

Re-Monster

リ・モンスター

金斬児狐
Kankiryou Koutetsu



RE:MONSTER

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

- VOLUME 1 -

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[Re:Monster Wiki]

- STORY -

Tomokui Kanata has been reincarnated into the weakest race, goblin, and given a new name, Rou, after having undergone an unfortunate death. However goblin Rou has retained his previous life's memories, an unusual evolution, as well as being blessed with ability to gain status boosts from eating.

In this alternate world of survival of the fittest, will the goblin party end up becoming the heroes of this world?

姉妹さん(姉)

裁縫と料理が得意。
巨乳で右目にはくろがある。

姉妹さん(妹)

裁縫と料理が得意。
貧乳で左目にはくろ
がある。

**赤髪ショート**

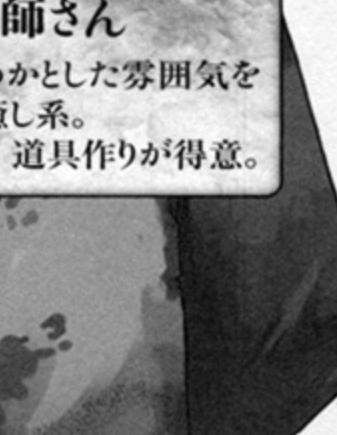
赤髪で子犬のような可愛い系の女の子。
冒険者組合《弱者の剣》
所属の新米冒険者。

鍛冶師さん

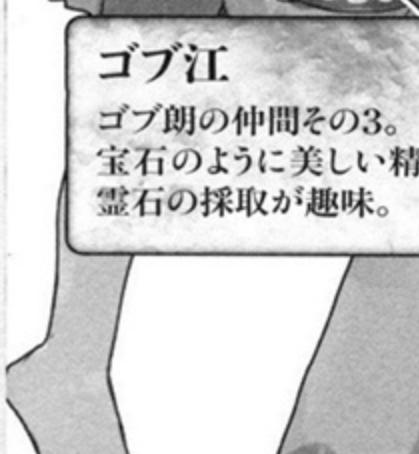
ほんわかとした雰囲気を持つ癒し系。
武器・道具作りが得意。

鍊金術士さん

知的なクール系美人。
鍊金術を操り、マジックアイテムを作ることができる。

**ゴブ吉**

ゴブ朗の仲間その1。
棍棒や斧など、重量級の武器を得意とする。

**ゴブ江**

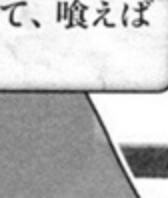
ゴブ朗の仲間その3。
宝石のように美しい精
霊石の採取が趣味。

**ゴブ美**

ゴブ朗の仲間その2。
投石や弓など、遠距離
攻撃を得意とする。

ゴブ朗

ストーカーに刺され、ゴブリン
に転生した主人公。
【吸喰能力】によって、喰えば
喰うほど強くなる。



"YOUNGER-SISTER" ALMA TIMIANO

"ELDER SISTER" FELICIA TIMIANO

"REDHEAD" LUBERIA WALLEIN

"SMITH" EMILY FURADO

"ALCHEMIST" SPINEL FEAN

"OGRE VARIANT" OGKICHI

"HOBGOBLIN" GOBNEE

"RARE OGRE" OGROU

"HOBGOBLIN" GOBMII

DAY 1

It seems that I was killed after being stabbed by the stalker who I considered to be like a younger sister, and somehow got reincarnated.

I wasn't joking when I said that I've been reincarnated. You could say that my current state of mind hasn't settled down from all of the confusion, so I'd appreciate it if you would save your comments till after I finish my story. Otherwise I might get wild if you interrupt me. Ahem. Let me explain everything from the beginning...

Well, first let's start with my name. I used to be called Tomokui Kanata. However, since I was reincarnated, let's leave it as "Nameless" for now.

I have a bit of a lapse in memory here; but I remember that after a hard day of work, I was invited by my colleague to go drinking. I accepted her offer and we went tavern hopping.

Since the following day was a holiday, she drank until late in the night even though she is weak against alcohol. I ended up carrying her to my home since she couldn't even walk. She had fallen asleep and I didn't want to wake her up, so I left her on the bed. My constitution and love of alcohol was much greater than hers; and at that time, I had an urge to drink while watching the full moon, or so I thought as I opened the fridge.

Then I realized that the bottom shelf that should've been stuffed with beer, chuhai, and all sorts of drinks was empty.

Yesterday, I finished all of my drinks and planned to go restock it today if it wasn't for my colleague's invitation earlier.

And I completely forgot about it.

That's right it was the biggest failure in my life to have finished drinking the stocks yesterday.

If only I had saved at least one.

I-no, no... let's hasten the explanation a bit first.

I, who wanted to drink alcohol by all means, went to a nearby convenience store which was open twenty-four hours a day. I bought five beers, and headed home.

Summer was approaching, yet the night was still chilly. The full moon suspended in the clear night sky was very beautiful.

The clouds, which were slightly concealing the moon, were also pleasant. Indeed, drinking alcohol with the silver moon shining overhead would make it even more delicious.

While thinking about the alcohol, I noticed that under a street-light there was a pretty girl. Her face was familiar for me, she's what the general public would refer to as a "stalker". My stalker is called Kirimine Aoi, an active female college student. She's twenty years old, five years younger than me.

Briefly talking, our relationship is the following, when I was in my third year of high school I saw a couple of around 15 years old delinquents harassing a girl — the person whom I would soon know as Aoi -, she was about twelve or thirteen years old at that time, and I saved her, and that's how our bond formed.

Well, while it isn't wrong to say that I saved her, I'm not sure if that's the correct thing to say.

Compared to how I am now, I used to be a cowardly chicken, and there was no way I could save a complete stranger from an obviously dangerous group.

Altough their actions were deplorable, the surrounding people turned a blind eye to it.

Even though the delinquents were younger than me I was inexperienced in fighting at that time and my ESPer ability hadn't yet awoken, so normally I would've just ran away quickly like always.

However, either by fortune or misfortune which is more likely, I've received a military stun nightstick as a birthday present from my uncle recently, a weapons enthusiast. He worked for a small to medium-sized corporation that had military relations, so it was relatively easy for him to get it for me. The company he worked for was one of many others under the influence of one major company, « Avalon Co, Ltd ».

Avalon, the company that made my nightstick, spread its name throughout the universe as a famous weapon corporation.

I was curious about the nightstick's power but I didn't have the courage to test it out. So it was adorned in my room without being used till now. As for the reason why I was carrying such a dangerous object at this time, that's because a friend of my uncle who is a weapon enthusiast just like him said he wanted to look at the nightstick. Soon after, he sent an email telling me that he was on his way to see it.

The message included a location where we could meet, so I brought the nightstick with me and decided to walk to it.

Which brought me to this situation.

Eventually I used the military nightstick on the delinquents. They didn't notice me, and I had a justified reason which is "saving the girl from the delinquents", I can still remember how I tested the nightstick on them with such light feelings.

I bashed the delinquents from behind, and after a few hits they were sprawling on the ground, foaming and twitching violently which I thought really disturbing at that time. Nevertheless, I quickly took the hand of the panicking girl, and ran away.

I was really young in those days. Because of my curiosity and the convenient situation, I made those delinquents my experimental subjects and saved Aoi while i'm at it.

After that incident, with the passing of time Aoi's affection towards me slowly grew. It was only a matter of time, but Aoi eventually became my stalker.

It wasn't a very severe stalking till I started working at my current place of work, where she continued chasing me. She even followed me to other planets, where I would occasionally be sent on business trips.

I would like it if she just faced me normally instead of following me stealthily around, and I really want to say to her not to infringe upon my private life.

Well, it's enough to know this much about this topic. I might explain more details about it in the future, but for now leave it aside.

Anyway, after buying the alcohol, I met Aoi on my way home. Rather it would be more accurate to say that I happened to encounter her. She was standing under the light of

the street-lamp while looking down, and was emanating a black aura unlike her usual cheerful puppy-like self; so I could only respond by tilting my head in confusion.

