

Re:Monster

リ・モンスター

金斬鬼狐
Kankoku Koutoku

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RE:MONSTER

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

- VOLUME 2 -

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[Re:Monster Wiki]



DAY 61

Since many things happened today, it'll be difficult to mention everything. I'll do my best to avoid talking about pointless things, and summarize everything that happened today from start to finish.

First, there are eight new hobgoblins. Moreover, two of them were Mages and one was a Cleric.

The one who became a Cleric have a close relationship with Gobuji-kun, so it was probably due to the influence of Gobuji-kun. The number of Clerics increased as I expected and I found myself grinning wickedly.

There are also others who evolved too.

When Gobumi-chan who was a hobgoblin yesterday woke up, she had become an entirely different species called a [Dhampir - Variant]. The change in her appearance isn't even comparable to the time when she Ranked Up from a goblin to a hobgoblin.

Or perhaps I should say that it's pointless to even try to compare them.

She was at least 180 cm tall with a charming body, a narrow waist accentuated by her breasts that would overflow in your hands, a beautiful moon-like face more fleeting than an elf's, glittering silver hair that flowed down to her waist, fine skin, and finally, red eyes with golden pupils.

She also acquired the [[God of Ice]'s Divine Protection] which allows her to generate and manipulate large amounts of ice. According to Gobujii, the [Divine Protection] of a [God] is above that of a [Demigod]. It's extremely rare, even rarer than getting two [Demigod]-class [Divine Protections] which Gobukichi-kun possesses.

And although it's hard to imagine from her delicate appearance, but her strength and agility is remarkably different from before. I dare say that she would be evenly matched with Gobukichi-kun whose base stats were higher than me.

Moreover, because of her [Variant] status, the characteristic weakness to the sunlight that the undead race which include the [Vampire]-lineage have is neutralized.

As always, she'd be able to go out at any time, even during the day.

To summarize the change in her appearance, Gobumi-chan became extremely beautiful. Understanding that much is good, but her appearance bothered me... I felt like I have seen that face somewhere before... it felt like the mature face of an acquaintance of mine.

For some reason, whenever I try to remember who it is, my memories get jumbled up, so I'll drop it for now, since there are more important things that happened today.

Now, on to Gobue-chan.

Gobue-chan Ranked Up to a variety of the [Lord] species called a [Half-Earth Lord]. She was not a [Variant] though.

She was at least 240 centimeters tall, approaching my height with a stout and solid muscular physique. She had two large horns extending out 20 cm from her temporal regions and curving on her head. She's a short yellow hair and garnet-like eyes. Her skin appeared to be firm but still soft like that of a woman. Her breasts were comparable to the size of watermelons but had better shape to them. Lastly, she had yellowish gems around five centimeter in diameter embedded in her abdomen as well as under both of her elbows. They are similar to the gem that Hobusei-san possess, these gems are called Demon Orbs, they are always embedded in the bodies of [Lords] and contain abilities corresponding to their characteristics and variety.

The racial abilities of Half-Earth Lords are specialized in manipulating earth. One of them was related to mining, this ability which is called [Complete Geological Comprehension] enables her of perceiving the brittle points in the bedrock, it'll raise her mining efficiency greatly.

To test her new abilities, I asked her to mine with her bare hands which acted like a drill drilling through the wall which easily gave way. She dug more effectively barehanded now than when she was equipped with a [Unique]-Ranked pickaxe as a hobgoblin. In summary, her mining efficiency rose dramatically after her Rank Up. Consequently, we can mine ores and [Spirit Stones] much faster than before now.

It seems she can use the [Lightning] magic system to some extent too, it's used to detect ores, etc. during mining. She'll be able to find many types of ores from now on.

What can I say, Gobue-chan's mining capabilities improved a lot. When you single-mindedly put your effort in something you like the results can get astounding.

Of course, Gobue-chan's combat powers can't be underestimated too. She can easily smash rocks with her bare hands, imagine what would happen if something alive was hit by one of those blows.

A body is more fragile than bedrock, it would turn into a meat paste. Scary, scary.

Now, moving on to Hobusato-san.

Because Hobusato-san has always been good with swords, she became a [Lord]. She Ranked Up into a [Half-Blood Lord]. Like Gobue-chan she is just a normal [Lord] and not a [Variant].

She is two meters tall, with clearly defined muscles. She has modest breasts, in the center of her forehead was a 15 cm long ruby-like horn that extended out. She has carnelian colored pupils, slightly red skin and long blood-red hair that was bound by a string into a ponytail. She also had two bright red [Demon Orbs] about five cm in diameter embedded in the back of both of her hands.

Note: a carnelian is a brownish red gemstone

Although she didn't gain the ability to use magic, her physical capabilities had grown in leaps and bounds. Apparently, [Blood Lords] specialize in close quarters combat.

Moreover, the "Blood" in their name refers to their ability to manipulate their own blood and the blood of others. There are conditions to do so though.

Even if she cannot use magic, the ability to manipulate blood and her physical capabilities made her quite strong, especially in a battlefield where blood constantly flows. If we are talking about only direct combat ability she would likely be in the third or fourth place in our group.

Although she is considerably weaker than Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan in terms of physical power, however, I think that the racial abilities [Predict], [Precognition] and [Intuition] which she gained after her Rank Up would cover most of the difference in physical power.

Anyways, everyone mysteriously developed a black tattoo similar to mine like Hobusei-san, but they differed slightly in the design and placement.

Gobumi-chan's was one on her back, Hobusato-san's and Gobue-chan's were on their arms respectively. The hobgoblins had them on various places like the leg, arm or the neck.

Well, for now there's no use thinking mulling over them because I don't have enough information about them and they didn't give me a bad feeling, I can also feel power flowing in them.

I will probably be able to find out what they're in the future after I go outside the forest.

To celebrate their Ranking Up I passed out two magic items to each hobgoblin.

Gobumi-chan received a dress sewn using a steel-like thread and blue and white fabrics made with dark magic, it's called [The Undead Princess's Dress of Mist], I also gave her the [Demonic Eye Sealing Eyeglasses] which have the power to suppress her new racial ability [Eyes of Bewitchment]. Lastly, I gave her a claymore-type magic sword made from eternal ice crystals, [Drop of Moonlight], it looked like a piece of art.

Gobue-chan got two new magic items big enough for her to be able to wield them efficiently with her size, the [Earth Goddess's War Pick] and the [Earth Goddess's Shovel], they possess abilities suitable for her. Because her old clothes couldn't fit any more, I also gave her three sets of a gray protective garment-type magic item, it looked a little like a jumpsuit. Lastly, she said that she wanted something to wipe her sweat with when she's mining, so I gave her a few enchanted towels made from my threads.

To Hobusato-san, I gave a set of armor-type magic items consisting of full plate armor made from red iron and a red cape which have a high physical and magical resistances. Lastly, I gave her a magic long-sword [Blood Princess], that has the ability to suck blood, though I doubt it will be useful after she becomes capable of controlling her [Demon Orbs].

I gave bracelet-type magic items with a spatial storage ability - just like the ones I gave Gobukichi-kun and Hobusei-san - to the three who Ranked Up beyond a hobgoblin.

After she wore the dress, Gobumi-chan totally looked like a noble's daughter. Gobue-chan didn't pull the zipper on the front all the way up, liberating her top - she's

wrapping one of the towels I gave her around her chest - down to her navel. Hobusato-san who has the look of a knight with her whole body dyed in red gave off a dangerous atmosphere.



Although I'm the one who gave them their new equipment as presents, all of them lined together looked quite formidable.

Nevertheless, we are still using our old names like Goburou, Gobukichi-kun and such even though we had Ranked Up so much, we started feeling a little strange doing that, because we aren't goblins nor hobgoblins anymore.

I asked Gobujii about it and these are the new names that he came up with:

- Goburou → Ogarou
- Gobukichi-kun → Ogakichi-kun
- Gobumi-chan → Dhammi-chan
- Gobue-chan → Asue-chan
- Hobusei-san → Supesei-san
- Hobusato-san → Burasato-san
- Gobuji-kun → Hobuji-kun
- Gobufu-chan → Hobufu-chan
- etc.

TL Note : TOLD YOU THERE'S A REASON WE DIDN'T DO THE NAME CHANGES EARLIER - FB

All of those who Ranked Up received new names.

Although I wasn't expecting Gobujii to have a particularly good naming sense, this was terrible. Well, it's not like we can just decide on our names by ourselves, so I let it go.

This is the average strength hierarchy of our species:

Dhampir \geq Half-Spell Lord = Half-Earth Lord = Half-Blood Lord \geq Ogre \geq Elf > Kobold Footman > Kobold = Hobgoblin = Human > Goblin.

This list is only considering the capabilities of an average individual, and it does not

account for skills and equipment.

Ogres are superior to Half-Lords in terms of pure physical prowess, but their intelligence is low, so their tactics are simpler which leads to their defeat when fighting Half-Lords who have both brains and strength.

As for our ranking, we'll update it later.

Now, concerning the elves and the kobolds.

Firstly, I decided not to eat the kobolds who wanted to join us.

Well, even if I eat them, they wouldn't strengthen any of my abilities or my body, in addition, they're not tasty at all and their loyalty seems genuine. I have many other reasons to keep them, one of them is that I'm interested in seeing what a kobold can Ranks Up into. Well, the major reason is that I'll be needing more pawns that I can use pretty soon.

When the war between the humans and the elves breaks out, Father Elf-san will probably request my help, no, I'm sure he will do that. Probably a messenger will be sent here to negotiate with me soon. And I will accept the request.

A large-scale war will give me the chance to gain many new abilities and I'll be able to considerably strengthen my body, in addition, we can raise our Levels and I'll be able to collect information about the military power, tactics used, and combat styles in this world.

It will also serve to strengthen my ties with Father Elf-san, and that elven wine will become easier to get a hold of, of course such matter is of a high-priority.

That sake is seriously delicious!

In this war we'll have to use guerrilla warfare tactics - such as baiting the humans into a trap, constructing multiple military camps in many places to confuse the enemy and launching surprise attacks - due to our small numbers, the more pieces that I can use, the broader the range of tactics that I'll be able to employ in the war.

This is why I decided not to kill them and instead made them my subordinates. Of

course there's no way I'd trust them just like that. Within their group there are only a few that I trust.

So, as insurance, I gave all the kobolds an improved version of the ear cuffs enchanted with the standard three buffs like the ear cuffs I distributed before, however, these new ear cuffs possess the ability [Enslave] too. Just like I said before, only having this ability is useless, however, I can grant this ability to an item, items with this ability function like slave collars, they're of course connected to my ability.

With this, the possibility of any Kobolds betraying me in the middle of a battle is solved. Even if they wanted to defy my orders, I'll be able to use them without any problems.

Similar ear cuffs were also given to the elves, who were used for sex and breeding until this point in time. However, these were enchanted with a fourth buff, [Conceal].

I added [Enslave] to have complete control over them, and added [Conceal] to avoid conflict with the elves in the village.

It like seems in the elves' culture pricking a hole in your ear or attachment of earrings is a taboo. Apparently their name will be struck from their clan and they will be exiled from the village. For that reason, in this world the long ears of Elven slaves are cut halfway. That's why they refused to put on the ear cuffs, they still had some hope of returning to the village.

I could've just put the cuffs on forcibly, but they could make up an excuse like "It was done against our will, we couldn't help it", so I stripped off their remaining pride.

After I asked their bodies for some time, they began asking me to put the ear cuffs on them instead. I will not say what happened though.

It would have been better if they just acted obediently from the beginning.

Earlier Ogakichi-kun was asking for advice about his relationship with Asue-chan. So, I put him in charge of the tallest Elven man tonight. I told him "Try doing it with an Elven man as practice before the real thing." and made sure he knew how to go easy on them to avoid breaking them.

I also let the goblins whose social standing was low and normally had no chance of getting a turn, have turns with the men as well. The men were pretty, So they were

satisfying enough for the goblins.

All of this is later in the night though.

The elves who had been imprisoned until now to prevent escape were allowed out of their cells today.

I had them participate in the Kobolds' training. To use an elite elf only for sex and breeding would be wasteful. Besides it's difficult for elves to get pregnant anyways.

Now that I don't have to worry about them escaping, to use them more efficiently I decided to have them contribute in the battlefield more in the future.

As for breeding, we can just capture some human women from our enemies - like the human army - .

The elves, being out of prison for the first time in a while, were very happy about their freedom. It seems like one of my goals which is improving their moods was a success.

Now its time to train the newcomers. First I instructed them on how to quickly stand in line and put them under basic endurance training. It is the basic training that Gobukichi-kun and all the goblins started with.

This is necessary for the kobolds, but the elves being elites could have skipped the basic training, however, taking it is better, because it will give them more experience and polish their bodies further.

In battle, There is a vast difference between those who received basic training and those who didn't.

The basic training continued until they collapsed on the ground from fatigue.

After they took a break, I picked out the kobolds who I judged as unsuited for combat considering both of their strength and temperaments and transferred them to the logistical corps « Pleasure ». I appointed a goblin from the logistical corps « Pleasure » to serve as both their supervisor and instructor.

Then I made the combat-oriented kobolds and the elves start combat training, it was sparring sessions. The children kobolds also participated, they will become pretty strong if I start training them from this age.

Their opponent was neither me nor Gobukichi-kun, or even any of the goblins and hobgoblins, it's also not between themselves.

This training was also going to be an experiment.

I pitted the elves and the kobolds against the Skeletons created with my ability [Lesser Summoning: Undead].

I can generate them indefinitely as long as I have enough magic power, so there is no risk involved, moreover, the ability's level increases when I generate skeletons and the elves and the kobolds can gain Experience Values by defeating them. Their bones can also be used as materials in alchemy and blacksmithing. It's like killing three, no, four birds with one stone.

Because it's daytime, I used my ability to summon the skeletons who are weak against sunlight and performed the training in the depths of the mine where the sunlight can't reach, we use [Fire Spirit Stones] to illuminate the interior of the mine, so it's still bright.

When I used my ability, a black shadow appeared on the ground, after seeing the black shadow, I foresaw the figure of a white skeleton emerging out from the shadow. I can still remember their white skeletal bodies from yesterday clearly, however, something unexpected occurred.

I thought that a skeleton soldier would be summoned, but a [Black Skeleton] armed with a curved saber and a kite shield appeared instead. Its body was 2 meters tall, for armor it equipped a jet black mantle and a similarly jet black full plate armor covered with spikes. Its bones weren't white, but black, it was a black bony knight.

It was clearly a higher ranked skeleton compared to the skeleton soldiers. It may be as strong or even stronger than a greater skeleton.

Skeletons can materialize [Soul Equipment] corresponding to their strength by using their racial ability [Equipment Materialization] and its higher tier version [Greater Equipment Materialization]. The weapons and armor cannot be wielded by anyone else after the skeleton is destroyed because they turn into fog and disappear when the skeleton is defeated. The stronger the skeleton is the higher the quality of their equipment, this black skeleton's equipment were the of the highest quality [Soul Equipment] that I have seen. This skeleton is without doubt the strongest I have seen.

I experimented with [Lesser Summoning: Undead] for some time.

According to my observations, my [Lesser Summoning: Undead] ability allows me to create undeads considerably weaker than me.

When I learn an ability from eating, I instinctively understand how to use it, however, the details may differ, so experimenting with abilities like this is necessary to find out more about them.

I named this black skeleton [Black Skeleton Knight].

The black skeleton knight faced off against the elves equipped with Mithril short swords and round shields, but most of the time the black skeleton knight won.

I could tell watching it fight that it possessed the skills of a skilled knight. The combination of its timely defense with the kite shield and its swift and powerful slashes with the saber can't be called anything less than superb.

The black skeleton knight was resistant to slashing attacks and fatigue too, so it was well suited for drawn out battles. That's why even though the elves didn't have that much of a skill difference compared to it they lost, they lost after the battle started dragging on.

These guys are really useful.

However, if they trained with only black skeleton knights everyday, then they'll not be able to get any Experience Values, I have to do something to overcome this drawback. I tried ordering the black skeleton knights to go easy on them, but the gained Experienced Values was less in amount compared to defeating it normally, I don't understand the reason behind that though.

To find a way to overcome this setback, I continued experimenting with [Lesser Summoning: Undead] until late in the night. Thanks to that, I found various ways of using it.

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SIDESTORY: A MALE ELF'S POV

Including us elves, races other than humans can undergo [Evolution (Rank Up)] after accumulating a large amount of Experience Values and reaching Level "100".

The amount of Experience Values required to Level Up differs largely between species, but the fact that these cases are few and far between is a trait shared between all of them, as despite reaching Level "100" most are unable to Rank Up.

For example, when it comes to goblins who are weak but have a high growth rate, there are usually only two or three, and at most 4 out of a hundred that can Rank Up to hobgoblins.

I had little knowledge on goblins and didn't know anything more than this about them because I thought of them as just some weak ugly creatures until recently, but even with my limited knowledge, I can affirm with confidence that what I mentioned before about their Ranking Up probability is true.

And the stronger the species, the less the number of those who can fulfill the requirements to Rank Up. Due to such harsh requirements, those who can Rank Up into Dragonewts, Lords, and Midians appear only as one in ten thousand.

However, what happened in the group led by the black ogre that captured and enslaved us can only be described as impossible, they Ranked Up in bulk last night.

The [Dhampir - Variant] possessing beauty that overshadows even elves'. The [Half-Earth Lord] possessing a heroic, warm spirit. The [Half-Blood Lord] hiding the bloody madness leaking out from her body. And many goblins who Ranked Up into hobgoblins.

This kind of thing should have been impossible. It utterly defies common sense, something impossible to happen. If it had been this easy for non-humans to Rank Up, the detestable humans would have been chased to the corners of the continent by now,

and they wouldn't be living leisurely like they are now.

This is probably what I would have thought if this happened a few days ago, but at this point it's not much of a surprise anymore.

That's because the common sense I cultivated while living in the forest for a long time has already been shattered into pieces.

After we were caught, I started feeling a very strong libido that I had never felt before. Adorning earrings or opening holes in our ears is a severe taboo for elves, but after many approaches were used against us we were cornered with no other choice but to don the ear cuffs.

Forced into training harsh enough to make all our efforts up until now seem like child's play, we were not even allowed to pass out.

Being faced with massive stress, as well the shock from encountering the unknown has brought upon us changes that elves who usually spend their long lives leisurely don't face.

I had to abandon my common sense, otherwise it would have costed me my sanity, after I abandoned my common sense, my mentality changed completely and I became capable of maintaining my composure in the midst of the abnormal events happening in this group.

Well then, for today's training, we fought black skeleton knights that the black ogre - renamed from Goburou to Ogarou - summoned.

At first, I underestimated it, that's because even though it was a skeleton knight and seemed stronger than a normal skeleton, it was still a skeleton. Another reason was because my equipment consisted of a Mithril short sword that is effective against undeads which skeletons are grouped under, and a light but sturdy round shield, in addition to the confidence I have in my training until this point.

I thought that if even only one attack lands, I would be able to easily win after it weakens due to the effects Mithril inflicts on undead. But contrary to my expectations, I ultimately lost.

I certainly am not inferior in terms of skills, but I lost against the black skeleton knight in terms of stamina.

I should've ended the fight before it turned into an endurance battle, but the black skeleton knight's capabilities exceeded my expectations, and although I did not receive any damage, I couldn't land an attack either.

After I lost, although I felt frustrated, I felt somewhat refreshed too. It was the first time that I felt refreshed like this.

Somewhere in my heart, I thought that such a life is unexpectedly not that bad.

Because I've already put the ear cuffs on, I can never meet my family and friends again, even if I do, I will not get accepted in the village anyways, but I don't feel something like despair anymore. Rather, I held a different sort of emotion. Perhaps the change in me, despite my disinterest for the outside world up until now, has something to do with this.

What I'm sure of is that this group is definitely abnormal.

Wondering what would happen to us from now on, feeling both eagerness and anxiety, I decided to continue living my life here.

DAY 62

After experimenting with [Lesser Summoning: Undead] yesterday, I found out that I can choose the type of summoned undead according to my will.

I can summon different kinds of Black skeletons. Respectively axemen, lancers, archers and Mages, and if I use only a small amount of magical power in the summoning process, I can summon simple white skeletons.

I managed to summon other types of undead too, like the moving decomposing corpses called [Zombies], the frail souls called [Ghosts] and other undead types. I wanted to try eating some ghosts, but as expected, even I couldn't eat insubstantial creatures.

It seems I can't eat ghosts as of now. Although I can easily destroy them with magic, I can't eat them. However, I won't give up.

It seems like there are certain conditions that have to be met to be able to touch ghosts in this world, so I swore in my heart that if I meet someone who can touch ghosts that I'd eat their flesh.

For now, I summoned mainly zombies and ordinary skeletons and let them fight against us, for the purpose of earning Experience Values and combat experience.

The Black skeleton knights have a decent level of strength, so they were able to act as Ogakichi-kun's and Dhammi-chan's sparring partners to some degree.

I put one of the Black skeleton knights in charge of supervising the kobolds' and the elves' training. Although they can't produce any sounds beside rattling noises making it impossible to have a conversation with them, I can still roughly communicate with them using gestures.

Steadily strengthening this ability will make it terrifying.

Nevertheless, that doesn't mean that there were no problems with the undead. Undead-type species have a few weaknesses, especially [Weakness to Sunlight].

Dhammi-chan is an undead too, specifically a dhampir, but since she possesses a [Divine Protection] and is thus a [Variant], sunlight isn't a problem for her unlike most of the other undead species.

Black skeleton knight-Class undead can somehow last for ten minutes in sunlight, while emitting black smoke from all over their bodies, but their overall strength drop so much that it can't even be compared to their usual strength. They get so weak that even the kobolds can defeat them.

That is how it was like for the Black skeleton knight-Class undead, weaker undead like zombies, ghosts and the like can't last under the sunlight for even ten seconds before being completely purified.

After the zombies are purified their rotting bodies remain, which can be used to spread disease in enemy camps, fill up holes, or recycle their meat as meals for Hobufu-chan, a hobgoblin who likes eating rotten flesh. But ghosts leave nothing at all.

It's also a little depressing that they can be easily exorcised by using holy water, holy light and fire.

At first, I thought 'with this ability I can procure a considerable military force even during daytime', but my calculations went awry after finding out how weak against sunlight undead normally are.

At first, I thought about how can I overcome this drawback, but I stopped thinking about it after awhile and postponed it for later. Today I prepared the training program of the elves and kobolds and supervised it.

The elves were originally hand-picked elites, thus they were able to improve their skills simply by fighting the Black skeleton knights and the Black skeletons axemen one on one, so training them was easy.

That's why I was more focused on training the kobolds.

Kobolds as a species, are equivalent in power to hobgoblins, or slightly stronger.

Anyways, here's our current composition:

Half-Lords: 3 females
Ogres: 2 males
Dhampir: 1 female
Hobgoblins: 6 males, 4 Females
Hobgoblins Mages: 3 Males, 2 Females
Hobgoblins Clerics: 1 Male, 1 Female
Goblins: 14 Males, 16 Females
Elderly Goblins: 4 Males, 4 Females
Elves: 10 Males, 7 Females
Humans: 5 females
Kobold Footman : 1 Male
Kobolds: 18 Males, 10 Females, 4 children
Elderly Kobolds: 3
119 in total.

Including the pets:

Three-Horned horses: 5
Hind bears: 3
Black wolf leader: 1
Black wolves: 8
A total of 136.

Our residence is originally a huge mine that we are constantly expanding, so living spaces weren't a problem even with our current numbers.

As for armaments and food, there's a difference in their distribution.

Those with low positions generally have a smaller share of food, the game we hunt in the forest is our primary source of food, there are also plenty of wild fruit and vegetables that we can collect in the forest as well. The sisters and some of the goblins are in charge of preparing appetizing meals that have a good nutritional balance.

Of course I'm ensuring that everyone are eating at least the minimum required amount.

Nevertheless, it's normal to want to fill your stomach after a strenuous exercise, however, as long as you stay in a low position you'll be able to only partially fill your stomach.

As for armaments, in a world where the strong eat the weak, powerful weapons are important to increase the chances of survival.

Sharp fangs, claws and hard protective skin can dramatically increase the chances of survival. In addition, humanoid species have the advantage of being able to use weapons. Naturally, the better the performance of the weapons the higher the chances of survival.

However, I passed down a rule that those with low positions will get only low-quality armaments. As a result, they will be viewed as weak by others and the possibility of them being targeted will increase. Because of that, even though they already have low chances of survival because they're weak, their chances of survival get even lower.

Shouldn't I change this rule you say? Think about it, giving the weak good armaments is plainly a waste of resources, not to mention that there's a high chance that it'll invite ruin to them.

Moreover, using weapons that they can't efficiently wield will hamper their growth.

That's why I won't change this rule. That way they'll have to train until the point they start vomiting blood to become stronger and get a better position.

Well, there are some among the kobolds who are approaching Level 100, so some of them may Rank Up soon, biting into the higher positions and mixing it up.

Besides, truthfully, I carry some expectations for the young Kobold children, since they are still in their growth period.

Since kobolds excel in nimbleness, I put a policy in place to emphasize it in their training program.

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Today I'm riding on Kumajirou, similarly Dhammi-chan and Redhead were mounted on their respective familiars, and walking behind us were 17 kobold warriors. We are heading to the kobolds' cave.

Our purpose is to seal the hole connecting to Velvet's dungeon in the deep parts of the cave, as well as to retrieve the small amount of luggage that the kobolds left behind.

The kobolds' cave was a 40 minute walk away from our base.

After retrieving the luggage, I ordered Asue-chan to destroy the cave as she is the best suited to handle the task.

With this the first goal is completed.

Afterwards, I accompanied the kobolds to hunt. We hunted some Armored Tanukis etc., but my target is Black wolves.

In addition to being able to get more familiars, pitting them against the Black wolves who live in collaborative groups will provide them with some good experience in group tactics.

Although training is important, it is still necessary to get actual combat experience by risking your life. I have already trained them in the basics of the basics in the past two days, now it is the time to see to what extent they can leverage what I taught them.

Well, I'm aware that I'm asking too much of them, but they have assistance from the ear cuffs, moreover, if we don't do this now, we never will.

Although I didn't really expect that much of them, the kobolds did a good job. They moved as I ordered, and the group of 12 Black wolves were successfully driven into a trap laid out beforehand.

They received some injuries a little beyond the extent of regular light wounds since I imposed the unreasonable condition that they're not allowed to kill the Black wolves, but their ear cuffs' [Regeneration] buff more or less took care of these injuries.

Considering these results, the kobolds might be an unexpectedly good find contrary to my expectations.

After we caught the Black wolves, I tampered with their brains using my ability and turned them into familiars.

Afterwards, we found and succeeded in capturing another group of Black wolves in the same way, thus we managed to get twenty Black wolves as familiars today. Only, it's a pity that neither of the heads of the two groups we captured today were capable enough to be called a Leader. That said, we were able to get a satisfying number of Black wolves as familiars, so I was more or less content.

As we were heading back in high spirits due to today's achievements, we encountered a [Stamp Boar] with its characteristic hard skin and huge iron-shaped snout.

"Just in time for a test of strength!", said Asue-chan eagerly as she dismounted from her beloved Triple-Horned horse and charged at it from the front. Naturally, the Stamp boar, with its disposition of wanting nothing other than to crush anything that tries to stand in its way using its huge snout and eat it, charged without any intent to run away.

When Asue-chan got close enough, she swung her [Earth Goddess' War Pick] at the Stamp boar from right to left, it hit the boar's body and smashed through it. The rock-like solid body of the Stamp boar couldn't survive Asue-chan's blow and its front half got blown off. The scent of blood and viscera spread and meat pieces from the crushed half of its body flew and scattered around creating a gory scene.

Well, this is what would happen when she hit the Stamp boar while holding back, the Stamp boar's body was only as hard as rocks, so it's pretty easy to kill it for Asue-chan who can crush rocks with her bare hands, knowing that, I quickly washed off the blood and meat pieces from her face using a water ball without getting surprised by the scene.

The carcass is valuable as a food resource so I stored it into my [Item Box], after we got to the base, we ate a hotpot made out of it.

At night, I was approached by Blacksmith-san while I was busy working on various things in my workshop, she wanted me to come to the smithy. I went with her, thinking about what could she possibly want, what I saw there was the my halberd, freshly repaired.

Previously, I overused it in my life and death battle against the Red bear to the point that it became useless, so I asked Blacksmith-san to repair it.

In short, its reparations has been finally completed.

Moreover, she improved it even further, she explained the improvements she made with pride...

According to her:

First of all, the axe head which is the feature of the halberd, is made of an alloy produced by combining [Water Spirit Stones], wrought iron and mithril. Because [Water Spirit Stones] are mixed in, water gushes out when it is shaken just like the Spirit Stone knife.

However, only when swinging it at high speeds will a water blade emerge. The halberd's original range of 3 meters in diameter can be expanded greatly when using it, when I tried using it I managed to slash a far away rock in half.

In addition, the axe head's sharpness has been greatly improved compared to the Spirit Stone knife's almost blunt edge, so the axe head can be used to slash just fine.

Then, there is the spearhead, it was made out of an alloy of [Spirit Stones], wrought iron and mithril just like the axe head. The type of the [Spirit Stones] used is [Lightning Spirit Stones] which give off lightning.

