon Emperor in that it had two pairs of huge arms instead of wings on its back, and ten horns shaped like a crown protruded from

its head. The shape of the dragon was also slightly different.

But these differences can be attributed to the gender and individual characteristics of members of the race.

Aporou was not surprised because he did not even care.

But what surprised Aporou was the fact that, for some reason, this dragon was even stronger than the Crimson Dragon Emperor.

The lower part of the dragon was not even in the final stage as it was submerged under lava, and its body lay in a cave carved into the wall of the crater.

Although it was not entirely visible, Aporou could sense its size using [Sense Area]. Its total length was longer than the Crimson Dragon Emperor's body by at least 150 meters, and if its hands were to be held apart, its wingspan would have been more than 300 meters.

As such, its other body parts were also huge in scale.

In front of this massive dragon, Aporou looked like an ant compared to an elephant.

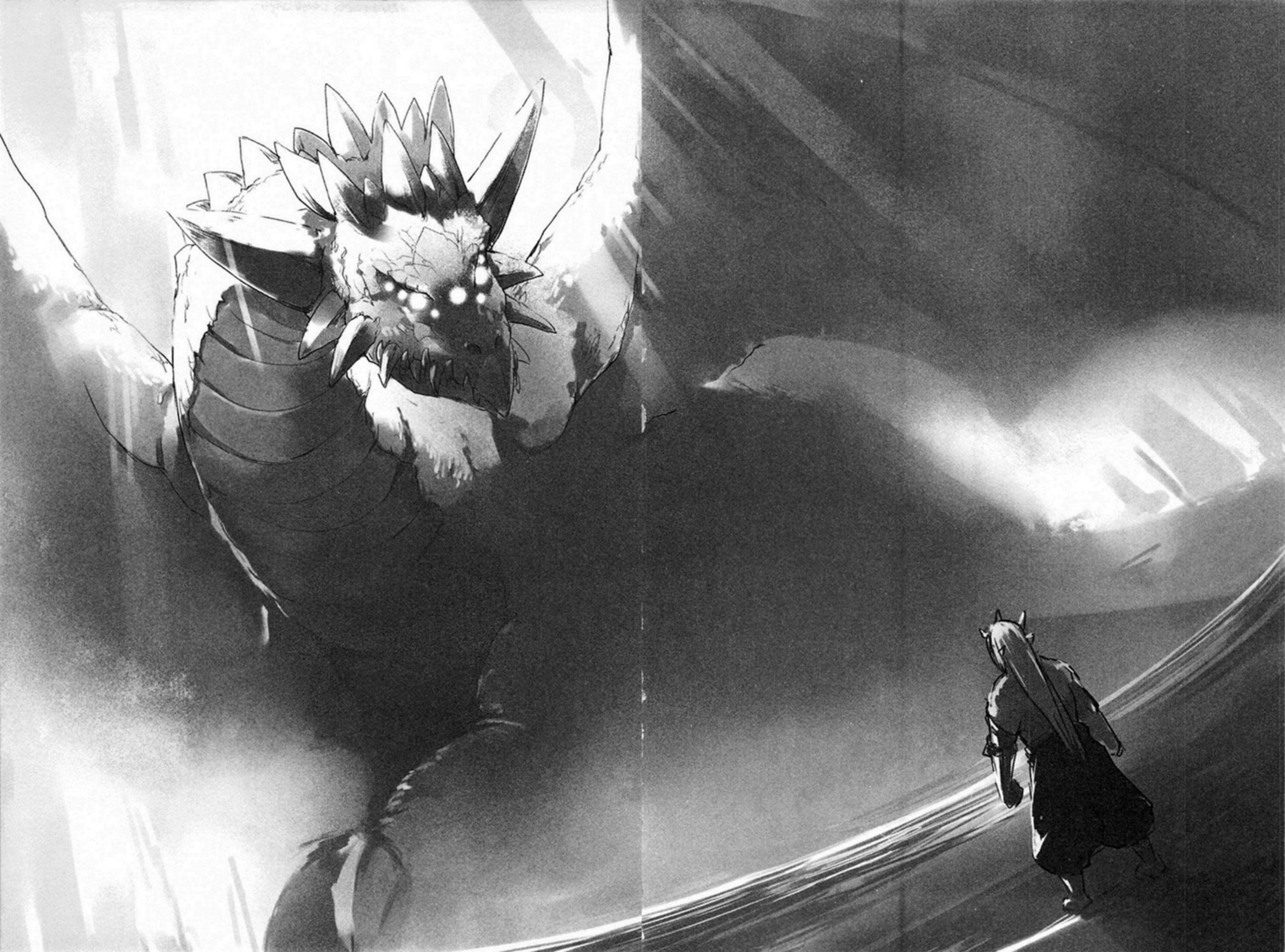
In addition to the huge body, its aura was overwhelming due to the magical power it possessed.

Its power made you feel like you would disappear if its gaze was directed upon you.

If the opponent facing the dragon did not have a strong will like Aporou, he would die with fear on the spot.

The huge dragon looked at the intruder into its lair, and opened up a mouth which could have easily engulfed a building.

"Congratulations, you managed to defeat my husband; and to get here, you are quite worthy." "I am [Musutaria = Ignatos], direct descendant of the proud [Red Flame Dragon Emperor Doragon], according to the contract with [The God of Rebirth] I defend [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain]."



The voice of the Dragon Empress was shockingly beautiful.

It was produced at an extraordinary volume and surprisingly said with a hint of affection, lightly shaking the surroundings.

Aporou was confused because he had expected the empress to be furious after the death of the Crimson Dragon Emperor.