Aoi, even as a stalker, was an existence akin to a younger sister for me; because of that, I was able to notice the weird atmosphere around her at that time, so I called out to her out of worry.

There was no reply and Aoi's face remained downcast.

At that moment, I felt a great sense of uneasiness that couldn't be expressed. Yet even so, I still approached her so that I could learn why she is acting like this. Then I got stabbed in my abdomen with a sheath knife.

I could feel the severe pain that came from the blade that was being rotated which aimed at gouging out my internal organs, but I had a strong body and an injury of this degree wouldn't even leave a scratch after receiving a regenerative treatment.

If the sheath knife used was made from a lump of ordinary metal there was no way I would have died, but what Aoi used was the [Nenekaruri]; a [B] -Ranked sheath knife with a thunderbolt generating property created by « Sakuma Heavy Industries, Ltd ». Ironically, it was one of the goods sold by the company my uncle worked at.

Simply put, it's a single molecular cutter with the abilities of a high voltage taser and other weapons. It's a close proximity weapon that increases in sharpness when the thousands of tiny blades installed on its blade start to spin like a chainsaw moving at very high speeds. Once activated, a high-voltage current pours through the body of the victim that's been stabbed and temporarily paralyzes their movement. It's also used by the military.

I didn't even have the time to think about why Aoi had such a thing. Nevertheless, the reality is that Aoi had it, I was pushed down while I was still paralyzed and then stabbed using the sheath knife repeatedly. I was stabbed relentlessly and repeatedly, I got utterly confused and couldn't understand what is happening. I vomited an extraordinary amount of blood as my body was being repeatedly pierced. Every time the knife penetrated my skin, I could feel my meat and bones getting crushed while my blood splattered everywhere.

Before I knew it, the slender frame of Aoi riding on my body became dyed red with blood.

I became a reinforced human after undergoing a reinforcement operation and exceeded ordinary humans, because of my occupation's nature, but unexpectedly I got disappointingly killed by Aoi who was an ordinary civilian? No, I know the performance of the sheath knife is amazing, but even if it is a surprise attack, is it really possible for an ordinary person to break the posture of a reinforced human? It is because movement was impossible due to the high voltage current you say? Even if you take that into consideration, is it really possible for a normal person to kill a reinforced human?

Why- ah I can't, I can't

At that time, Aoi's figure, that was stained red with my blood, was too impactful that I can't remember the details of what exactly happened.

Oh, well...

Anyway, I got killed. I got killed by Aoi.

A mortal wound can't be healed even with regenerative medical treatment. The last thing I saw was the knife's point approaching my eyeball, which would mean it was approaching my brain, that meant that a uniquely unreproducible organ, was going to be completely destroyed. After my head was completely lacerated, my consciousness eventually melted into the darkness.

...

However, the story doesn't end there. If it's over, I wouldn't have talked about reincarnation. My consciousness which should have melted in the darkness once before, when I noticed, was already existing firmly as an individual presence without the slightest change. I remembered the last scene of me dying right before losing consciousness, didn't I die? Did i get drunk and saw a dream? I rejected the idea instantly. The answer was reflexive because I could clearly feel that it was real.

I was killed for sure. I could remember the pain caused by the electric current running through my body, and the coldness of the blade that cut through my chest. That was absolutely not an illusion. Yet I'm still alive. As to why, I'd like to know myself. As I was thinking that, my heavy eyelids opened.

There I saw it, an extremely ugly face that was looking at me. This is the conclusive evidence that made me think that I'd been reincarnated.

...Oh... sorry, I suddenly feel sleepy, but it doesn't end here, Tomorrow I'll continue...

It wasn't the darkness of death, rather my consciousness fell into a deep slumber as a result of fatigue.

DAY 1

SIDESTORY: MAYUMI'S POV

[POV : Kiritsubo Mayumi]

[Time Axis : Previous Life]

The first time I met 'him' was at the time when I was entrusted with protecting a certain person from the planet « Andreas ».

The employer is a princess of a certain country, and even though she was an alien she was a beautiful woman even from my perspective who is from the same sex as her, due to various circumstances there was a big terrorist organization called « The Patriotic Alliance » aiming for her life.

I can't even understand how terrorists think so there's no use even if I talked about them. Anyways, I was given the role of the shield because I can go to almost anywhere the princess go to, being from the same sex. Basically I only had to eliminate possible assassins.

For me who is an [ESPer] with the highest class [Telekinesis] ability, most attacks can be disabled instantly.

Whether it is a tank shell or a spaceship laser, they are ineffective against me.

That is why I was picked as the shield, but of course we won't stay passive and allow the enemy to attack us without counterattacking.

The sword that was chosen to attack the enemy rather than protecting the target was 'him', it was Tomokui Kanata.

Equipped with the latest enhanced powered suit, an armor piercing railgun, his absurd proficiency in martial arts and countless types of close combat weapons and styles. Seeing the enemy's next move using [Clairvoyance], then moving to their blind spot with [Teleportation], getting hit by tank shells head-on with his bare body without sustaining a scratch, shooting a spaceship laser from his mouth, scaning the

memory of the enemy to collect information etc., basically there was nothing he couldn't do.

« The Patriotic Alliance », which was aiming at the Princess's life at first was annihilated in a single day, in addition, a dozen of other criminal organizations which had connections to « The Patriotic Alliance » disappeared forever from the surface of planet « Andreas ». This was more of an "underworld clean up" than security duty.

Actually, it was because the fact that there were some big politicians pulling the strings behind the scenes of this assassination attempt, in addition to some celebrities, big underworld criminal organizations and even some big government officials were involved was exposed, all of this which was perfectly hidden was discovered by him. Although it was a good follow-up, as expected it's a little of an overkill. Though that may not be something that I who also overdo things should say.

Well, that was how we met, I still feel nostalgic when I remember how dumbfounded I was when I found out how absurd his abilities are in our first meeting. He overdo things, he also possess some flaws, and his face is just perfectly my taste. Is this what they mean by matching wavelengths?

It's fun when we go out drinking together.

I'll get a short vacation soon, so should I invite him somewhere?

But, for now let's go drinking together. If you invite him out to drinking, he will come following instantly.

Ah. I am looking forward to it.

. She was a colleague that formed a good team with Kanata.

. Something in the past may have happened? or it may haven't happened?

. Maximum possibility that she will not appear in the main story.

DAY 2

I woke up due to the sounds in my surroundings. When I opened my eyes, I tried to gather information, however, I couldn't move my head for some reason. As a result, I wasn't able to grasp a lot of information. Still, I was able to understand one fact. Although it's regrettable, the story about reincarnating wasn't a dream I saw after I got drunk.

With a little more effort, and with my limited vision, I managed to determine a few more facts. It appears that I'm inside a cave. Signs of it being handmade weren't present, so the possibility of it being natural is high.

The feeling of the rags I used as a blanket was the worst. They felt stiff and they were clearly dirty. The soil on my back felt uncomfortable, and a pebble was digging into my skin so it hurt a little, though all of this doesn't matter.

More importantly...

There are a lot of ugly children who have green skin and sharp ears around me. Yeah, they are [] s. They were covered by cloths just like me and sleeping. There were about thirty of them in my visible range, twenty of them being the size of a human baby. And the others were the same size as a human child; adults I presume.

...Well, that was the conclusive evidence that I reincarnated. Considering that if I move my hands, I can see baby skin identical to that of the surrounding goblins', and on each of my five fingers sharp black nails are clearly visible. If I didn't reincarnate, then what else could it be?

In my past life I was an evolved human, an [ESPer], and I further upgraded to a strengthened human after undergoing a surgery, but now it seems I de-ranked to a goblin, a creature weaker than even a normal human. I seriously cried for a moment. The reason why I can't move my body properly is probably because I'm still a newborn. Today, like any other goblin child, I spent the day sleeping.

I wasn't escaping from reality at all.