When thrust at high speed, it can fire a bolt of lightning from the tip, hitting distant enemies with an electric attack. When I tried thrusting the spearhead while using [Triple Stab], lightning bolts were fired from the invisible spearheads too, firing three lightning bolts at the same time.

How convenient.

The pick on the opposite side from the axe head was likewise made from a similar alloy, the [Spirit Stones] used this time are [Fire Spirit Stones]. As a test I took out a log from my [Item Box] and pierced it with the pick, then fire came roaring out from where the pick pierced the log.

The butt end was polished in a tetrahedral shape, it's made using the same alloy as before, the [Spirit Stones] used are [Earth Spirit Stones]. It's quite sharp so I can use

it to stab enemies, it also makes it easier for me to use my earth control system abilities.

Above all, the effects of the [Spirit Stones] used were greatly enhanced compared to the knives. They were as strong or even stronger than the knives I enchanted before, as I was thinking about the reason, Blacksmith-san told me.

It seems like she got a new Job. She didn't tell me about it before and kept it a secret until she finished repairing the halberd because she wanted to surprise.

The only one who know this now is me, I was a little happy about sharing this secret with her.

The name of the job is [Spirit Smith], it seemed to be a rare job that can be obtained only by clearing some troublesome conditions such as regularly handling different types of [Spirit Stones] and becoming proficient at handling them.

This seems to be the main reason for the increase in the effects of the [Spirit Stones] used in the halberd.

I was so happy I hugged her. Recently, I've been getting used to handling my strength and started adjusting it unconsciously.

The smile that Blacksmith-san in my arms gave me was very cute.

Feeling happy, I got a little bit fired up.

DAY 64

The number of hobgoblins increased by three today. It's a little disappointing that there wasn't any Mages or Clerics this time.

Well, normally at most there's only one or two Mages in a clan, so the numbers we have of them are already very abnormal.

As always I gave each one a congratulatory gift.

After today's training, I let the kobolds enter the forest in pairs to get real combat experience and to procure food. Fighting the skeletons is enough to get Experience Values, but by fighting a wide variety of species they can develop their skills further and learn how to be more adaptive.

I do intend to come out of this forest some day, so looking at the things to come, we should get more experience on how to fight different types of species whilst we're here.

For that reason, I had some spare time, so I made preparations for going out hunting alone.

The savory taste of a Stamp boar was unforgettable. What's more, the unexplored areas had a high likelihood of rewarding new abilities. It's about time that I tread upon new unexplored areas to eat new monsters.

I already know the approximate location of the Stamp boars' habitat, so I'll be able to find it quickly using [Sense Presence] after seeing one yesterday.

As I was about to depart..... I was stopped by Ogakichi-kun.

He wanted to talk somewhere private, so we went out of the base and walked for a while. We started talking after I confirmed that there's no one was around.

According to him, he had finally decided to confess to Asue-chan. Well, after she Ranked Up she became even more beautiful, consequently his feelings became very strong, so he decided to confess because he couldn't keep his feelings inside anymore.

The only problem is, he doesn't know what to say. That's why he wants my advice.

Ogakichi-kun is my best friend now, helping him with this is nothing, I'll treat it as if it's my problem.

I abandoned today's Stamp boar hunt and dedicated my day till the evening planning Ogakichi-kun's confession with him.

And thus, it was decided that gakichi-kun will be commencing "Operation Confession" tonight.

The result of which I'll know tomorrow.

DAY 65

It was a success. What was? Ogakichi-kun's confession, of course.

Ogakichi-kun reported this to me, blushing, after I woke up today before pairing up for sparring with him which became my daily routine before morning practice.

Well, I expected it to be a success so I was not surprised. Although Ogakichi-kun did not notice it, but Asue-chan had fallen for him since some time now.

The intelligence that Asue-chan had already consulted with Dhammi-chan about it fell into my hands, so I was sure about my guess.

There really was no worry about him getting rejected, I also secretly shared all the details of yesterday's strategy meeting with Dhammi-chan using the ear cuffs in order to arrange their meeting properly.

The fact that things turned out this way was all a matter of course.

The only thing I was worried about is whether he would get too excited last night and break Asue-chan.

TL Note : He's an Ogre, but Asue-chan should be just as big. TL Note : No, she's around 2.4 m and Ogakichi-kun is 2.8 m, not to mention his brute strength. ~Obarou

Well, I mentioned previously that I had put Ogakichi-kun in charge of the male elves so he could get advance practice, but there was precedent where he broke various things in his first time with a partner that had a 1 meter difference in physical size. He was assigned a 2 meter tall Elf, the biggest of them, the elf was healed by Hobuji-kun and is being kept in bed right now.

Asue-chan is currently our top miner, mining [Spirit Stones] that appeared in our mine because of the influence of Velvet's dungeon, and various rare ores, so it would put a dent in our mining efficiency if she couldn't work.

The current Asue-chan is an excavator-like existence. Depending on her condition I may have to adjust the mining schedule.

That was what I was thinking, but according to the report everything seems to be fine.

It was probably thanks to the fact that it was not Ogakichi-kun's first time, Asue-chan being tough and that he honored the promise he made with me last night at the strategy meeting, it seems he was able to do it in moderation. Well, I'm pleased with the outcome more than anything.

At any rate, during today's sparring, Ogakichi-kun was so full of energy that he took several of my hits head-on, nevertheless, he kept smiling with trembling knees.

It was too annoying to the point that I thought of letting him continue fighting with some Black skeletons to let his feelings out on them. I started arranging it immediately.

Sparring finished at noon. Ogakichi-kun and I were heading out to go capture Hind bears when Dhammi-chan and Asue-chan came up and said they wanted to come along.

When I asked Asue-chan about how her mining is progressing, she said that she had been steadfastly working all morning and had already met her quota, so for the first time in a while the four of us went out hunting together.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to encounter any Hind bears as I hoped, but we succeeded in hunting:

5 Stamp boars.

6 [Poison Mantises] with a 1-meter in height body and sickles dripping with purple venom.

4 [Rhinoceros Beetles] with a 1-meter long horn and a lustrous black iron-like exoskeleton.

5 Argiopes.

4 Demon spiders.

3 [Messenger Locusts] 60cm in height and grey-shelled.

11 [Yellow Monkeys] with yellow fur and a strangely-developed thick long tail.

As expected from an area that I haven't been to before, there was a lot of monsters that I hadn't eaten yet. There wasn't any that I can say were exceptionally delicious, but all of them were good enough.

However, the Poison mantises which have very a strong venom that can kill even an ogre and the crustacean-type Rhinoceros beetles could be eaten only by me, so unfortunately I can't let the others eat them.

It's unfortunate. Yeah, it's an extremely unfortunate matter.

I stripped off the parts that can be used and stored them in my [Item Box]. Then we ate everything together.

Ability [Molt] learned

Ability [Elytron Generation] learned

Ability [End Edge] learned

Ability [Silent Kill] learned

Ability [Horn Blow] learned

Ability [Dissonance] learned

Ability [Parasite] learned

Ability [Improved Jumping Power] learned

Ability [Strong Vitality] learned

Ability [Exoskeleton] learned

Ability [Wrought Iron Shell Armor] learned

Ability [Surging Combat Instinct] learned

Ability [Weakness to Cold] learned

I became a henshin hero.

Well, when I ate the Rhinoceros beetle I obtained [Exoskeleton]. My armor which is made using the Red bear's leather was immediately taken in the instant I activated it and a lustrous carapace-like armor with a mix of red and black took its place. I looked like a humanoid Stag beetle that was 2m and 50cm tall.

I wondered for a moment why did I look like a Stag beetle even though I ate a Rhinoceros beetle? thinking about it again, that's probably because of my horns.

When I focused on my slightly curved, sword-like pair of horns, I could get them to move. As a test I held a tree in between them, and *slash*, I was able to easily cut it. I didn't feel the slightest bit of resistance, my horns were very sharp. This is interesting.

I examined the exoskeleton for some time.

As a result, I found out that even though this exoskeleton is very easy to move in, it is extremely sturdy. I tested it by having Ogakichi-kun hit me, not only did the part he hit get dented only a little even with his brute strength, it even restored the damage. The exoskeleton possessed a restoration capability. In addition, I did not feel any pain, it seems like there is a mechanism incorporated into it that reduces damage by dispersing the impact throughout the exoskeleton.

It felt like wearing the armor I used when I was deployed for work before my reincarnation, a power suit made from biometal. I didn't feel like my movements are being hindered at all, rather it feels like I can move even faster and more freely than normal.

Moreover, the exoskeleton seemed to even have power assist. I couldn't find any faults in it. Well, maybe being too conspicuous is one.

Well, to be honest this is an extremely good ability.

The only real problem is that as soon as I deactivated [Exoskeleton] I got naked. Well, it's to be expected because the material was my armor. Since I had trousers that I made beforehand in my [Item Box], it was not that much of a problem, nevertheless, I don't

really have a stripping hobby, so it would have been better if I was spared from this.

I was a little hurt that my armor, full of memories from my fight with the Red bear disappeared, but realizing that it merely took another form, I restored my spirits. Well, when I focused on it in my head--

[Ability [Exoskeleton]

Entry 1 [Red Bear Beast King's Prestige] registered

Entry 2 [] empty

Entry 3 [] empty

Entry 4 [] empty

Entry 5 [] empty

[4 more form entries remaining. Which entry number would you like to equip?]

-- this was displayed inside it and I realized that it didn't completely disappear. I was thankful for that.

Using this ability, I can use different forms depending on the scenario of the battle. It's a pretty useful ability.

I was able to grow wings that enabled me to fly using [Elytron Generation] too, but the flight controls were more difficult than I imagined. I'll practice when I get home.

Extremely pleased with today's hunt, we caught some souvenirs, returned home and ate.

Stamp boar meat is great.

Ability [Reckless Charge] learned

Ability [Tail Attack] learned

After that, I did some flight practice, worked in my workshop for some time, then went to sleep.

Mhm, this was an excellent day.

DAY 66

Today was the first time it rained in quite a while, so I decided to spend some time with Redhead, Blacksmith-san, the Sisters, and Alchemist-san. Well, although we sleep together at night, each of them have things to do during the day, giving me very little time to care for them.

After earning [Noire Soldier], Redhead's attacks became relentlessly brutal. Up until now, she was equal in terms of skill to the others but fell short in terms of raw strength. Her strength is steadily growing.

Lately, she has been coming to me saying "Train me, I want to spar with you" with an adorable face.

How can I explain it? The feeling when a puppy comes over to play while showing an adorable face? She was like a small dog such as a dachshund wagging its all over the place. Something like that I suppose.

Well, to the others, she might look like a fierce doberman instead.

I spent the morning playing with Redhead. I shed some sweat training, it was a well-spent time.

After washing my body from the sweat, I went to Blacksmith-san's smithy.

Lately Blacksmith-san have been enthusiastic about creating new types of alloys by mixing the [Mithril] ingots that Kirue and Arue – these two are the ones who were escorting the foolish elf from before, anyway I'll just refer to them as "Escort elves" from now on for simplicity and because they act always together – made with other types of metals. The smithy was filled with prototypes such as knives and shortswords.

The Escort elves are the only ones among the elves we captured that know the manufacturing method of [Mithril]. Apparently these two are the daughters of a good family with a splendid lineage.

By the way, not all elves know the manufacturing method of [Mithril], the technique is passed only in blacksmithing families, that's why ordinary elves can't manufacture it.

Because these two were born in a blacksmithing family, on top of receiving combat training for elites, they were also taught the manufacturing method of [Mithril]. Well, there is a limit to how much two people can make, but that can't be helped.

I joined them and gave some opinions, then I asked Blacksmith-san about the development progress of the repeating crossbows which I asked her to start developing some time ago.

Although repeating crossbows lose out to conventional crossbows in range and firepower, but that's not a problem, because my priority is a large quantity of fired bolts in mid-range.

Note: a repeating crossbow is a real weapon.

The prototype was completed, so I had some goblins test it out.

The results seemed promising, it was usable enough in the battlefield. So I immediately ordered the mass production of the repeating crossbows.

I also took the opportunity of me being here and took the [Mithril] that the Escort elves made in my silver arm, then extracted it from the fingertips as ingots of a new type of alloy mixed with the various types of metals making up the silver arm, I asked Blacksmith-san to make something for me using it.

"Okay, leave it to me" Blacksmith-san who said this while puffing her chest up and smiling cheerfully looked cute. Seeing that, my mouth hung open for a moment.

After that, we exchanged various opinions regarding the production of defense tools and other types of tools for the base.

In the evening, I went to the Sisters' kitchen.

Recently, both of them acquired a new job called [Chief Cook], they're in charge of commanding the goblins preparing the food.

Since we our numbers are large, if the Sisters didn't start cooking early there wouldn't be enough food by supper's time. At this hour, the kitchen had become similar to a battlefield.

They have enough cooking utensils from the plundered goods and some that Blacksmith-san made, but they have some lack in manpower, so I decided to join in. I started chopping some ingredients. Well, even if I look like this, I can cook fairly well.

Although I was glad when Aoi cooked for me despite having to study, she was a terrible cook and I had the pitiable experience of eating her cooking.

That Aoi... I wonder what happened to her after I was stabbed.

Note: Aoi = the stalker from the very start.

After the meal was over, I started a cooking research together with the sisters. My goal was to reproduce some cuisines from my previous life. For starters, I tried reproducing potato chips. The ingredients available were completely different compared to those from my previous life, but the knowledge of the two cooks helped me. Trying to make it through trial and error was interesting.

I ate the delicious supper, then I went to visit Alchemist-san.

Recently Alchemist-san has been devoting herself to manufacturing an original magical item using the Black skeletons' bones, the results of which I hadn't been informed of as of yet.

I was planning on getting it out of her mouth somehow today... but she surprisingly easily told me about it.

However, the real surprise was the item itself.

What Blacksmith-san handed me was a sharpened Black skeleton's bone, it was a black pile with a length of 10cm. There were 10 of them, supposedly their ability is "a person stabbed by it will be paralyzed for a fixed amount of time".

"Heeh, this is amazing" I said, then Alchemist-san responded "This is my first creation after I got the [Item Creature], so cherish them as if they're me".

It seems like Alchemist-san acquired a new [Job] recently, but stayed silent about it.

I can't help but thinking that her cute way of saying it and her smiling face were foul play, I got struck by the gap moe between her normally cool attitude and her playful behavior now.

Then we started flirting stealthily, moments later, intruders started coming in one after another.

I won't say what happened afterwards.

DAY 67

Six messengers from Father Elf-san arrived a little past noon. Although they came without an appointment, I let them in to hear what they have to say because they were courteous.

The elite elves were training in the great hall when we entered, however, the messengers didn't say anything when they saw them.

They just directed scornful stares for a moment at them.

Right now, because of [Conceal] that I added to their ear cuffs, the elite elves' bodies have a dark tone of color, they looked like [Dark Elves]. So even if they're elite soldiers from the same village, the messengers will not be able to recognize them.

As for the reason why they gave them scornful looks, that's because in this world Forest and Dark elves have bad terms with each other just like in fantasy stories. This is really convenient for me.

When the elite elves who were practicing saw the messengers they tried to say something, but in the end they didn't say anything. It's probably because they know that after attaching the ear cuffs they don't have any place in « The Elves' Village » anymore.

I brought the messengers to my workshop which was also my private room and served some of the tea that I received from Father Elf-san. Unfortunately, I don't have a sofa, I only have a single chair made from my threads.

The one that sat down probably had the role of the negotiator, the others seem to be his escorts.

Their side started the conversation.

Although I have already expected it the instant I saw the messengers coming, it seems like the human army started advancing in the forest at last. They were using the routes I told the Father Elf-san about before. Apparently they brought a considerably big army.

Even with the magic items I gave them, the elves are still anxious about the fight with the human army. The hole left behind when I made the elite elves my subordinates was quite large, so they came to us to request assistance.

Apparently, the messengers didn't know what happened to them. They said that they went missing when a candidate for the succession of one of the big noble elf clans that had a troublesome personality mobilized them arbitrarily.

They said that their whereabouts are still unknown. Although they want to continue searching for them, they don't have the time for that in their current situation, they're taking the stance that the elite elves are already dead.

I wonder if Father Elf-san manipulated with the investigation behind the scenes to stop it, I'm grateful if so.

After exchanging pleasantries, we started to talk about the request.

So, our mission in a nutshell is to either repel or destroy the human army, but it would be better if we destroy it if it's possible. A strategic withdrawal is allowed, but running away from the enemy wouldn't be acceptable. Though I don't think the meaning will change much in our case.

T/N: the difference between a strategic withdrawal and simply running away is that a strategic withdrawal maintains the army's integrity while withdrawing, on the other hand the word running here implies getting routed and a break of the army's order. But in this case the environment is advantageous for Ogarou, and he have both a solid leadership and a way of communication over long distances, so for him a strategic withdrawal is no different than running from the enemy. The reason ~Obarou

The reward is 40 sets of Mithril short swords, round shields, and chain mail, 10 Mithril ingots, 3000 Mithril arrows, and general every-day life magic items that produce light, etc.

Furthermore, based on our achievements, they may give us even more. We also can keep any items we loot from the army. They were pretty good conditions.

When they asked whether I would accept these terms or not, of course I said yes.

However, my only condition was that we would be able to operate freely. Instead of

fighting head on, we're planning to fight using guerrilla tactics. Fighting head on will be only our last resort.

For the sake of easily exchanging information, I gave them a bracelet with the ear cuffs' communication feature to deliver to Father Elf-san. It's good that I made it beforehand in my free time.

After seeing them off, I dispatched my clones to scout. Conforming the war's situation and collecting information on the enemy's movement is extremely important.

This is the mercenary corps << Parabellum >>'s first job.

T/N: *Parabellum* is the latin for "prepare for war". ~Obarou

DAY 68

At three in the morning we rode in the forest still shrouded in darkness.

Our numbers were small because we needed mobility above all else, I sat on Kumajirou at the lead with only 36 people with me riding their respective Familiars. The rest were in charge of standing guard in the base.

The reason why we're moving at this hour is to launch a surprise attack on one of the human army's camps which my clones discovered.

The force we are attacking have around 800 people, on our side, if you include the Familiars we have 73, there was a too big of a difference in numbers. Normally speaking, if we attack them head on, we'll be overwhelmed by the sheer difference in numbers.

Even for me, attacking an enemy who is not only is large in numbers, but whose combat abilities I do not completely understand is just too risky.

That's why I chose to attack at night, in the night the situation is in our favor.

If I continue summoning Black skeletons and zombies, there will not be as big of a difference in numbers between us. I can absorb magic power from the darkness, so I'll be able to summon a number normally impossible with my internal supply of magic power.

If it gets dangerous we can simply escape, that's why I chose members while prioritizing mobility above all. It would be extremely difficult for humans who don't have night vision like us to pursue after us in the dark forest full of monsters.

Therefore, we launched the surprise attack in the night while prioritizing mobility, however, everything ended without us having to retreat. It took us around an hour to completely annihilate them.

The operation went smoothly like this--

→First, We approached the camp secretly under the cover of the night.

→We discovered a barrier made of semi-transparent flames stretching around the camp with some guards patrolling inside.

→I gave out orders to surround the barrier in a circle formation.

→After confirming that everyone were in place, I destroyed the barrier with a spear made using a spell of the [End] magic-system, then Asue-chan surrounded them with a four meters high earth wall.

→Then I signaled the mages. Dhammi-chan, Supesei-san and her mage corps fired the spells they prepared beforehand at the camp, creating many explosions in the process. Because all of the fired spells had a large range, we succeeded in killing several hundred enemy soldiers in an instant.

→I started summoning 10 undeads per second, in addition, I changed the shape of my left arm into a ballista and started firing spears using a spell from the [End] magic-system.

→For several tens of seconds, the undeads continued killing the enemy soldiers unobstructed. Then a silver armored female knight accompanied by a white cleric (man), a crimson swordswoman that have a beast-like aura, and a jet black magician (man) exited the large tent in the center and cleared a portion of the zombies and ordinary skeletons with some elite forces around them.

→They seemed to be the enemy army's commanders from the way they acted, so I sent a large amount of the Black skeletons at them to keep them at bay.

→In the meanwhile, we proceeded to annihilate the enemy soldiers, women were taken as prisoners of war (unless they're too ugly).

→With my halberd in hand on the back of my Hind bear Kumajirou and my Black wolf leader Kurosaburo by our side I rode away to deal with the elite forces. Ogakichi-kun riding his Hind bear followed behind me, Supesei-san sat atop her Hind bear chanting spells. Dhammi-chan was wielding her claymore [Drop of Moonlight] in one hand while using her [Eyes of Bewitchment] on the soldiers, Asue-chan was smilingly swinging her gigantic War pick around, lastly Burasato-san whose figure turned into that of a crimson red knight after getting covered with her victims' blood was controlling 30 blood swords simultaneously.

→I fought against the enemy's main forces centered around the Female knight, the

others fought against the remaining elite forces.

→In addition to women, exceptional individuals were taken as prisoners of war and thus the battle ended.

Looking back, it was a very unbalanced battle. No, it's more accurate to say that it was a one-sided battle of humiliation for them.

Well, putting that aside.

All of our damage was shouldered by the undeads, so we didn't have any casualties more than some injuries. As for the enemy camp, except for the women and the exceptional individuals we took as prisoners all the others were killed.

Although most likely no one managed to escape due to the earth wall surrounding the camp, but for insurance I sent the fastest among the Black skeletons, Black skeleton assassins to scout the surroundings and kill any soldier that managed to escape.

They have only until the sun rises to scout for any soldier before they get purified, but because this is only an insurance in the first place, this much will be okay.

We obtained many prisoners, Experience Values and a large amount of armaments from this battle. I got some magical items too, the women can be used for reproductive proposes too.

Since the less fresh the corpses are, the lower the chance of me getting an ability from them, I sorted out the corpses of the elites and ate them on the spot.

Ability [Braveheart] learned

Ability [Trip] learned

Ability [Army Leadership] learned

Ability [Job-Commander] learned

Ability [Job-Heavy Swordsman] learned

Ability [Job-Minstrel] learned

Ability [Speed Reading] learned

Ability [Job-Strategist] learned

Ability [Smithing] learned

Ability [Improved Evasion Rate] learned

Ability [Large Spin Slash] learned

Ability [Cross Slash] learned

Ability [Hard Qigong] learned

Ability [Soft Qigong] learned

Ability [Job-Spearman] learned

Ability [Job-Slave] learned

Ability [Job-Farmer] learned

Ability [Job-Monk] learned

Ability [Unilateral Sense of Justice] learned

Ability [Pure Faith] learned

Ability [Blind Faith] learned

Ability [Soul Chain] learned

Ability [Job-Heavy Warrior] learned

Ability [Job-Light Warrior] learned

This is gre~at.

The results of this battle are very satisfying.

Afterwards, we carried back the prisoners who were put to sleep with a sleeping poison and the loots home. Just like the elves before, aphrodisiacs were administered to the women.

The human males weren't as attractive as the elf males, so I'm planning to have them do manual labor after extracting information from them.

That's why we put slave collars on the men as soon as we got back and imprisoned them together.

My compassion for them is only to "not kill them". Instead I'll be sure to "use them until they die".

While wondering how many days the women can endure their urges I sent a report to Father Elf-san about the results of the battle.

He was very surprised hearing my report. Later on the same day he came with his escorts bringing five barrels of elven wine to celebrate our victory, he probably investigated the report and found out its validity.

I asked him if it's okay for an important figure like him in the « Elves' Village » to leave the village at such a time, but it looks like the humans got a word that one of their division got annihilated too.

After hearing about that, I exchanged a few toasts with him, he left after some time because he was still busy and couldn't stay for a long time. The side dishes the Sisters made were delicious, so I asked for some to be wrapped for him as a souvenir which pleased him.

The drinking party continued till the evening after Father Elf-san and his escorts left.

Before going to my room, I went to check up on the prisoners, when I got there they were already at their limit. Apparently humans are more instinctive than elves, making the results of the aphrodisiac appear faster.

Even the Female knight who was fighting so courageously and proudly seemed like a shadow of herself in the battlefield, she reacted very strongly just because I touched her hand with my finger. The way her body was constantly twitching looked amazing.

Huh? A great nobleman's daughter? hee~, really? But that doesn't mean anything to

me now. After all, I'm not human, I'm an Ogre now.

Humans' circumstances are irrelevant to monsters.

Also, although the prisoners (men) were feeling frustrated by it, their bodies still reacted by nature so I gave some of them to the goblin and kobold females who requested it.

Of course I was Female Knight-san's partner...

DAY 68

SIDESTORY: FEMALE KNIGHT'S POV

After sunset, the forest illuminated by moonlight fell under the domain of monsters. For humans, traveling in the forest at night would be suicidal even with a huge army. There are records of armies marching in forests getting annihilated in the past. They were attacked by monsters that can move freely in the darkness. Especially beast-type monsters, they mercilessly hunt down anyone who enter their territory, not to mention that monsters of this type become more ferocious at night.

Hence, we « The Sternbeld Kingdom's Pegasus Armed Battalion », carefully selected an open area and set up our camp. Of course we didn't drop down our caution, we arranged a rotation of lookouts. Additionally, we created a magic barrier that can draw away monsters weaker than the caster around the perimeters of the camp. The magician who erected the magical barrier is a famous adventurer that have good relations with my family, I know of his capabilities firsthand, so they can't be questioned. There are only three local threats that can break the barrier:

- 1) The elves' army.
- 2) More than one Hind bear attacking the barrier at the same time (The strongest monster species in this forest).
- 3) The strongest creature in this forest: the Red Hind Bear also known as [The Lord of The Mountain].

Knowing this, I - Therese • E • Eckermann - felt relieved and removed my armor and my magic estoc [The Moon's Gale] to put on a more comfortable attire, it's a black half-pants and a gray tank top. It really is comfortable.

However, some of my male subordinates say that it's better to wear something on top of them, saying that it's not good for me to expose my thighs and shoulders. While I was wondering about the reason why they were saying such things, Waisury-dono the magician who erected the magic barrier entered my tent.

"Thank you for your efforts today, Therese-dono. You did a splendid job in commanding

the battalion today."

"Thank you, Waisury-dono."

"However, I must warn you that we've been marching a little too fast, that can affect our preparations and morale when the time to fight comes."

"That might be correct, but to cure the princess's sickness and to minimize bloodshed for both sides as much as possible, this war must end quickly. A drawn out conflict will only build up hatred and grudges."

I looked Waisury-dono - who is older than me - whose face looked well-defined in the eyes as I said that. In response, Waisury-dono looked at me back in the eyes and smiled. It was a dependable, gentle smile.

"You're gentle, Therese-dono."

"I've already deprived many of their lives, I don't really think that I'm gentle, but..... I'll accept it as a compliment." I responded with a warm smile, I was a little embarrassed and felt that my cheeks heating a little.

Then suddenly my stomach grumbled. Embarrassed as I was, I did not know what to do.

"....." "....."

Waisury-dono and I stared at each other for a while and realized that my face was glowing red from embarrassment because of the sound my stomach issued earlier. Flustered, I decided to change the topic quickly.

"S... speaking of which, you have yet to have supper, Wa... Waisury-dono, do you want to e... eat together?"

"kukuku..... yes, I'll thankfully accept your offer."

With a small laugh, Waisury-dono accepted. I gave instructions to my subordinates outside to bring the food in while suppressing my embarrassment. Although I am the commander of this battalion, this is technically a battlefield. Because of this, the meal brought was not grand with many spices mixed in like what I'm used to eat, but rather a simple vegetable soup, hard bread, peach smoked Jarow cow meat and the Languido

fruit with its addictive sour taste, it was such a simple meal. Tea was served to moisten our mouths and throats before we start eating, after that I soaked my bread in the soup. As a result of my fatigue, even though the meal was simple I enjoyed it fullheartedly. The more I chew the bread, the more of its flavour flows out, umm it's delicious! Driven by my appetite I continued eating and the first bread quickly disappeared from my hands, so I reached out with my hand to take another one.

Then I noticed that Waisury-dono was observing me in amusement.

"Waisury-dono, What's so funny?" I asked.

"No, nothing. It's just that the usual stoic Therese-dono looked cute while eating, so I couldn't help getting mesmerized by the scene."

"Getting mesmerized seeing someone eating their meal? I didn't know Waisury-dono had such a unique interest."

I spilled my thoughts unintentionally. However, judging from Waisury-dono's expression reacting to my words, it seems like my guess was wrong.

"No, it's not like that!"

"Then, what is it?"

"Hmmm... how should I say it? Considering my position, it's bad to talk about this directly... But I'm not sure if I'll be able convey it correctly if I say it indirectly. In addition, it seems like Therese-dono is not good at talking about this kind of topic... Hmmm, how should I say it? This is a challenge, it's a difficult problem..."

I smiled wryly looking at Waisury-dono who started seriously agonizing about it as I finished eating the second bread. I wanted to eat about eight more breads, but since I'm the one who invited him I can't continue eating by myself when Waisury-dono hadn't even taken a single bite of his food. When I tried to ask the agonizing Waisury-dono to start eating, "PARIN!", a noise that sounded like something breaking down reverberated in the whole camp. It kind of resembled the sound of glass breaking down, I felt an ominous feeling hearing the sound.