"Before we fight, I'd like to thank you."

"Why? I have killed your husband".

The empress bowed her head slightly, and the surprising action puzzled Aporou once again. However, it didn't seem to be a threatening gesture.

"I do not care so much about that. You are the first person to have reached this far. Thousands of challengers have attempted to do so, but none apart from you succeeded. So I thank you for succeeding, and finally bringing a change to my never-ending stagnation in this place".

After ending her speech, the fiery Dragon Empress opened her mouth wide. Inside her mouth, which was strewn with huge fangs, an incredible amount of magical power began to accumulate and compress. Under the compression, the mana began to distort space, and the air took on a unreal and strange appearance.

Looking at this, chills ran through Aporou's body.

He had a premonition of certain death.

If he did not move instantly, he would die.

And even if he did try to escape, his death was still extremely likely.

Using [Sense Area], he grasped the unimaginable scale of the attack. Even if he used [Emergency Escape], he could still not avoid the range of the attack.

Thus, Aporou realised that an unavoidable, fatal attack was about to be released right at him.

"To start..."

"Kaa....."

Instantly, Aporou leapt into action, setting up his defense while the Dragon Empress prepared to attack.

Using [All Creation], he created countless layers of vacuums by influencing gravity. It acted almost like a black hole.

The power of the field was enough to distort light, and slightly attract any organisms towards it. If an organism was to get too close to it, they would be ripped to shreds.

Aporou had to resort to using such a formidable attack as part of his defense. With its help, he was also able to attract a huge mass of metal which was floating in the lava beyond the final stage. The size of it was huge, easily weighing several hundred tons.

However, it would just float around if it wasn't held in place. Using the ability of his red spears, he replicated several hundred copies and forcibly secured the lump of metal onto the final stage.

Although some of the metal's ability to resist attack fell due to being drilled into by the spears, it was nonetheless quite indestructible to many strong attacks.

The remaining spears also formed a shield wall in front of Aporou.

The size and layers of his present defense were more than enough to prevent the attack of any enemy he had encountered previously. A normal attack would not even leave a scratch.

However, he still had a bad feeling that it wasn't going to be enough.

He turned his silver hand into a semi-circular shield to protect himself from the front, and equipped his armor which had the added attribute of the [Red Bear Beast King's Prestige]. As a result, his fire resistance increased drastically.

For extra measure, he enhanced his body with the [Black Demon Laminated Dragon Scale Armor]. This also led to a boost in his current armor and it started to cover him in a black aura due to the [Black Undead Knight's Cloth].

To increase the defense of his silver arm he activated the profession [Shielder] and [Shield Wall] [Lesser Physical and Magical Damage Reduction], which also resisted

against magical attacks.

He then sacrificed most of his mobility for added defense through [Endurance]. The effect would activate for a short time while he defended. However, it would switch back after the Dragon Empress' attack, allowing him to go on the offense.

Even with all of this, Aporou did not think his defense was perfect. However, it was the best he could do in the short time period before the Dragon Empress' attack.

The Empress released her blistering attack, the [Breathing Flame End], which could not be controlled upon release as it was too powerful.

The entire arena exploded with a storm of white flames, reaching Aporou instantly.  
"....."

The resulting impact battered Aporou, and he struggled to maintain his balance. His teeth began to crack, but he paid no attention to them.

The lightning fast attack was so incredibly hot that it evaporated everything it touched.

The dense layer of vacuums managed to take away some of its momentum, but the sheer force of the attack pushed it through.

The huge mass of metal held for 10 seconds before it too was consumed.

Amazingly, the heat surpassed the absorption limit of the metal, and it began to distort in shape.

This caused a small gap in the mass of metal. The small hole was enough for the flames to burst through, and consume the metal from the inside out.

Aporou's barrier of spears also met the same fate.

Having smashed through his first three layers of defense with only a small loss in power, the flames reached Aporou's silver shield. Such an item was nigh indestructible, and yet the flames still surpassed the amount of heat it could absorb.

Even though the Empress was a servant of the divine, she could not completely destroy the silver hand. While it did not disintegrate, it was warped terribly out of shape, not managing to stop the attack either.

The white flame then reached the black aura that covered his armor.

Although his armor had been reinforced with a plethora of abilities and it provided some resistance, it couldn't suppress the attack completely.

The aura scattered, and then the armor began to melt. The flames met the ability-enhanced skin of Aporou.

Although he had always imbued his skin with large amounts of abilities, it still wasn't enough, and the flames finally overcame his last layer of defense.

The strong smell of burning flesh permeated the air.

The flames had been reduced to a fraction of their original power by the combined might of his defense, but even so Aporou was left barely hanging on to his life.

Somehow managing to make one last effort, he activated [Hyper Speed Regeneration].

And so began the endless process of destruction and regeneration. He knew that if he lost focus for even one second then he was dead.

The flames brutally attacked both his body and his mind, and he almost didn't manage to pull through.

Luckily for him, everything had a beginning and an end.

"...Uuooaaaaaa!!"

The roar from Aporou could finally be heard as the effects of the attack wore off.

Flames that could have easily melted a kingdom were eventually reduced to a more bearable heat. The direct attack was over after Aporou managed to outlast the deadly flames. He managed to survive, just barely.

Afterwards, he collapsed onto one knee. His breathing was ragged and heavy, and his shoulders shook badly. His body smelt of burnt meat.

"Ooooh! I'm glad you managed to survive that! That was excellent!".

[Breathing Flame End] had melted most of the surface of the final stage and lava filled

the surroundings. Breaking through the surroundings walls, it had reached the very [Border Circle].