DAY 3

I stopped running away from reality since I have already reincarnated, and determined to survive in my second life as long as possible. In my previous job, I learned that having the capability to quickly change one's thinking and adapting is an indispensable skill. I also learned how unfair and cruel life can be from there.

Apparently, the growth of a goblin is characteristically fast. Even though it's only the third day since my birth, my body has been growing rapidly while I was sleeping.

While my body used to be that of a baby before I went to sleep, its figure is now that of an elementary student's. Although it's still vastly weaker than my body before my reincarnation, compared to yesterday, my body's power had sky-rocketed. Now I can stand up and even run at moderate speeds, so I felt indescribably happy. Although it's childish, I started frolicking around instinctively because the stress of being unable to move as I liked had accumulated.

Well, when you think about it, this growth rate may be something to be expected from goblins. When compared to the civilization built by humans, who can grow up without worry of being attacked by a foreign enemy, goblins must participate in the fierce struggle for survival shortly after their birth. As a result, humans grow slower than goblins who live in the wild, where the law of the jungle forced them to grow faster to quickly produce new offspring and to adapt to their environment.

Since I can move now, I spent my time today learning my new body's limits. I performed various exercises with my body till I got used to it, and eventually collapsed from exhaustion.

Still, this bed... isn't there anything better?

DAY 4

Today I went out hunting for the first time since reincarnating into a goblin. Those who do not work do not eat. The food specified for newborn goblins like me are chubby caterpillars for nourishment–no, I'm not saying that I don't like them; they're unexpectedly delicious, but we didn't have an unlimited supply of them. Hunting was unavoidable since rations were no longer available according to the children goblins' caretakers.

To be forced to hunt to eat from as early as the fourth day since birth, you can imagine how harsh life in the natural world is. As expected, it would be a little hard to go to hunt alone, so I made a buddy/sacrificial pawn, called Gobukichi-kun, by using some lies and flattery while we walked in the forest.

The goblins in this world seem to be idiots. Well, at least that made it easy to trick him.

Oh, that's right. goblins naturally can breed with members of the same race. However, the conception rate seems to be relatively lower than what's needed in this dangerous environment. To overcome that, they kidnap women from other races and violate them until they're pregnant.

You see, yesterday I went to the innermost parts of the cave secretly, it's a garbage storage called the « Treasure Warehouse », and while I was there a rusty sword fell down further in the back of the room. Although I couldn't take it out with me due to my current position in the community, when I went to examine it I stumbled across an adjacent room with several human women inside. They possessed some beauty, but they were almost naked and in a sorry state, all of them wore rags just a little better than the average goblin. In addition, there was a beautiful child in an even more severe state than the others.

From the fact that they didn't wipe the cloudy liquids covering their bodies, and their eyes which were exactly what you would call a dead fish's eyes, they most likely fell in despair and stopped moving long ago.

It was easy to guess that they had been kidnapped. Although I wanted to do something for them, I knew that it was impossible with my current strength, so the best I can do

for them now is praying, I clasped my hands and recited “Namu”.

Perhaps one of them was my mother? But that's too depressing to think about, so I'll leave it alone for now...

Indeed, It was better for two to work together than to hunt alone, my first hunting since birth was successful thanks to my good coordination with Gubokichi-kun who followed my instructions, but it was regrettable that Gobukichi-kun tried to eat the prey by himself, so I hit him with a tree branch till he couldn't move to teach him about hierarchies. He eventually collapsed and began rolling around from pain, so I switched to dismantling the spoils.

The result of our first glorious hunt was a brown rabbit that had a 20 cm long horn growing out from its forehead, so I decided to call it a [Horn Rabbit]. The horn was sharp, and it may be small for a human to use but for me who is now a goblin it's just the perfect size. It didn't cut like a blade, so piercing and thrusting it like an estoc would be a more suitable way to use it.

[Goburou obtained [Animal Horn (small)]!!]

The moment I picked up the horn, an announcement resounded in my head, but it was probably just my imagination.



Oh, yeah. I forgot to tell you, but my current name is apparently Goburou. The goblin elder named me that when I opened my eyes for the first time.

Even though it's not exactly to my tastes, I tolerated it since I don't want to use my previous name.

Sometimes it is important to know when to give up.

At first, I tried using the Horn rabbit's horn to skin it, but it was too troublesome to peel the skin off of its body with the horn, and it was even more difficult to ignore the stares of the drooling Gobukichi-kun which made his face even more ugly than usual.

Wanting some peace, I decided to divide the Horn rabbit in half and gave one to him. I tried my best to peel the skin off of mine, but it grew too troublesome, so I ate the meat together with the skin.

I was able to procure a weapon and eat some fresh meat. This was a very fulfilling day. The meat was delicious.

The mysterious insects weren't bad, but they just couldn't beat real meat.

DAY 5

We went hunting for food again today. Gobukichi-kun who was forced to clearly understand our hierarchy, with who's above and below, moved according to my instructions and we were able to get a prey pretty quickly thanks to our experience from yesterday. Although it was just another Horn rabbit, it was at least twice the size of the one from yesterday. It might've been more dangerous though because Gobukichi-kun was only using a wooden stick, unlike me who is using the horn that I got yesterday. Its performance in combat was better than I expected.

While Gobukichi-kun caught the Horn rabbit's attention, I smashed its spinal cord and pierced its heart from behind.

Although the horn got damaged a little, the battle was still a success because of the spoils we obtained.

Just like the Horn rabbit that we killed yesterday, I broke off its horn.

I unintentionally said "The Most Legendary Horn", but the announcement which came after corrected me.

[Goburou obtained [Animal Horn (Medium)]!!]

I decided to ignore it since I don't understand what it is. While I was thinking that, I found Gobukichi-kun staring at the game with hungry eyes, then we shared the meat and ate.

As I munched the meat, crunched the bones, and slowly gulped down, I felt as though my entire body was brimming with life.

This convinced me of a matter that I had thought of yesterday.

It seems that I have reincarnated with my the ESPer ability [Absorption] that I had in my previous life. This means that my current situation is like a New Game mode with my ESPer ability, though the starting point is a negative value instead of zero.

By the way, Espers are basically evolved humans who are born with special supernatural

powers with a probability of less than 1 in 1000, they began appearing from the time when mankind first advanced into space several centuries ago.

Although they are evolved humans, their evolved characteristics usually aren't passed down, and even though an ESPer's children have a higher chance of becoming ESPers, mysteriously the probability is still pretty low.

Well, because in this era humans are in constant contact and are living together with aliens in harmony, unlike in the past ESPers are no longer persecuted, furthermore ESPer abilities are recognized as a part of a person's individuality. Though if a user was still uncomfortable with their power, devices that are capable of suppressing ESPer abilities are commercially available.

And my ESPer ability [Absorption] was one of the strongest powers out there if not the strongest, it's in a different dimension compared to the likes of [Psychometry], [Telekinesis] and [Teleportation], which were of the general class. Simply put, no matter how hard or poisonous something is, I would be able to eat it. My teeth could tear through metals easily while toxins would be restructured and rendered harmless and edible in my body. The abilities of whatever I eat, be it an item or another living being, would be absorbed and assimilated into my body with a fixed probability, so that I could use them as well.

I'm not quite sure how it works though...

Oh well, I just wanted to inform you about what my ability was. In the first place questioning the principles of supernatural powers is nonsense.

By the way, just because I've eaten something that has an ability doesn't guarantee that I'll be able to absorb its abilities. For example, if what I just ate was a living being, its freshness is an important factor as to whether I'll get an ability or not. After its death, I have twelve hours to eat it before the chances to absorb its abilities are gone.

That said, there are certain parts that give abilities easier than others such as the heart and the brain, and parts where most of the creature's power is concentrated. In addition to absorbing abilities, physical strengthening and stamina can be secured too.

Furthermore, if the being that I consumed is stronger than me, it's certain that I'll get its ability. Moreover, it's possible to strengthen an ability that I have acquired previously by consuming beings who have the same ability.