"Hm? What is this sou--"

"IMPOSSIBLE!"

Before I could complete my question, Waisury-dono stood up vigorously with a face full of astonishment.

"W... What's the matter Waisury-dono?"

"My barrier got broken. I don't know what broke it, but it's definitely an enemy. Please get equipped quickly."

Instantly after Waisury-dono finished talking, an exploding sound that seemed to be the enemy's attack resounded. The ground and the tent shook violently from the impact, and "BATABATABATA" the sounds of things colliding reverberated. Fortunately, our tent was made of the sturdy like steel and flexible like silk [Arachnee] threads, that's why it didn't collapse. Following the explosions, it started to become noisy outside the tent. If you pay enough attention, you can even hear people yelling and screaming.

"Enemy attack----!!! Enemy attack----!!"

"All units prepare for combat! Move quickly if you don't want to die!!"

"Hurts!!! It huurts!!!!!"

"My arm, I lost my arm. Uwaaaaaaaaaa!!!"

"Magical bombardment confirmed. The enemy has mages, moreover, there's a lot of them. Any available magician, please do something about them quickly!"

"Medical soldier, a medical soldier!!!"

"The enemy is in visible range. The enemy is an undead army! I repeat, it's a great army of undead!"

"Spread out, you'll be targeted by magic if you stay in the same place!"

Hearing the yells and screams outside the tent, I hurriedly equipped my magic armor which is although expensive, is of a very high quality and have the ability to change its size to fit my body after I wear it making it faster and easier to wear. I checked my armor for a few seconds then I equipped my magic sword, [The Moon's Gale]. The moment I put my hand on [The Moon's Gale], I felt reassured by it and the wavering in my heart calmed down. Lastly, I put on my enchanted cloak - made and enchanted

by an exclusive high-leveled [Tailor] - and my shield with a pegasus which is also this battalion's emblem inscribed on it.

With this my preparations were completed. Due to the buffing effect of the equipment, I felt more power than what my body originally have. I entered into a ready-for-combat state, both physically and mentally.

As I finished checking my preparations, I heard the sound of footsteps coming from beyond the entrance at the back of the tent. From the sound, it seems to be two people, their presence felt very familiar to me.

"Excuse me, Commander. Reporting details about the enemy attack."

"The enemy is an army of black skeletons! In addition, several hobgoblin mages have been sighted in the enemy ranks, there's a chance of the existence of a boss-type monster with a [Divine Protection] being mixed among them"

I quietly listened to the report, then I gave out my orders to my two adjutants, Behn, a competent male priest who is only 22 years yet already has the Job [Bishop], and Levias, a swordswoman equipped with a red armour.

"We'll annihilate the enemy, follow me. Please come with us, Waisury-dono!"

"Of course! Lets win!"

"Yes, of course!"

I honestly abhor needless bloodshed, be it my enemies or allies, my earlier statement to Waisury-dono wasn't false. However, if I don't lead my men to kill the enemies now, they'll be the ones to get killed instead, my subordinates who became soldiers to feed their families, the subordinates who I've been training together with until now.

If it's to help them, then I'll kill my pity, to kill the enemy. To save my subordinates' lives, I'll deprive the enemies of their lives. I set my resolution and strongly, strongly, strongly burned it in my heart, to not allow it to weaken midway in the battle. And thus I proceed to the battlefield. Determined to win.

At this time, I'm certain that my eyes were filled with the resolve to fight. In order to help as many of my subordinates as possible, I was prepared to dirty my hands with blood and deprive the enemies' lives.

But there was something that I didn't know at this time. The fact that outside the tent there was an ogre unlike any of the monsters I slaughtered in the past, his strength deviated too much from common sense. He was skilled with martial arts that he polished in the battlefield and used strange powers.

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Outside my tent, the crimson flames burning the soldiers' tents and the moonlight provided enough lighting, although it was not ideal for humans, it provided enough lighting to fight. However, it was extremely inconvenient that the enemy's bodies were completely black. With their bodies' color, they can easily blend in the darkness outside the camp and mount an ambush. Just the thought of hidden ambushes waiting patiently for the chance to jump at their prey is extremely mentally taxing.

My consideration that there's a possibility that what we're fighting right now is just a small part of the enemy's forces and the accumulating fatigue from the constant combat since I left the tent started dulling my movements, however, I quickly banished these negative thoughts and my fatigue with willpower.

But that isn't everything, the most important thing was that the strength of the black skeletons we were fighting was extraordinary. Their skills with their armaments are very high and their bodies are very durable, and even if a strike connects, a half-assed attack won't even scratch them. In the case of skeletal species, their power level can be roughly estimated from the quality of their [Soul Equipment], so the fact that these black skeletons' bodies are completely covered by armor indicates that their power level must be pretty high. I couldn't help thinking why would such a large number of monsters with this high power level appear in this place and at this time?

But, even so I continued advancing in the battlefield, I have to continue advancing. That's because with my position, it's an unforgivable act to stop advancing.

Fortunately, the full moon is out tonight. My magic sword [The Moon's Gale] 's maximum power can be displayed only when the full moon is out, in most situations this is an inconvenient factor, but with the full moon out in this situation it can be described only as a blessing.

From the front, a skeleton came running at me wielding a huge two-handed axe made from black iron with the golden handle. Although it can deal an enormous damage, it should be pretty heavy, but the skeleton was lightly swinging it with its monstrous

strength at fast speeds producing wind-cutting noises in the process.

Because skeleton species don't have muscles they may seem physically weak, but because in the first place they can move because of magic, they're are much more powerful than they look. This skeleton's blow is very powerful, it's powerful to the extent that even I can't take it head-on.

In the first place, swords can't compete with axes when it comes destructive power, so I can't block it with my sword, and if I try using my shield to block it instead, my hand will get crushed by the weight of the blow. Fortunately, it's not too fast for me to dodge.

I just concentrated my thoughts on moving faster, sharper, and moving my sword in a trajectory with as less wasted movements as possible, to thrust my sword at the skeleton before its axe slash me. My murderous intent turned into a visible force then dwelled my sword's blade.

【 Therese • E • Eckermann used the Combat Art [The Sanctuary's Roses] 】

【 The magic sword [The Moon's Gale]'s Unique skill [The Moon's Gale] has been activated】

My magic sword started radiating with a pale red light due to activation of the Combat Art, and by absorbing the magic power from the moon, a whirlwind of silver dust was generated around the sword.

"---Chi!!"

I forcibly deflected the black skeleton's two-handed axe with [The Moon's Gale] covered by the silver dust whirlwind, the two-handed axe missed and passed by my side making a deep slash mark on the ground. On the other hand my attack pierced the skeleton's skull slightly. Although I wanted to penetrate through it, but this is unavoidable, all skeleton species have a high resistance to piercing attacks after all. That said, it's already the end for this skeleton. The red light that surrounded my blade penetrated into the skeleton, at the next moment, patterns of red roses spread throughout its skeletal body.

This is a Unique Combat Art that only [Temple Knight]s can use. It's called [The Sanctuary's Roses], the red roses patterns it produces have the [Holy] attribute which is fatal for most undead species.

The strength of the red roses-pattern covered black skeleton rapidly dissipated due to the additional damage of the [Holy] attribute against undead, the black bones lost their binding power and scattered around. Smoke rose from the bones, gradually breaking down into powder before vanishing. Before they completely dissipated, I kicked the remaining bones at the skeleton coming at me from the front, and crushed the head of another one that came at me from my side with my shield.

"Behn, is the wide-area divine cleansing spell not ready yet?"

"Please wait a little bit more--- Commander, behind you!"

In response to Behn's warning, I looked back quickly. Then I saw a black skeleton pointing the short spear in its hand at me while heading over and making rattling sounds. Because of its light weight and high agility, it was heading at me at a very high speed while crushing the ground under its feet.

It aimed the spear at my head while making full use of its acceleration to increase the attack's power, I didn't even have enough time to dodge or block. Seeing the blade heading straight to my head, at that moment I really thought 'it will penetrate my head'.

Then, a red line flashed in front of my eyes.

"Commander, your back is full of openings"

The head of the black skeleton, the hands, the torso, the legs, all of them got cut very finely to small pieces, then flames burst out and burned the remains down.

"---, I offer my gratitude to you, Levias"

It was my other adjutant Levias who killed the skeleton before it landed its attack on me. The source of the flames that burned the remains of the skeleton is her treasured sword which she's wielding in her hand right now, I glimpsed the red light peculiar to Combat Arts on her sword before it quickly dissipated. From the fact that the skeleton's whole body got crushed to small pieces, she must have used the Combat Art [Thousand Crimson Slashes] to save me.

"We can't have you dying here after all, Commander. Please don't let it bother you"

Levias suddenly started scratching her cheek while saying that. Abruptly, a blue light

flicker behind her only for an instant before quickly disappearing. "You say so, but your back is also defenseless!"

Waisury-dono who instantly burned the skeleton that was approaching Levias from behind to ashes said that while bitterly smiling and playing with blue flames with his hand. The flames' blue color is a proof of being an outstanding magician who have a high control over magic power, an ordinary magician can produce only red flames. Seeing the scene of Waisury-dono accomplishing it so easily made me feel that he's really dependable in the battlefield.

"Uwaa, Hot!! You shot it too close, Waisury-san!"

"Wahaha, you're the one in the wrong for letting your guard down in the battlefield."

After that, a mass of blue flame ejected out from Waisury-dono's hand and burned three skeletons at once. The blue flames turned into a blue explosion that dazzled me with its beauty the moment they made contact with the skeletons, and at the same time I felt the extreme heat spreading into the surroundings from them. I couldn't help admiring Waisury-dono.

But nevertheless, the skeletons continued moving, that's because they were axemen and had correspondingly thick and strong bones, not to mention that their defensive gear was relatively high unlike mages and lancers. Levias slashed the still-moving skeletons who became brittle after getting burned, it was a very disappointing end for skeletons who have resistance against slashing in addition to their resistance against thrusting.

Although the enemy is strong, we can fight back with our teamwork. But considering the overall situation of the battlefield, our side is in a dire state. Although I've been roaming in the battlefield and uniting the soldiers under my command for some time now, the enemy's numbers are very large, not to mention that each and every one of them is very strong. And even if we were to somehow win this battle, we'll have to continue fighting for a long time before we can end this battle.

However, if we manage to hold out until the high-level priest Behn's wide-range divine cleansing spell is completed, all of the undead in a radius of 50m will get purified or at least weakened. This will turn the tides of the battle in our favor, we have a chance of victory. That what I was thinking.

But, reality wasn't so simple, it was cruel.

"Uoooooooooooooooooo!!"

"-----!"-- I involuntarily swallowed my breath.

"Wh--!"-- Waisury-dono's astonishment.

"Woah"-- Behn's attention got disrupted for a moment.

"Kya!!"-- Levias emitted a small scream.

In this chaotic battlefield filled with screams and roars of allies and foes, this roar reverberated clearly throughout the whole battlefield. No, can it even be called a roar anymore?

A roar that can shake the ground and make people feel shaken from the core of their hearts is already a form of attack. It's a roaring attack used by some strong creatures like dragons and giants.

While holding my ears reflexively, I looked in the direction I heard the roar from.

What I saw there was, a black ogre covered with red tattoos and with a silver left arm, riding on a Hind bear which should have been the strongest monster species in this forest. The black ogre was looking in our direction while giving off the air of being the black skeletons' lord.

Ogres are the most famous monster species from the [Demon] race. Although ogres are known to have a very high physical prowess, they have muscles for brains and can think only of simple things like using clubs when fighting, but what this ogre is wielding is a huge halberd corresponding to an ogre's size. Wearing a leather pants, and like the average ogre leaving the top bare. From the way the ogre is holding the halberd, I can tell that this ogre isn't an amateur with halberds.

This ogre's skin is black in color, common ogres generally have brown skin, even Mine ogres have only a dark brown skin color, so this black ogre must be a [Variant] who received a [Divine Protection]. Given that its skin is black, it must have received a [Divine Protection] from one of the gods under the pillar of the [Great God of Origin and End], with the color being so dark, it must be the the [Divine Protection] of a considerably great god, probably a [God], maybe the [God of Death] or the [God of

Netherworld].

This is clearly a very formidable enemy. However, I finally found a solution to get rid of the army of black skeletons. They must have been summoned by this ogre. Although it might be premature to judge that, but my intuition is also telling me that this ogre is the source.

Knowing that, our objective is clear, concentrate on killing the black ogre. If we kill the one controlling the black skeletons, then they'll start fighting each other and destroy themselves, at least they'll become weaker.

"We'll concentrate on killing that black ogre. Behn, after you cast the divine cleansing spell, start casting support magic on everyone. Focus on defense and speed buffs, cast them as constantly as possible."

"Understood, Commander. Please leave it to me."

"Waisury-dono, aim with your magic at the openings the enemy shows. Levias, intercept the enemy with me on the front lines, the rest of you too. That is an enemy that we must kill as quickly as possible, be prepared."

"Understood"

Leading my subordinates, I rushed to the vanguard.

The skeletons set their respective weapons up to block our path, those that stood in the way began to disappear or had their movements slowed. However, Behn finally completed casting the wide-range divide cleansing spell and the fate of the skeletons in our way was to either get purified and disappear completely, or to get weaker. We crushed the weakened skeletons while continuing advancing towards the black ogre. Then, I heard an unbelievable voice when we got close enough.

"Their judgment ability is so-so. As for their magical equipment, it's of a good quality."

The black ogre spoke in human language fluently. Normally, even ogre mages who have a relatively high intelligence can speak only in broken sentences. In the first place, the body structure of ogres makes it harder for them to talk in human language, yet this black ogre was conversing like a normal human.

Although I was genuinely surprised, I can't stop now, I don't have any intentions of

stopping, this ogre is the one who attacked us first. At the same time, Behn finished casting the support magic on us and my running speed increased dramatically. My body felt light like a feather.

Seeing the ogre looking surprised at how we suddenly got faster I felt that this was an opportunity!

I'm targeting for the black ogre's heart. So I jumped in order to adjust to the height of the black ogre riding a Hind bear, the impact as I took off crushed the ground under me. It was a jump that had enough strength to crush the ground under me after getting lighter due to the effect of Behn's support magic. I was like a fired arrow.

As the height of my trajectory was adjusted, I got into position and quickly aimed at the black ogre's heart. Just like when I killed the black skeleton earlier, my murderous intent seeped into the blade and it started radiating a red light.

【 Therese • E • Eckermann used the Combat Art [The Sanctury's Altar] 】

This is the strongest Combat Art that I can use. Since my opponent is an ogre, [The Sanctury's Roses]'s [Holy]-attribute damage will not be as big as when used against undead, of course there will be damage, but not big enough to deliver a fatal injury to an ogre.

That's why I used [The Sanctury's Altar] which have the [Spiritual Light] attribute that deals damage directly to the soul.

Even ogres with their enormous life force will get a fatal wound if they get stabbed in the heart with this Combat Art. I gained this knowledge from my experience from killing other ogres in the past while training and in real combat. Even with the [Divine Protection] of [God], this type of damage can't be resisted easily.

'Surely, quickly, kill this ogre' I imposed this on myself.

I was like a flash of light flying through the air. The enemy isn't responding to my movements. Even if he reacted, I won't get any fatal wounds with my sword's silver whirlwind's ability to divert the enemy's attacks.

This blow will penetrate the black ogre's heart. I was convinced of this.

However, the next moment I noticed that my body was flying up towards the sky. My

consciousness couldn't keep up with this reality. I couldn't understand my current situation or how this happened.

"Commander!"

The impact of being caught by my subordinates knocked me back to reality. Going through in my mind at what just happened while looking at the posture of the black Ogre, I understood. I was scooped up. He used the flat axe-head of the halberd like a shovel, at a speed that I could not perceive, yet gentle enough that I did not feel pain, to launched me into the sky.

As I realized this, I gasped "Buwa" and I broke into a cold sweat. I don't even know when the halberd started moving. I couldn't see even its shadow. If the black ogre was serious, I would have been cut and killed at that moment. Just like a bug getting crushed. Why did he spare me then? Thinking of this, I got confused.

However, I realized the answer the following instant.

"Alright. I will capture you alive. You'll be useful in many ways."

The black ogre was probing me, to know if I'm worth keeping alive or not. This is the reason why he didn't kill me. Reaching this conclusion, my anger began welling up from the bottom of my heart.

I was born as the daughter of a nobleman and was raised carefully with love, and as much as I hate it, I was able to get my position as the commander of this battalion at this young age only because of the influence of my father, a high ranking officer. But as a knight, I have a pride as a warrior. I've been constantly working hard to gain the power to match my position.

I can't control my feelings when my opponent is looking down at me, at my efforts like this. I was angry. I glared back at the black ogre's eyes and exclaimed while emitting my murderous intent.

"Stop your nonsense, you're just a mere ogre. I will cut you down."

"Hmm, Your courage is good. It seems like you're a better woman than I expected."

He gave off an intimidating air even when holding his chin with his hand while smiling fearlessly. Just by confronting him, I can tell that he's a very strong opponent.

Although feeling indignant, part of me was genuinely looking forward to fighting someone stronger than me from the bottom of my heart.

"My name is Therese • E • Eckermann. A knight of the Sternbild Kingdom who set out to save the kingdom's first princess, Stelivia. If you wish, show me your power. If you defeat me, I'll accept whatever you do, even if you were to embrace my body."

"My name is Ogarou. I'm serving as the mercenary corps « Parabellum »'s leader currently. I will only say this, if you don't want to lose come at me with everything you got."

"Of course. From now on words are unnecessary, we'll speak with our blades."

"Aa, let's do it."

After our self introductions-- The halberd was swung at my head at lightning speed.

Fast! That blow was simply too fast. The speed of the black skeletons' axes can't even be compared to it. In addition, I can see splashes of water slightly leaking from the edge. It's certain that the axe-head was made with some kind of special workmanship. From the fact that what is emitting the water is a blade, it's most likely a water blade. Water attacks are hard to defend against, that's because they have a flexible nature.

Regardless, I thought of deflecting the halberd with my blade's whirlwind without panicking, then I noticed that the whirlwind disappeared when I was not paying attention. It disappeared without a trace.

Before thinking about the cause, I jumped sideways reflexively. Without the whirlwind, this is not a blow that I can block. I didn't have the time to consider other defensive maneuvers, so I was forced to roll on the ground in a pathetic manner and my armor got stained with soil. Some of the parts not covered with the armor got scraped by stones and started bleeding. However, this is nothing. It's a cheap price in exchange to avoiding that blow that cut the ground deeply like paper.

"You have good reflexes. I want you even more now."

"You bastard. You use some strange powers, something different from a [Divine Protection]."

Ignoring the pleased ogre, I involuntarily spilled out my doubts. Which made the ogre

smile even more strongly. It was breathtaking, I felt the urge to retreat and run away.

"Why do you think so?"

"That's because you're clearly abnormal."

The black ogre's attention was directed at me. In the meantime, Levias took the chance to ambush him from behind with her scimitar-type magic sword [The Severing Flames], approaching silently from behind and swinging the sword at his flank. The surprise attack's timing was perfect. This sneak attack that further strengthened with a Combat Art should be capable of cutting the black ogre... Or so I thought.

But it couldn't. The black ogre blocked the sneak attack with the handle of his halberd without even turning around to look at Levias. Moreover, the flames emanating from the sword's blade suddenly got extinguished. They disappeared as if they were blown off by something. The very same magical flames that can't be extinguished even underwater.

Appalled by the incomprehensible turn of events unfolding in front of her, Levias frantically tried to back away, however, before she could, her abdomen got stabbed with the stone-like butt end of the halberd.

Fortunately, the damage seems to have been mitigated by her armor, and it turned into a small hole with blood flowing out from it. The butt end of that halberd was very sharp, it seems like it was designed for stabbing. Levias's movements got slower due to the pain, then, the ogre extended his silver arm to catch her.

At this rate she will get caught by the black ogre. Seeing his actions, I spontaneously moved. I quickly absorbed magic from the moon using [The Moon's Gale], recreating the silver whirlwind.

I aimed my sword at his Hind bear's head. If his steed collapses, he'll surely display an opening.

However, my expectations were proven wrong, yet again.

"Naive."

In the trajectory of my thrusted sword, at its tip, suddenly a rapidly rotating water ball emerged, it was the size of my head. When my sword pierced the orb, the silver

whirlwind that was rotating around my sword got counterbalanced by the rotation of the water ball in the opposite direction and disappeared.

"Wha?..."

What surprised me more than the fact that my attack got blocked is the existence of the water ball itself. This is not magic, I couldn't detect magic power which is unique to magic from it. None of the magic branches can do this. Then what is this water ball? Before I could think of an answer, the black ogre moved.

"Your aim was very good."

The black ogre who grabbed Levias's torso with his silver arm, then casually looked at me. For the first time, he looked at me with his real emotions unlike so far.

At that moment, fear corroded my heart. My body froze, I couldn't move at all, I couldn't even avert my eyes away from his gaze because of fear.

'I will get killed!' I thought. They were the eyes of a predator appraising its food...

" [The Blue Flames Spears (Ruid Fara Lacus)] "

30 spears made of blue flames passed by my side at high speed. All of them heading at the black ogre gazing at me.

This is a Third-Tier spell from [Fire] magic-system, [The Blue Flames Spears (Ruid Fara Lacus)]. It must be Waisury-dono who have the Job [High Wizard].

These blue flames spears have more than enough power to kill an ogre. Even the strong body of an ogre will get carbonized instantly if it hits directly. Just by being nearby, I can feel the intense heatwaves, my skin felt hot and itchy, while my body started boiling. Even if he's a [Variant], there's no way he can survive a Third-Tier spell, it can easily kill him--

--they're slow"

I heard the black ogre muttering those words in a low voice, I was close to him, so I'm very sure that he said that.

At the same time, as the blue flames spears were flying towards the black ogre, they

started blinking fiercely one by one, then their forms broke down, leaving behind only traces of blue flames which eventually dissipated. All of the 30 spears disappeared in only 3 seconds, burning nothing at all, leaving the black ogre and the Hind bear he's mounting unscathed.

From what I saw and the black ogre's words, I can deduce that he must have used some way to destroy them. But how? This question appeared in my head.

"Therese-dono, please retreat, quickly."

I heard Waisury-dono's yell coming from behind me. His words brought me back.

Did he use both of his arms to destroy the blue flames spears? Levias who he was holding with his silver arm has already been released, retreated and received treatment. The only one left close to him right now is me. In a hurry, I started retreating back to put some distance between us.

At first, he prepared for pursuit, but the next instant he suddenly looked at a direction where there's nothing but an empty space and started talking.

"Hmm. That magician will be useful. That's right Ogakichi-kun, capture the group in that direction."

"You bastard, what the hell are you saying?"

I leaked out my thoughts in spite of myself.

"Just confirming a target."

"What--" are you talking about?

My voice was interrupted as the torso's of several soldiers who were closing in on the black ogre suddenly got slashed in half. Blood started spouting from the cut parts in large quantities wetting the ground, their organs spilled out and flew in all directions, their cut upper parts rolled on the ground violently. Immediately after, the corpses went ablaze.

Wondering what happened, I looked around for the cause reflexively, then I saw another ogre. This one's skin wasn't black, it was red-copper skinned and had an even bigger body than the black ogre. He was armed with a huge double-edged battle-axe

that matched his physique and a huge black tower shield which covered three-quarters of his big frame.

The first thing that comes to mind when seeing him is, a castle wall. In addition, just like the black ogre, he subdued a Hind bear into obeying him. All of this made me feel that - although not as much as the black ogre - he's very dangerous.

"Ogarou. Can I kill and eat just like I want?"

"Well, it's ok. Just be sure to not eat too much."

"Alright. The strong ones, I'll catch. The Others, I'll eat"

"Ah, That's fine. Quickly go."

Answering "Em", the red-copper ogre ran off with his Hind bear in the direction of a group of soldiers fighting in the distance. Fast, they covered 30 meters in an instant, then the battle-axe was swung horizontally, the torsos of a few soldiers got easily cut in half as if they were weeds. Then, the cut parts burned down.

There's no doubt. That battle-axe is a magic item. A considerably high-ranked one at that. While thinking why such an item is in the hands of an ogre, I returned my gaze to the black ogre.

Although it's not a good idea to take my eyes off of the red-copper ogre, the black ogre is even more dangerous than him.

As I was measuring the distance between us, I heard a voice. From its unique echo, I deduced that it's being delivered via magic.

『Therese-dono, please buy me some time. I'll kill the black ogre with my trump card.』

"Acknowledged, how much time do you need?"

『I know it's unreasonable, but I'll need 2 minutes. If possible, I want you to disable that silver arm. And if it's possible, I want you to cut it off altogether. It's a definite source of trouble for us, it's possible that my trump card's attack will fail because of it.』

"I see, that is certainly tough, but I'll try."

『I leave it to you.』

Then, Waisury-dono's voice disappeared, and I heard a voice chanting in a low volume from the rearguard. At the same time, I felt the a torrent of magical power building up. It was being shaped and constructed at an extraordinary speed, swelling up steadily.

When all the components of this spell are finally completed, the result - the magic's scale - will be something that goes far beyond what a person can imagine. This is probably a spell that's one Tier above the one from before, a Fourth-Tier spell. A spell of this level have enough destructive power to destroy sturdy city walls.

In response to that, the black ogre got off from his Hind bear and started walking towards us. His eyes were looking in the direction of Waisury-dono, he is probably intending to interrupt the casting.

Before he got near, I stepped out to stop him. I have to stop him.

"From this moment onwards, we'll protect Waisury-dono with everything we got. Levias and others will take care of the left flank, you guys handle the right flank, and your group will take the back. I will handle the front. We'll kill the black ogre. Behn and the other priests, handle the support, cast buffing magic on us and debuffing magic on the black ogre."

"Understood, we'll do our best until our magic power runs out."

"That piece of shit, he's definitely getting killed."

"That's the spirit."

Aligning our timing, we launched our attacks simultaneously. We did everything we can for the chance to kill the black Ogre, to protect Waisury-dono and buy him more time to complete his spell.

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From the promised two minutes, one minute passed. In exchange for that minute, we paid a very heavy price.

One of the soldiers got bisected vertically with a water blade that ejected from the axe-

head of the halberd, with his entrails spilling out. Another soldier got pierced in the torso by the silver arm as his head got bitten off and eaten. A third got skewered by the ogre's horns, then got crushed into another solider. One soldier got burnt down to a crisp by flames which were suddenly generated from the halberd's pick. A flying spear-like lightning bolt which was emitted from the halberd's spearhead penetrated another soldier's body and burned his entrails.

Corpses were constantly piling up just to keep the black ogre occupied. The number of soldiers who sustained heavy injuries in the process is uncountable, the damage caused by the black ogre was enormous.

I'm the only one remaining standing in front of the black Ogre.

Levias's magic scimitar broke and she collapsed on the ground covered in blood. Behn overused his magic power and collapsed because of "mana deficiency". The other soldiers still alive collapsed on the ground too while groaning from pain.

Yet the black ogre still stood there uninjured. He didn't get even a single scratch. All of our attacks were stopped with movements and techniques that I have never seen before.

"Your leadership was splendid. Defending against attacks from all directions at the same time was a little hard, that's why it took me so long to get rid of them, but it's over now."

The black ogre stated the truth, pleasantly.

Strangely his voice didn't contain ridicule. Mysteriously what it contained was only praise.

"You bastard, why are you so strong?"

I am not uninjured either. There are numerous minor cuts throughout my body, in addition, I suffered a deep laceration on my dominant right arm and a small knife is stuck in my thigh. The black ogre seemingly pulled it out of nowhere and threw it at me. It was so sudden I could not prevent it.

Since I got all of this after Behn's priest group collapsed, I can't expect healing magic from others. If possible, I wanted to pull out the knife and heal my injuries by myself, but I don't think that I have the luxury to do that. If I try healing the injuries, the black

ogre will make use of that opening and attack instantly.

It would not be an understatement to say that my battalion have been already annihilated. At this point of time, the enemies are sweeping the battlefield for survivors.

No, a crazed feast. It might be better to call it a crazed feast. Our encampment is now filled with screams, the swords clashing music and the scent of blood.

Those who have been killed already are getting eaten and looted while those who managed to survive are getting hunted one by one. When the black and the red-copper ogre appeared, the battle's status fell completely in their favor in just a few minutes. other soldiers were easily being overwhelmed. It's too overwhelming, too unreasonable.

"Why are you so strong?"

I asked the black ogre the same question again while laughing unconsciously. The reason why I was laughing is probably because that's the only way for me to preserve my sanity. Maybe.

"The reason why you think like that is just because you're weak. You didn't polish your skills, instead you relied on the body strengthening effects of your Jobs and flashy techniques like Combat Arts."

"Our training is insufficient? We covered our bodies with blood, dirt and sweat training daily and you're saying that all of our efforts were in vain?"

"Ah, it was in vain. All of your efforts were completely meaningless, the only thing I can think of your efforts is that you were just wasting your time meaninglessly. In the first place, do you really think that you who are being swayed on a fundamental-level by rules others established can be called strong? Do you really think that you who can fight only by relying on others can be called strong? If you want to become strong, then train until you understand the essence of the strength you gained and turn it into a part of you."