Without the outer circle, the attack would have definitely left a scar on the face of the huge continent.

An attack like that would have traveled for days. All that came before it would have been vaporized. It would have left a lifeless desert of molten earth in its wake.

The Dragon Empress was awfully glad that Aporou had survived her attack.

"After being here forever, I even forgot how to hold back. Who would have thought an apostle lord would be able to suffer my attack and only collapse!! Although you carry the patronage of the great god."

"You can be proud of yourself, you can truly be proud of yourself! The one who took a direct hit from my breath and lived. From now on, you will be known through legend!"

"As expected from the past tests, as expected from the chosen one of the supreme god."

The fiery Dragon Empress, having a lot of abilities, easily recognized the hidden divine favors in Aporou.

Before, no one had been able to ascertain Aporou's divine blessings.

Hearing this, Aporou thought it would become necessary to block the leakage of information in the future.

Just at this moment, Aporou replied to the fiery Dragon Empress.

"As expected, it was hard."

While he survived, the damage done to Aporou was not insignificant.

His armor, after having suffered serious damage, was seventy percent destroyed and his body suffered from severe burns. Some parts of his body had become charred meat.

The living body armor may have survived, but the silver hand which took most of the damage was severely warped out of shape.

Aporou had made a priority of protecting the head and not the body. Inevitably, this resulted in his body not fully being protected by the living armor and the damage in those regions was very severe. In particular, everything below the elbow in his right arm was missing and the rest was charred to the bone.

Even with the incorporation of [Severe Pain Resistance], the pain violently attacked his body and brain.

Even after receiving such damage, Aporou restored his body with incredible speed and further reinforced his body.

Under the influence of [Blood Elixir] and [Hyper Speed Regeneration], the burnt skin was restored and replaced with a new layer.

Nonetheless, the restoration of his lost right hand was difficult. He had to salvage an arm by taking out the meat of the Dragon Emperor from his item box, and absorb it with [Infused Liquid Restoration].

[Ultra-recovery] and further modifications enabled Aporou to enhance his physical state once again.

Several times stronger than before, Aporou pointed the cursed spear and red spear towards the fiery Dragon Empress.

Even after such an overwhelming attack, there was no despair in the eyes of Aporou.

In fact, they were filled with even more determination, focused on the fiery Dragon Empress.

"Oh, you're able to move already! I thought I would have to wait until you had recovered, but this is even better!"

"I really needed a battle like this to dispel the boredom I have felt for so many years".

Having said that, [Flame Dragon Empress] finally came out of her cave and stepped onto the final arena in her entirety.

This time, she attacked with one of her hands, which were located on her four dragon wings.

A huge hand with wide range and enhanced with long claws attacked extremely quickly despite its large size.

The impact was like a collision with a large truck at full speed. Aporou crossed the red and cursed spears to protect himself.

The blow was extremely fast and made a screeching sound upon contact with the spears, creating a bunch of dazzling sparks.

Aporou had superbly parried the lightning fast claws with his two spears.

To fend off such an attack without using combat techniques was an unheard level of skill for ordinary people.

"Oo! Even that attack was easy to fend off for you! What frightening skills you possess."

In the wake of the first strike, a second hand came swinging at him from the Dragon Empress.

It was much stronger and faster than the previous one, but it was also easily parried. Without a pause, it was followed by three, then four, then five attacks, merging into a continuous series of strokes.

Screeching noises were heard and sparks were scattered each time the opponents clashed, the impacts carving out pieces in the final arena.

"Guuu!"

Even Aporou was surprised that he was able to fend off this dance of fatal blows.

The Dragon Empress was seventy five times larger than Aporou.

Even if it was easy to parry every attack, each blow could be fatal to the mosquito-like Aporou.

"Even at this level, you still avoid being harmed by my attacks? You still resist?" The final arena was painted several times by blood under this barrage of attacks, but Aporou was still alive.

That was because he had used a lot of abilities at the right times, and his reflexes had

sharpened through the long time spent training in combat techniques.

As a result, he had no wasted movements and his attacks looked like a beautiful dance.

But even for Aporou, the Dragon Empress' constant attacks prevented any counterattack.

No victory could be attained only by parrying.

To win, going on the offensive was absolutely necessary, especially as precious time was slipping away.

"Even with this damaged body, you are trying so bravely. It is a very magnificent spectacle... And what kind of attack will be enough to break you, really..."

"My next move will be interesting, how will you deal with it?" [Sizzling Meteorite]

The Flame Dragon Empress raised her hands to the top of her wings, and with the help of her huge magical power, used a type of magic known only to Dragons.

She summoned a flaming meteor that was sixty five meters in diameter, which came crashing down on the final stage.

Coming under such an attack, even Aporou would be crushed. The attack, unlike the claws, came from the top and was much bigger, which made parrying impossible.

In order to get out of this dire situation, Aporou decided to use one of his hidden trump cards.

[Demon Orb Liberation]

The mixture of black, red and golden colored Demon Orbs embedded in his breast and on both elbows and knees simultaneously melted.

The substance completely enveloped Aporou's body.

The huge fiery meteorite was called forbidden magic [Dragon Magic: Sizzling Meteorite] and had the power to destroy a small country. It approached from the sky at a high speed and was aimed directly at Aporou.

Its majestic appearance looked like a sun was falling on the arena and it raised the

temperature of the final stage even higher.

The Empress retreated to avoid the direct impact, and the meteorite crashed onto the final stage without any interference.