In other words, [Absorption] isn't strong on its own, but the more I eat, the stronger I become. Naturally, it has its limits, which are the acquiring probability and requirements I talked about earlier.

After awakening to my ESPer ability in my past life, I strengthened myself by eating [Disaster Designated Individuals] and criminal ESPers that I captured.

Unfortunately, the abilities I got from eating them seem to have been reset. Since there were many useful abilities, the reset made me somewhat regretful, but it could be said that I was lucky enough to keep the [Absorption] ability which more than made up for it.

Using it, I can learn new abilities, and it enables me to eat anything without hesitation, for example, eating exotic things like the Horn rabbit and the mysterious insects, this is a side effect of [Absorption] that paralyzes my feelings when it comes to eating, rather it's more like an obsession with eating.

I think it's actually pretty helpful, because knowing that eating is important for survival, if I refrained from eating certain types of meat because of morals and emotions at crucial times, it will be fatal for my survival.

The ability I obtained this time is called [Escape]. Its effect is when fleeing, speed and probability of adapting to the new environment increases.

I tilted my neck wondering why the Horn rabbit didn't try to escape when we confronted it today and instead charged at us head-on... oh well.

After that, we caught two more Horn rabbits and ate them. Going to sleep with a full belly is a pleasant feeling. It seems like the rate at which Gobukichi-kun is relying on me has also rapidly increased. It's probably because of the laws of the jungle that he began looking at me as a superior being.

DAY 6

Apparently, newborn goblins are weak enough to get easily killed by Horn rabbits, and because of this, nuts and fruits were the staple food which most of them ate in order to survive, or so I'm told by Gobumi-chan.

You see, Gobumi-chan is another goblin from our generation, and although she had "beauty" in her name, it's a pity that she wasn't that beautiful. All the goblins had the same ugly face, there is only a small difference that allows you to differentiate between them. Me? I'm no exception. I confirmed this while washing my body in a nearby river.

Well, according to Gobumi-chan, the other goblins can't compare to my good looks. To be honest I didn't feel happy the least bit hearing that I was handsome. No matter how handsome a goblin is compared to his fellow goblins; in the end, all goblins are ugly.

I stared into the distance absentmindedly for a moment.

By the way, after asking Gobumi-chan for her opinion on Gobukichi, it turns out that he's only average. That's good.

Going back to the story, goblins are fundamentally weak by nature. Therefore only individuals with wisdom and luck can survive. Only the selected few with this degree of capability are able to survive. Tough indeed.

Anyways, I heard from Gobumi-chan that many goblins had fallen victim to the horns of the Horn Rabbits.

After hearing that, I thought "Eh? Seriously?", and unintentionally the words flowed out of my mouth. After all, average-sized Horn rabbits are only a bit bigger than the Japanese rabbit. Moreover, apart from its size, the Horn rabbit only uses its two hind legs to execute an overhead attack to kill goblins... Oh, I suppose that it's possible.

They don't even use wooden sticks, so beating and kicking is the only way they know to attack. Fighting bare-handed can certainly get you killed.

The horn of the Horn rabbit is a weapon. Only idiots will fight it upfront unarmed. The small body of the Horn rabbits may also be a reason.

It can agilely dodge the goblin's attacks with its small body, then pierce them with its horn from below towards the abdomen.

That being said, I just saw some goblins imitating me and Gobukichi-kun, holding wooden sticks in their hands.

Today I invited Gobumi-chan to join us in the hunting as a thanks for the information. Horn rabbits are seriously delicious.

DAY 7

It was raining today, so we decided to relax and work in the cave.

Clonk-clonk sounds reverberated as I repeatedly struck a mysterious obsidian-like ore that I found yesterday by the riverside using a large rock. I'm trying to craft a makeshift knife for dismantling.

Well, I wished to have fur clothes soon. I wanted to graduate from the worn-out rag, but the horn was not suitable for cutting.

Partly because of the noise I was making, and because they were interested, the goblins from my age approached. However, after ignoring them and continuing to work, they got bored and scattered. Good riddance.

The elderly goblins for some reason were observing me while smiling, I don't know why though.

Oh well, since I was able to make three makeshift knives a little past noon, this should be enough for today. Since both my hands were starting to hurt slightly, I decided to end it at that.

Because after finishing the crafting of the makeshift knives I didn't have anything to do, I looked at the two people, Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun who were staring at my work without getting bored - no, next time I will count not by person, but by goblin - and called for a strategy meeting concerning our formation when hunting next time.

Various opinions were noisily being voiced - although it is a field where I am mostly unchallenged, Gobumi-chan who is smarter than Gobukichi-kun did offer her opinion once in a while. Gobukichi-kun was only constantly nodding, since he's an idiot -.

During the meeting, a remarkably wrinkled old goblin approached us.

This goblin is Gobujii. This « Goblin Community »'s oldest goblin, he possessed a social position akin to an advisor, and above all, my name Goburou was given to me by this old goblin.

I stopped the strategy meeting to listen to various stories from Gobujii. Well, Gobujii lived a uselessly long life for a goblin, but he has a very extensive knowledge as a result, so I do not want to miss this opportunity.

Well, because it would only take about twenty years or so to be called an elderly, this body will not be able to have a long life... Hahaha.

I pulled myself together.

Gobujii told me many things about the laws of this world such as Levels and [Evolution] - apparently such things exists -, why in this cave except for us, the newly born goblins, there were only elderly goblins around, among other things.

Let's leave this world's Levels, [Evolution] and other laws for later. Let's first talk about the goblins who live in this cave.

Apparently the adult goblins - maybe our parents' generation - are working away from home outside the forest. I understand, in short, it's pillaging right?

Eh, weren't goblins so weak that they would get easily killed by Horn rabbits you say? No no, those are only newborn goblins. Goblins are certainly weak as a race, however, this is the same reason why they have a very fast growth rate that allows them to move only a few days after birth.

With this fast growth rate, they can quickly learn how to kill using wooden sticks and stones, cunning tactics and the skills needed to survive, risking their lives in order to support themselves.

The weak die while the strong survive. I understand this very simple yet harsh law.

Really, so merciless I want to cry.

Well, because this time there were many individuals who imitated us - who started killing Horn rabbits from the fourth day since our birth -, by pairing up and carrying wooden sticks around, the number of the surviving goblins is greater than ever.

While I was nodding and saying "I see, I see", I saw that for some reason Gobujii's loincloth began to change shape. Apparently his long life didn't weaken his desire to spawn progeny, or perhaps he sensed that his death was close.

Ugh, after suppressing my nausea, I tried to stop our talk as soon as possible and averted my gaze from his crotch. There's no way I can gaze at that thing for a long time.

After our talk ended, Gobujii's face turned into an expression filled with lust and he went to the inner parts of the cave. A short while later, I heard some feeble screams.

I put my hands together and prayed "Namu" for the sake of the captured human women for the second time. I'll say it again, but doing anything more than this at the moment is impossible for me, nevertheless, someday I want to grant those women peace.

Under those conditions, just continuing to live is a hell.

Even I have at least this much sympathy.

DAY 8

Our trio consisting of myself, Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan went out hunting this day. After hunting for the past few days, we have managed to become fairly highly equipped, though the equipment is so crude that I don't know if it should count.

From several horns, I chose two comparatively large ones which I dual wielded. In case I was ever hit, I created a simple body armor full of gaps by binding the remaining horns together with ivy, then fastened it around my body. The horns are surprisingly hard; but against thrusting attacks, the armor has little effect. Nonetheless, it's quite effective against against blunt damage. This should be enough protection for now to ensure that I don't get any serious injuries.

Gobukichi-kun is equipping a wooden chest armor along with a wooden club as thick as his torso, the handle had been shaved by using horns to make it thinner. Because the club is very heavy; he has to use both of his hands to hold it. Well, since he's both the physically strongest out of us and the most stupid, hitting stuff with his full strength is the style that he can use the best to his advantage.