After the black ogre's speech, I stopped laughing and rage overcame me.

If I don't get angry after hearing this, then... If I don't move after hearing this, then...

I got angry because I couldn't bear the fact that the days I have spent in pursuit of strength, the people I asked for guidance and our accumulating desire to become stronger got dismissed like it's nothing.

Leaving myself aside, I couldn't bear the fact that the people I respect got dismissed like this. The power and vigor that was waning began to return to me, fueled by anger.

"Don't you dare uttering another word, ahhhhhhhhh!!"

I pulled out the knife in my thigh. I felt an intense pain running down my leg. I felt dizzy.

Blood spouted out from the wound. I felt an intense pain running down my leg. My consciousness started blurring.

I started running. I felt an intense pain running down my leg. My sight started blurring.

My wound thigh muscle started tearing. I felt an intense pain running down my leg. The sensation of my leg started disappearing.

The small fracture in my femoral bone started getting bigger due to overburdening. I felt an intense pain running down my leg. I forcibly moved my body with willpower.

Ignoring the pain, I ran. Even if my leg get wrecked, I must continue running.

I ran while ignoring the intense pain, and burned my murderous intent into the silverly-shining iron blade of my magic sword [The Moon's Gale].

Red light started radiating from the blade, and white light started radiating from my body.

【 Therese · E · Eckermann used the Combat Art [The Sanctury's Altar] 】

【 Therese · E · Eckermann uses Combat Art [Wind Raid] 】

【 The magic sword [The Moon's Gale]'s Unique Skill [The Silver Moon's Storm] has been activated 】

One of my strongest techniques, dramatically increasing the running speed, a physical enhancement technique-type Combat Art, [Wind Raid].

Although I'm handicapped by my injured thigh, but even then, when using this Combat Art I can move as fast as the wind.

To keep up with my current speed - which is impossible with my normal body specs - , my thoughts got accelerated as well and I felt as if time started flowing slower, in the center of my view was the black ogre wielding the halberd. I looked at his eyes, and my flames of hatred went ablaze.

What I'm thinking is not simply 'I want to kill him', rather it's 'I have to kill him', driven by this obsession, I ran.

I traversed the last 10 meters separating us within a fraction of a second.

I thrusted out my magic sword [The Moon's Gale]. A silver whirlwind was spiraling around the red light clad blade, explosively increasing its penetrating power.

This is genuinely the strongest blow I can strike, a blow combining my treasured sword's Unique Skill with my strongest Combat Arts, combining both attack power and speed. This is my strongest strike.

In response, the black ogre threw the halberd away and caught it with his silver arm like it's nothing. The five big fingers were firmly holding the sword while scattering sparks. Witnessing this in extreme disbelief, I felt like something inside me shattered.

However, the sword's momentum didn't stop completely and its tip slightly stabbed the black ogre's thick pectoralis muscle.

Blood flowed. Red blood the same as us, a few drops. That's, that's, that's..... , that's a proof that my attack reached him. Realizing that, I felt relieved.

Although the soul-attacking light of the [Spiritual Light] wasn't able to kill the black ogre, nevertheless, my attack reached him.

"With this, I think that I've to take back some of the things I said about your efforts being meaningless. At least, the efforts you stacked were able to reach me."

Having consumed all of my energy and stamina, my body felt heavy and I felt that I can't remain standing anymore, looking up at the black ogre's face, I saw him smiling warmly.

The black ogre's face is scary, he eats people. But at the same time, I noticed kindness in the smile on his face.

"Therese-dono, please jump to the side."

In the space where only me and the black ogre were standing, I heard Waisury-dono's voice. It seems like the promised 2 minutes had already passed. I forgot about it in my rage. I didn't have the time to think about it in that state.

Even without turning, I can feel that there was a magic with unfathomable destructive power flying in the sky behind me. The magical power it was emitting was strong to that extent.

Waisury-sono said to me to jump to the side, that means that he'll be able to minimize the damage that I will receive if I do that. For an ordinary magician, such a thing is impossible, but it's probably possible for Waisury-dono who is a high-Leveled [High Wizard].

However, I have already consumed all of my energy and stamina and can't move anymore. I'll probably die if I get hit by the spell with the black ogre, no, I'll definitely die.

It's just that, why do I think that it's alright even if such a thing happened?

I don't know. Although I don't know why, but I don't have any feelings of regret or remorse in my heart, it's only satisfaction. How bizarre. My subordinates got killed and I'm about to get killed too, yet the only thing I can feel is satisfaction.

I looked. At the black ogre gripping [The Moon's Gale] with his silver arm, and spoke unconsciously.

"How do you like it? Did you see it, you monster? This wound is my gift to you."

"Aa, I saw it, and accepted it. That's why, I don't have any intention of letting an attractive lady like you die."

Before I could even think about what he meant, the black ogre put his thick arm around my waist. Although I couldn't understand what he's planning to do, I'm familiar with this posture and his movements. It's dancing.



In spite of the big difference in our sizes, I can describe his movements only as a graceful dance.

When he completed a turn mid-dance and we exchanged places, I saw it. The magic that Waizury-dono cast approaching the black ogre's back.

Finally I saw the magic that Waisury-dono cast, though it was almost completely hidden from me by the black ogre's large frame. It was a white flame dragon with an elongated body like a snake.

It was a spell one Tier above my expectation, a Fifth-Tier spell [The White Flames Dragon (Weisser Flammen Drachen)]. This is indeed a spell that can be called a trump card.

The Fifth-Tier spell [The White Flames Dragon (Weisser Flammen Drachen)] is a spell of a type of magic that combines more than one attribute in one spell, known as [Synthetic Magic], this particular spell combines both of the [Fire] and the [Wind] attributes. It has a special characteristic which is, the caster can control the dragon just like a part of their body for a certain period of time.

At the time when I was very young, I saw it in a battlefield that my father took me with him to once, I can't forget the scene of thousands of enemy soldiers getting mowed down in a few seconds to this day.

That magic that I felt both respect and fear for when I saw it the first time when I was young is coming at me now. I thought 'If my end is this spectacular, then it isn't too bad'. It would be an honor to die from this spell. At this distance, it's impossible to avoid it, I'll die together with the black ogre--

"What's that resigned expression for? Do you think that you will die?"

"Eh?"

In spite of myself, I showed a stupid expression.

"I told you before. I don't have any intention of letting you die. Even if you don't like it, I won the fight. The moment I won our fight, your life-and-death matters became mine to decide."

After that, the black ogre turned his neck around and looked back at the dragon.

As for me who was held in his arms, I didn't have the power to resist the inevitable. The only thing I can do is resigning my fate to what to come.

The white flames dragon isn't stopping. It seems like Waisury-dono judged that it's impossible to save me. He stopped hesitating and moved the dragon in this direction at the highest speed. I think it's the right decision, if he has continued hesitating instead, I would have felt insulted by Waisury-dono.

Even the black ogre won't be able to get away safely. The white flames dragon opened its mouth, exposing fangs made of white flames.

The flesh and the blood of the black ogre will evaporate in an instant and he'll disappear from this world, leaving only bones behind. Naturally, I'll disappear from this world too. And that'll be the end of it. The destructive power of this spell can't be resisted by a creature on an ogre's level, even if he's a [Variant].

But, even so, or should I say naturally? This black ogre far surpassed my imagination.

Seeing the outcome, I couldn't do anything other than looking at the battlefield in front of me absentmindedly without being able to understand anything.

Regardless, it's a fact that the white flames dragon that was approaching the black ogre's back got annihilated by the attack of that very same black ogre. It's impossible for me to express that scene with words alone.

What I know for sure is that the black ogre must have done something with his back facing the white flames dragon and it perished as a result. The remnants of the white flames dragon scattered around, dyeing my view. And just like when a dragon perishes, I heard an explosive roar.

The only 3 humans who witnessed this were me, Levias who regained consciousness and Waisury-dono as he started staggering because of "mana deficiency".

I fainted after that, so I do not remember the exact details of what happened after the black ogre destroyed the white flames dragon.

I can only say one thing for sure, the battle between me and the black ogre ended with his overwhelming victory.

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Later, when I asked Ogarou about how he destroyed the white flames dragon, he told me that he used a certain martial arts school's technique. The technique's name is "Applying Mountain Lean" also alternatively known as "Iron Mountain Lean", then he combined this technique with a spell from the [End] magic-system, [Back Attack] and a few other abilities.

When explaining in detail, first, he covered his body with a membrane of water using [Hydro Hand]. Then, used [Aero Master] to create a vacuum on top of the water membrane with a small distance between them. After that, he cast one of the [End] magic-system's Third-Tier spells which is called [My Darkness Destroys All (Su Ordo Kuta Meide)], and further strengthened the three dark pyramid-shaped shields that it summoned with his silver arm's ability [Attribute Echo].

T/N: The spell's name is in an archaic dialect, but unfortunately the words used haven't changed since ancient times in english as far as I know. ~Obarou

These three shields held both defending and attacking capabilities as they were made of the [End] attribute.

Lastly, Ogarou hit this three-layered shield with his back using the "Applying Mountain Technique" strengthened by [Back Attack] and a few other abilities, the result of which was the destruction of the white flames dragon.

What a freak. No, I can't call him anything but a freak. Common sense doesn't apply on him at all, even I who is explaining this right now can't believe that what I'm saying is the truth.

Regardless, I lost. To that end, as promised I'll serve Ogarou with this body from now on. Knights don't break their promises. At the very least, that's how my chivalry is.

Therefore, I'll devote my everything to serving Ogarou till this life is extinguished.

Well, you see, I didn't think that our first time will be so rough, I got upset and stabbed him in the heart with a knife..... but a wound of that level isn't that big of a problem for an ogre. Besides, I have already received a punishment because of what I did.

Now I feel that my current life with Ogarou isn't so bad. Well, after interacting and conversing with Ogarou, how can I describe it? I found out that he is a rather good man. I feel an illusion-like warm feeling when looking at Ogarou, and unnoticed, the suffocating feeling I had as a noble disappeared. I tilted my head uncertain about this warm feeling in my heart that I'm feeling for the first time.

Author's note:

The Female Knight lost in her duel against Ogarou, after that swore her loyalty to him and got attracted to him gradually.

The man who loved her (Translator: it's most probably Waisury, his behaviour in the tent and several hints from the mobile game prove it) saw her getting taken by another man in front of his eyes, furthermore, he and his companions got ravished by goblins and hobgoblins (Translator: they're probably the ones who got taken by the female goblins and hobgoblins, it seems Waisury was somewhat handsome according to Therese in the beginning of this side story). Such a tragedy... Such a thing can't be called other than a malicious fate.

Q: Even though she is a knight of the kingdom, she swore loyalty to Ogarou just because she lost? A: In medieval Europe, it seems like knights had the right to choose their lord to a certain degree. I made use of it. (Translator: the extent of the right of knights to choose their lord the author meant here is that they can choose which noble they serve, not a country. The author made use of the it only, didn't perfectly copy it)

DAY 68

SIDESTORY: OGAKICHI'S POV

Riding my tamed beast, the Hind bear Kumakichi, we ran in the darkness. That's because Ogarou said that we'll go attack some enemies.

This time we are focusing on mobility, so only cavalry will go to the battlefield, our numbers are as few as seventy, but Ogarou said that it'll be enough, so that should be the case. I didn't think about the reason deeply, in the first place I'm not good at thinking. All I need to do is executing Ogarou's orders, only that.

After some time, we found the enemy camp. There was something that seemed to be magic stretched surrounding it, but I don't really know what it is. I've never seen something like it. Ogarou said that he'll break it, so I just headed to the position that he instructed me to head to. If you follow Ogarou's orders, everything will be perfect.

When I got into position, I reported to Ogarou through the ear-cuffs. After some time, Ogarou threw a black spear to start the battle.

With a crispy sound (paripari) the magic-like thing got destroyed by the black spear, after that, although it took some time, Asue - who is also the person I love - surrounded the enemy camp with an earth wall. It is to prevent our preys from escaping.

'Amazing', I felt awed seeing Asue creating the wall.

After the earth wall with a height exceeding me was created, we bombarded the enemy with magic. Among them, Supsei's magic was the grandest, strongest and most dazzling.

If it's about threat level, then Ogarou's black spear is still more dangerous, but the attack range of Supsei's magic is larger, and she was firing it continuously, dealing more damage in group battles.

After I spent sometime looking at the bombardment absentmindedly, we received orders from Ogarou to charge in.

I charged. I charged in without a second delay. I charged in with Kumakichi.

I found an enemy. I struck him with my axe. His shield got bent and the meat got torn. I found an enemy. I crushed him with my shield. Parts of his viscera jumped out from his mouth with a strong momentum. I found an enemy. I head-butted him. My horn stabbed his meat, the blood splashed on my face. I found an enemy. I trampled him with my momentum. I heard a voice of agony under my feet, I felt the bones getting crushed. I found an enemy. I breathed fire and burned him to death. While screaming, he showed a strange dance. I found an enemy. I bit his head and ate it. It is good. The brain's taste.

Mostly, I did not think of anything while fighting. The techniques I learned from training with Ogarou came out naturally. My body moved faster than my thoughts. I was able to fight without having to think about my moves to some degree, as for the strong ones, I fought them while thinking about my moves.

I remembered my training with Ogarou again in my head. The advice that he gave me at that time, my memories carved with pain. When I fought while remembering these, I was able to kill the enemy quickly, even if they were stronger than the others.

"This is fun", I thought.

The more and more I train, the more I can feel that I'm approaching Ogarou. Although the distance between us is still very big, but I can feel that I'm approaching him.

I want to approach Ogarou more. Although he's my goal too, but my desire as his friend to be able to stand next to him is even stronger.

That's why, I killed the enemy. In order to become stronger, I decided to kill many enemies. In order to become stronger, I need a lot of Experience Values, fighting experience, and many other things.

That's why, I swung my axe, blocked using my shield, and trampled the enemy.

Nevertheless, the meat I ate in the battlefield was delicious.

DAY 69

While I was sleeping, I felt a slight pain in my chest.

When I woke up, I noticed that my heart had been stabbed by someone. The culprit was the one who hadn't been cuffed with an [Enslave] imbued ear-cuff yet, the Female Knight clothed only in her birthday suit and wet with bodily fluids in some places.

Although she was really into the mood yesternight, she probably thought 'At the very least, I'll get rid of him...' when she woke up and regained her composure. And luckily for her, there was a wrought iron knife - made by Blacksmith-san - on a table in my room, she probably decided to give it a try after seeing the knife.

While leisurely thinking about that, I pulled out the knife embedded in my chest, it's not a good idea to underestimate the life force of an ogre. Even if it's a heart wound, I won't die from a wound made by a simple wrought iron knife. It only hurts a bit, and it makes it a little difficult for me to move until the wound is healed.

Nevertheless, although it isn't fatal, it hurts a little, so I used [Rapid Recovery]. Then, the wound closed at a visible speed.

As I looked up, I saw Dhammi-chan who was stark-naked, holding down the Female Knight while violently pulling her hair with a quiet, simmering anger.

Unable to fight back against the inhuman physical strength, with one of her cheeks rubbing against the ground, the Female Knight looked up at me with a resentful look.

Hmm, it seems like I didn't give her enough care yesternight. Therefore, I injected her with a drug - which I created by adjusting the properties of my bodily fluids - using my fingertips and punished her together with Dhammi-chan.

TL note: punish = sexual innuendo

Later in the afternoon, the Female Knight cuffed herself personally!

TL note: emphasis on personally in this sentence

Well, putting aside my exaggerating tone, after that, I gathered all of the male slaves with high military ranks and made them spit out all of the information they held. As a result of [Enslave], they could not lie or withhold information from me, resulting in a large amount of highly credible information. I passed these information on to Father Elf.

Since if we continue taking the lead without giving the elves a chance to undermine the humans' army, their morale can take a serious hit, yesterday I made a deal with Father Elf to sell him the information from the battalion we attacked in exchange for the 10 barrels of Elven Wine that he brought yesterday.

He brought it saying that it's to celebrate the victory, but at the same time he used it as a negotiation material. Father Elf is really shrewd.

Also, the hobgoblins increased by 4 today. This time, there was one cleric among them. As usual, I gave them a celebratory gift.

DAY 70

Today, we set up various traps on one of the human army's invasion routes, in others word, we're preparing to ambush them.

Most likely, the humans are planning of taking advantage of their greater numbers to attack the elven army from multiple directions. This is convenient for us too, as we can just defeat them one by one on their routes.

By the way, according to the Female Knight, the forces passing through this route is a part of the human army's main forces. While thinking that we'll be able to gain a lot of Experience Values from this fight, I worked together with Asue-chan to adjust the hunting grounds.

We lowered the level of the road compared to the surrounding area, while making sure that it still looked nothing more than a game trail. Then, we altered the terrain to turn the road ahead into an upward slope, making it look like a hill. It was a lot of work, but with the cooperation of the both of us, it didn't take that much time.

We set pitfall traps at the base of the trees on both sides of the road. Then, we dug trenches for us to hide in at the base of trees some distance away from the road.

To increase the defenses, we installed shields made of wooden boards in front of the trenches and hid it using the nearby bushes. Stationed inside the trenches were our long-ranged corps « Regret », armed with the repeating crossbows that Blacksmith-san and the others worked hard to mass-produce.

I also stationed « Hatred », our the light infantry corps, inside the trenches as an insurance measure. So, even if some of the enemies managed to avoid the pitfalls and got close after slipping their way through the rain of arrows somehow, with the presence of « Hatred » it would be easy to kill them, at the very least they'll be able to buy time before they get some help.

However, it's more likely that anyone who tries to get close will fall in the pitfalls and get killed by the Kobolds hiding inside.

Soon after we finished our preparations, I got some information about the enemy

forces from some of my clones. Judging from the enemy's marching speed, it'll take them approximately 30 minutes to arrive here. Knowing that, we hid inside the trench and held our breaths in wait.

Then, they arrived.

A heavily armed battalion led by a knight equipped in a rust-iron colored full-body armor riding a war-horse. He led the march while paying close attention to their surroundings, at the same time, he made sure to keep the battalion's march in order, not allowing it to lose formation and break ranks. Just like what I heard, they're definitely a part of the human army's main forces, each of them seemed to be relatively strong, as for their numbers, they're around 700.

The number of mages among them – "mage" is a general term that refers to those who have the ability to use any type of magic. With the most common class of mages being [Wizard], there exists other classes like [Sorcerer], [Summoner], the most basic Arcane-magic class [Arcaneer], etc. - is approximately 100.

Adding in the power of magic, even with only 700 of them, they had tremendous fighting potential. However, for us who have already made our preparations to ambush them, they're nothing but a delicious prey waiting to be hunted.

TL note: yes, Rou means 'delicious'.

After they passed the mark, I passed my orders through the ear-cuffs, first we fell a huge tree and cut off the enemy's path for retreat. The huge tree fell with a loud noise, it didn't crush anyone, however, it diverted the attention of the enemy, allowing me to give out the next command while their attention is distracted.

With their retreat path cut off, it was time for our first assault. We pushed down boulders from the top of the hill at them. With their heavy equipment, it was hard to move quickly, making it a source of disaster for those who couldn't get away from recessed area which was their foothold in time. There were those who got crushed by the rolling down boulders, and those who got trampled to death by comrades desperately trying to run away.

Some of them using their weapons or magic tried to destroy the boulders. However, unfortunately for them, I enchanted the rocks so that they wouldn't break easily and they maintained their momentum. Their resistance was in vain and they fell prey to

the boulders.

Of the original 700, more than 200-300 got crushed to death or became unable to fight. Many others suffered injuries as well. It would be difficult for them to quickly re-organize themselves.

Of course I don't have any intentions of giving the enemy a break, we started barraging them with the repeating crossbows. Moreover, because the bolts are smeared with a poison I made, even the slightest touch is deadly. The attack started cutting down the enemy's numbers rapidly.

In an attempt to fight back, some of them tried storming the trenches but ended up falling in the hidden pitfalls. They were met with a wretched end as they got beaten to death by the Kobolds hiding there.

However, this alone was not enough to annihilate them. The commanding ability of the Rusty Iron Knight was not something to be taken lightly.

He gathered the survivors together and arranged a formation using shields and the bodies of their dead comrades to shield themselves from the poisoned arrows, I tried concentrating the barrage on one part of the formation, but it didn't work.

Then, I tried take to them down with the boulders again, but they got destroyed by the rapid bombardment of magic shot from between the crevices in the shell-like formation, although they were enchanted to make them harder, but if they get bombarded with magic so rapidly, obviously they'll get shattered.

With the poisoned arrows and the boulders failing in reducing their numbers, we were in a stalemate. Seeing how he was doing so well with less than 100 soldiers left, I got interested in the Rusty Iron Knight.

I wanted him as my pawn, so I called off our planned attack of annihilating them with a rapid bombardment of magic and sent out our heavy armed corps « Anger », led by Ogakichi-kun who set up his tower shield and charged at them from the top of the hill.

To prevent shooting our own by mistake, I gave out orders to stop firing the poisoned arrows and watched over Ogakichi-kun and his men as they charged down.

As soon as we stopped firing the poisoned arrows, spells were colorfully fired out from the enemy lines at Ogakichi-kun, but all of them were blocked by his magic item, the

tower shield, and dispersed. The enemy probably judged that it was useless to aim for Ogakichi-kun, they started targeting his men instead. However, most of them were blocked by the tower shield.

As the distance between them got rapidly closed, the human forces jumped out from the enclosure in a last ditch, but they were not able to break through the defenses of our heavy armed corps « Anger », and got systematically slaughtered by the members of our heavy armed corps who used teamwork to dispose of them quickly in 3 vs 1 fights.

Although the Rusty Iron Knight was able to fight back against Ogakichi-kun a little, but in reality he didn't have a chance against Ogakichi-kun who improved his skills by continuously fighting against the Black skeletons recently. The reason why he was able to 'fight back' against Ogakichi-kun is because Ogakichi-kun is holding back since I ordered him to bring the Rusty Iron Knight back alive.



After 30 minutes when Ogakichi-kun had enjoyed the fight to its fullest, Rusty Iron Knight finally got knocked out and became a prisoner. Following that, I sorted out the ones I wanted to eat, *crunch crunch*.

Ability [Job - Sorcerer] learned

Ability [Job - Shielder] learned

Ability [Job - Sentinel] learned

Ability [Shield Bash] learned

Ability [Combat Technique Aptitude] learned

Ability [Sword Proficiency] learned

Ability [Guard Proficiency] learned

Ability [Job - Archer] learned

Ability [Job - Hunter] learned

Ability [Job - Item Creator] learned

Ability [Shield Wall] learned

Ability [Greater Item Appraisal] learned

The results of this battle were quite good.

We looted their still-intact equipment and valuables, then, carried the spoils and the war prisoners back to the base. We drugged the women and put them in jail while the men got collared with enslavement collars immediately.

After that, I reported to Father Elf about today's achievements.

As for the women we captured, when they give in to their sexual urges, as a reward, I'll turn them into the personal slaves of those who made big contributions today.

I said previously that "I hate doing it by force", so you might wonder, what happened to that rule? But that goes only for those who don't have a hostile relationship with us. For those who have a hostile relationship with us, although I'll still not force them directly, I'll drug them to force them to comply instead. Now then, shall I go and start the interrogation of the Rusty Iron Knight? Just as I was thinking of doing that, Dhammi-chan embarrassingly tugged on the hem of my pants with flushed cheeks.

Huh? You want a child...? My mood heightened, and I got fired up in various ways.

DAY 70

SIDESTORY: KOBOLD'S POV

Under the orders of our Lord, I and several of my compatriots (other kobolds) entered the pitfalls on the sides of the road and hid inside the cavities created in the walls.

In one of my hands was a horn short spear - a horn and stick - and in the other was a dagger - a horn - , both were covered with a poison made by our lord. Our role, is to stab to death any enemy soldiers who managed to slip through the rain of poisoned arrows, then fell into one of the pitfalls before reaching our main forces.

Although it's an important duty, it couldn't be exactly called a risky one.

Compared to those who were shooting the enemy soldiers on the surface using the weapons devised by our Lord, the "Repeating Crossbow"s, the chance of us being targeted is low.

If none of the enemy soldiers fall into the pitfalls, then, we'll not get even a scratch.

That means that there's a possibility that this battle will end without us having to do anything.

I... no, all of us, the kobolds who were placed in the pitfalls, were grinding our teeth in frustration. That's because the fact that our Lord gave us such a safe duty means that he doesn't have enough trust in us.

However, this is unavoidable. As we swore our loyalty to him only recently.

That's why, I'll ardently perform my duty, with deep loyalty, to obtain our Lord's trust.

I burned this in my heart, as I held my breath and waited for the enemy.

Before long, the enemy arrived on schedule.

Our Lord's strategy is – cutting off their path of retreat, rolling down boulders at them and shooting them with poisoned arrows – to confuse the enemy, then taking advantage

of that to reduce their numbers rapidly. Soon after the arrived, I began hearing the enemies' screams.

After some time, it seems like some of them started to fall into the pitfalls, as I heard the shouts of excitement of my compatriots (other kobolds).

As I was lying hidden inside the pitfall waiting longingly for an enemy to fall in, that moment finally came.

The enemy soldier wasn't able to react when their foothold disappeared, thus they fell in the pitfall, injuring their legs due to the shock of the fall in the process.

When they fell, a dull sound of something cracking was heard, so most likely, their leg bones broke. Confused by the pain of their broken bones and the sudden change of the scenery, the enemy couldn't grasp their situation and react.

Sneaking from behind, I stabbed them with the short spear from the back. However, the tip of the short spear only grazed them, it was not a fatal injury, that's because the thick, full body armor blocked most of it. When the blow landed on the armor, I heard an unpleasant sound as sparks scattered.

The first strike failed.

Although I panicked for a moment, the enemy was wearing armor from head to toe, and their legs were wounded, making it extremely hard for them to move. Not to mention that they couldn't mount a counterattack because of their confusion and the pain from their legs distracting them.

Fortunately, I was able to retain my composure quickly and clung to their back, then I succeeded in stabbing them in the neck through the gap between their armor with my poisoned dagger.

Feeling the meat getting torn, seeing the blood gushing out, smelling the thick scent of blood. I certainly felt the sensation of depriving a life. Along with it, there was a feeling of euphoria due to gaining a great amount of Experience Values.

On the occasion of killing a much stronger creature than yourself, the large amount of Experience Values gained can cause a state called "Experience Value intoxication".

While exalted, I returned back to the cavity in the wall.

Because, this was an order from the Lord. The reason to which, I understood immediately. It's not something complicated by any means. It's simply, because more enemies will fall down from the top.

Because they are equipped with full body armor, if I were to stay in the center of the pitfall, I would get crushed to death without even realizing what happened. I see, as one would expect from our Lord. Thinking that, I cut three more enemies.

Following this, we attained victory in this battle, and we gained a large number of prisoners of war.

As a reward from our Lord, we were bestowed the bodies of the enemies we killed. Hearing the praising words of our Lord, I and my compatriots trembled in delight and shed tears.

Then, we stuffed our mouths with the meat.

DAY 71

Today, 8 goblins Ranked Up to hobgoblins. Three of them became mages, one became a cleric, and for the first time a [Hobgoblin Shaman] appeared. As for the other three, they became normal hobgoblins.

I was genuinely pleased that the number of our mages who greatly contributed in the ambush on the Female Knight's troops increased. Moreover, the addition of a shaman who could strengthen undead, and even lengthen their lifespan under the daylight is very useful, making the range of actions we can take bigger.

In addition to that, three kobolds Ranked Up to kobold Footmen.

When a kobold Ranks Up into a kobold Footman, they attain a weapon called an [Organic Spear] — an organic weapon is a weapon made from the body cells of the possessor, and as the their body grow, the weapon will also grow with them - , when the ones who became kobold Footmen came to report to me their Ranking Up this morning, they were holding the spears in their hands.

Although the three of them should be holding spears for the very first time in their lives, the [Organic Spears] that came from their own bodies could be said to be an extension of them, correspondingly their spear handling was quite splendid.

However, since they were still a far cry from mastery, the three kobold Footmen will join the kobold leader - who was already a kobold Footman even before they joined us - in the training program focusing on how to handle their spears.

Nevertheless, the reason this many individuals Ranked Up is mainly because of the great amount of Experience Values we gained in our recent battles against the human army. Being able to obtain such a large number of slaves is also very useful, as they can be used as both a fighting force and in labor.

Also, we got some women that we can use for breeding purposes, so maybe we should try increasing our numbers. However, if our group becomes too large, food shortage and other related problems may arise, so we will have to coordinate the increase.

Regardless, there's a high chance that we'll lose some of our members in the following

battles, so we'll have to replenish them.

We have yet to find out how long it takes for the child of someone who surpasses the rank of a hobgoblin to be born. As expected, even Gobujii doesn't know the answer. However, it seems that when a human female is pregnant with a goblin child it takes about 20 days and if a goblin is the one pregnant it takes about 25 days. For hobgoblins, if the one pregnant is a human, it takes about 40 days for the hobgoblin to be born, and if the one pregnant is a hobgoblin instead, it takes about 50 days for the hobgoblin to be born. Though the pregnancy period mildly varies between individuals.