After that, everything was consumed by a sea of flames. The earth quaked from the titanic blow and the walls shook so hard that they began to crumble.

First, there was a bright flash. It was not the type of flash that would blind you, but the type that incinerated everything.

Then, the sound wave came, louder than the roar of the dragon. The physical destruction was like the sound had the force of a hammer.

A moment later came the shock wave. Any living thing within the radius of impact would have turned to mush upon contact as it spread outwards in the final stage. Obliterating fragments scattered everywhere at high speed.

The destruction caused by the meteorite covered the entire arena.

"Hmm. I overdid it a little again?"

The incredibly strong final arena had been partially destroyed by only one of the Dragon Empress' magic attacks.

The Empress had survived the destruction of the meteorite due to her dragon scales. The Flame Dragon Empress, who was bathed in flame, carefully looked around the arena.

But as a result of the impact, the area was still covered with flames and debris, and it was not surprising that she could not find her target.

However, that was unavoidable.

The area where Aporou had been standing had been destroyed, and torrents of lava and debris filled the spot. Rising plumes of smoke caused a thick fog which enveloped the arena.

It might have been different if there had been any sort of movement from him, but in this situation, even the dragon's eyes could not find him.

"Umm. I think he failed."

"As expected, it was too much. I should have at least found out his name."

After not finding Aporou or feeling more of his presence, the Flame Dragon Empress thought he was dead.

It could be felt that her face expressed disappointment, because although a dragon's emotions are rather difficult to understand, it was easy to judge by the tone of the voice.

After waiting a long, long time, she finally met the creature she had wanted to fight, and now regretted using such an overwhelming spell.

Suddenly, she noticed a shadow moving in the corner of her field of vision.

"Umm, that's..."

Turning her head, a cold shiver ran through the body of the Flame Dragon Empress.

It was a very uncomfortable feeling, like having ice travel down your spine.

Before the Flame Dragon Empress could understand what was happening, her instincts kicked in, forcing her to evade the deadly attack.

She quickly crouched, flattening her body to the battle field. She was still about the size of a house, but these actions saved her.

"Addhh!"

Since she had become a dungeon boss, this was the first time she had felt such pain.

It was felt as if her whole back was violently burning.

Aporou had originally gone for a fatal wound to the neck, but instead her wing-arms were completely ripped apart.

"What is it?"

From the stumps, a huge amount of blood exploded outwards.

The blood vessels in the Dragon Empress were extremely thick. Her heart circulated blood with a very strong beat, and constantly sent out enormous volumes of blood.

As a result of the thick artery being severed, there was a large fountain of blood, irrigating the entire battlefield like rain.

This rain of potent blood would cause instant death if not evaporated immediately.

However, there was one more creature in addition to the Dragon Empress who was bathed in the blood.

"Ohhh, how delicious!"

Completely, covered with blood that he enjoyed as if it were expensive wine, the creature licked off chunks of meat which were left on the red spear.

Fallen into a trance, as if it have caught a great ingredient was none other than Aporou.

However, Aporou now looked significantly different from how he had looked earlier.

"Fuwa Fu wa wa wa wa!

"It's serious! Great, just great! This overwhelming aura, this arrogance!"

"As expected from the chosen one of the [Great God], who so admirably managed to get to here!"

Aporou, who was staring at the Flame Dragon Empress, stood on a fairly large fragment of the final stage.

And all of his body except for the silver hand was covered with the gold, black and red suit, the color of his Demon Orb.

Unlike other armors and exoskeletons, this gold and black suit tightly hugged his body, and was similar to the ones he had worn in his previous life.

But unlike those, which were made of elastic materials, this one had the hidden ability to freely transform.

Constantly changing, the suit grew another pair of hands the same color as the suit

and he became the four-handed demon.

He had transformed as a result of the activation of the Demon Orb, whose properties were different for each individual.

For example, a Fire Lord would have received a flaming great sword, and a Gale Lord would have received emerald armor. That is, each Lord would receive his own individual style of combat methods upon activation.

In the case of Aporou, he had received the whole body armor. All at once, it was a weapon with an infinite number of variations and forms.

Aporou had finished eating the chunks of meat left on his weapons. Rather than being held by him, they were now attached to his forearms.

As a result, his main arms were free to attack through the hydraulic punch, made through the Demon Orb.

You would expect that his spears would get in the way of his fighting, but instead they shot out at high speeds with greater attack power and destruction than could be attained by fighting by hand.

Even if it was to be a problem, it wasn't worrying because he was Aporou.

"OOOooooooooo!!!"

Equipped with his spears on both arms, Aporou roared using [Death Dealing Roar (Desperado)].

It was the voice of death, hunting out the life in living beings.

But in order to take the life of the Flame Dragon Empress, it was not strong enough. In fact, he was not even able to impose any negative status effects.

In terms of attack, it would have been a meaningless roar.

But having absorbed the blood of the Flame Dragon Empress and using the skill [Bloodsucking Vampire], Aporou had significantly increased his strength and now throbbed with a huge amount of energy.

After absorbing the shower of blood from the fiery Dragon Empress, he headed straight for her, accelerated by the ability of the [Black King's Mad Advance]. His lightning attack was faster than sound.

"Shaa!"

But the Flame Dragon Empress would not just stand there in silence, she was not that weak.

She struck with her right forearm using magical power.

It was a terrible blow, also exceeding the speed of sound.

The sharpness of her claws would easily be able to penetrate Aporou's defenses.

But Aporou narrowly avoided it by leaping with perfect timing. If he had sped up, or hesitated for even a second, he would have turned into a spray of blood.