Together with the scraps from the Horn rabbits' pelts and a sturdy piece of ivy, I made a simple staff sling to strengthen Gobumi-chan's ranged capabilities. She used stones lying around as ammunition, and was our rearguard who could deal with birds and so forth while specializing in ranged combat. She was currently not equipped with armor, but given the time I'd like to make one for her. By the way, the worn-out loincloth is still the standard equipment.

I want new clothes.

As expected, with more numbers, hunting gets easier.

With Gobukichi-kun as the vanguard, me as mid-guard, and Gobumi-chan covering us as a rearguard, our formation was very efficient, so the fruits of today's hunt included, in addition to Horn rabbits, new kinds of prey.

The first was a poisonous snake with a length of sixty centimeters, a diameter of approximately six centimeters, and covered with black scales that carried a speckled pattern. I named the three we caught [Night Viper] s (temporary name).

The other one looked like a bat, though I think that it's probably something else. They couldn't help but stand out since their wings were shining in seven different colors. We found one of them and I named its kind as [Seven Colored Bat] s (temporary name).

The third prey looked like what you would get if you combined an armadillo and a raccoon dog together, with its back covered with a hard shell. We found two of them and I named them [Armored Tanuki] s (temporary name).

Along with them, we also routinely caught two Horn rabbits. Overall, it was a pretty great haul.

However, Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan seemed to be strongly hinting at something by staring at me with round eyes while uncontrollably drooling. Well, it's not like I don't understand them. While other goblins would normally eat their captured spoils on the spot where they caught them, I wanted to dismantle the usable parts to make weapons and armors of them, which takes more time when compared to eating them right away.

I also wanted to dismantle everything at the same time, so we didn't get to eat in the middle of the hunt. That's why I understood the reason for why they would get hungry. But I ignored this while continuing the work. Then I saw them hanging their heads in disappointment. Ha, it can't be helped.

After removing the horn from a Horn rabbit, I threw its body towards Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun. Initially I wanted the pelt too, but the appearances of the drooling Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun were too pitiful to look at. However, Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun were for some reason staring at me blankly while slightly tilting their heads to one side in puzzlement after receiving the meat.

...Ah, it's because I told them not to eat earlier, so they were probably wondering if they can eat it or not, so I told them "Because dismantling is going to take a while, go ahead and eat this". After looking perplexed for a while, Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan greedily munched on the raw meat with bloodstains around their mouths.

After averting my eyes, I first decided to remove the shell of the Armored tanukis. Since I couldn't break the shell with the Horn rabbit's horn it seemed to be of a good quality, so it would make a good armor crafting material. The makeshift knife that I made using the obsidian-like material yesterday shined at this time, although its

sharpness wasn't really that good; when compared to cutting with the horn, it was much better.

When I started dismantling, I noticed that the Armored tanuki's shell was formed as a result from the rigidification of a part of the skin, so it was easier to remove the skin with the shells attached. When I managed to peel it off after some struggle, I heard a mysterious voice again.

[Goburou obtained [Beast Skin Covered With Shells]!!]

Like usual I thought "what's this?" However, I quickly stopped thinking about it, I should leave it alone for now because I don't understand the principles behind it.

Thinking about taking a rest before continuing the dismantling, I cut the Armored tanuki's heart, brain and right leg and ate them. I gave the rest to Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun, there was still a lot of meat left after all.

Nevertheless, the meat of the Armored tanuki tasted good! The texture when chewing it was seriously awesome. When chewing, the flavors mixed together into a wonderful blend. Aah, I'll try to eat a bit of the shell to assess it.

Ability [Shell Defense] learned

From just chewing it slightly, I learned the ability. It might have been because I ate the heart, the brain and the right leg earlier. Incidentally, [Shell Defense] is an ability that increase my defensive power when using armors made from organic shells, in addition to increasing the amount of damage that the armor can block and reducing the chance of being hit with a fatal attack.

Yes, it's a fairly good ability. It's a profit, a profit. Feeling good, I finished skinning the other Armored tanuki quicker this time, since I now knew how to do it.

In my previous working place, I got used to dismantling creatures; so after I understood its body's structure after the first time, it became easier to dismantle. This time, I ate half of the meat and threw the remainder to Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun, after which I ate some more shells to raise [Shell Defense]'s level slightly.

Ah, calling it levels is just an expression of mine.

To make it easier to understand, I'm just calling it levels and there's no specific

meaning behind it; understanding that the ability has gotten stronger is enough.

Next, I started dismantling the Seven-Colored bat. I removed the wings from their roots and pulled out the fangs which looked like they were for sucking blood. Then I split the meat and we all shared it.

The flesh of the Seven-Colored bat was very tender compared to that of the Armored tanuki, yes, a very good taste. Or how should I put it, ever since turning into a goblin, everything I ate tasted good.

Is this perhaps because I've gotten the sense of taste of the race I was born as? Not that I really care why anyway. Also, unfortunately it seems I didn't learn any ability from eating the Seven-Colored bat. But it seems my body have been strengthened slightly, judging by the sense of fulfillment I felt from my body after eating the meat.

My ESPer ability [Absorption] doesn't give me only abilities like [Shell Defense], but could also increase my physical strength, defensive strength, stamina and such, thus strengthening my body which I was very thankful for.

Anyways, I wonder if ESPer abilities originate from the soul? At any rate, it doesn't seem like the thesis of a certain famous scholar that I had heard before is correct, I think its name was [Getting infected by a special virus causes ESPer abilities to appear in compatible individuals].

I tilted my head to the side wondering, how does it awaken then? Well, thinking about it is useless, I have no way to collect information in that regard right now after all.

Finally I started dismantling today's main dish, the three Night vipers.

First, I cut off the heads of the snakes with the obsidian knife; but since the snake-skin was awfully hard, the edge of one of the knives got chipped. Then I hung them up and peeled the skin off, because I thought that I can use the snake-skin to make something.

With the heads cut off and the snake-skin peeled off, each goblin received a snake each.

It's quite delicious. Yeah, it's so delicious that the instant I tasted it I thought that the taste would be outstanding if it was grilled and served with sake. ^[1]

Just from imagining it, I started salivating. The Horn rabbits' and the Armored tanukis' crispy and slightly hard meat is delicious, the super tender meat of the Seven Colored

bat is also delicious.

However, the Night vipers' slightly exceeded those three in taste. My hands stopped working because of how delicious it was.

Just like that the three of us greedily wolfed down our shares.

Ability [Thermography] learned

Ability [Venom] learned

Ability [Poison Resistance] learned

Ability [Sense Presence] learned

Ability [Evil Eye] learned

After eating one, I learned five abilities. Apparently Night vipers are in a different league compared to the current me. When I eat something stronger than me, the probability that I receive abilities from it significantly increases. This is one of the characteristics of my [Absorption] ability. But to get five abilities at once, it's truly a first. My guess is, this is because goblins are a weak species.

Well, I am truly satisfied with the results of this day's hunt. The remaining poisoned fangs can be used as tools. However, if Gobukichi-kun or Gobumi-chan were to even graze it, they would without doubt immediately be on the verge of death since they don't have [Poison Resistance] which I acquired today. Worst case scenario is that they'd die instantly.

Besides, this time, I also received the ability [Venom] which I can use to secrete poison from the tip of the horn that I'm currently using. If I'm not in direct contact, this ability doesn't activate; but compared to the poisoned fang, it's a lot safer to use.

Because they are dangerous, I ate the three heads of the snakes by myself to strengthen [Venom]. Eating them by myself is a lot safer.

Yeah, poison - which is completely harmless to me because of the two abilities [Poison Resistance] and [Absorption] working in concert - only made the meat taste better to me by giving it a slight sting. However, the two goblins were directing envious gazes at me.

Hey, if you eat this, you'd die, you know.

DAY 9

It's raining today. A downpour.

That's why I'm using the raw materials I got yesterday to craft a new armor inside the cave. The last time I talked to him, Gobujii told me about the needle-like [Steel Grass] and the sturdy string-like [Slender Ivy] which grow in the vicinity. I used them to make my and Gobukichi-kun's armors last time, on our way back yesterday we gathered some more to use when sewing with the Armored tanukis' and the Night vipers' skins.