To be honest, I couldn't hide my surprise at the delivery speed. Now I understand why humans regularly hunt goblins down. Although goblins are weak, with their reproduction rate, they can cause a disaster for humans if left alone.

As usual, I gave the ones who Ranked Up celebratory gifts.

I'm looking forward to seeing some of them becoming [Variant]s with corresponding attributes to the magic items I gave them as celebratory gifts, for now, the only [Variant]s here are me, Ogakichi-kun, and Dhammi-chan. The fact that Asue-chan, Supsei-san and Burasato-san didn't become [Variant]s means that there are probably other requirements to obtain a [Divine Protection], giving out magic items to sufficiently competent individuals will widen the scope of investigation.

I'll continue investigating this issue in the future.

After today's morning training, I questioned Rusty Iron Knight and the other commanding officers whom I put [Enslavement] collars on and threw into prison about the human army's purpose. I did this so as to gain information from multiple sources to supplement what I obtained from the Female Knight's side.

As a result, I understood the general idea behind this war.

What sparked this war is the disease of the « Sternbild Kingdom » — because other kingdoms haven't been mentioned yet, I'll simply call it the "Kingdom" from now on — , the first princess of the kingdom got infected by a very dangerous and rare disease.

The disease she got infected with is called the "Chrysindo Disease", a deadly disease

without a cure that infects only humans. Its most prominent symptom is, the contaminated individual's internal organs would slowly rot away as the days passed by. In more than 99% of the recorded cases, the contaminated individuals died within one year. There are a few cases where the patients survived for about 2 years, but as they also eventually died without being cured, there seems to have been no survivors so far.

Fortunately, the disease can't spread by air or water vapor, and the fact that there are few cases seems to be the only salvation. However, the lack of cases also means that there were only a few chances to study the disease and look for a cure.

Naturally, the Kingdom tried every possible method to treat the first princess.

They were desperate to treat the princess who was renowned as an elegant and intelligent "Masako", and there was also the fact that she was engaged to their allies - although it was for political reasons, but as the two appeared to love each other, it may as well be a love marriage - , so she needed to be cured all the more.

By the royal decree, all the doctors and pharmacists in the Kingdom were frantically searching for a remedy.

Note: Masako = Clever/Wise Princess

However, the results were not very rewarding.

Although they found a way to slow down the progression of the illness, but by that time, the princess' organs were already nearly half rotten.

Normally, one would go crazy from the sheer pain they would experience by being kept alive with this disease for so long, but the princess was already put to sleep forcibly using magic to liberate her from the excruciating pain long ago, and in the meanwhile, they used magic to regenerate the rotten parts of the organs to prolong her life.

But as her body couldn't endure the process of the constant healing and destruction, the effects of the regeneration started dulling with time and her organs' decaying process started advancing steadily, ultimately they could not cure her.

At that point in time, they had already judged that she would die without them being able to find a cure.

However, a certain woman with the [Job - Holy Woman] who lived her life praying everyday in devotion to the gods, and who was also a former citizen of the kingdom, received a [Divine Revelation] from the [Demigod of Healing].

"To cure the 'Chrysindo Disease', you need the secret medicine made by the elves living in the forest under the divine protection of the [Demigod of Lush Greenery]."

Note: It could also be tled as 'Demigod of Green Depths', 'Jade Demigod', 'Demigod of Beautiful Greenery', etc.

Following the instructions of the [Divine Revelation], the kingdom did everything they could to locate the elves' location, and in the end, they found out that this forest that we were born in - the « Kuuderun Great Forest » - fits the exact same description of the place referred to in the [Divine Revelation].

The young next emperor-to-be crown prince - who was 24 years old - of the « Kirika Empire » — which I will refer to as just the "Empire" from now on, for the same reason as the "Kingdom" — , who is also the fiancé of the kingdom's first princess who fell ill, started the negotiations with the elves to get the medicine from them.

At first, everyone thought that because it is the empire's crown prince's request, the negotiations will progress smoothly and he will be able to get the medicine quickly.

However, the elves refused to hand over the medicine, the reason being that they didn't have much of it left, and because of some ancient law stating " It is forbidden to hand it over to "humans" ". Thus, the negotiations ended in failure quickly.

Fundamentally, elves have many annoying and troublesome laws regarding the outside world, not to mention that they also have a secluded nature. In the first place, elves are a very prideful race, always looking down on humans. I personally think that even if that law didn't exist, they would not have handed it over.

Anyways, the result of the negotiations was that, ultimately the Kingdom and the Empire couldn't get their hands on the secret medicine.

There was no doubt about it, the failed negotiations were the cause of the war. However, after listening to the story, it seems like there are some human circumstances involved.

Well, I could keep going on about the little details, but that would be too troublesome, if I were to explain it in a couple of words, it would be:

"Humans are Greedy"

I think that says enough. This is, along with the secret medicine, is the reason behind the war.

What do I mean by humans are greedy?

One, as practically all elves are beautiful, they make for the ideal sex slaves. Two, elves as a race, are superior to humans, they can be excellent escorts and soldiers. Three, they can get a huge amount of wealth. The special magical metal that only elves can manufacture, Mithril, their magic items, the valuable raw materials that can be collected from the forest. Four, « The Elves Village » have an ideal location as a relay base in times of war against some of the neighboring countries.

After listening to the story, these were the most prominent reasons I could think of.

The original trigger was certainly the refusal to sell the secret medicine to cure the princess, but combined with the humans' great greed and desires, the original goal got twisted which, in the end, resulted in the current war being fought on a much larger scale than what you would normally expect.

Although I'm a former human too, but I couldn't help thinking that humans are such an annoying race even in this world.

Well, because I am in a position that allows me to just disappear if need be, it doesn't really bother me.

I also asked them many other things. Especially about the human army's forces, because there may be someone that I can't defeat among them. Information is important after all.

First, the human army is a coalition of both the kingdom's and the empire's forces, the Rusty Iron Knight belongs to the empire's side, so he didn't know much about the kingdom's side, but the Female Knight who belongs to the kingdom side have already told me everything she knows about it, so it's not an issue.

According to the information I got from the Rusty Iron Knight, it seems like the huge empire is the one leading this war, both of the numbers and the strength of the soldiers they dispatched is much more than the kingdom. They even brought a « Demi-human Unit » that included ogres, lords, members of a dragon-man species called [Dragonewt], and although it's not a demi-human, but a very strong [Chimera], a monster that was made by cross-breeding many strong monsters.

Most of the members appear to be slaves. It seems they are forced to fight with their lives on the line by their 'master'. I couldn't help thinking, 'What a troublesome and annoying matter'.

However, as troublesome as it is, it can be easy to make it backfire on them if you do it right. Anyways, I collected as much info as I can about the one in charge of commanding the slaves.

After I finished the questioning, I arranged a game to improve the commanding skills of our members.

The players are the captain-ranked members and above, the lower-ranked members and the male prisoners played the role of their pawns. Of course I made sure that the abilities of the pawns of both sides are equal.

It's basically, an actual-warfare strategy game in which, the players with the rank of captain and above have to move their pawns as efficiently as possible to take out the pawns of their opponents.

The pawns were equipped with wooden swords and shields, bows, axes, spears or simply with a large shield. The point was to give commands that suited their equipment.

Because I acted as a referee, I didn't join the game myself.

The results, Dhammi-chan and Supesei-san won a lot. On the other hand, Ogakichi-kun and Burasato-san just continued losing. Asue-chan is somewhere in between.

This is the difference between brain and brawn, it's not so hard to understand. Although Asue-chan is also more of a muscle-brain, but she most likely developed some intellectual skills because she have to think about her plans when mining.

Because we obtained a lot of provisions from the human army, there was no need to go hunting today, we spent the whole day carrying out strategy-training in the base. No, rather than training, it felt more like a game.

Recently, after going through the morning training together everyday, the goblins, kobolds and elves started to build some sort of camaraderie relationship, so I wanted to strengthen it further.

At first, the humans slaves couldn't hide their surprise seeing us training, but as time went by, their expressions gradually became serious. It was so amusing that it made me laugh inadvertently.

And at night, the female humans were raising screams ecstatically. Because humans have a much greater lust than elves, they fell very quickly. Moreover, humans can also adapt much faster than elves.

Although Blacksmith-san and the others had complicated expressions on their faces, however, compared to when they had just arrived here, their way of thinking has changed quite a lot. Knowing our relationship with the human army, they didn't really have that much of a problem with it.

Or rather, "We're in a war, so this kind of thing can't be helped, rather, this is the natural flow of things in a war. Besides, it's not like you're 'forcing' them until they break." this is what I heard.

They are good, understanding women. They're almost too good for me.

After that, I noticed some elves here and there who looked in the direction of the screams with envy – the human females were in charge of sexual relief right now, so the elves were mostly free – , so I paired up some of the hobgoblins and the new kobold Footmen with them.

They seemed pretty happy, both humans and elves.

Once you snap their pride, it's easy to make elves obedient. Well, even so I don't have any intentions of attacking them.

I am pretty satisfied with our current relationship with them, and there's no need to create enemies for no reason.

DAY 72

When I was training together with Ogakichi-kun in the morning as usual, Rusty Iron Knight, who was set to fight against Black skeleton knights — though he wasn't wearing his rust-iron colored armor — requested a bout with me.

Some of those who got caught together with him and got their pride crushed to smithereens after being turned into our slaves were trying to deny reality, while others were attempting to commit suicide by banging their heads on the wall. However, he just silently sparred with the skeletons just like how he was instructed to.

Seeing him asking me to fight him while looking me directly in the eyes even after he got turned into a slave, I got a liking to him, so I agreed to his request.

And after fighting him, I realized that he was quite strong.

If it's only about combat techniques, then he's still a far cry compared to me, but out of all the humans that I had fought until now in this world, he possessed the most skill. In addition, he surpassed me in terms of basic physical abilities.

Although I wasn't using any abilities, surpassing an ogre [Rare Species] in terms of physical abilities with a human body is quite alarming.

While fighting, I asked him about his Jobs, and it seems like Rusty Iron Knight held four combat jobs:

[Job - Warrior]: Level 100

[Job - Knight]: Level 100

[Job - Monk]: Level 62

[Job - Temple Knight]: Level 25

His strength is the result of the strengthening effects of these four Jobs and his training thus far.

Rusty Iron Knight's fists were fast and heavy, his body was flexible, yet hard, and, without any waste in his movements, he aimed for my vitals.

In addition, he used various techniques accompanied with flashes of pale light that can be used only by humans, these techniques are called Combat Arts.

However, he was still not as strong as the ferocious Red bear that I fought when I was a hobgoblin.

In the end, I won.

Because the various Combat Arts that he attacked me rapidly with did nothing other than giving special effects to the attacks, they were relatively easy to counter.

Note: 'gave various effects' means things like dots/debuff/status effects (think game terminology)

However, since it was such a close win, he might think that if he had used a different approach he might have been able to win. That's why I'll confront him using some of my abilities this time.

However, for that, I have to make preparations first.

Using [Job - Enchanter], I enchanted his clothes, the hemp short-sleeved shirt and long trousers with "Physical Defense Reinforcement], [Vitality Reinforcement] and [Strength Reinforcement]. A blue light wrapped his body and demonstrated its effects.

Note: hemp = a material used for clothing, created from the fibre of the cannabis plant

With a surprised face, Rusty Iron Knight looked at me, but I ignored him and used [Job - Guardian] and [Lord of the Mountain's Stout Hide] to greatly improve my defensive power, then increased my offensive power using [Job - Monk] and [Lord of the Mountain's Strong Muscles].

To be able to use abilities of this level in a fight safely, at least this much preparation is necessary to make sure that he won't die, I don't want to lose a valuable pawn in a

training session. Not to mention that if I don't suppress my abilities at least this much, I'll just pierce right through the enchantments I gave him by accident and kill him.

The result,... Rusty Iron Knight's ragged figure was rolling on the floor.

Well, the guy's got guts, so I might have overdid it a little. Well, he passed out with a pretty satisfied look on his face, so I guess he'll be alright.

As I was treating him, I noticed Ogakichi-kun staring at me.

That gaze said that he wanted to fight him too. I see, Ogakichi-kun wanted to fight Rusty Iron Knight barehanded.

Surely, if Ogakichi-kun and Rusty Iron Knight go at each other barehanded, it would make for an even closer and better fight than mine.

When Ogakichi-kun fought him before in the battlefield, he was able to completely overwhelm Rusty Iron Knight, but then it wasn't just about skills and physical strength, his usage of the strong magic items that I gave him greatly affected the outcome.

The defensive power of his tower shield, [The Black Ogre's Chopping Board], was out of the ordinary, the fact that he could repel all of Rusty Iron Knight's Combat Arts like it was mere child's play using it was proof of that.

That's why he wanted to fight him barehanded, he wants to win without depending on the power of tools, but using only his power.

However, he have to wait for some time until Rusty Iron Knight recovers his stamina, it'd be too much of a handicap otherwise. And so he didn't have any choice other than waiting for time to pass, as I finished healing Rusty Iron Knight after he woke up, I had him fight Ogakichi-kun.

It was a very close battle as I had expected. Ogakichi-kun, who has higher specs than me, was about on par with Rusty Iron Knight. But in the end, Ogakichi-kun managed to snatch the win thanks to his higher stamina.

It was a really very close fight, after it finished, both of them looked like they really

enjoyed it. There was no problems.

Or rather, Rusty Iron Knight clearly have a problem here. What's with his seamless adaptability? I asked him about it over some elven wine during lunch time.

He said that he wanted to quit being an Imperial Knight and join us instead.

Listening to his story, it seems like there was many demi-humans living in the place where he grew up. That's why, he didn't develop a racial discriminating attitude like the others from the empire and the kingdom.

In actual fact, because he didn't understand why the humans around him discriminated against demi-humans, he couldn't mingle with them.

Moreover, since he grew up with fighting as a daily basis, he developed the belief that it was natural to serve those who were stronger than him.

In the first place, he doesn't have any loyalty to the empire, the only reason why he served as an Imperial Knight is because he lost to the previous leader of the Knights corps.

And, when the previous leader of the Knights corps died in battle, he was replaced by some noble named, Bonbon, who he'd never even heard of.

Even so, if Bonbon had some ability, he would have accepted it. However, Bonbon didn't have the ability to defeat Rusty Iron Knight, even without him having to use his real power, he was at most at the level of being able to give a regular knight of the corps a good match.

Even then, it would still have been acceptable, if he at least had a good commanding ability, but he didn't have even that. He was able to become the leader of the Knights corps only because of his connections.

For that reason, Rusty Iron Knight felt no loyalty to the current leader whatsoever. In fact, it was the opposite, he hated him.

By the way, he died from getting crushed by a boulder at the very beginning of the battle. Now that he brought it up, I think that there was a guy that looked like a normal

soldier wearing a lavish armor for some reason.

I digressed.

If that was all, it would have been still okay. He could have still endured it.

However, the noble new leader then started bringing in other aristocrats interested in his knights corps. For that end, Rust Iron Knight's comrades who he ate together with from the same pot, the guys who were the only reason he stayed in the imperial army even after the previous leader died got transferred to other knights corps in order to allow Bonbon's acquaintances to enter the knights corps instead.

On the other hand, Rusty Iron Knight who gradually rose in rank through the years and got promoted to the position of the vice-leader from that of a regular member of the corps because of his achievements and combat ability, was the only one left behind, the reason being to train the members.

After he was given the position of the corps's instructor, he couldn't stop being a knight easily because of the existence of Bonbon, a noble from a relatively influential family.

So, instead he put the members under a rigorous training program without holding back, and this strong knights corps was the result. The knights corps became renowned within the empire's military for being an elite corps, and thus many enlisted to enter it fully aware of how hard the training there is.

Rusty Iron Knight continued training the members as time went by. However, because Rusty Iron Knight was a commoner who worked his way up, he was on a different wavelength and had a different mentality than the other members who had noble upbringing, he couldn't get along with them. Moreover, the number of the members who started openly standing at odds with him after they gained some skill increased.

Everything became annoying and he had no good reason to stay, so he started thinking of quitting as a Knight knowing the hardships he'll face in trying to do so. Then he met us.

And so, when he got caught by us, he thought 'This must be fate'.

I knew that it was the truth, without a doubt, because he gave me this information

when I used [Command] – which I did, just in case, to ensure he couldn't lie.

He seemed useful, and I didn't have any particular problems with it, so I decided to accept his request. It's best to use those who can be used, just like the elite elves.

Rusty Iron Knight's collar was released and he wore the ear-cuff himself, by his own will. After fastening the ear-cuff, I returned his equipments and his 'appearance' as the Rusty Iron Knight was back.

With this, Rusty Iron Knight is no longer a slave, but an ally. Because no one else but me has accepted him yet, he must work hard in the future to get the others to accept him too.

For now, he will be under my direct command.

In the afternoon, I went out to hunt and to check out some places that I'm planning to use to ambush the human army. Meanwhile, I had Rusty Iron Knight teach Redhead some Combat Arts.

At this moment, Redhead only knows 6 Combat Arts in total.

[Slash], increases the slashing power of a single swing.

[Shield Bash], increases the blunt damage when attacking with a shield. There's a certain probability of triggering a "Knock Back" effect that breaks the opponent's stance.

[Stab], increases the piercing power of a single stab.

[Rush], although results in a big opening, it can greatly strengthen the slashing power of several continuous swings.

[Fall], there're repercussions, but it can temporarily, greatly strengthen the physical abilities of the user by channeling their magical power throughout their body.

[Versatile], allows the user to freely use the abilities of a monster for a period of time after eating it.

For those who have the [Job - Warrior], the first four Combat Arts can be said to be the fundamentals, they're also relatively easy to learn. As for the latter two, they're Combat Arts that can be used only by those who have a specific [Job] like [Job - Noir Soldier].

For a fledgling adventurer, being able to use 6 Combat Arts seems to be quite a lot, but compared to that, the number of Combat Arts that Rusty Iron Knight can use is greater than 70. Because you can learn them as long as you have the corresponding [Job], I intend to have him teach me as well when I obtain the prerequisite [Jobs].

A monster who can freely use Combat Arts which normally can be used only by humans.....

Hmm, when I use Combat Arts, I should try to limit the eye-witnesses as much as possible.

DAY 73

This morning, Asue-chan dug up a hot spring.

Until now, to wash ourselves we either went to the nearby river, or wiped our bodies using towels soaked by the water generated from the [Water Spirit Stones] and collected inside earthenware pots, but from now on, we can relax by soaking inside the hot springs.

However, mysteriously, even though it didn't seem like a hot spring can exist in this area when I observed its topography and geology, we found one.

Well, this is a fantasy world. Something like this is normal, probably.

Anyways, for today, I cooperated with Asue-chan and her group, and we poured our hearts in the hot spring's development project. Fortunately, we had the manpower of skeletons who did not need rest. I was able to summon a very large number of them, allowing us to come up with an otherwise unthinkable level of working efficiency.

Thus, by using some of my abilities, and other skills, we got all the work done before night came.

In the end it became like this, one very large mixed bath, a men bath, a women bath, three special baths which only executive-classes like me and Ogakichi-kun are allowed to use. It turned into quite a big place.

Although one of the special baths is an open-air bath penetrating the mountain's surface, however, it was hard to see from outside due to the mountain's rocky terrain. Also, the steep cliff made it difficult for non-flying enemies to try invading from here.

However, saying it was 'just in case', we heavily booby-trapped the place.

Naturally, after finishing our dinner, the very first to enter the completed hot springs were us, the executive-classes.

The others, who entered a hot spring for the first time in their lives, were healed by it.

I had already confirmed that there's no harm in drinking the water beforehand in the construction stage, and I designed an air conditioning system making use of [Wind Spirit Stones] to clean the air from toxic gases, so there's no worry of someone dying from poisoning.

Rather than harming, the hot water, just like in a fantasy, had the side effect of improving one's recovery in addition to other effects, so I will continue to use it from now on.

This was a good find.

I'm thankful for Asue-chan.

DAY 73

SIDESTORY: A CERTAIN FEMALE SLAVE'S POV

Hot springs, I have heard of their existence from my grandfather a long time ago.

Water of high temperature flowing out from the depths of the ground, it is an enjoyable paradise of this world. The look in my grandfather's eyes when he told me about it looked distant and nostalgic, so I remember it very well.

My hometown was attacked by bandits, my house burned to the ground and all of my family was killed. By chance, that day I have been outside in the forest and thus survived. I chose my current life, enlisting as a soldier rather than becoming a prostitute, and to this day, I still haven't experienced what's called a 'bath'.

When I was still a villager, I wiped my body with a wet cloth or washed at a nearby river with my friends at most. However, some of the male villagers often come to peep, and when winter comes, it freezes over, so most of the time, I wiped my body with a wet cloth.

After I became a soldier, I noticed a huge improvement. Although I couldn't soak my whole body with water, I was able to use a magic item called a [Shower Head] which pours warm water at me from above.

Nevertheless, that by itself was a bliss, and I couldn't help imagining how it would feel if I were to soak my body in a hot spring.

Then the war against the elves started, and the corps that I was a member of got chosen as a part of the forces to fight in the war.

If I gain some achievements in this war, I may get promoted, although for a commoner, not much promotion could be gained, but even so I was motivated to live a better life.

The result... I got caught and became a slave.

After I got caught, I thought that there was no meaning in the result of my original choice now. I became a soldier rather than a prostitute, because I didn't want to sell my body, meaning I thought that becoming a soldier was my way out. But from now on, I'll be constantly raped by goblins and hobgoblins, I'll live only to be used for their breeding purposes. I thought that such a dark life would be my fate.

But I was wrong, it was different.

The goblins had more discipline than I thought, and above all they were gentle. Although it might sound warped, but as I got used to them, I began feeling that goblins have some charm to them.

The lives of the women caught by goblins in the stories that I heard from my seniors were awful, being constantly violated until they become worn-out and eventually die, but for me, after becoming a slave, my living conditions have become even better than before.

The bed is soft and fluffy, and the meals are delicious.

And above all, today, a hot spring was dug up!

The one who discovered it is a half-lord called Asue who emits an air like that of an elder sister.

Therefore, the plan today was changed to prioritize the development of the hot springs. I was one of those who helped.

And it was completed in one day! I think that the addition of the labor force of the restless beings called skeletons contributed most to this fast completion of the work.

After the executives entered first, we got permission to enter.

My long-cherished dream, the hot springs that I have dreamed of are as great as I heard from my grandfather.

They're right in front of my eyes now.

When I went in, my whole body seemed to be enchanted with a feeling that cannot be expressed. It was pure bliss, it felt as if my fatigue was being taken away by the hot water. My sore muscles became more relaxed and felt better, my blood flow also

improved, not to mention the comfortable warm feeling.

When I tried drinking the hot water, I was overcome with a sense, as if energy is overflowing from my body.

'If it means that I can enjoy this paradise every day, I'm okay with my current life' I mused.

Yeah, it's not bad. Today, I found the happiness that I could find only here.

DAY 74

Because of the ambushes and traps set by us and the elven army, the humans lost a lot of their numbers. Especially after Father Elf improved the traps that they set up almost in every corner of the forest before hiring me with the traps I taught him, the damage that the human army sustained became much greater than expected.

Being the one who taught him how to improve the traps, I felt satisfied with the results.

The humans also realized that internal intelligence had leaked after their advancing routes became full of traps. So, as a countermeasure they temporarily withdrew their vanguards to revise their strategy.

In response, the elves continued adding traps in the forest and we continued training to increase our chances of survival even by a little, in the meanwhile, I continuously created more clones to increase the scope that I can collect information from.

And based on the information that I got as a result, we moved to set up a surprise attack targeting the human army's supply unit, which was scheduled to bring supplies to the human army stationed in the forest.

Supplies are a matter of life and death during a military campaign.

This being a forest, food and water is easier to come by than, say, a desert, but due to the enemy's large numbers they would need correspondingly large quantities of food which is hard to get.

So I wanted to prevent their delivery, thus giving a serious damage to the enemy. Moreover, we can use the weapons and food, so it's like hitting two birds with one stone. No, it can also significantly lower the enemy's morale, so it's more like hitting three birds with one stone.

The supply unit came along from the plains.

We can't attack them on the plains, because obviously, we are too few in number. Our numbers, including the 47 prisoners of war, barely reaches 200, and the number of those who can fight is even less.

In comparison, the supply unit consists of more than 600 people, more than three times our numbers. Due to this difference in numbers, it would be stupid to attack them on the open plains.

Well, they're not an enemy that we can't defeat on the plains if we play our cards right, but considering the possibility of other nearby units of the currently alert human army noticing the ambush, it's wiser to stop.

For that reason, we waited until the supply unit ventured into the forest to a certain extent.

At the moment I received the intel that the supply unit reached the 'Kill Point' - it's a little deep in the forest, which can stall some time for us even if the human army notice the raid considering the low visibility and the narrowness of the road, I decided on this location after getting information about the human army from Female Knight and Rusty Iron Knight - from my clones, I confirmed that everything is going according to the plan, then I looked at the slaves standing behind me.

Their bodies were trembling and they looked completely pale with fright. However, that's only an unconscious reaction, I raised my control over them through the ear-cuffs - which has fused with their flesh and contains a drop of my blood, in other words a clone - to the limit using [Parasite], so they can't move even a single finger out of their own free will.

It would be better if they would fight out of their own volition, like Rusty Iron Knight does, but this can't be helped. With that being the case, using them as disposable pawns would be the best course of action for me, even if I try eating them, they're not delicious, and they don't have much use that would tempt me to keep them alive.

They're just annoying with no redeeming qualities whatsoever, so I'm planning to have them play an active role in my plan this time.

The plan is very simple.

First of all, out of the 17 male slaves, I had ten noble knights who didn't have any useful [Jobs] like [Wizard] or [Enchanter] run in the direction of the supply unit while we pretended to pursue them.

Human Knights were running away, followed by a group of ogres, goblins and kobolds, who were roaring while raising their weapons and emitting murderous intent.

Watching something like this, it's easy for anyone to identify their enemies and allies clearly, and in such a situation, one would try to protect those who looked like their allies without thinking.

That's because, their attention would be pulled to the ones looking nothing other than enemies before them, making it almost impossible to doubt the identity of the ones who looked to be their allies.

There was a chance that a competent commander could've seen through it and ordered the death of both the human and us, but just in case, I made them wear the high-class armors that they wore before we caught them which anyone can infer that only rich people like nobles can afford, and thus the first step of the plan succeeded.

After I confirmed that they had successfully infiltrated the supply unit, we retreated back and hid in trenches that we built a little farther away from the 'Kill Point'. Then, we used the mass-produced repeating crossbows to fire poison-smeared arrows at the enemy, being careful not to hit the slaves, those who could use magic fired spells at the enemy while suppressing their power for the same reason, the hobgoblin shaman summoned 6 ghosts and had them use attacks that cause mental state abnormalities such as [Depression].

Because of the trees and the bushes, the accuracy of our attacks wasn't that high, but our enemy had the same problem. We just had to wait for the preparations to complete, by attacking them like this, we're aiming to stop their advance while reducing their numbers and to gather them in one place.

After a while, the ten noble knights, who had been mistaken as allies by the enemy, managed to infiltrate deep into the enemy lines and their turn to act came.

Their job is to scatter around the magic items stored in pouches hid inside their clothes, the [Burst Seed]s, which is an original creation made by me and Alchemist-san.

It's made of materials that can be found easily in this forest, namely [Oil Grass] and [Burst Fruit].

Although the ingredients are easy to find and the creation process is quite simple, its

power is very high. If detonated in a crowded place, it can bring about a large number of deaths and crippling injuries, not to mention the chaos and confusion that it can cause in the enemy lines.

Its power is very high, yet it's easy to mass produce, truly a very wonderful magical item.

However, in exchange for these benefits, the possibility of the user dying due to their close proximity to the explosion is high, however, the ones with this role are the most useless slaves that I have, some guys whose only use is acting as disposable pawns.

After confirming their positions, I gave them out the orders to start scattering the [Burst Seeds] around while running through the lines of the enemy forces. If they die, we'll pick up their bones.

The explosions of as many as 300 [Burst Seeds] continued thundering throughout the forest for sometime.

The explosions eventually died down, however, the enemy was still confused due to the sudden devastating explosions. I instructed Asue-chan to lead her corps, « Pleasure », and collapse the footing of the supply unit's soldiers.

As we had made preparations beforehand to make it easy to collapse when using a specific method, they were able to complete the task easily. The ground under the supply unit's soldiers dropped only about two meters, but that is enough.

Because of the sudden change in footing, they lost their balance and were unable to get away. As before, we sent down a rain of poisoned arrows and magic spells from a distance.

The elves, whom I'd told to climb the trees beforehand and stand by, sprinkled them with bottles of a venom that I created myself.

As the venom was a fast-acting paralyzing agent, the soldiers who got hit dropped to the ground immediately. They weren't dead, but they wouldn't be able to fight anymore.

I activated [Job - Minstrel] and [Red Crystal's Tone] while giving instructions. The sound of my singing voice, combined with that of an instrument from this world that resembles a guitar, strengthened my allies and weakened my enemies.