But having avoided it, he flew forward without stopping.

At the same time, the armor on his feet transformed into a sharp knife, which carved out distinctive footprints.

He used the techniques of [Penetrating Physical Damage] and [Greater Strengthening of Penetrating Attacks] together, and collided with the Dragon Empress.

"Ooooooooo!"

From the feet to the knee, from the knee to the waist, from the waist to the back, from the back to the shoulders, he attacked every part of her body with the red spear, amplifying the damage at each site. He easily penetrated the Empress' dragon scales, slicing through the muscles and getting to the bone.

But there was still not enough in it. It was not strong enough to kill the Flame Dragon Empress.

Even if his body was heavily soaked in blood from [Bloodsucking Vampire] and his abilities increased from the Demon Orb, there was still a huge difference in size.

Even with the previous attack, where he was able to cut off the dragon's hand-wings,

it was only due to the fact that the Empress had weakened her vigilance.

Her body contained a huge amount of magical energy, which made it possible to withstand the attack, and each attack would be immediately countered.

This is precisely why Aporou did the following.

Immediately synthesising a combination of abilities, he activated the [Renovate Tyrannical Power of the Black Demon] [Divine Destruction of the Black Demon].

After using it, there was a huge illusory hand which was capable of interacting with matter, raising Aporou's physical abilities to a completely different level.

"Ooooooraa!"

The illusory fist directly hit the stomach of the fiery dragon empress with an impact similar to a meteorite, with a huge shock wave. At the site of impact, a storm of lightning exploded outwards.

The blow that Aporou had just landed to her stomach was more than just terrible, its strength was such that it was impossible to imagine.

This single attack by the relatively tiny Aporou was magnified in impact several times, with a size comparable to the mountain-sized Dragon Empress.

At the point of impact, dragon scales were broken or dented inwards, and the durable dragon armor easily broke apart.

The lightning burned countless wounds on her body, and blood gushed out from all of these.

With the blow exceeding even the Dragon's carapace in strength, bones broke with a thud, and ruptured some of the internal organs.

The powerful attack was so unexpected that the shocked fiery Dragon empress gasped for breath, and even so, the attack was still not over.

"What was that!!??"

A golden thread was attached to the body of the Dragon Empress.

Due to her collapsed posture and shock, she could not counterattack, and did not have time to concentrate on magical defense.

Using the golden thread released from his auxiliary arm, Aporou shot onto the shoulder of the fiery dragon empress, and this time attacked with his hydraulic punch.

It struck with amazing speed, around 10 times per second, and was well suited to the destruction of the thick armored enemies.

In addition, Aporou possessed the profession of [Master Spearman] and combat maneuver arts [Lotus Flower Spear]. His red spear and cursed spear radiated with a murderous aura of crimson.

[Aporou used combat maneuver arts [Lotus Flower Spears]]

The attack became stronger with [Continuous Thrust] and [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears], improving the power and speed of each blow.

As a result, [Continuous Thrust], [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] and [Triple Stab] along with the hydraulic punch greatly increased the attack speed, attack power and attack range.

The dragon armor was drilled through as if it were paper.

The cursed spear and red spear penetrated the body of a fiery dragon empress like a spoon through pudding.

With his spears drilling deeper into her flesh, even the Dragon Empress probably felt some fear.

Her pain-filled roar echoed throughout the arena.

"Gaaaaaa!!"

At this point, because of the magical power in her body, her armor ignited in a quick burst.

The temperature of her burning armor was much hotter than the meteorite and the lava. Even Aporou was in danger, so he decided to quickly retreat before his body started to fry.

While doing so, he managed to gather the Empress' right hand which had been gouged out by his attacks.

They glared at each other across the battlefield.

Aporou ate the first-class meat of the fiery dragon empress whilst keeping an eye on the Empress.

Then the fear of the fiery Dragon Empress was replaced by rage and her whole body erupted in hot flames.

Her evil glance was brimming with magical power, and caused a distortion of the force field in between them.

"Fu fu wa wa wa wa wa."

"The frightening truth of such a dreadful creature. No chance that he can destroy this flesh so easily. However, his sufficient strength to obtain flesh and increase his force is what makes him less afraid."

The severed wing-hand as well as the chopped off right arm had already begun to recover.

First of all, the Empress had incredible regeneration. In addition to that, she had an ability higher than [Fire Resistance], higher than the [Complete Fire Resistance] and even higher than [Immunity to heat]. She had [Heat Absorption], which allowed her to absorb the surrounding heat of the lava, generating a huge amount of energy to accelerate her recovery.

This place was the perfect battleground for the Dragon Empress.

While the Empress could recover this way, Aporou could eat her severed leg, increasing his strength.

Together with the acquisition of this power, his Demon Orbs also changed. These changes were more like full evolution, rather than improve.

And in less than a few tens of seconds, a full recovered Dragon Empress attacked just as Aporou finished eating.

In battle their forces were equal, with every single attack having the power of changing the local landscape.

This battle for life and death was such that it was like a myth descended from the pages of legends.

◊ ◊ ◊

The battle carried on until late, largely due to the fact that the fiery dragon empress just had incredible recovery and stamina.

Frankly, I did not think one single demon could win this battle.

But you should try the meat once... I almost went to heaven with delight.

When you consider that and take into account the pros and cons, the pros probably still outweigh the cons.

Soaked in her blood, I'm enlightened. It was unimaginably rich, and I can only compare it to the taste of first-class wine which has had long-term exposure.

Although to be honest, that was still not sufficient to describe the taste.

Just one bite and my fatigue is completely removed.