The first thing I made was my body armor. I made a shirt using the Armored Tanukis' skin reinforced with their shells in the back. It was okay to use the Armored Tanukis' shells for the front and the back, but this time I will use it only in the back. And I used the Horn rabbits' horns previously used to protect the back to eliminate the gaps in the front.

With this, I have finally ranked up my garment from the worn-out loincloth.

The previous armor from before? No, those were only horns fastened with ivy; therefore it cannot be called clothes. By the way, the worn-out loincloth is still equipped by default.

Next I made a wooden square, and used the remaining shells to reinforce it.

Although it is still quite shabby, with this a sturdy shield has been completed. This was a present to Gobukichi-kun. Well, I use a dual-wield style, and the shield would be too over-sized for me to use. So Gobukichi-kun should use it since he's the vanguard. Besides, he is capable of using the club one-handed now, and not using the other hand would be wasteful.

When I handed it over, he was very happy. Gobukichi-kun was equipped with his wooden club which was as thick as his torso, the wooden shield reinforced with the Armored Tanukis' carapaces, and the wooden torso armor. Yes, he looks pretty nice.

Next is Gobumi-chan's body armor.

I took some snake-skin, the Seven-Colored bat's wings and a few horns, then stitched

all of them together, the result is a body armor that looked a little like an ethnic costume. Because it was made using the Seven Colored bat's wings it is quite vibrant, and the wings proved to be surprisingly robust and elastic. Since the horns were arranged to protect the vitals, the minimum required level of defense is ensured.

After that, I tried to make a necklace out of the Seven-Colored bat's fangs. Well, I felt that I didn't really have any other options to use them, so I made it as a bonus.

The finished product was presented to Gobumi-chan. She was very happy too.

That's right. Next time, I craft something I'll try to make weapons for myself, new armor for Gobukichi-kun, and a bow and quiver for Gobumi-chan.

Ah, today's meal was what I ate during my infancy period - it was just few days ago though -, the caterpillar-like insects. These could be gathered in the cave.

Because it's unexpectedly tasty, this bug can't be looked down on, though I can't learn anything from eating it.

DAY 10

Today we went out hunting.

The hunt's spoils were Horn rabbits, Night vipers and Armored tanukis.

It's a little regrettable that we weren't able to hunt any Seven-Colored bats though. I felt that I was close to learning an ability from eating them, but it can't be helped. Such things happen.

Ah, by the way, even though we encountered various creatures, they all seemed to be a lot stronger than us, so we avoided them and hunted what we were used to.

Oh well, we're steadily raising our Levels, so we'll be able to hunt them eventually. Ah, since hunting is finished for today, I will explain what are Levels. Levels, simply speaking, are the representation of an individual's strength in an easy-to-understand manner.

Although I do not understand its principles, when you squint, a number will faintly appear floating in your field of vision. The maximum level that can be reached is "100", and this number can't be exceeded. Incidentally, right now my level is "86" which seems to be fairly high for a goblin.

I think it might have risen so much quickly because I've been killing and eating higher-ranked creatures like Night vipers without receiving a single injury.

Also, although it might be inconsequential, Gobukichi-kun's level is "78" and Gobumi-chan's level is "55". We're getting stronger at a good pace.

Nevertheless, even a Level "100" goblin is still a small fry compared to other species, so right now our Levels don't really matter much.

However, in this world, there exists other more interesting phenomenons than Levels.

According to Gobujii, when reaching Level "100", growth stops there. However, those individuals with potential to grow even further do not stop there, but can instead grow

Rank Up
stronger by going through an [Evolution].

In short, individuals who have a high growth potential can evolve into a stronger race further increasing the individual's power. If you assume that I will keep growing even after reaching Level "100", then generally I'd first evolve into a [] from a goblin, then into an [].

This is the general route.

Be that as it may, there exists other routes than to evolve into an ogre. Furthermore, what race you evolve into will depend upon your actions.

For example, those who are ogres, drink the blood of a living prey, possess a certain level of intelligence, strength, and above all, a strong sense of pride, turn into [Vampire] s.

Those who are ogre, prefer to use heavyweight weapons like axes and large swords, and have an unusually high strength and resilience turn into [Minotaurs]'.

Those who are hobgoblins, willing to eat rotten corpses' flesh and bodily fluids, become [Ghouls] and finally start to eat even souls.

Those who are hobgoblins, excel in handling weapons such as swords and spears and possess intelligence and skills closest to a human, become completely different creatures known as [Half-Lords], a part of the [Lord] species which has many variations, a possible Half-lord route is a [Half-Blood Lord].

According to this system, by Leveling Up, I'll probably end up becoming something from the ^{Oni} [Demon] race.^[1]

This law of the evolution of species is, to put it bluntly, very strange. However, since it actually happens, I can't deny it, and for me who's living in the forest which is a world of survival of the fittest, it's quite useful.

Rank Up
Well, Gobujii says that usually [Evolution] doesn't happen early. Because I wanted to see how far I could go, I didn't have a problem with that and decided to treat it as a challenge. Anyways, if for example, I were to become an ogre, I wonder what sort of evolution path I'll have after that.

I don't think I will turn into a vampire, because I don't really have a very high pride.

Probably not a minotaur, since I prefer light thrusting class weapons more than heavier weapons.

I really don't want to turn into a ghoul.

Well, according to Gobujii ghouls are undead, just like vampires, and it seems there exists several different undead-class evolution routes, for example, the spell casting [Undead King

Lich], [], etc. If you want to become an undead-type monster, it is easier to turn into a ghoul, lich or a dullahan than a vampire, however, losing the flesh of your body is a definite weakness.

The evolution route that seemed best suited to me from his explanation seemed to be the lord species route, which specializes in using various types of weapons.

Oh well, I still have a long way to go and it's not happening anytime soon.

Since I was tired from thinking about all of this and the night had already fallen, I went to sleep.

DAY 11

Although the results of today's hunting is only one kind of species, the Seven-Colored bat, we caught a large number of them, amounting to thirty.

Today we entered one of the caves we discovered while exploring as I was curious if there was anything in it. The cave opened up into a large and dimly lit room that had a large number of bats crowded together on its ceilings, when....

...Yeah, we were really saved by both of my [Sense Presence] and [Evil Eye] abilities which I obtained from eating the Night vipers.

If I hadn't anticipated the movements of the Seven-Colored bats with [Sense Presence] and limited their mobility with [Evil Eye], I'm certain that we would have died, as I wouldn't have had the time to give instructions to Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun.

Even though they were weaker than us, I was prepared for death because their numbers were much more than ten times our numbers. I reacknowledged that numbers are important in combat after all.

However, the three of us managed to survive without suffering any major injuries, such as losing a limb, despite the numerous minor injuries that we received. We survived because of the new armor that Gobumi-chan and I were wearing, as well as the solid shield which Gobukichi-kun was carrying.

Well, I think that it's important that we upgrade our arms, after all.

Putting the talk about such hardships aside, while the majority were able to run away, I dismantled the thirty Seven-Colored bats that we were able to kill, and secured their wings and fangs. Once that was done, we ate the meat that was left over.

The meat was delicious, and it seemed to melt in my mouth as I ate it.

Each goblin received ten Seven-Colored bats, and the amount of meat caused our stomachs to swell as we ate them.

Ability [Echolocation] learned

Ability [Pump Up] learned

Ability [Vampirephilia] learned

As a result, I was able to obtain three abilities. Well, I guess I would obtain something if I ate so many of them.

With this, I've acquired all the abilities that I can get from the Seven-Colored bats. Since I can't reinforce my body and abilities anymore by eating them, it looks like they can only be used to help fill my stomach from now on.

Given that the body reinforcement and the ability leveling rate was bad because the Seven-Colored bats are too weak, I think that it's not necessary to go out of my way to hunt them solely to strengthen my body and abilities in the future. That being said, I will eat them when I want to since they're delicious.