Because the supply unit's soldiers aren't really strong, doing that much isn't really necessary, but one cannot be too careful. The explosion sounds of the [Burst Seeds] may attract enemy reinforcements after all. To retreat as soon as possible, we had to go all out.

That's why, we couldn't afford to hold back, and thus the battle ended without any major delays.

Three of the ten nobles who were assigned to handle the [Burst Seeds] got caught in the blasts and died, five of them got severely injured when shards of rocks and some soldiers' weapons hit them, the remaining two returned unharmed. Those were all the casualties on our side.

I thanked the three who died for their work, then, while the others were collecting the spoils and the prisoners of war, I took a bite from a part - that I found lying around - of the dismembered body of one of them. I thought that his taste would be delicious because he's from a noble lineage, but that was not the case at all.

By the way, I didn't bring Redhead with us. Although she doesn't have any resistance against eating humanoid monsters' meat anymore, I think that it's still better to refrain from eating humans in front of her.

As it was a pain to heal all of the seriously injured soldiers of the supply unit, we killed them right there, gaining Experience Values, that way they didn't have to suffer any longer too. Then I ate all of their hearts and some of their bodies, leaving the rest to the others to eat.

Eating as much of my dead enemies as possible, and continuing living in their stead.

That is one of my beliefs.

I also had the others eat the ones they killed as a responsibility of being the ones who killed them.

We took those with light injuries as prisoners of war, they numbered exactly one hundred men. There were some women in the unit, but all of them died in the ambush.

It's somewhat of a waste, but it can't be helped.

Also, the numbers of slaves we have now are sufficient, so there's no need to capture anymore.

As there was an insufficient number of ear-cuffs and collars, I solved the problem by spilling some blood and cloning myself, inserting the clones inside their bodies, then controlling them using [Parasite].

Note: cuffs and collars - from the previous days; used for enslaving them

Fortunately, there were enough raw materials, including the blood of the fallen soldiers, in large quantities, so I didn't lose any strength due to blood insufficiency.

Ability [Continuous Thrusts] learned

Ability [Helmet Splitter] learned

Ability [Stab] learned

Ability [Armor Pierce] learned

Ability [Sword Storm Dance] learned

Ability [Sneaking] learned

Ability [Attack Force] learned

Ability [Job - Ranger]

Ability [Job - Supply Soldier]

Note: Supply Soldier = tentative name, they're a soldier in the Supply Unit

I obtained some of the Combat Arts that I heard about from Rusty Iron Knight too.

All of the abilities from [Continuous Thrusts] to [Sword Storm Dance] are Combat Arts.

In my case, if I activate a Combat Art that I gained as an ability and used it in the traditional way at the same time, the power can be greatly boosted compared to using each individually. Since as I said before, only humans can use them, I have to be careful whose eyes see me when I use them, but nonetheless, they can be very useful in case

of emergencies.

Having finished sorting everything, we carried the prisoners of war and the loot back to the base.

While we were on our way back, looking at the gloomy faces of our new prisoners, I suddenly thought of something.

We still have a sufficient amount of space left in the base, but these supply soldiers aren't really that strong, so they don't have that much use as pawns. There's also the option of using them as disposables just like the nobles this time, but it feels kind of a waste to use them like that.

For that reason, I decided to give half of them to the elves, I'm planning to sell them to the elves as a way of repaying my debt for the wine I received the other day. This will profit me more than simply using them as disposable pawns too.

We changed our route and walked to the « The Elves' Village », then I had father Elf buy them.

Having humans who'll listen to any of their orders can widen the range of the tactics they can take greatly, making his decision to buy them prompt.

As payment, I received some magic items useful for daily life.

Incidentally, while we were exchanging information, I asked him about the secret medicine that the human army came for.

It seems to be a medicine with a very strong medicinal efficacy, moreover, there aren't any side effects to its use and it has many applications.

It's made of very rare materials using a special manufacturing method, also, it seems like the power of the [Demigod of Lush Greenery] is subtly mixed within, due to this, its effects became very strong to the extent that it's said that it's almost an all-purpose medicine. Although it's not that effective against curses and spells with special effects, it can cure almost any disease.

This... Wouldn't I acquire new abilities if I ate it?

While thinking so, I suddenly remembered that I had already been given the elves' secret medicine.

It was that day, the day when I first met Father Elf. He gave it to me as a present, together with the elven wine, but at that time I was too preoccupied with the elven wine and thus forgot about it after that day, to this day it was put away in my [Item Box] without me taking it out even once.

Remembering this, I wondered why he had given me a precious secret medicine like that?

When I asked him, he answered me "It's against the law to give it to "humans", but giving it to an "ogre" who saved his daughter doesn't violate the law".

What the hell? Wouldn't that mean that the empire would've gotten the secret medicine if they had sent a demi-human instead?

I drank the secret medicine on the way back.

Ability [High Speed Regeneration] learned

Ability [Blood Elixir] learned

The "Demon blood" flowing inside my body turned into the secret medicine.

To experiment, I made one of the slaves, whose wounds have yet to be healed, drink a drop of my blood, then I saw an unbelievable sight.

All of his still open wounds quickly closed up, and seeing the improvement of his complexion, it seems like his lost blood got replenished, also, he said that the low back pains that he's been suffering from since a long time ago got healed too.

What's this? Scary. If these are the effects of only one drop, what would its effects be if drank in large quantities? Although I don't have any intention of trying it out, I'm still curious. Wouldn't you get eternal youth or something close it if you do that?

If word got out about the existence of such a "Gold mine-like ogre", I'll definitely get targeted by humans for profit, that sounds scary.

To look at the bright side, my healing ability rose greatly, however, I still think that the

benefits and the accompanying risks aren't balanced.

Since humans are greedy, arrogant, obstinate and great in numbers, I have to take care that none of them finds out about it.

No, even if some find out, I just have to kill those who know about it.

While I was thinking about such things, we returned.

DAY 74

SIDESTORY: ONE OF THE NOBILITY-CLASS SLAVES WHO WERE FORCED TO CONDUCT A SURPRISE SUICIDE ATTACK POV

【 POV: One of The Nobility-Class Slaves Who Were Forced to Conduct a Surprise Suicide Attack 】

【Time Axis : day 74】

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?!! I AM THE SECOND SON OF THE TSUKAEN VISCOUNT FAMILY WHICH HAVE BEEN SERVING THE KINGDOM FAITHFULLY SINCE ANCIENT TIMES , I AM COITZ • CANARY • TSUKAEN!!

My father kicked out my useless, foolish older brother and married off my incompetent little sister to another family, ONLY TO ENROLL ME, THE YOUNGEST SON, IN THE ACADEMY IN ORDER TO PREPARE ME TO BECOME THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUKAEN FAMILY!! I AM A GREAT PERSON, I AM THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUKAEN FAMILY!!

YET.....

WHY, WHY DID A PERSON AS GREAT AS ME GET SUCH A ROLE?

You want me to carry large quantities of exploding-type magic items, then seek my allies' shelter? And after I penetrate deep into their lines, you want me to scatter around the magic items that I carry? DON'T SCREW WITH ME!!

IT IS COMMON SENSE TO ASSIGN SUCH DANGEROUS TASKS TO DISPOSABLE CANNON FODDERS LIKE CONSCRIPTS AND COMMON FOOT SOLDIERS, NOT A NOBLE EXISTENCE SUCH AS ME.

YET, FOR HIM TO ACTUALLY... TO ACTUALLY... TO ACTUALLY DARE TO UTTER OUT OF ALL THINGS SOMETHING AS AUDACIOUS AS "You're useless" IN MY FACE AND TO USE SUCH A DEVIOUS METHOD TO CONTROL MY BODY!! THERE IS NO WAY THAT CAN BE FORGIVEN!! I WILL MAKE YOU REGRET THIS!!

IF THE TSUKAEN FAMILY GETS SERIOUS, A LOWLY OGRE LIKE YOU WILL INSTANTLY-- ST- STO- STOP!! DO NOT GET CLOSE. Kuh, please don't eat me. I'm begging you, please don't bite off my head!!

Fuuu... he left, didn't he?

.....SHIT, SHIT, SHIT, SHIT.

DON'T SCREW WITH ME, DON'T SCREW WITH ME, DON'T FUCKING SCREW WITH ME!!

WHO DO YOU THINK, WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK I AM?!! I AM NOT SOMEONE THAT CAN DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT I STILL WANT TO DO.

AHH, STOP IT, STOP SAYING STUPID THINGS LIKE "Start the operation", STOP MOVING MY BODY AGAINST MY WILL.

WAIT, WAI~~T -----!!

.....Ohhh! Isn't that my close friend Gudon?

Please help me, take away the pouch filled with magic items stored inside my pocket, and remove the magic item installed in my ear.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY IT UP!! QUICKLY RELEASE ME BEFORE HE GIVES OUT THE ORDERS. OTHERWISE, YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE.

STUPID, STOP IT, DO NOT ATTACK THEM. THEY ARE JUST A DECOY, THE GUYS WHO ARE PRETENDING TO BE PURSUING US ARE JUST DECOYS, THE REAL THREAT IS HERE, IT IS THE MAGIC ITEMS THAT WE ARE CARRYING.

THAT IS WHY, QUICKLY HELP-- STOP IT, STOP MOVING, MY ARM!! DO NOT GRAB

THAT MAGIC ITEM!! DO NOT THROW IT!! DO NOT THROW IT!! I WILL GET CAUGHT UP IN THE EXPLOSION--

STOP, STOO~~P ITTT!!

« *Explosion*, *blast*, flashes of light-- many [Burst Seeds] exploded »

AAAAAAAAAAAARGH! A SHARD, A STONE SHARD IS STUCK IN MY FACE. IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT HURTS, IT IS PAINFUL, IT IS VERY PAINFUL!!

YET, MY, MY BODY IS NOT STOPPING. DO NOT THROW THE MAGIC ITEMS, STOP, STOP THROWING THEM.

EXPLOSIONS, EXPLOSIONS, EXPLOSIONS, BE IT THE MAGIC ITEMS WHICH HIT THE GROUND, OR THE MAGIC ITEMS WHICH HIT MY ALLIES, ALL OF THEM JUST CONTINUE EXPLODING!!

MY BODY GOT BLOWN AWAY BY A BLAST, BECAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION'S IMPACT, THE MAGIC ITEM THAT WAS IN MY RIGHT HAND EXPLODED TOO, MY RIGHT ARM GOT BLOWN AWAY, AAHHHHHHHHHH!! IT IS PAINFUL, IT IS TOO PAINFUL~~UL.

STOP, STOP IT, PLEASE STOP IT!!

Yet, Yet, Yet, I can't stop my body. Stop it, STOP ME, PLEASE STOP ME, I WILL GIVE YOU AS MUCH GOLD COINS AS YOU WANT, someone please, help me aaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!

My..... body isn't... moving anymore.

What..... became... of me?

...*Breathing*..., my sight... is... dimming.

Is... it... death? Will... I... here?

Ah, I... can't... die... yet.

..... a flash of light? *explosion*--

« Cause of death: An explosion »

« Age at death: 22 years old »

DAY 75

Today we didn't perform the morning train, but instead, everyone went to the river.

Well, to fit even ogres inside, the hot springs' baths had to be deep, but as expected it was too deep for goblins, and so there were many who nearly drowned in it.

Since most of them never swam in the first place, it couldn't be helped. It hasn't been long since their birth, so it's kind of expected.

However, it would be really troublesome if any of them died just because they can't swim. They may get forced to fight in deep water in the future, or they may have to run away by swimming, otherwise lose their lives.

So, today, I decided to have a swimming practice with everyone in the lake where the green lizards attacked me the other day.

Also, as it was a good chance for them to refresh themselves, I took Blacksmith-san and the others who don't go out very often along too.

Because I had my clones scout the forest, I already knew that the green lizards live just a little ahead of the waterfall. I hoped that they'll come to attack us, but in the end none showed up.

Although it was slightly disappointing, but since Blacksmith-san and others enjoyed the swimming, it's okay I suppose.

DAY 76

It seems like we won't be getting any new hobgoblins until the children are born.

At this moment we have 15 goblins, and all of them got to Level 100. In short, these 15 goblins don't have the ability to undergo an [Evolution (Rank Up)].

Although it's somewhat of a pity, there's no need to worry too much about it.

If they can't become stronger quickly by Ranking Up, they just have to steadily train themselves to become strong.

"Training will never let you down. Even if you're a goblin, if you continue training without giving up, eventually you'll be able to become a [Goblin Elite], won't you?"

That's what I said to the depressed goblins to cheer them up, since they replied "We'll do our best" cheerfully, it can be said that this issue has been settled.

On the other hand, the kobolds still have room for growth.

When I woke up this morning, I discovered that the number of the kobold footmen increased by two, and that a new [Genin Kobold] appeared.

I put the kobold footmen into the scheduled training course, then put my focus on the genin kobold.

TL Note : Genin = low-ranking ninja

The genin kobold has a kodachi-type [Organic Blade] --- a Sword version of the kobold footmen's [Organic Spear]s --- and a much thinner build than a normal kobold.

Also, although he still has the face of a dog, I could see a glimmer of intellect in his eyes, his physique is also approaching that of a human. Plus, as a genin kobold, it seems like he can use [Ninpou], a type of [Sorcery] which is one of the main magic branches.

T/N: a karachi is a japanese short sword. ~Obarou

Editor note: it's a subcategory of magic called sorcery, with the specific magic being ninpou

TL note: Ninpou (or ninjutsu): basically all the regular ninja special powers and whatnot

Because he's a ninja, it seems like he would shine in areas like intelligence gathering and stealth-related activities, so I instructed him to always keep his presence hidden from today onwards. The moment I told him that, the signs of his presence almost completely disappeared. As expected of a species that excels in stealth, the way he hid away looked like a second nature to him.

Because the human army hasn't show any movements yet, we went to the river for some more swimming practice.

Although some almost drowned from exhaustion, nothing dangerous happened, and I was able to enjoy my time relaxing.

DAY 77

Today, I called off training and made the day a vacation. Studying, making love, training, or hunting, each to their own.

As for me, in the morning I shed some sweat by going at Ogakichi-kun, Rusty Iron Knight, Redhead, and Female Knight in a 4 vs 1 martial arts match.

After entering the hot springs and taking a bath, I went and played with my pets until I got satisfied.

Then I went to see the Sisters, tried a dish from this world which is called "Merzak" that the Sisters made, it looked like a sandwich, and I had lunch there.

Following that, I visited Blacksmith-san who was as engrossed as usual in her research for weapons development, together with her and the guard elves, we discussed ideas for new weapons.

In the evening, I went to Alchemist-san's workshop and devoted myself to the mass production of the [Burst Seeds] - which will play a major role in the future - together with her.

When the sun set and the night came, I went outside with Dhammi-chan and we enjoyed a journey through the sky illuminated by the moon's and the stars' lights.

The night air was a bit chilly, but that wasn't a problem, if it's a cold of only this level, then I won't even need to use my abilities, that's because ogres inherently have some resistance to cold, as for Dhammi-chan, she is an undead and also have the [[God of Ice]'s Divine Protection].

To fly, I generated wings from my back using [Elytron Generation], while Dhammi-chan used one of her abilities as a dhampir, we cuddled close to each other as we flew through the night sky.

After flying for a long time, we got a little cold, so we entered the hot springs when we returned to warm our bodies up.

Then we went to bed together with everyone, including Female Knight. We shed a lot of sweat together before we fell asleep, but we can just enter the hot springs tomorrow morning to clean our bodies, so it's not a problem.

This was a really enjoyable vacation.

DAY 78

My pets, the hind bear, Kumajirou, and the black wolf leader, Kurosabrou, both Ranked Up today.

After evolving, Kumajiro became larger even than the red bear, his originally grey fur darkened in color and a 50cm long sharp horn that looked like it's made out of obsidian extended out from his forehead. He's no longer a hind bear, but a [Demon Bear (Oniguma)].

As for Kurosaburo, he became as big as a warhorse. Moreover, now he has two heads that both of which think separately, and with every breath, black flames tinged with lightning leaked out from his two big mouths. It seems like the species he evolved into is called [Orthrus].

To find out how much the specs of the two of them have improved, all of the ogre-class members including me, Ogakichi-kun, and the other four — in short, those of us who'd Ranked Up twice — , in addition to our familiars, a total of only thirteen individuals attacked one of the human army's units.

The reason why we attacked them with only a small number of elites is for us to Level Up efficiently.

Recently, my policy have been to increase our overall power, so we, the top brass had to hold back when going against the human army, to give the others a chance to Level Up.

That's why the amount of Experience Values we got was small, moreover, after Ranking Up twice, the amount of Experience Values that we need to Level Up became very large, making it very difficult for us to Level Up, although I killed many things since I became an ogre, I didn't Level Up as much as I expected I would.

Although raising our overall power is important, in some situations we can rely only on individual strength, making it impossible for me to protect the important things to me if I'm weak.

That's why, I wanted to increase the Levels of our elites now.

I left the base to Rusty Iron Knight, who is acting as Redhead's instructor and Female Knight, and as insurance, I left behind three relatively big clones and a platoon of black skeletons.

Well, in the first place, the human army's goal is only the elves. They won't go out of their way to attack the home of another race residing in a place far from the Elves' Village

After sunset, I mounted Kumajiro and the others all mounted their respective familiars, before advancing into the forest.

The proportion of [Mages] at our destination is low, the unit camping there consisted mostly of those who have Jobs like [Heavy Warriors] and [Knights] which specialize in close-combat with high defense and offense in exchange for low mobility.

The unit was comprised of just a few under six hundred fighter. There wasn't a single demi-human, only veteran soldiers without a single conscript among them. Because there is another unit taking a nearby route, I intended to reduce their numbers as much as possible in a short frame of time before making our retreat.

We arrived at the enemy's encampment after riding for about an hour.

At this moment, darkness has already covered the forest, so we can make use of undeads, besides, humans can't see in the dark, making it easier for us to launch a surprise attack at them.

We stopped at a hill overlooking the encampment littered with tents and fireplaces from a distance and observed the enemy. There was only one enemy that we had to look out for, a white-haired old knight with a great mustache. Even when eating, he didn't put away his armor and black iron short spear that had a red blade with countless small thorns protruding from it, his armor was a scalemail that emitted a divine-like pale white light.

From the old knight's features and equipment, I could identify him as one from the "List of Strong Officers from the Kingdom and the Empire" that I made using the information I got from Rusty Iron Knight, Female Knight and other officers belonging to the human army that we captured.

Belonging to the Empire, he was a man known by the name "Eisen Ritter", who was renowned as an adventurer when he was still young. His black iron short spear is an

[Ancient]-Rank magic item that he obtained by himself from one of the Empire's [Age of the Gods Dungeons]. It seems to be a spear with the power to inflict powerful Curses on a target with the slightest scratch, it's called [Barbed Spear of Cursed Wounds].

The white scalemail that he's equipping seems to be an armor-type magic item made using the materials he got from killing the white dragon that was protecting the [Barbed Spear of Cursed Wounds].

I absolutely want to taste the spear and the armor, in addition to their owner.

Deciding that this somewhat troublesome Eisen would be the first enemy to be killed, I prepared to launch a surprise attack that will eliminate the enemy's greatest force, Eisen, right off the bat, this will increase our chances of being able to wipe them out before having to retreat, plus it's safer.

As insurance, I decided to use my vermillion spear, taking it out from my [Item Box], then loading it into my silver arm, which I transformed into a ballista.

I activated [Job - Assassin] to raise my assassination rate, and because I was attacking using a ballista which is a long-range weapon, I activated [Job - Archer] and [Job - Hunter] to greatly increase the attack's power and accuracy, which I overlapped with [Throw] and [Needleshot] for further increase in accuracy and power. Then, I aimed at Eisen's torso and fired the vermillion spear.

After erasing all of my signs and firing the vermillion spear at Eisen who was sitting in the center of the enemy's camp, approximately three hundred meters away, it flew in his direction like a red comet rather than a bolt, landing on his white dragon scalemail clad body, and piercing it very easily.

As expected, even Eisen couldn't detect an attack fired at him at such high speed from outside his perception range.

His last expression was quite impressive, he looked completely bewildered, not understanding what exactly happened to him in that split second.

A few seconds after the vermillion spear pierced through him, the shattering sound of the soup plate that fell to the ground from his hands reverberated in the center of the enemy's camp where it became calm after the soldiers saw the hole in Eisen's body.

- At this moment, history's greatest, legendary one-sided surprise attack began.

- Who cares about fighting fair and square, that crap is for vegetarians.
- After all, in nature where the law is survival of the fittest, which also applies to wars, those who remain standing in the end are the law, they're justice, deciding what's right and what's wrong.

Thinking about these things unrelated to the battle, my attention got distracted a little, then I focused back to observe the enemy's situation.

After piercing through Eisen's body, the vermillion spear didn't slow down and stabbed deep into the ground, leaving behind a hole matching its trajectory.

There were many soldiers standing around Eisen's corpse that had a big hole in the place that was previously his chest, wondering what exactly happened. They looked silly with their mouths hung open, they simply couldn't believe the scene before them.

Although they are trying to accept the reality that Eisen had died, it seems like they feel like it's a hallucination because it was simply too sudden.

After waiting for more soldiers to move close to Eisen's body for some time, I activated one of the vermillion spear's abilities [Army of Blood-dyed Crimson Spears (Tseng Pesch)].

The moment I activated it, without any warning, vermillion spears sprang out from the ground. Countless vermillion spears sprang from their blind spots below their feet at high speeds, killing or heavily injuring all the soldiers within 100 meters radius of the original spear.



It would have been okay to kill all of the enemies in the spear's radius, but I didn't want to decrease the amount of Experience Values everyone else could obtain.

Laughing at the commotion caused by the sudden attack, we charged the enemy.

We took advantage of the confusion caused by the surprise attack to dispose of the enemy as quickly as possible.

At this point, trying to reorganize their lines and mount a counterattack against us is almost impossible for them. Which means, our surprise attack was a success.

I intend to annihilate them down to the last man, so I stationed black skeletons around the perimeter of the camp to finish off anyone who tries to run away.

It was a very easy job to annihilate the masses of disoriented soldiers.

The speed of the humans' horses couldn't be compared to the speed of demon bears, orthruses, hind bears and triple-horned horses. We covered the distance between us in the blink of an eye, spread out, and swung our weapons down at the confused soldiers.

Ogakichi-Kun's familiar took advantage of his speed and physique to rush the enemy soldiers, some got trampled and their organs flew around, while others got blown away after clashing against his huge build.

Ogakichi-kun swung his battle-axe from atop the hind bear, scattering flames at the many [Heavy Warriors] around him.

Probably due to experience, despite their confusion, they were still able to quickly prepare their multi-layered shield formation and block the battle axe. Due to the clash, a sharp metallic sound echoed.

Though, unable to block the flames that flew towards them, the soldiers at the first row got incinerated by the intense heat and the shields in the multi-layered shield formation got bent into the shape "⌅" due to the extreme heaviness of the attack.

The defensive power of many [Heavy Warriors] was almost meaningless before Ogakichi-kun.

As usual, he has great destructive power. Also, Ogakichi-kun's [Divine Protection] increased the amount of flames he can produce, thus the flames spread even more than what the axe can normally do, enlarging the damage and creating a mass of charred bodies in the process.

An ogre that possessed power great enough to bend shields, the ability to engulf his surroundings in flames and a problematic tower shield that made breaking through his defenses almost impossible.

There's no doubt, that from an enemy's point of view, he was an object of fear.

Dhammi-chan used her [Eyes of Bewitchment] to control the enemy soldiers and those who could not resist it were made to kill their allies.

She wanted to create as many victims as possible without dirtying her own hands. By the way, she can still gain Experience Values even when using this method, the efficiency is very good too.

However, as one would expect, she couldn't brainwash every single one. There were those who managed to resist her [Eyes of Bewitchment] by using magic items, arts, or other methods, though those who managed to completely resist it were very few, so most of them had their movements considerably slowed down.

She dealt with those who managed to resist her ability either by skewering them with ice spears that she created using her [Divine Protection], froze them to death, or slashed their bodies using the ice claymore that I gave her as a present.

Her appearance when she took the trouble to throw the enemies she slayed into the air, cut them apart using the ice claymore, showering in the raining down blood pleasantly, mysteriously looked both charming and terrifying. The sight of her licking the blood sticking on her cheek with her tongue looked bone-chilling.

In a place a little far away from me, while screaming a war cry, Asue-chan smashed the ground with her war-pick.

Earth walls rose from the sides, depriving the enemies in front of her from escaping.

Then, the ground split open and swallowed those failed to escape before the walls rose, one after another.

Because all of her swings were packed full of strength, they leave significant openings, the enemy soldiers tried making use of them, coordinating their timing to launch a concentrated attack at her, but their steel swords were not able to even scratch Asue-chan, who's a half-earth lord, a species with high defensive powers among all half-lords. Even their attacks' shocks got absorbed by her thick muscles without causing any damage to her.

After seeing that normal attacks were meaningless against her, some tried to attack her using Combat Arts, however, the slight gap before the Combat Arts could be activated became a target and unlike the big moves she used until now, she burst their bodies open with fast attacks, like rock-crushing fists, kicks, and tackles.

Asue-chan's cheerful, hearty laughter reverberated in the middest of the enemy soldiers' screams.

Using magic, Supesei-san created a muddy stream that washed away the soldiers who were in a somewhat far away place from her.

Simply speaking, it was an attack that dumped humans into something like a washing machine which was filled with metal armor, spears, swords and so on. The fate of these soldiers was miserable.

It was as if she was cleaning the battlefield, seeing this, a wry smile appeared on my face.

The thirty blood swords Burasato-san created shredded the enemy soldiers as they brushed past them, they even grew bigger in size after absorbing their victims' blood.

The blades rotating at high speeds sliced any enemies who entered their range to small pieces. Burasato-san's red skin was dyed even redder by their blood. Her scarlet red figure madly slaying the enemies looked like nothing but a death god.

This is not a battle anymore, it's just a one-sided mass slaughter. In the first place, all of our species are inherently vastly stronger than humans, so it's only to be expected that this will be the result when that strength is further refined through harsh daily training.

While I thought about that, I cut down the enemy's numbers down using my halberd that Blacksmith-san reinforced with [Spirit Stones].

About twenty minutes after our attack began, the battle ended and the silence of the night returned.

Right after I hit Eisen with the vermillion spear, we surrounded the camp with earthen walls and I stationed the black skeletons outside, so most likely no one managed to get away. In addition, I used [Conceal] on everyone, so even if there are any survivors, it's not that big of a problem as they don't know of our real appearances.

With this, our goal today has been accomplished.

After pulling the vermillion spear from the ground, I collected the things that looked useful using my threads, then ate the bloody meat of our dead enemies.

Because there were so many, I activated [Improved Digestion], [Vampirephilia] and [Metamorphosis] to efficiently devour all of them at once.

Ability [Wind Blade] learned

Ability [Wind Storm] learned

Ability [Inhibit Regeneration] learned

Ability [Recognition Interference] learned

Ability [Uppercut] learned

Ability [Heavy Slash] learned

Ability [Warrior's Lineage] learned

Ability [Knight's Lineage] learned

Ability [Job - Dual Swordsman] learned

Ability [Job - Axe Lord] learned

Ability [Job - Spear Lord] learned

Ability [Survival Instinct] learned

Ability [Familicide] learned

Ability [Enhanced Arm Strength] learned

Ability [Hawk Eye] learned

Ability [Job - Berserker] learned

Ability [Chickenhearted] learned

Ability [Job - Grappler] learned

Ability [All Martial Arts Proficiency] learned

Ability [Flying Slash] learned

Ability [Crescent Flash] learned

Ability [Hundred Blossoms of A Thousand Spears] learned

Ability [Rush] learned

Ability [Heavy Axe Strike] learned

Ability [Create Trap] learned

Then I proceeded to eat today's main dish, Eisen, although most of his torso disappeared, turning into scraps of meat that flew in every direction, I could still secure enough

meat that can be eaten from his body.

It would have been fine to keep the armor and the spear, but I decided to eat them as well.

Crunch, crunch. The armor had a crispy texture and tasted refreshing, the short spear had a hard, slightly sticky texture and a rich taste.

Ability [Grand Cross] learned

Ability [Job - Master Swordsman] learned

Ability [Job - Dragon Slayer]

Ability [Dragon Scale Formation] learned

Ability [Cursed Wounds] learned

We returned to the base with faces full of smiles, satisfied with the Experience Values we got and the abilities I obtained.

DAY 79

Today I received word from Father Elf via the transmission device I had left with him. He said "Please come to « The Elves' Village », since I was training with Redhead and Female Knight at the time, I decided to take them with me as escorts. Although it may be unnecessary to take escorts with me, I took them mainly to sightsee. The others were engaged between training, hunting and studying. I straddled Kumajirou together with Redhead, while Female Knight rode atop Kurosaburou, then we headed to « The Elves' Village ».

It's probably because they already know that we have humans in the base, but no major problems arose when we got to the village. There were some elves who were directing looks as if looking at livestock at the two humans, so I taught them a lesson by glaring back at them while using [Intimidating Glare], then they quickly averted their eyes.