If you ask me of what it can be compared, it was too great to be compared with anything I had ever eaten before.

# DAY 245

The sun is probably already setting outside.

I can't confirm that though while in the spot of the decisive battle. Still, we somehow finished our fierce fight against the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress] which took almost an entire day.

Since I'm still alive, looks like I win this time.

Although I was able to win with my own power, to be honest, it's really hard to say if it could even be considered as my victory.

My battle with the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress] kept on going thanks to instantaneous recovery. Near the end, the 8 Demon Generals, which includes Kanamichan, were in the vicinity and we performed a combined attack from the sky against the Dragon. As a result, they all [Ranked Up].

For the members who evolved, their powers weren't equal but it was enough to create a large gaping hole in the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress'] body.

Even though we killed her by chance, since I received quite the damage from her wrath and got severely weakened, it's hard to consider it as my victory.

Sadly, I couldn't subjugate the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress] by myself. I feel grateful however, since if I didn't have backup, the results might have become the opposite. I have no complaints.

No matter what, being alive means there's still hope. If I die, I wouldn't be able to enjoy my life to its fullest.

Even though there will be hardships, I think I'll just enjoy it slowly and carefully.

While thinking on the ground, I stare at the corpse of the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress]. It's quite difficult to even move one finger. With wounds all over my body and being only a step away from "Magic Power Deficiency", I'm like half-dead right now.

Ever since I reincarnated, I never fought something like the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress]. It was my first all-out battle. At that time, I used [Self Replication] to keep myself hidden and prepared [Complete Restoration] in case I instantly die from an attack. I even used my Demon Orbs, using all abilities that I kept hidden as a trump card.

Even so, it was quite a dreadful story as I couldn't raise the odds any further. I would've been killed multiple times if it weren't for [Complete Restoration]. I am grateful to the bottom of my heart for having such an insurance in hand.

Despite that, [Fervor Absorption] wasn't enough to maintain my complete restoration ability. Also, the Heroes who died here before had turned into "Demi Dragonewts". Thinking about it, the capabilities of the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress] are quite terrifying.

It has been said that the [God of Reincarnation] that sometimes appears made this place impossible to capture.

It's a bit inconvenient that [■ Beast's Domain Protection] changed into [Divine Beast's Domain Protection] only now but since it made it easier to handle my abilities, this time, I should be able to fight much better with someone who has the same ability.

If possible though, I don't want to fight something like the [Mother Flame Dragon Empress] for a while. After defeating her with all my strength, I think that would be fine.

There's a lot of things to think about but since I could easily fall asleep like a log right now, it would be troublesome to hold on to those intentions.

Once I wake up and recover, I'll eat until my belly's full. While thinking of various things, I lose consciousness just as I catch sight of a crying Kanami-chan and the others approaching me —

[Dungeon Boss [Adamaza Empress Dragon] has been successfully subjugated]

[Cleared the conditions for [Mountain Dragon's Blazing Flames] of the God's Lost Psalms, [Defeating the Empress] [Core Fusion] [Feudal Lord Denial] has been accomplished]

[All participants will be given the Special Skill [One who subjugates Divine Beasts] ]

[All participants will be given the Special Skill [Dragon Flame's Principle] ]

[As a bonus for being the first to subjugate, the treasure chest [Corpse Treasure of the Empress] will be given to all participants]

[As a privilege for conquering, the ban on the use of the Warp Gate is lifted]

[Please note that only those who conquered the dungeon can use the Warp Gate]

[For those who have Awakened the Psalms／The key figures of God's Lost Psalms, a part of the [God of Reincarnation]'s divine power will be granted]

[As the collector is an important figure of a Greater God, the quality of the Divine Power collected will be inferior]

[Portions of the Divine Power rejected by this rule will be turned into an object]

[Yatendouji has obtained [God of Resurrection's Dragon Jewel - Ignatus Fuorna]!!]

It seems like something appeared nearby.

A treasure chest or something similar had appeared. I couldn't confirm it though since I can't move my body.

[By clearing the release conditions [Demigod's Dungeon Conquest] and [God's Dungeon Conquest], Yatendouji's locked special skill [■ ■ ■ ■] will be released.]

[Yatendouji has obtained Special Skill [Dungeon Plunder]!!]

[The effects of the Special Skill [Dungeon Plunder] allows complete mastery and ownership of the conquered dungeon.]

[Conforming to the conditions, it is possible to seize the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain].

[Will you do so?]

[ <YES> <NO> ]

Well. While thinking about it, I temporarily choose <YES>.

[Special Ability [Dungeon Plunder] has been invoked.]

At this moment, control of the [Flames of Fire Dragon Mountain] will shift from the [God of Reincarnation] to Yatendouji]

[From now on, please manage the dungeon at your own discretion]

Oh? Isn't this nice? Is that all?

I try to think further but as it turns out, there's not much time left. Most of my consciousness has already been swallowed by darkness ---

[Level has exceeded the minimum value.]

[Because the special Conditions <Emperor Slaying> <Great Hero's Annexation> <Single Demon Annihilation> <Standard Border Transgression> <Great God's Declaration> <God's Verse Conquest> have been cleared, it is possible to [Rank Up] into [Demon King of Destruction (Destruction King) - Transcended Species (Superior Species)]

[Rank Up]?

[ <YES> <NO> ]

Without any hesitation, I select <NO>.

Even as an Apostle Lord, I already know that I am capable of fighting against the likes of the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress]. Abilities would be harder to learn as well, something that I want to avoid.

Therefore, I selected <NO> in regards to becoming a [Demon King of Destruction - Superior Species].