Anyway, it's great that we discovered their nest at the level we're at. It looks like all of their abilities will be useful.

[Echolocation] is a suitable ability for understanding the surrounding terrain and moving through it, in addition to using my sense of sight. It looks like it'll be a good way to prevent surprise attacks as well.

In the forest which is a world of survival of the fittest, the struggle for survival is intense, so I expect that it will be a very useful ability.

DAY 12

As usual, we went hunting in order to obtain food to eat.

Today we hunted Night vipers, Horn rabbits, and some Armored tanukis. Afterwards, since the sun had started to set, we returned to the cave the same way that we always do.

Unlike humans, goblins are born with an inherent ability called [Night Vision], so the darkness itself isn't a threat. For that reason, I want to hunt at night if we could, since we can more or less see. ^[1]

However, there are many creatures that are stronger and more ferocious than goblins that are active at night, so it's pretty dangerous. Well, goblins are basically a weak species.

These include the following:

- [Red Bear] which resembles a brown bear with red fur.
- [Triple Horned Horse] which have a build similar to that of a horse. Its entire body is covered in light brown scales and it has three horns lined up on its forehead.
- [Demon Spider] which is a spider that's approximately sixty centimeters in length. It has characteristic yellow lines carved on its black carapace, which appears to be stronger than steel. ^[2]
- [Green Slime] which is a small-fry just like goblins, but it appears to possess a [Nullify Physical Attacks]-like ability for some reason.
- And so on...

I don't feel like I can kill any of them though, because from their description and the power difference between them and a goblin, normally I will get killed. And with [Poison Resistance]'s current level, I'd probably be incapacitated in no time if I was hit with a poison of a high toxicity.

Well, that's why we return home and don't go out at night.

Having said that, we returned to the cave, which appears to be in a safe location. Because I was tired, I immediately went to my bed and slept.

Later in the night, I got attacked in my sleep. However, I was able to avoid the attack at the last moment while laying in my bed, so I wasn't injured. This was due to my [Sense Presence] ability, which is always active.

The main offenders were goblins from my generation. There were six of them, and they had some intelligence, since they had recently copied my group and started using tree branches as weapons.

In a world of survival of the fittest, if you get attacked in your sleep, you shouldn't forgive the attackers even if they were from your own kind. While they were surprised that their surprise attack on me had failed, I didn't miss my chance to launch a counterattack. When I go to sleep, I always put my weapons - the horns - next to me, so I quickly held one in my hand and counterattacked.

The outcome, naturally I turned the tables on them.

I ended up killing one of the goblins because I made a mistake in the creation and use of the venom that was dripping from the tip of my weapon when I used my [Venom] ability, but that couldn't be helped. Since they were the cause of the situation, they can't complain about it.

For the rest of the attackers, I successfully created and applied a muscle relaxant poison and used it to simply stop their movements. Then, just like that time with Gobukichi-kun, I beat them from top to bottom with a tree branch, but I didn't kill them. After I finished, they were twitching on the ground.

I'll hear the circumstances behind their attack tomorrow. Since they were injected with a non-fatal poison, they should be better by then, so I'll find out why they attacked me at that time. In addition, a goblin's self-healing abilities are high so they should be able to recover completely by tomorrow.

It's already too late for one of them, though. I'll say this again, but that couldn't be helped.

Because of the commotion, the goblins who were sleeping soundly woke up. It's only

natural that the entire cave started to get noisy as a result. I thought that the old goblins would say something, but the elderly goblins and Gobujii, the head of the elderly Goblins didn't say anything in particular. They simply turned towards the body with a slightly pitying look in their eyes.

Since I thought that I would be punished for killing a member of the same kind, I was thankful that they didn't blame me for it.

However, Gobumi-chan wasn't satisfied with the outcome and became scary. At that time, I screamed things like "No! A goblin's skeletal structure won't let their arm turn that way! It'll break!" and "Their neck won't turn around anymore! You'll tear their head off!" while restraining her from behind. It's not even funny that the thing that I had the most trouble with was saving the lives of the goblins that attacked me from Gobumi-chan.

Oh, by the way, Gobukichi was sleeping soundly the entire time. Well, it's said that sleep helps a child grow. In fact, he's physically bigger than most of the other goblins from our generation. He is around 10 cm taller than me.

Because I can rely on him as our vanguard, I think I'll ignore the fact that he shamelessly continued to sleep during the commotion this time. On top of that, I wouldn't welcome it if the number of rampaging goblins increased because he woke up.

Anyway, in this way, I calmed down the agitated Gobumi-chan.

I created a weak sleeping poison and applied it on her by releasing it from one of my toes' sharp nails which I pricked her foot slightly with. After she lost consciousness, I carried her back to her bed.

After that, I took the corpse outside since it was unpleasant to leave a corpse of the same kind as me near my bed in a pool of its own blood... and because it'll start to smell after some time.

Thanks to my normal strength being twice what it should be at my current Level as well as it being enhanced by the [Pump Up] ability that I obtained from the Seven-Colored bats yesterday, it was unexpectedly easy for me to finish moving a corpse that had almost the same physique that I have. Gobujii told me to place the corpse in a slightly far location so that other creatures would come and eat it, and to run away

right after I did so.

However, once I carried the corpse a certain distance, I hid myself and ate it. I did this because I was interested.

My thoughts? Yeah... it wasn't delicious, but it didn't taste unpleasant either. This was the first time after reincarnating that I didn't think of something as delicious. I tilted my head to the side and thought about this for a moment. Since I thought that one arm was already enough, I left the rest as planned.

Well, that being said, what happened today wore me out, so I went to sleep quickly.

DAY 13

We were exploring a mountain located a little deeper in the forest today when we discovered a pig-faced demi-human walking through the mountains with a pickaxe on his shoulder. His skin was brown-colored and he had his stomach sticking out, but I could tell from his slightly muscular appearance that he had trained his body to some extent.

By the way, the clothes he was wearing were a little better than a goblin's and they covered both his upper and lower body. I felt a little bit irritated by this fact. The initial clothing that a goblin has is just a loincloth after all.

The superb item that was resting in his crotch was too large, and was slightly protruding from his clothes.

It's likely that I've discovered an [Orc], a monster species whose fame is equal to that of goblins. However, unlike goblins who have the physique of an early primary school child, its height was a hundred and seventy centimeters... or maybe even higher. looking at it with my current build with a difference of 40 to 50 cm, that orc looks huge!

After observing him for awhile, I determined that the orc we found is something that I can defeat even if I launch a frontal attack and fight it alone. However, the problem is the numbers.

Orcs appear to be a stronger species than goblins, and there's a big difference in their physiques. However, because I can fight only one at a time by myself, I may not be able to help Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan if we're exposed to several enemies. If there's a large difference in numbers, even I don't know what will happen, and I can't throw the possibility that we'll be unable to escape.

Nonetheless, when we discovered this one, he was walking alone, so it seems like he's a stray orc.

Just in case, I used [Thermography] to check our surroundings, but I have to be careful doing so because my eyes will become useless if I look at the sun. It's troublesome that it's so difficult to use during the day, so I used [Echolocation] to carefully search the

area as well.

As a result, I found out that there were no other orcs around, so we decided to launch a fierce attack on him.

First, we closed our distance with him as we remained hidden in the thick bushes. Gobumi-chan then used her staff sling to throw a stone soaked in venom at the orc's eye. Her talent in using ranged weapons has blossomed recently and the stone hit its target successfully, with the poison invading the orc's body right after crushing his eye.

If we use a fast-acting deadly poison strong enough to kill even Orcs instantly instead, the poison will be harder to handle, and I can't refine a poison this strong with the current level of [Venom] in the first place. However, since it felt a torrent of acute pain and lost one of its eyes, it couldn't keep its composure.

Following this, Gobukichi-kun matched his timing with the attack by smashing his very thick club into the front of the orc's knee with all of his strength, causing a dull sound to resound as its knee twisted at an angle that shouldn't be possible. The orc started rolling on the ground while screaming as his ugly pig face became even uglier.