After some time, we reached Father Elf's mansion, then we were led to the guest room that I came to before with Ogakichi-kun. While waiting for Father Elf to come, I drank the served tea. Redhead and Female Knight were looking around the room curiously, well, it was their first time in an elven village, so they can't be blamed. As for me, I passed time by analyzing the information I got from my clones earlier.

After around five minutes, Father Elf came with a bottle of elven wine and cups, the Elven Maiden who I saved before was standing behind him.

First, Father Elf apologized for being late, then said "Please drink some wine first", then Elven Maiden poured the wine in the cup from the translucent bottle, and the rich smell spread. Naturally I drank it. We continued drinking for sometime. And although I didn't get drunk even a little no matter how much I drank, I felt ecstasy just from the taste.

While drinking, we exchanged some information and discussed the current status of the war in a good mood for a while.

Then, we moved onto the main subject at hand. In summary, he wants us to launch an assault together with the elven army's elites at the human army's main force. The

reason for this is that the human army's main force is closing in on village and would soon have the village surrounded, in short, he wants to take down the human army's supreme commander before that happens to stop their advance. Well, given that a prolonged war is not desired by either side, I can see the reasoning of this move.

According to the information I got from the humans I captured, it seems like the relationship of our enemies with other countries is tensing lately, so there's the fear that other countries may take advantage of their war against the elves to mount an attack.

On the other hand, the elves who are superior to human but have overwhelmingly small numbers compared to the humans, had already lost quite the number since the war started. In short, they don't want to increase the casualties further, and it's also necessary to have a safe environment to thoroughly focus on treating the injured.

In the first place, there aren't many advantages that the elves can get from this war, so they want to finish it as quickly as possible.

Well, we are mercenaries, so I can't simply disregard my employer's request.

We've been allowed to move freely until now, and we'll be getting bonuses for this request. I've already profited from this war more than enough, if I get too greedy it'll only bring my ruin.

After an extensive discussion regarding the assault's strategy, we headed back to the base.

On the way back, Female Knight asked me if it's possible to hand over the secret medicine to the kingdom, "I've already willingly pledged my loyalty to you, but I want to complete my last duty as a noble from the kingdom and help cure the princess's disease".

Hmm, it's worth considering. It might be a good idea to try selling a favor to the top of the two countries. Having the backing of a country makes a big difference after all, for example the scope of information you can get will enlarge to a level that's impossible to get normally.

However, there's the fact that me, a black ogre with the [[Great God of Demise and Origin] Divine Protection] is the one who negotiated handing over the secret medicine. Even if I use a substitute, there's a good chance that they'll be able to find out that I

was the one behind it.

I can easily imagine that many troublesome things will happen if word about that gets out. Mainly, because of religion, religion and religion. The [Divine Protection] of one of the heads of the five divine pillars holds that much meaning in this world.

Moreover, the kingdom's first queen seems to be a zealous believer in the « The Five Great Gods' Teachings » which is currently the world's largest standing religion, from this fact, I can smell only trouble...

To be honest, all of this is troublesome. That's why I dismissed the idea of me handing it over personally, I dismissed the idea of having a substitute hand it over too, as there's the risk of them finding out that I was the one behind it- At the moment I thought of this, an idea came upon me. I thought about it for a while, then decided to perform it as it has the highest merits with minimal losses.

With that decided, I began the preparations for tomorrow's decisive battle.

DAY 80

Late in the night, we began making our way to the encampment of the human army's main force led by the empire's heir who came to the battlefield as the human army's supreme commander.

Their numbers are around two thousand. As expected of the main force, their vigilance is very strong, there were many sentinels patrolling the encampment.

On the other hand, our numbers are around 650 in total, five hundred being the elite elves that Father Elf gave me. We couldn't use the humans we captured as war potential since there's a chance that we'll mistake them for enemies with their equipment being the same as those of the human army's soldiers and end up killing our own.

With our numbers, it's best to avoid attacking them normally, that's why we're attacking them at this time of the day, because in the night, we can make use of the black skeletons' strength, moreover, because I can absorb magical power from the darkness, I can summon them endlessly. There's also the fact that if we manage to get rid of the lights of the human army's encampment, the tide of the battle will heavily fall in our favor who can see in the darkness.

But it's not like it's okay to just charge at them in the darkness.

As I said before, they have a unit comprised of enslaved demi-humans, some of which are racially stronger than us, so if this is not taken care of carefully, it can be very troublesome.

I sent some black skeleton assassins, some of my clones and the genin kobold after the slaves' master who I heard about from Rusty Iron Knight.

The slaves obey him only because of the [Collars of Slavery], so if I manage to parasitize his body and get him to remove the collars, they'll be able to move freely. Although there's a chance that some of them will take a hostile stance against us, I'll free them regardless, as I'm positive that most of them will either run away or accept cooperating with us to attack the human army.

Fortunately, it seems like he's also a magician that cast a spell on the chimera to control it, so if we kill him after he frees the demi-human slaves, we'll be able to keep the chimera from attacking us. Moreover, if I eat the magician, I might get a special ability to control the chimera.

Yeah, it would be nice if it goes like this.

Everything went according to the plan until the death of the slaves' master. After he died, the chimera which looked like a mix between an elephant, tiger, snake and a crab with a height of nearly six meters perceived its master's death and started rampaging, killing the demi-humans who were trying to run away.

The demi-humans who couldn't respond immediately and run away got killed by the chimera. In a few moments, dozens of them died. As time went by, more and more of the demi-human slaves who accepted cooperating with us died and their numbers drastically decreased. Moreover, the turmoil led the human army to discover our existence, thus my plan to gradually and quietly shave down their numbers failed.

But as it couldn't be helped anymore, I gave up on it and started our assault. First, I dedicated myself to killing the chimera, while the others attacked the human army.

Eventually the sun soon rose and the movements of the black skeletons started getting worse little by little, soon the number of skeletons destroyed began to increase steadily. In response, the human army raised a war cry, improving their morale, then they started attempting to push us back, but there're no problems, as I have already prepared a countermeasure to sunlight.

In order to heavily damage the human army's morale, I didn't use it right away and allowed the black skeletons to get exposed to the sunlight. The sunlight countermeasure is simple, make a new clone, hide it inside the black skeleton's body, then turn it into slime form and have it cover the black skeleton's body when the time comes, thus cutting off the sunlight. Fortunately, there's plenty of blood in the battlefield.

The black skeletons who regained their strength after I applied the countermeasure surprised their opponents and slashed them down immediately. Because they were in high spirits after seeing the black skeletons' movements worsening earlier, their morales hit rock bottom very easily and they became an easy prey. I had them give especially extra attention to the officers. My slime-shaped clones also swung their

tentacles like wipes at the humans, increasing the combat effectiveness of the black skeletons further.

Just by briefly looking at the battlefield, anyone could see that the humans' morale was dropping at an alarming rate.

Just try imagining it. Suddenly, slim-like tentacles with a strong acidity grew out from the bodies of the black skeletons who they were already having trouble dealing with, moreover, the tentacles' movements didn't seem random, rather controlled movements aiming at the openings that they occasionally show. It was unavoidable that the enemy's soldiers' morale dropped.

The number of soldiers who started showing despairing looks started steadily increased, and the tide of the battle gradually fell in our favor.

We might be able to settle this battle sooner than I expected, I thought so as I continued fighting.

In the meanwhile, one of my clones sneaked near the enemy's headquarters. I had it activate [Job-Sorcerer] and use a spell that obstructs the attention of the humans in its surroundings, in addition to activating covert-type abilities like [Job-Assassin] and [Recognition Interference] and equipping a magic item called [Hermit's Robe] that lowers the chance of getting detected.

All of this is to approach the empire's heir who's also the human army's supreme commander.

But I'm not thinking of killing him, the reason for this is because if I were to kill the heir, it would make this conflict a personal war of vengeance for the empire to avenge him. If the empire gets serious, we'll get easily crushed by the huge difference in numbers. That's why I have to avoid killing him at all costs.

I've been getting on good terms with Father Elf lately. There're many materials that can be harvested from this forest. And above all, I don't want to abandon our current base.

While considering all of this, I quickly got to where the empire's heir who is wearing a splendid armor is sitting. There were guards in the surroundings, but no one noticed

me aside from him when I whispered in his ears.

I told him to retreat, then slid a flask containing a red liquid into his breast pocket, and informed him that this is the secret medicine that can cure the princess's disease and of how to use it. I also whispered many other things to him.

When I whispered "Did you get it?", he nodded his head quietly. Then, I promptly left.

After this was concluded, I contacted Asue-chan through the ear-cuffs and gave her the orders to create a great earthen wall which divided the two forces. We have already destroyed half of the enemy's forces too, so it should be enough.

Before they manage to break their way through the earthen wall, we quickly collected the wounded and as much as possible of the corpses of both our allies and the former slaves, in addition to the chimera's corpse. Then we withdrew.

To be honest, I wanted to bring home the meat of the promising enemy soldiers, but we didn't have the time for that. I ate my share in the midst of the battle too, so I don't have any other choice other than to be content with it. Not to mention that we got some good loots, like the chimera.

Self-restraint, Self-restraint.

And so, by sacrificing the large numbers of black skeletons to stop the human army's pursuit, we managed withdraw to the base to treat the wounded. I requested a medical unit from the elves' army when we were withdrawing, and they provided significant aid in the treatment of the seriously wounded and thus many were able to survive thanks to their help. After they finished the treatment, the elves triumphantly returned to their village.

As for the former demi-human slaves, they're staying in our base, I allowed them to stay because in the end they're not opponents that I can't kill. They aren't our enemies, so I'll respect their will, if they want to leave, they're free to do so. I told them to ask someone about this place's rules and that I'll allow them to stay here for tonight for now, then left the cave.

In this war, there were casualties among us for the first time. A total of twenty: three hobgoblins, two hobgoblin mages, five goblins, six kobolds and four male elves have died.

The enemy's main force's soldiers were very strong, it was the most brutal battle that we fought in this war.

Fortunately, we were able to recover all of their corpses. After I took out their internal organs and ate them, the rest of their bodies were cremated. I manipulated the wind to scatter the smoke and prevent the discovery of our base. Some were offering prayers, some shedding tears and others just looking at the fireplace with empty eyes.

However, I wasn't really sad about it, not even a single tear came out.

The only thing I thought of is "I'll continue living and eat your share".

After observing the corses until they burnt down to ashes by the fire, I tended to my weapons while eating the chimera. After all, if I don't eat it before the time limit of [Absorption] finishes, I won't be able to learn any ability.

Ability [Synthesis] learned

Hmm, this is an interesting ability that I received from the chimera. It seems to be an ability than allows me to combine items or abilities, thus creating new ones. There seems to be various ways to use it, it seems to be a very useful ability, but because I'm tired today, I'll leave the experimentation for later. By the way, I had a similar ability in my previous life.

After arranging the sleeping grounds of the former slaves, I took a bath in the hot springs, then slept on my specially made bed.

Hmm... If things go well, this could be where the war and my contract with Father Elf ends. When everything is settled, I'll start making preparations to leave the forest, with that last thought, I fell into a deep sleep.

DAY 80

SIDESTORY: THE EMPIRE'S HEIR'S POV

【POV: The Empire's Heir】

【Time Axis: Day 80】

For the sake of curing Diana from the "Chrysindo Disease" eating into her, I searched for a remedy using everything I could. She was the person I was arranged to marry, my fiance and my loved one, the First Princess of the Sternbild Kingdom. After searching continuously, I finally learned of the existence of a secret medicine that can treat the "Chrysindo Disease" through a [Divine Revelation] from the [Demigod of Healing].

I tried again and again to negotiate with the elves, who inherited the technique to purify the secret medicine, to trade it for large sums of money.

However, no matter what I offered them, the elves refused to trade the secret medicine because of an ancient law, so I led my forces to the forest in order to take it by force.

This war wasn't supposed to drag on for so long, but the elves' resistance was more violent than expected, and the damage we received wasn't to be sneezed at.

The forest was filled with traps which decreased our already slow marching speed, the monsters that frequently appeared were a burden, and the elves who constantly shot arrows at us from the trees' shadows and under the cover of the night's darkness were troublesome.

As expected of the elves who live in this forest, they are much more familiar with this forest than us, so when they retreat each time, we weren't able to keep track of them. There were also some units that we couldn't contact anymore, so they most likely got wiped out.

However, I just couldn't believe that all of these were the elves' doing.

My intuition is telling me that there's a troublesome existence besides the elves.

I couldn't tell exactly what kind of existence it was, but I feel that it's something similar to the [Eight Great Knights], one of the empire's strongest forces which it's very proud of.

--And my intuition was correct.

The elves launched a surprise attack at the encampment of our army's main force, the place where I'm currently staying. Shrouded by the dark of night, they infiltrated our encampment unnoticed and freed the demi-human slaves.

I was alarmed that they were able to infiltrate our lines so far without us noticing, but I exhaled a sigh of relief due to the fact that we were able to detect them thanks to the chimera going on a rampage. What made it even better was that the rampaging chimera was attacking the infiltrators and the freed demi-human slaves.

I could clearly see the situation, even from afar. The chimera is a synthetic monster that the empire boasts of, created by utilizing many techniques of the empire. Though because of some problems, such as the materials needed, increasing the production currently isn't possible, nonetheless, they're expected to play an active role in wars against other countries in the near future.

This chimera was a very strong monster which possessed raw power great enough that common monsters couldn't even compare, in addition, it possessed a greater build than an [Armored War Elephant], the limbs of an [Emperor Tiger], the venomous fangs of a [Multi-Headed Snake], and the pincers of a [Blue Shelled Crab], it was such a strong and great monster. However, this same strong chimera got killed quickly.

Although I couldn't confirm the appearance of the one who killed it because of the distance and the fact that the sun hadn't risen yet, but there's no doubt that the chimera had perished. I was dumbfounded at the sight, but the enemy's attack was so fierce that I was taken aback only for a few moments.

We were able to confirm the existence of elves, ogres, half-lords, and such among the attacking army of the black-colored skeletons.

As I thought, the enemy was not just elves.

Most likely, the ogres who live in this forest colluded with the elves, then they launched a violent attack at us with their allied army.

The damage in the area around an [Ogre Variant] was especially great, our elites continued falling one after another.

I was focused on relaying my orders while observing the battlefield from afar, and also didn't focus on keeping my guard up due to the fact that the sparks of the battle hadn't reached here yet. These two are the main reasons why I let my guard down.

I trembled at the fact that an enemy managed to approach me so close, standing at my back without getting detected by my aides and the guards around me.

If they wanted to kill me, I would've been long dead.

However, the enemy whispered something into my ears instead and put a small bottle full of liquid into my breast pocket. They said that the secret medicine is inside it.

The condition for receiving it is for us to retreat from the forest. That was the only condition.

And I accepted that condition. It was regrettable to not obtain the profits we could've gotten from the elves, but when the enemy is gripping your life like this, there is no other choice but to obediently fall back.

I had lost to the elves... no, to this unknown enemy.

It was an existence that could sneak into heavily guarded enemy headquarters without being noticed. Although they could've easily robbed me of my life, they offered the secret medicine in exchange for our retreat instead. If not for the fact that I'm the Kirika Empire's heir, or if by chance the enemy wasn't aware of that fact, I would've most certainly died.

Grinding my teeth, I vowed to take down this unknown enemy who became my nemesis starting from this moment, then ordered a retreat while suppressing my anger.

If this secret medicine turned out to be a fake, I'll come back to this forest and slaughter this unknown enemy even if my body were to crumble down to dust in the process.

It was a bitter experience, but as I gained a goal from it too, and vowed to make both the empire and myself stronger.

DAY 81

The quantity of Experience Values we gained in yesterday's battle was unprecedented, and many Ranked Up today.

Hobuji-kun, a hobgoblin cleric became a [^{Half-Saint Demon/Onihito} _{Half-Saint Lord}].

He is as short as 170cm in height, and has thin limbs, he is lacking muscle mass overall. His skin is white in color with black tattoos visible on the backs of his hands. He has silvery colored hair reaching past his shoulders and golden eyes.

Lastly, just like Supesei-san, he has a [] embedded in the middle of his forehead, with two 5cm horns in length growing on its sides, except that his orb is white in color.

As for his specs, it seems like his species just like Supesei-san's has physical prowess lower than most other lord species, on the other hand, it's a highly excelled species in protection and healing.

As a test, I injured a slave and had him try healing him. The healing rate was leaps and bounds beyond what it had been before the Rank Up.

He also gained an innate ability called [Shell Field] which covers him with a thin film of light. When I tested its strength, it was able take on twenty of my regular strikes - without using abilities - before breaking.

Its defense was quite sturdy, I've to admit that I felt a little frustrated that it took me so long to break it.

It was decided that now he would be called Seiji-kun instead of Hobuji-kun.

Secondly, Hobufu-chan who was a hobgoblin mage previously Ranked Up to a [].

Recently, she has been savoring the rotten flesh of the zombies that I summon, so I kind of expected the she would become a ghoul, it wasn't that much of a surprise.

Although they eat rotten flesh, it's not like the flesh of ghouls themselves is rotten, except for her pale skin and the black tattoo on it, she looked just like a black haired female human, that's if you can ignore the very dangerous feeling that she's giving off, which is probably because she can eat ghosts and other creatures of ethereal nature now.

Recently she has been looking at me and Ogakichi-kun or alternately at me and Seiji-kun with an ecstatic expression, sometimes while drooling, I wonder what is she doing? Since each time she does that, a light chill runs down my spine, I want to do something about it, but for some reason I don't think that she'll listen even if I asked her to stop it.

Hobufu-chan's new name would be Gurufu-chan.

Next, Hobume-chan, one of the regular hobgoblins became a [], which is a species of demons that has many eyes throughout their bodies.

She stands at about 160cm tall with a feminine body and long black hair, and to be honest, with the many eyes covering her body - which of course she can close, effectively hiding them - , it depends on the opinion of the observer whatever she can be called a beauty or not.

Since when she woke up, there were already white kimono-styled clothes covering her body, she didn't need new ones.

By the way, the white kimono-styled clothing is a biological armament similar to the [Bio-Swords] and [Bio-Spears], it is called a [Bio-Armor].

As for her abilities, apparently her species have the ability to wield [Sorcery] with the trade off of very low physical capabilities, making her effective combat ability very low.

The main specialization of this species seems to be information collection, so she may become very useful in the field of information warfare in the future, I'll be looking forward to her growth in that direction.

As for her name, it was decided that it'll change from Hobume-chan to Dodome-chan.

Next, including my five former slaves, seven hobgoblins Ranked Up into ogres.

Two of them were female ogres, as for the females' appearances, what can I say, in various meanings, they looked amazing. They gave off a strange feeling of intimidation and power. All the seven ogres had large muscular bodies, with black tattoos, and stood roughly the same height as me.

But the appearances of the two females and the way they heartily laughed "Wahahahaha" in a masculine manner, made them look like nothing but battlefield macho nee-sans. The instant you lay your eyes on them, you can imagine them holding large firearms and wearing camouflaging military clothes, running in the battlefield while mass-producing corpses.

They were renamed respectively.

As for the kobolds, six of them Ranked Up kobold footmen, and their leader who was already a kobold footman to begin with became a [Kobold Samurai].

He was equipped with a black kimono and a vermillion colored armor, in addition to a katana-type sword with a black sheath around his waist. His features were those of an eastern man in his late thirties, with dog ears and a tail.

He clearly became much more human-like than before which can be helpful outside the forest, but as expected it's hard to look at an old man with dog ears and a tail. I can't help myself turning my face away when looking at him, because the only thing that comes to mind when I look at him is that he's a middle aged cosplayer.

When he was still a kobold footman, I thought that it looked a little cute when he comes to report something to me while saying "Lord" with his dog head, but when he says it with an appearance that I can't see other than a dog-samurai middle aged cosplayer, I can only groan hearing him.

Well, appearances aside.

I was going to simply call him samurai leader from now on, but it seems in this world, after an existence grows to a certain extent, they receive a [True Name] from the

world.

According to him, the samurai leader's [True Name] is called [Autumn Wind's Crossroad Akikaze No Tsuji].

By the way, it's a very stupid thing to do to give your [True Name] away, that's because the strength of curses and effects of various arts and techniques can greatly increase if the opponent knows of your [True Name].

The reason why he revealed it to me is because he has already swore to serve me with his life.

Anyways, knowing all of this, it's not a very good idea to call him by his [True Name], and so I decided to call him Akitainu from now on. Well, his previous looks looked similar to an akita dog and he has 'Aki' at the beginning of his [True Name], so I just decided to call him like that, and since he's happy with it, it's good enough.

I gave each of them a celebration gift.

Now then, it's time for me to go and check up on the former demi-human slaves.

More than half of them decided to return to their respective hometowns, but because they didn't have any travel expenses for the journey, it was decided that they'll work for me to renovate the base for some time, and in exchange for their work they'll receive some utensils, food, gold and other goods we looted from the human army. By the way, because all of them are deserters, they are already armed, so arms aren't included in the rewards.

Because all of them are quite strong, their hourly pay is very high, so they'll probably be able to collect enough funds for their journeys in five to six days. There's nothing else to say about the returning-home group.

As for the other group, the group of those who decided to stay and join my mercenary corps « Parabellum ». Their reasons are varied like, they have already lost their hometowns, they were born into slavery so after becoming free they don't know how should they live and joining us seemed to be their best option, they want to continue living in the battlefield and bathing in blood, they want to repay me, and so on.

Roughly fifty of them decided to join us, their numbers and general species:

Three ^{Demon/Onihito}
Lords

Five ^{Half-Demon/Onihito}
Half-Lords

Four [s]

Six ^{Half-Dragonman}
[Half-Dragonewts]

Ten ^{Great Demon/Oni}
Ogres

One []

Five ^{Reptilemen}
Lizardmen

Five [Dwarves]

One []

Three ^{Apemen}
[Orrorin]

One ^{Half-Blood-Sucking Demon/Oni}
Dhampir

Three [Redcaps]

Two ^{Tigermen}
[Weretiger]

One [Centaur]

Many of them are species stronger than hobgoblins who make up the majority of our group. Especially the lords and the dragonewts who rival them in power.

Although I don't have any particular problems in allowing them to join us, accepting

this large number of strong individuals at the same time may cause problems later on. The others simply wouldn't be convinced.

Why? That's because, our policy in this place is "The strong are law/justice". For that same reason, here your strength corresponds to your power.

One of the reasons why no one is complaining about me standing at the top is because we're of the same family, but they'll naturally feel dissatisfied if some random people suddenly appear and steal away their positions from them. I wouldn't be able to endure it too.

If it's against, redcaps, lizardmen, the centaur or dwarves, then most of the hobgoblins in our group will be able to win, but if it's against the others, then only a few of the hobgoblins will be able to win against the weaker ones of them.

That's why, if I admit all of them at the same time now without thinking, the upper ranks will get completely restructured and dissatisfaction will grow, then the possibility of the worst case scenario, internal division, occurring will be very high.

Although the former's slaves' strength combined easily outclasses the hobgoblin' group, it's a pity considering the possibility of many of the hobgoblins who I worked hard to train leaving, no, looking at it from a long-term point of view, I should prioritize the hobgoblins who have better potential.

Not to mention that although I can use many ways to force my subordinates to follow my orders in emergencies, having them follow them willingly is much better.

Considering all of the above, I decided to admit them as experimental-phase troops, their position will be that of chore workers, and they'll stay in those positions until they earn my trust. Their positions are basically lower than even the lowest ranked goblin, in other words, trainees.

When I gave out my decision, dissatisfaction came from the former slaves. Well, it's no wonder they did, they complained a lot but if I omit everything except the conclusion, it's something like "We'll become this place's leaders".

The ones complaining were two combat-oriented lords out of the three, the dragonewts, the half-dragonewts, a boss-type orrorin who had a hairy, rugged body and the dhampir, a total of fourteen.

When I directed my gaze at the war tigers and the dullahan, they said "To return the kindness of giving us freedom with malice would be dishonorable." It would seem that they hold the mentality of warriors.

I'll give them some preferential treatment for their good manners, well, although I called it preferential treatment, it's just a promotion from trainees to second-class soldiers.

As for the fourteen who were spouting the "We'll become this place's leaders" nonsense, for now, I decided to thrash them around a little to make them realize their positions.

First, I took on the two lords at the same time.

Their specs as a higher species, lords, far surpasses a normal ogre's specs, so I didn't hold back against them, but unlike when I fought Rusty Iron Knight, I didn't give them any enchantments.

The reason being that they are respectively a [^{Gale Demon/Onihito} Gale Lord] and a [^{Fire Demon/Onihito} Fire Lord] who have abilities complementing each other making them much more powerful than when fighting individually.

However, to be honest, those are just excuses, the real reason is that they're the most annoying among the fourteen complainers.

Seeing as I was an ogre, a lower-ranked species from the same [^{Oni/Onizoku} Demon] race as them, they looked like they were looking forward to the fight to crush me, so I felt an urge to crush their pride and a few other things along with it.

Although this is something that I heard about only later on, but it seems like I was displaying a frightening smile full of bloodlust at the time.

Jumping to the fight's results, the two were rolling on the ground, barely alive. It took me five minutes.

After about two minutes from the start of the fight, they activated the power of their [^{Oni Orbs} Demon Orbs], the gale lord's emerald-like orb turned into long boots with wind abilities, while the fire lord's ruby-like orb turned into a flamberge that held fire

abilities.

In response, I used my threads and poison which I haven't used lately to stop their movements, then I destroyed their armaments using my silver arm's ability [Arm Blast], and thus the battle ended without any side suffering any injuries.

By the way, when the arms produced by the [Demon Orb] get destroyed, a crack will appear on the orb and subsequently you'll be unable to use it, but that's only a temporary side effect, the reason being that [Demon Orbs] are parts of the lords' bodies, and with their strong vitality the cracks will heal after some time. In addition, as another side effect to the damage dealt to the orbs, they'll be unable to move for some time.

Although as I said before, even if they're left alone, their [Demon Orbs] will heal with time regardless, it's a good chance for Seiji-kun to train his skills, so I told him to heal them.

Next in line were the four dragonewts.

The half-dragonewts changed their minds about fighting me after they saw the two lords who were much stronger than them getting effortlessly defeated by me.

By the way, the difference between lizardmen and dragonewts is that dragonewts are more human-like while lizardmen have more reptilian features. Putting that aside, it seems like the specific species of the four is [Thunder Dragonman].

They can cover their bodies with lightning, which allows them to move at very high speeds, also, they can generate lightning and attack using it, in addition to the high physical ability and [Breath] special ability draconic creatures usually possess, their specific species's [Breath] is called [Lightning Breath].

I took on all the four of them at once.

They were much easier to deal with than the two lords. Since I already have [Thunder/Lightning Attack Nullification], all of their attacks which depended on utilizing lightning were ineffective. Be it attacking me using [Lightning Breath]s or their lightning spears - produced by [Dragon Spheres], things similar to [Demon Orbs] -, all of the lightning disappeared just before hitting my body.

Although lightning can't harm me, but it's not like they can't damage me with their superior physical specs, it was so high that if they had real combat skills, they could've killed me in my base specs, but they didn't have it, probably because the very high physical specs they were born with allowed them to crush their opponents easily, leading them to neglect combat skills. With their poor combat skills, they simply couldn't stand a chance against me.

Seeing them rolling on the ground, I was about to tell Seiji-kun to heal them, but stopped and told him to have the other clerics heal them as training instead.

Then, the boss orrorin/monkey launched a surprise attack at me from what would normally be my blind spot as I finished giving out my instructions to Sieji-kun.

As I have detected it, I was fully capable of dodging, but his surprise attack seemed very promising so I took it on purpose. The way he hid his presence, his attacking path, his footwork, and the way he utilized all of his body's muscles to land the attack, observing all of these, I was able to judge that the boss monkey held some real combat skills.

Compared to the lords and the dragonewts, he's clearly lacking in physical ability, but for the exact same reason, he was able to refine his combat skills much better than them, it's because he was forced to.

He compensated his lack in physical ability with combat skills, and thus he was able stand at a high position among the former slaves in terms of strength.

When the strike that can crush even rocks made contact with my side, my body flew away and crashed into the stone wall. Seeing it, the boss monkey started drumming his chest, as for me, I decided to return a surprise attack to him in exchange for his attack.

As he said "From now on, I'm the boss here", I approached him from the back and punched him. The strike landed on his defenseless side, blowing him away and shattering his bones as he flew away and crashed into the wall just like me.

Hmm, he's quite resilient, although he was barely alive, the fact that he didn't die after taking a punch that I packed all of my strength in is worth praising, not bad.

As expected, healing the boss monkey will take some time and effort for the others, so I instructed Seiji-kun to heal him.

In the meanwhile of all of this, the dhampir was flirting with Dhammi-chan, so I didn't hold back at all when beating him up. Vampiric creatures generally have a very high vitality, so he'll not die if I don't overdo it.

At first he tried brainwashing me using his [Eyes of Bewitchment], but because we're of the same sex, its strength gets halved, not to mention that I won't get charmed by the likes of him even if it's at full power.

I pinned his limbs to the ground with knives that I created using [Equipment Materialization], then proceeded to beat him until his internal organs burst.

As a dhampir, his injuries will heal to some degree if he drinks blood, so I dripped some of my blood into his mouth, however, my main goal is, rather than healing him, is to implant a clone in his body.