[<NO> was selected]

[Other choices will be displayed.]

[Because the Special Conditions <Emperor Slaying> <Army Corps Unification> <Dominion Construction> <Standard Border Transgression> <Great God's Declaration> <God's Verse Conquest> have been cleared, it is possible to [Rank Up]

into [Demon Emperor of Conquest – Superior Species]

[Rank Up]?

[ <YES> <NO> ]

There are other choices?! No. Thinking about it, since it's a choice, it's only reasonable that there would be other options available!

I unintentionally retort.

I select <NO> again. Since I don't have any reason to become a Demon Emperor, I reject the idea of turning into one.

[<NO> was selected]

[Other choices will be displayed.]

[Because the Special Conditions <Emperor Slaying> <Emperor Factor> <Greater God's Involvement> <Conformity with a God's Cause> <■■■■■> <■■■■■> <■■■■■> <■■■■■> have been cleared, it is possible to [Rank Up] into [Vajrayaksa Overlord – Living God Species (Vizra Species)]

[Rank Up]?

<YES> <NO>

Eh? What's this? I didn't think that the Demon King and Demon Emperor were good ideas but for Overlord to suddenly appear, I can't help but think about it.

If I were to follow [Intuition], it would be <YES>. But, when I think about abilities, it would be a <NO>.

Troubling. This is quite troublesome and worrying about it is also troublesome as I'm already sleepy.

This time, I decide to follow [Intuition].

I choose <YES> then fall asleep from exhaustion.

[Yatendouji's Special Skill [Dungeon Plunder] will change according to the condition [Living God Rank].

[Yatendouji has obtained [Dungeon Plunder – Howls of the Underworld]!!]

[As Yatendouji has achieved [Living God Rank], [Formal Wife of the ■ Demon] and [Consort of the ■ Demon] will be changed to [Formal Wife of the Overlord] and [Consort of the Overlord] respectively.]

[The titles [Formal Wife of the Overlord] and [Consort of the Overlord] will be granted favor in normalcy]

[By clearing the release condition [Living God Rank], Yatendouji's locked special skill [■ ■ ■ ■] will be released]

**[Yatendouji has obtained special skill [World Enemy – The Gluttony]!!]**

## **DAY 246-249**

**THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS DAY. THE AUTHOR DID NOT WRITE ANYTHING FOR IT.**

After the fight and ranking up into a Vajrayaksa Overlord, Rou spent the next four days asleep. He awakens on Day 250.

# DAY 250

It feels like I've been dreaming for a long time. I'm very sure that it was a dream of me fighting... or I think it was a nostalgic meeting with someone.

I might have heard some important things but I can't recall the details. Well, it's a dream anyway. It can't be helped to forget the details when waking up. For now, I'll stop thinking about it and focus on my current state.

Upon waking up, the first thing I see is something quite strange, tinted with a mix of black, red, gold, and silver. It looks just like metal. From touch, it's quite warm and elastic. It's like I'm inside a body of sorts. However, rather than being unpleasant, it's actually quite comfortable.

I am completely wrapped by something similar to an eggshell. From what little I remember, looks like it formed around me. Anyway, it's my Demon Orb. Also, looks like some long thin threads where extending from my body.

It might be a bit late for me to realize but since silver was mixed in with black, red, and gold, I am pretty sure that my Demon Orbs had also changed when I ranked up.

Though it's fine, I still wonder why the color had suddenly changed. Perhaps, before I slept, after having suffered grievous wounds throughout my body and in order to heal and keep myself safe, I made it unconsciously.

Whether that's true or not though isn't obvious. Well, it's a trivial manner. Since I'm still alive, I won't question it.

After a quick check, my body seems fine so I decide to quickly get out. Upon getting out of the shell formed from my Demon Orbs, I appear once more around the place where the decisive battle took place. Not much had changed since I went to sleep.

The first thing I notice is the corpse of the Flame Dragon Empress. It seems to be covered in ice made out of powerful magic.

The magical ice is very thick and it'll be difficult to melt and shatter it. For a moment, I think about who could form such a thing but quickly understand that the ice closely

resembles Kanami-chan's magic.

Definitely her. She took the trouble in preserving the corpse of the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress] with ice until I wake up. She's still a considerate wife as always.

After thanking her consideration, I start paying attention to the lava rising around the decisive battlefield. It is still emitting extreme heat like before but the lava appears to have cooled down, having turned to black. I wonder if it's because of the powerful magical ice that is currently located in the middle, or maybe it's because I became the owner of this place. Still, the lava seems to have lost its vigor.

Although it's still quite hot, it's cooler at least compared to before. Thanks to my [Rank Up], even if my body is exposed right now, it will take time for me to turn black from the heat. Well, my skin's already black anyway.

After confirming my surroundings, I start checking out my body. While I feel a little bit taller than my original height of two meters, the broadness of my arms and legs has not changed that much.

However, my whole body feels so powerful that it can't even be compared to before. The difference is like between heaven and earth.

As a test, I lightly swing my fist, creating countless gales which strike the wall of rocks in the distance like thunder, shattering and scattering pieces of rocks around. This time, I slowly raise my foot and just like before, violent winds appear and strike the wall once more in the distance, leaving scars similar to the aftermath of a bombing run.

I'd like to say that both were just weak attacks but they had considerable destructive power. Without even using any abilities, doesn't this mean that most monster won't even be considered a match against me? Still, if I have this much while not being serious, I'm a bit anxious in just how much strength will be displayed if I go all out.

I'd first need to learn how to control my strength for my everyday life. Also, it feels like various abilities also improved greatly in order to keep up with the physical strength I got from [Rank Up].

Since I'm a bit hungry, I try to create a [Black Taurus Demon] using [Summon Archfiend]. It looks like the summoning time has been substantially shortened. Also, not only is the amount of magic consumed easy to recover in an instant, the equipment

and ability of the summoned being has also been enhanced.

Even though I haven't tried out the other [Summon] abilities yet, I feel like they are now easier to use thanks to my current condition.

While thinking how pleasant it is, I continue eating the [Black Taurus Demon] energetically. I then check and try to trace my finger on the golden tattoos covering my whole body.

The tattoos have changed a bit. Why it changed somewhat interests me so I sort of try to feel it out. It looks like the patterns have various effects when utilized such as increasing my offensive power.

I'd like to investigate later but for now, I'll examine other things. Originally, I had three horns but now, it had increased into five sharp and thicker horns. They have sharp edges and are slightly curved, extending as if they were trying to pierce the sky. It looks almost like a crown.

As an Apostle Lord, my hair was silver gray in color but now, it is silver white. Since the length's still the same which is up to my waist, I bundle it all into a pony tail and tie it with my golden thread.

My red eyes had changed into golden eyes but other than that, not much else has changed. I think it's a waste to change too much so I'm fine with just this.

Surprisingly though, I now have four arms. The two new arms were located near the shoulder, just below the armpit. I can move them without any problems. They were a bit longer than my original arms but thanks to that, it is unlikely that the two new arms would interfere with my original pair.

Before, my left arm was the only silver arm but looks like it had expanded as well. Not only to my right arm but also to my two new arms.

Namely, right now, all four of my arms had turned into silver arms. Moreover, it looks like silver arms have been strengthened compared to before along with the help of the [Fury of the Haughty King (Beowulf)] which is currently equipped in my right arm.

It looks like the [Fury of the Haughty King (Beowulf)] cannot be equipped at the same time as the exoskeleton. I thought it got destroyed when my right arm along with the armor got incinerated by the fire breath of the [Mother Flame Dragon Empress], but

looks like my worry was for naught.

Even though I became an Overlord, I apparently still have Demon Orbs. The orbs have a unique hue of black, red, gold, and silver which is the most prominent color.

There is an orb in the center of my chest, in my four elbows and four hands, both knees, in my navel, and in both sides of my shoulder.

In other words, there are 14 Demon Orbs in total. This is far more than the original 5 I had previously. I wonder what will happen if I use all of the orbs at once.

Even just one orb is already powerful. Now being a Vajrayaksa Overlord, I wonder if I could even face an enemy that would force me to use them.

Next, I take notice of the fact that I am currently wearing some sort of personal armor. In addition to my former pants, there is a clothing similar to the mantle found in Hagoromo plays.

It's quite comfortable and it resembles the design of a kimono with a black color, decorated with gold and silver. I personally like it.

It's quite light, enough that I can't feel the weight so it wouldn't interfere with my movements. I try stretching it as much as I can yet there are no signs of tearing, making it a very reliable armor. Checking myself more though would just be troublesome.

While thinking if there are any more changes to my body, I hear someone from behind me. Turning to my back, I see Kanami-chan who is out of breath.

While I wasn't sure at first, I believe she teleported here based on the warp gate emitting a pale blue light at her feet. She probably sensed that I was awake and quickly went here without a delay. After [Rank Up], it looks like Kanami-chan has become even more beautiful.

Her peerless skin is just as pure as maiden snow. Her beautiful hair has no split ends. The movements of her slender and flexible limbs are refined and full of grace. Her narrow waist looks nice and easy to hold. Her breasts are neither too big nor too small, are appropriately shaped, and looks very soft. Her fascinating cherry lips would make anyone throb from just staring.

But the most outstanding part of Kanami-chan is her exotic presence which rules the

surroundings. No matter which gender, one can't help but admire her. To see Kanami-chan in tears, slightly shaking and covering her lips with both hands, I must say she looks quite lovely.

Even though I'm admiring her unintentionally, it's not a joke. After falling in love once again, Kanami-chan runs straight towards me.

Her terrific speed is slightly faster than the speed of sound. Like the impact of a cannonball and casually creating a shockwave, she embraces me as I open my 4 silver arms and hold her firmly in return. Such an aggressive embrace would've blown away a person but for me, I remain immobile as I received it.

Rather, I was quite afraid of accidentally hurting Kanami-chan as I stopped and held her. However, it looks like my worry was for naught.

Unless I hug her seriously, the current Kanami-chan should be able to put up with it for a bit.

Embracing her closely, my nose is getting tickled by Kanami-chan's fragrant scent. My lust is being stimulated right now. However, since she is complaining to me while crying, I can't follow my desire.

She keeps on repeatedly hitting me in the chest with all her strength, creating sounds similar to a carpet bombing. As my punishment for making her worry, I just accept it. I weave words while comforting her at the same time. I think she might be pouting a little bit right now.

Looks like I made her seriously worried. After all, several days had passed since the fight with the [Flame Mother Dragon Empress]. At that time, she saw me in my half-dead state and with my body in tatters. Since I got wrapped up in a shell in order to recover, she could not confirm my current state.

In other words, Kanami-chan's worry had piled up until this moment, where it had all erupted. So, rather than meeting everyone right now, I instead create a cover made out of the Skeleton Centipedes to prevent any hindrances or observations of us.

Rushing inside, we perform a night battle. Since I got permission, it was inevitable. Looks like Kanami-chan really wants a child.



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