By the way, apparently my blood is extremely delicious, when a few drops entered his mouth, his red eyes shone and he showed an ecstatic expression. Hmm, it's probably the effect of [Blood Elixir].

The amount of blood I gave him was approximately a cup. A few moments after he gulped the blood down, he revived and said something along the lines of "Ahh, my dear beloved one" while trying to kiss the back of my hand.

At that moment, I instinctively pulled my hand and backed away. He probably just went crazy after all of the beating, yeah, yeah, that must be the case, it's a perfectly normal reaction after getting beaten up so much, yeah it must be. Also, it was probably just my imagination that he looked like he enjoyed the beating.

Since I don't want to think about it, lets just go with that.

After I've finished taking care of the complainers, I had them put on the ear-cuffs, then we started the daily morning training. Many of them were quite resilient, so I tried out training patterns that I couldn't try out before.

In the afternoon, I took the five dwarves to the smithy. Dwarven skill in blacksmithing is said to be unrivaled among all other species, so I wanted to have them work here.

Although they can distinguish themselves in battle too, their skill as blacksmiths is much more valuable for me, that's why I'll have them focus on blacksmithing from now on.

Since Blacksmith-san and the others working under her have a lower skill in blacksmithing than them, I had them become their mentors and appointed the most skilled dwarf as the head-smith. Although Blacksmith-san and the others looked troubled by the dwarves' rock-headed-craftsman personality, this issue will get resolved with time. I'm looking forward to see what kind of articles the dwarves can create using the mithril.

In the afternoon training, there were some newcomers complaining about the training, so I told them about Ogakichi-kun's training. The training of the battle junkie Ogaikichi-kun, is basically continuing to fight black skeletons without rest. The first round is ten black skeletons, the second twenty, the third is thirty, and continuing on like this until he collapses. When they heard that, they suddenly got motivated and wanted to take it, so I told them to at least make sure they don't die in the process and to not stop until they collapse.

Then I used the remainder of my time to experiment with [Synthesis]. I didn't want to experiment with abilities from the get-go as I didn't know anything about the nature of the synthesis process, instead, as a test, I decided to merge the [Demon Orbs] and [Dragon Spheres] that I collected from the bodies of the members of the slave unit who got killed in the last battle with my body.

Although I could've scavenged all of them from the corpses, I collected only ten to lessen the damage received by the human army and to not risk them turning back on our agreement because we looted everything that can be used to make up for their losses.

[Demon Orbs] and [Dragon Spheres] can be traded for very high prices, that's because they can be used to create very strong magic items. With the number I left back in the battlefield, the humans should be able to mitigate the damage they received to some extent.

Leaving that aside, I used [Synthesis] to merge two emerald-like orbs with my knees.

The result was a success. They were the gale lords' orbs, and when I activated them, long luxurious-looking boots like the ones the gale lord used this morning appeared on my legs.

There weren't any problems, the orbs merged with my body perfectly as if they were

part of it from the very beginning and I was able to use the boots' abilities without problems.

After this success, I continued experimenting with [Synthesis].

DAY 81

SIDE STORY: GURUFU'S POV

[POV: Gurufu]

[Time Axis: Day 81]

Yesterday's battle was fierce.

And as it was a very fierce battle, the amounts of Experience Values we gained were correspondingly huge and I, Hobuji... no, Seiji and many others were able to Rank Up thanks to that.

Seiji became a [Half-Saint Demon/Onihito], I became a [Rotten Flesh-Eating Demon/Oni Ghoul], and Hobume became a [].

Additionally some of our siblings and the kobolds evolved too, the leader of the kobolds Akitainu-san evolved from a [Kobold Footman] to a [Kobold Samurai]. Because our efforts were rewarded, we became delighted.

But the thing that I was most delighted about is the fact that Seiji evolved.

Ogarou x Seiji is great, Seiji x Ogarou sounds nice, Ogarou x Ogakichi would be good too~. Wrapped in Ogarou's muscles --- a prohibited perusal --- and --- omitted ---. Gufufu, I CAN'T STOP!!

TL Note: The fu from Gurufu, is the same as fu from fujoshi... so... yeah. That's the joke. Fujoshi is... well, in case you don't know, they are girls who like yaoi and homosexual materials... just, google it yourself. - Cookie_Whale

DAY 82

First, I'll talk about the results of my experiments with [Synthesis].

As I have found out the hard way, the cost for using [Synthesis] is quite taxing, mentally, not physically.

After I merged all of the ten orbs and spheres with my body, I synthesized two of my abilities, [Weakness to Light Damage] and [Weakness to Sunlight] which even if I lose it won't be a problem. Then, I reached my limit, I lose all of my drive to continue synthesizing further.

Following that, I stopped because I felt that if I continue synthesizing in that state, something irremediable may happen to me, so I don't know what would have happened to me if I had ignored my state and continued experimenting, but of course I won't risk it to try to find out.

By the way, the ability that resulted from the synthesis yesterday is called [Extreme Weakness to Sunlight Damage]. I activated the ability and exposed only the tip of one of my fingers to the sunlight outside as a test, then it literally started burning. Burning down spontaneously? That's not funny even as a joke, so I decided to seal this ability from now on.

Also the original two abilities remained, but when I tried activating them they didn't demonstrate any effects, in other words, when I synthesize abilities they're lost permanently, and because they didn't disappear and merely lost their effects I can't learn them again. So I'll have to be careful when synthesizing abilities from now on.

Today I left the training of the newcomers to Ogakichi-kun.

As for me, I supervised the renovation works of the base including the hot springs and the training grounds, because we had the manpower of sixty two human slaves, the restless black skeletons and the demi-humans from the returning home-group, the work progressed at a fairly high speed.

The renovation works covered many areas including securing enough comfortable beds for everyone, expanding and equipping the external training grounds, a wooden wall around the base for defense, expanding the hot springs to earn gold from the elves, etc.

It seems like the elves in this forest have never tried hot springs before, they just wash their bodies with water. Seeing their reactions after they heard that we have a hot spring in our base, I thought that I might be able to get some money if I turned it into business. I'm thinking of inviting Father Elf when the construction works are complete to have him try the hot springs and spread word about them in « The Elven Village ».

Today's synthetic results.

[Dragon Scale Formation] + [Armored Scale Formation] = [Armored Dragon Scale Formation]

[Predict] + [Expanded Field of Vision] = [Ephemeral Eye]

[Pump Up] + [Lord of the Mountain's Strong Muscles] + [Enhanced Arm Strength] + [Enhanced Leg Strength] + [Improved Jumping Power] = [Black Demon's Strong Body]

[Intimidating Roar] + [Scaled Horse's Neigh] = [Black Demon's Roar]

[Evil Eye] + [Intimidating Glare] = [Black Demon's Evil Eye]

[Lesser Damage Reduction] + [Lesser Magic Damage Reduction] = [Lesser Physical and Magical Damage Reduction]

[Inhibit Regeneration] + [Cursed Wounds] = [Unhealing Cursed Wound]

This is all for today.

DAY 83

Today, I decided to test the abilities I synthesized yesterday in the morning training.

To confirm the effects of the abilities, I decided to take on twenty three of the newcomers by myself. By the way, I chose only newcomers because even if an accident were to occur, they're at the end of the day only unofficial troops.

The newcomers that I decided to fight are:

Two

Five Half-Demon/Onihito
Five Half-Lords

Four Dragonman
Four Dragonewts

Six Half-Dragonman
Six Half-Dragonewts

One

One

One Apeman
One Orrorin

One

Two Tigerman
Two War Tigers

Because they have been fighting together on the battlefield until now, more or less their cooperation ability was good. That said, that couldn't make up for the lack in combat skills that they had. Although they have speed, there is too much wasted movement. It's far too easy to read the flow of their movements.

But of course, I didn't get out of it unscathed. I received some injuries, however, all of them were healed instantly with my recovery-system abilities. We fought until lunch, it was some good training.

As a result of the training, I discovered that it's quite difficult to handle [Black Demon's Strong Body] which I made by synthesizing five abilities. It's simply too dangerous to use in training sessions.

Who would have thought that even the troll who had the highest defense among them would fall with just one light punch to the abdomen.

In the afternoon, I oversaw the many improvement projects around the base. The construction of the public hot springs is progressing steadily.

Lastly, with the war between the elves and the humans nearing its ending, I decided to use a new idea I thought of to make use of some of the human slaves.

DAY 84

This morning, I woke up to the sound of someone calling me.

I got up from the bed and went outside my room, only to find the dwarves holding an elaborately crafted war-hammer made of mithril, spirit stones and iron.

Shortly after I left my room, the head-smith handed it to me.

According to them, it seems like dwarves have a custom of crafting and gifting a war-hammer as a sign of gratitude or friendship, and the better its quality, meant the deeper the feelings are. They added that a war-hammer with the quality of the one they gifted me means that the feelings of gratitude are at their zenith.

Hearing their explanation, I nodded and received the war-hammer while thinking inwardly that I prefer long-range weapons.

Even so, as I haven't obtained their specific language ability yet, talking to the dwarves is a little troublesome because some words hold differing meanings.

After the morning training, I left to the woods, solo.

In this forest, there isn't anything that I can't kill anymore, which made me feel lonely for some reason.

In the days shortly after I was born, I had to constantly be on alert, but now if I don't conceal my presence, all the creatures nearby will run away. Although not a long time has passed since that time, now I feel somewhat nostalgic when remembering those days filled with danger.

After walking for some time, I arrived at the base of the tree where I met Dryad-san before. I have been talking with her regularly using my clones, but since I had some business with her today, I came in person.

Dryad-san was breath-takingly beautiful as always.

The instant she saw me, she tried to seduce me, but as the reason why I visited her is to only collect the special seeds I asked her to prepare beforehand, I controlled myself and asked her for them. After I received them, we spent some time together, then I returned to the base.

Later in the night, I had some fun with the girls as usual.

By the way, today, I discovered that the stomachs of some of the human slaves has begun to swell.

I'm looking forward to when the children are born.

DAY 85

In order to raise our self-sufficiency in securing food supply, I decided to construct a farm today.

Thus, today's training will be physical exercise in the form of plowing a field for the new farm.

The seeds used are magically-enhanced seeds that I received from Dryad-san yesterday. The effect of Dryad-chan's magic improves the plants' vitality, growth rate, in addition to the products' taste and nutritional value. We're also using spirit stones to further these effects.

As Redhead and some of the human slaves had experience with farming and has the Job [Farmer], I left the management of the process in their hands.

I worked up some sweat today, healthy labour is sometimes good.

Today's synthesis results:

[Armored Scale Charge] + [Armored Dragon Scale Formation] = [Solid Armored Dragon Scales]

[Improved Slashing Power] + [Improved Piercing Power] = [Improved Slashing Penetration]

[Quick Thinking] + [Parallel Thinking] = [High-Speed Parallel Thinking]

DAY 85

SIDESTORY: A FARMER WHO GOT CONSCRIPTED TO SERVE AS A SUPPLY SOLDIER POV

[POV: A Farmer Who Got Conscribed To Serve As A Supply Soldier]

[Time Axis: Day 85]

I was plowing my field back at home before getting conscripted by the army, you see.

Even though it was harvest time, the time when the hands of men are most needed...

They conscripted and forcibly took me to war at such a crucial time. Although I didn't have any idea when I'll be able to get back home, going back home and plowing the fields was the only thing I've been thinking the entire time. I'd much rather have a hoe in my hands than swing around a sword.

When I got caught, I thought that this would be the end for me and I wouldn't be able to hold a hoe in my hands again. But, some time later the ones who captured me decided to make a field, and I was chosen as a worker.

I was so happy and was really eager to get going. Then I got dumbfounded, they were using strange seeds that I had never seen before, moreover, they were luxuriously using spirit stones.

Well, although I had also saved up some spirit stones that I found back at home, normally one of those would have about the same value as a few years worth of farming work! And these guys were casually tossing them on the ground like some ordinary rocks, can you believe that?

If our movements weren't restricted, I betcha someone will run off with some in a flash!

Well, I'm plenty satisfied that I can stand under the sun with a hoe, digging up the dirt and sowing the seeds.

After a long day of hard work, I got into the hot springs, aaaaaah, this feeling is seriously awesome... I'm gunna work hard again tomorrow...

DAY 86

Today in the morning, some of the home-going group whose destination isn't too far left after having saved up enough traveling expenses. Of course I prepared some measures to ensure that there will not be any information leakage about us on top of informing them that whatever they will be able to live peacefully or not depends on their sincerity.

After seeing them off, I selected thirty-six of the prisoners of war who have a noble lineage to send home. It's not like I'm taking pity on them, I'm sending them off with the human army which is making a full withdrawal from the forest today for the sole reason of having them work as "Weeds" in both the empire and the kingdom for me, in other words spies. I had Dhammi-chan brainwash them using her [Eyes of Bewitchment].

It's not like I'm particularly keen on opposing either country, it's just that I'm lacking far too much information about this world because of my limited connections to people of importance. Moreover, although they're retreating now, the human army may return to this forest in the future, so having more information on them is never bad.

After that, we trained as usual.

By the afternoon, the human army began their withdrawal and I confirmed that the spies had safely infiltrated their ranks successfully. After that, I contacted Father Elf with the communication tool and confirmed with him the contract's end and the rewards after we had a little chat.

I also received an invitation to [Rutorff's Banquet] which will be held in « The Elven Village » tonight. [Rutorff's Banquet] is a mourning ritual performed by the elves. All the elves participate in this ritual to send off their fallen friends and family members and to prevent them from turning into undead, like ghosts.

In the evening, leaving the protection of the base for the newcomers and my clones, I left to « The Elven Village » with a gift. By the way, I brought the elite elves together

with me, I'm not so cruel as to prevent them from sending off their dead relatives and comrades. Of course I allowed this only because their appearances are different than before because of [Conceal], that way they wouldn't be identified by the village's elves.

By the time we arrived at the village, the banquet had already begun.

Ignoring the gazes filled with various emotions which landed on us when we entered the village, I walked to the center of the venue where I met Father Elf and handed over the gift I brought with me, the bicorn meat to him.

At the same time, I asked him to ensure the safety of Redhead and the other four women who were looking curiously around. I didn't think that it was a good idea to bring humans here, but they insisted on coming, so I brought them with me. Though knowing that Female Knight and Rusty Iron Knight wouldn't be welcomed here because of their former affiliations, I didn't bring them along.

After we finished the general greetings, I told everyone to disband in the crowd. Though most of them gathered in one place and ate together.

As for me, I chatted in a good mood with Father Elf while Elven Maiden-san poured elven wine for us.

At the end of the feast, on a stage in front of a massive bonfire that had been created in the center of the venue, Elven Maiden-san danced to a song played by an orchestra. Dancing lightly like a breeze, yet somewhat like a storm, attracting both nature and the people's gazes. Eventually the sounds in the surroundings disappeared, and the only thing that remained was the singing sounds of the elves.

Mid-dance, white balls of light appeared around Elven Maiden-san, when the elves saw them they started crying and shedding tears, eventually the white balls rose to the night sky and disappeared.

According to Father Elf, the spirits of the dead elves remaining in this world went to heaven, the hobgoblin shaman also told me that the the spirits of the dead elves remaining in this world disappeared, so it seems to be true.

I offered a prayer to the souls that moved on.

DAY 87

Today, the mining work that Asue-chan has been leading until now ended with the excavation of two gigantic spirit stones. It's not like we stopped mining because we secured enough or something like that, the spirit stones in the mine have been depleted.

Originally, there was a variety and quantity of spirit stones because of the mine's close proximity to « Velvet's Dungeon », to be exact because they liked Velvet, and even after Velvet's death, the spirits remained because of the existence of the administrator of the dungeon, Returner. However, Returner has already died. Therefore, the spirits don't have any reason anymore to stay here, thus spirit stones stopped appearing.

However, we have already gained large quantities of them, so it's okay. We gained a huge profit thanks to « Velvet's Dungeon », thinking of that, I offered a prayer for the two.

After examining the two huge spirit stones that Asue-chan excavated, I proceeded to consume them.

Ability [Photon Ruler] learned

Ability [Photon Tolerance] learned

Ability [Gravity Law] learned

Ability [Darkness Tolerance] learned

The two huge spirit stones - the [Light Spirit Stone] and the [Darkness Spirit Stone] - possessed purity, size and beauty unmatched by any other spirit stones we excavated before.

Although learning a gravity-manipulation ability from eating a darkness spirit stone may seem puzzling at first, but when you think of dark holes it starts to make sense. Besides, "Gravity" is much better than a vague thing like "Darkness", so I don't have any complains.

After that, I oversaw the morning training, and later the progress of the renovation works of the base.

Then I started making the preparations to set out from the forest. Since I had promised Redhead and the other human women that I'd take them to a large human settlement the first time we met, I decided to bring them with me when I set out.

The first thing I needed to do was secure a way of transportation. I could just use the familiars, but I have pawns that don't need rest, so I decided to us them.

First, I mass-produced black skeletons using [Lesser Summoning: Undead]. Then, I disassembled their bodies, collected the bones, and lastly used [Bind] to create a vehicle made with the bones as the material. It took a while to create.

In the end, it looked like a large centipede with a rectangular loading platform on the back. I coated it with a large amount of my clones as a measure against sunlight.

When I finished, it was already past sunset.

After a nice dinner, I informed Redhead, Blacksmith-san, the Sisters, and Alchemist-san that we'll be leaving to a large human settlement soon.

"Are you kicking us out?" This is what they asked me when I told them that we're leaving, so I explained to them that I'm doing this to protect the promise I gave them the first time we met, to do some business, etc.

I also told them to decide whatever they want to follow me or not at that time.

We continued talking late in the night.

DAY 88

Today, the guest hot springs were completed, also the renovations of the base's interior are mostly complete.

All of the members from the home-going left too, there were many who went to see them off because of the closeness built between them after eating and working together for the past few days.

Although with their leave there was a considerable drop in our numbers, looking at it from another angle, our numbers just retuned to normal.

I did various things like training, preparing preserved food and making other preparations for the trip outside the forest.

This day was a quite day with few tasks.

DAY 89

Tomorrow, for the first time we will set out from the forest in five groups.

There are many reasons like gaining new experiences, collecting information, etc. But the biggest reason is that the efficiency of gaining Experience Values in this forest isn't sufficient for us anymore.

Of course there are many who are staying behind, so there's no worry of our base getting occupied.

Each group has ten members, excluding the familiars.

The members are as follows.

The first group: me, Dhammi-chan, Redhead and the other four human girls, and three lords.

The second group: Ogakichi-kun, Asue-chan, a hobgoblin cleric, three humans and four kobold footmen.

The third group: Burasato-san, Supesei-san, three elves, a human, three hobgoblins and a hobgoblin cleric.

The fourth group: two ogres, a hobgoblin mage, two war tigers, two dragonewts, and three humans.

The fifth group: Dodome-chan, five ogres, two humans, a kobold ninja, and a centaur.

I put humans in all the groups because the human race is the most widely active in this world, so with their presence we'll be able to avoid most of the useless racial discrimination-related conflicts.

I didn't really put much thought in it when I selected the newcomers, but they misunderstood and thought that this is the official entrance exam, and since they

seemed in really high spirits, I didn't interfere.

Seiji-kun, Female Knight, and Rusty Iron Knight are staying behind this time, I'm thinking of looking for mercenary jobs outside to send them on instead.

That aside, today is the day before the departure, so I invited Father Elf to the hot springs. The guests-section hot springs aren't located inside the base, but some distance away. The reason is to make it easy for elves to enter and leave. Also, its location is easy to defend and it has the minimum required defense ability in this forest.

Father Elf's reaction was good, soaking his body to the shoulder comfortably while putting a towel on his head. When I asked him to advertise the hot springs, he agreed, I also told him about the bathing fees and rules while I'm at it.

After bathing, some high quality food made by goblin cooks taught by the Sisters was served. It was quite delicious, the elves were satisfied with it.

Father Elf brought some elven wine with him, so we used the external training grounds to start a party. We set up a campfire, then danced and sang till late in the evening.

I even saw some of the newcomers who started mixing in after living here for the past few days dancing together with their seniors. This is a good trend.

While looking at this sight, I continued drinking together with Father Elf. I can even call him my drinking friend now.

DAY 90

Today is finally the day of departure.

There's no need to worry about defense, I have already summoned many black skeleton to serve for that purpose. I'm also planning to carry out various construction projects in the base while I'm absent.

I'm also planning to deepen our friendship with the elves using the hot spring, which can also net us some money. Well, in the first place, I'm managing the guests-section of the hot springs mostly because of boredom and as a leisure activity.

The expedition's preparations were complete, so we finally advanced out of the forest.

When we exited the forest, the grasslands and the gusts of wind that lied ahead welcomed us.

Before me, stood an unknown world.

Our target is the fortress city of « Trient » of the « Sternbild Kingdom »!

DAY 90

SIDESTORY: GOBUJII'S POV

[POV: Gobujii]

[Time Axis: Day 90]

Ogarou and the others went outside the forest.

His appearance reminded me of my old days. His curiosity for the outside world, and the gleam in his eye...

Gobubaa, who has passed away, also had similar eyes in the beginning.

TL Note : -baa refers to grandmother in the same way -ji refers to grandfather.

Though, in my era, we didn't have anything fancy like a skeleton centipede.

Then, after seeing them off, I went back to doing my jobs.

I taught Seiji and the others the recipe of a medicine, taught the hunters how to deal with a wild black wolf, and mediated a small quarrel. I just repeated what I had been doing up until now.

Then, after the sun had set, I went to the cute elves, and did my best.

We really need to increase our numbers. It's a very important job.

Ever since Ogarou was born, my life has really become much better and easier. I had never even thought of approaching elves before.

There were times when he caused me trouble, but he is a big help to me.

With this, I can welcome the day when I will rest in peace.



ゴブリン

脅威度 ★

経験値 15~25

ドロップアイテム

小鬼の心臓／小鬼の角
薄汚れた腰布／木の棍棒

特徴

下等な種族だが、繁殖力が非常に強い。
長く生きれば生きるほど悪知恵が働くので、
放置し過ぎると厄介な事になる。

ホブゴブリン

脅威度 ★★

経験値 30~40

ドロップアイテム

中鬼の心臓／中鬼の角／小奇麗な布／中鬼的眼球

特徴

ランクアップ

ゴブリンが【存在進化】した種族。ややヒトに近づいた
ような外見をしている。知性が高くなっているので、
道具を使うようになり、ゴブリンを率いて
群れを為す事も多々ある。



オーガ

脅威度 ★★★★

経験値 500~700

ドロップアイテム

大鬼の心臓／大鬼の角／巨大な棍棒
大鬼の牙

特徴

ホブゴブリンが【存在進化】した姿。
強靭な肉体を誇り、大声で相手を怯ませるなど
多少の知性を持つ。が、基本的には筋肉。





コボルド

脅威度 ★★★

経験値 40~70

ドロップアイテム

獣人の毛皮／獣人の上質な毛皮／獣人の生き肝
獣人の生肉／コボルドの牙／コボルドの胆石

特徴

力はそれほど強くないが、動きが素早い。
群れをなして行動する事が多い。忠義に厚い性格
だったり、卑怯だったりと氏族ごとに特徴が異なる。

オーク

脅威度 ★★★★

経験値 60~130

ドロップアイテム

豚鬼の睾丸／豚鬼の生肉／豚鬼の上質な生肉
豚鬼の油／豚鬼の大きな胃袋

特徴

分厚い脂肪が鎧となっており、
また大きな体格に見合ったパワーがある。
しかし動きは鈍いので、膝を狙うと倒しやすい。



グリーンリザード

脅威度 ★★★★

経験値 60~120

ドロップアイテム

とがけ
蜥蜴の鱗／蜥蜴の尻尾／粘ついた体液
蜥蜴玉

特徴

甲高い声を出し、独特な言葉で話す。
背中は鱗が多めで硬いが、腹は柔らかい。
尻尾を攻撃や水中移動など色々な事に使う。





ホーンラビット

脅威度 ★

経験値 10~15

ドロップアイテム

一角獣の角(小)(中)／一角獣の毛皮(小)(中)／一角獣の生き肝
一角獣の眼(小)／生肉(小)

特徴

角での攻撃の他に噛みつきやキックなどもしてくる。
基本は草食だが稀に肉食。

ヨロイタヌキ

脅威度 ★

経験値 8~10

ドロップアイテム

甲殻獣の皮付き甲殻(小)(中)／甲殻獣の甲殻(小)(中)
生肉(小)(中)

特徴

皮膚が鎧のようになっているが、僅かな隙間があるので
手順を知つていれば解体は容易。意外と動きは早い。



ナイトバイパー

脅威度 ★

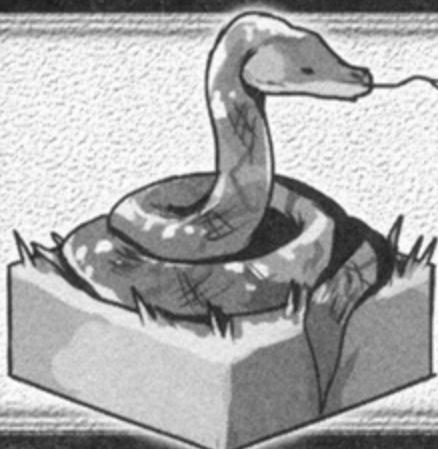
経験値 20~30

ドロップアイテム

毒蛇の牙(小)／毒蛇の皮(小)(中)／毒蛇の眼(小)
毒袋(小)／生肉(小)(中)

特徴

毒を持つ蛇。噛まれるとゴブリンなら五分程で動けなくなる。
好戦的で、ホーンラビットやヨロイタヌキなどを主食とする。



ナナイロコウモリ

脅威度 ★

経験値 10~15

ドロップアイテム

蝙蝠の七色翼(小)／蝙蝠の牙(小)／生肉(小)

特徴

吸血攻撃をしてくるが、吸い過ぎると飛べなくなるので吸う量は
少ない。なかなか素早いので、数が多いと対処が面倒。





オニグモ

脅威度 ★★

経験値 45~55

ドロップアイテム

蜘蛛の糸／蜘蛛の足肉／一般品質な甲殻／高品質な甲殻

特徴

森に巣を作つて待ち構えていて、ナナイロコウモリなどをよく食す。甲殻は硬く、ナイフ程度では傷もつけられない。



コガネグモ

脅威度 ★★★

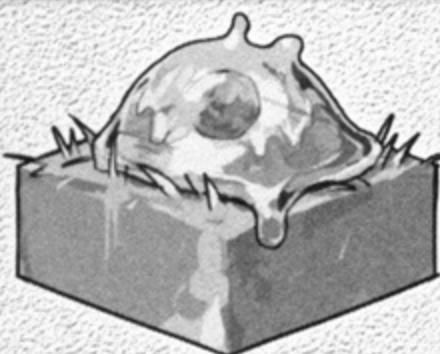
経験値 55~90

ドロップアイテム

高品質な甲殻／黄金の甲殻／黄金の蜘蛛糸／蜘蛛の上質な足肉

特徴

黄金色の甲殻は高く売れるが、狩りに来た人間が捕食されてしまう事も多々ある。基本的に巣にいるが、木の上を移動することもある。



グリーンスライム

脅威度 ★

経験値 15~25

ドロップアイテム

粘液の核(緑)

特徴

物理攻撃にやや強く、魔法攻撃に弱い。個体のレベルが上がれば上がるほど粘液の量は増え、消化力も強くなる。ただし動きは鈍く、身体を変化させる事もあまりない。

グレースライム

脅威度 ★★★

経験値 50~90

ドロップアイテム

粘液の核(灰)

特徴

グリーンスライムよりも大きく、消化力は数段上。身体の一部を触手状に変化させて攻撃してくる。魔法にも多少の耐性を持つのでかなりタフ。



ブラックウルフ & ブラックウルフリーダー

脅威度 ★★★

経験値／ウルフ 70～90

経験値／リーダー 110

ドロップアイテム

黒狼の牙／黒狼の毛皮

黒狼の上質な毛皮／黒狼率いる頭狼の毛皮

特徴

個々の能力はそこまで脅威ではないが、集団狩猟に長けている。群れでオークを狩る事もある。足が速いので逃げられるとなかなか追いつけない。

トリプルホーンホース

脅威度 ★★★★

経験値 450～650

ドロップアイテム

鱗馬の鱗／鱗馬の三本角

鱗馬肉

特徴

三本の角が特徴的。

全身の鱗は硬く、クロスボウも防げる。

騎獣として優れているが、

気性が荒いので手懐けるのは難しい。



ハインドベアー

脅威度 ★★★★

経験値 600~800

ドロップアイテム

灰色熊の生き胆／灰色熊の上質な生肉

特徴

ヒグマに酷似しているが、輪をかけて凶暴。デカイ、早い、タフと三拍子揃った、ゴブランが生誕した森での最強種。



レッドベアー

脅威度 ★★★★★

経験値 2400

ドロップアイテム

祝福されし炎熊の毛皮
祝福されし炎熊の骨
祝福された炎熊の鋭牙

特徴

山の主として君臨していた、ハインドベアーの亜種。
【炎の亜神】の加護を持ちなので炎を操ることができ、
口から二千度を超す炎を吐いて攻撃してくる。



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