Because Gobukichi-kun has completely disregarded wisdom and intellect since we began hunting, his current body build stresses his offensive and defensive capabilities. This made him capable of crushing the orc's meat and bones.

Gobukichi-kun. This guy, he's producing results beyond my expectations. Even though he's an idiot - this is a compliment - .

Having said that, I enhanced my leg strength with [Pump Up] and stomped on the back of the orc who was rolling around on the ground from pain, then pinned him down keeping him from moving. After that I stabbed him with the two horns I was holding in an area that would be around the kidneys if this was the back of a human.

The orc inhaled a breath as he prepared to call for help.

However, Gobukichi-kun swung his club down on his head before he could scream, and an unpleasant sound could be heard despite the fact that he couldn't crush his skull. After that, he repeatedly swung the blood-soaked club down at the orc's head without stopping.

In the end, he wasn't able to scream.

As for me, after stabbing him I twisted the horns, churning his internal organs and simultaneously releasing a muscle relaxant poison from the pointed end that I stabbed him with, pulled out the horns, and continued to stab him with them until he died.

In this way, we successfully hunted our first orc.

Of course, we ate him after that. Gobumi-chan ate the arms and the left leg, Gobukichi-kun ate everything below the waist, and I ate everything else that remained.

As for the taste, it was like a pig after all. Rather, it was more like a high quality pork. Let me say this, orcs are delicious.

This pork is seriously delicious!

Ability [Libido] learned

Ability [Orc Language] learned

Ability [Detect Analysis] learned

These are the abilities that I was able to learn from him.

It was nice that I learned [Orc Language] and [Detect Analysis], as for [Libido], although it would allow me to perform outstandingly if I used it, since I'd have to choose a time and a partner in order to do so, I'll leave it alone for now.

It looks like I'll be able to talk to orcs from now on with [Orc Language]. Since there's this sort of ability, if I were to acquire one from this system for the human language, then I would be able to deal with the issue.

As for [Detect Analysis], it seems like it gives me an understanding of objects and their abilities when I examine them - restricted to goods -, though this depends on the ability's level as well. When I used it on a nearby fruit, I was quite surprised that it even displayed whether or not it was poisonous. Yeah, it looks like I obtained a very useful ability. It was really good luck that I was able to eat an orc here, however, the reason why he possessed an ability as convenient as [Detect Analysis] is a mystery.

Oh, that's right. I didn't mention it before, but we also collected the pickaxe that the

orc had. We may have a use for it in the future.

After this, we hunted Night vipers, Armored tanukis, and Horn rabbits as usual. When the sun started setting, we returned to the cave.

I've gotten so used to dismantling that I could do it with my eyes closed now, and we were able to finish without putting too much time into it. The results of today's hunting wasn't split only between Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan and myself. I also let the goblins in the cave that couldn't move well because they've been starving for a few days eat as well.

It's seems the main reason for yesterday's attack is mostly due to the food situation of the goblins from my generation.

Anyways, regarding the attack's direct perpetrators, it looks like they wanted to help the goblins from my generation who hadn't eaten anything decent in several days because they lacked the strength and wisdom to find food even if they moved around in search of it, there were more females than males among them. However, the attackers were barely able to obtain enough food for themselves, so it wasn't possible for them to support the others.

Therefore, since I was able to enjoy the most substantial meals, they wanted to beat me up and make me surrender. Then, they planned to have me gather food for the others. Because they had numbers, they thought that they will be able to do it. They are really simple.

Although I could've laughed it off and just ignored it, it would be troublesome if this happened again in the future. In addition, it wouldn't hurt to sell favors for the time being, so I brought food for them.

Although I want to say that I don't care about those who can't even get their own food, from what Gobujii told me afterwards, it appears that the majority of goblins in every generation are inept just like them, that's why the majority end up dying. Nevertheless, as a member of the same kind as them, I think they are too pitiful.

That's why, this will be the first and last act of compassion I'm showing them.

Having said that, they expressed their gratitude to me. They were crying as they thanked me. Because I don't need their thanks, I told them to pay me back by hunting and paying me back what they ate.

For now, I gave the pitiable guys a lecture on how to hunt Horn rabbits.

I had them form parties, and told them to put all their weight on their feet and crush its backbone after they block its horn by deliberately thrusting it into a tree branch. It's simple, but I judged that it would be plenty.

Anyways, this method will be tested in actual combat tomorrow. In exchange for this, I told them to bring their share of the food they ate from today's spoils to my place when they can.

This was probably the first time they've had meat for food since they were born. I taught them how to hunt as well, though it was just the basics.

If I do this and they repay my kindness with ingratitude, then I won't hesitate to use them as sacrificial pawns. To be more specific, I can use them as decoys to lure something into a trap if it doesn't look like I can defeat it without being harmed. I'll wait for that moment without expecting too much from them.

Also, the five goblins that attacked me have already become my servants. Naturally, they're completely obedient to my orders, so I assigned them some daily responsibilities.

The tribute they presented to me for today's assignment was five Horn rabbits which I distributed to the starving goblins.

Nevertheless, it's really nice when you're one of the fittest in the idiom "Survival of the fittest".

Tiredness hit me after I finished distributing the food, so I went and shut my eyes as I rolled into my bed, which I improved a little using the Seven-Colored bats' wings.

Sleepiness immediately came over me.

[Your level has exceeded the minimum required value.

Since special conditions <Overrunning Lively Motion> and <Unique Behavior> have been cleared, it's possible to undergo [Evolution] into a [Rank Up Intermediate Demon/Oni - Hobgoblin Variant].

Would you like to undergo [Evolution] ?
Rank Up

<Y E S> <N O>]

I had the feeling that this was being displayed in my head, since I was very tired, I chose <Y E S> right away and went to sleep.

[Goburou has obtained [The Divine Protection of The Great God governing <Origin and Demise>].

DAY 13

SIDESTORY: THE HUNTED ORC CARRYING A PICKAXE POV

[POV : The Hunted Orc Carrying A Pickaxe]

[Time Axis : Day 13]

Oink, Oink.

Carrying my beloved pickaxe I was walking to the working site, Oink.

When departing from the settlement, I felt an urge to urinate, so I did it in the bush, then I noticed that my colleagues left me behind, Oink.

If I don't get to the working site quickly, the leader will get angry at me, Oink, that sounds troublesome, Oink.

It's the working site's fault to be in the mountain's, Oink.

Ah, this is unpleasant, Oink.

They'll be angry at me, Oink.

Ahhhhh, isn't there something that can be done? Oink.

Hmm? something moved in the bush just now..... Oiiiiiiink!

My eye, there's a stone in my right eye. Pigyaaaaaaaah!

Oink, what is happening? when I looked at the surroundings with my left eye, I saw a goblin rushing at me! Oink.

Moreover, it's armed and holding a shield! Oink.

Ah, ahhhhh! you're just a mere goblin, don't get full of yourself! Oink.

When I pounded the goblin with my pickaxe using all my strength, it warded the blow off with the shield, Oink.

Don't get full of yourself, it's just a wooden shield reinforced with shells, Oink. Then I will finish you off with this strike..... Oiiiiiiink!

A torrent of pain assailed me from the hand that was holding the pickel this time, Oink. When I looked closely at the surroundings, I saw a female goblin holding a throwing tool, Oink. Was it the one that crushed my right eye!? Oink.

Don... Don't get... Gyaaaaah!

The goblin holding the shield struck a club at my knee, Oink.

My knee... my knee broke, Oiiiiiiink. I started rolling on the ground from the pain, Oink. I couldn't resist the pain, so it was unavoidable, Oink.

I... I have to run away... gyaaah!

A... a third goblin jumped at my back.....

Giiiiiii!

If this continues, it will be dangerous, Oin... pigyaa. Oiiiink. Giiiiiii.....

Something stabbed my back and my internal organs got torn apart, Oink. Ahh, no, I don't... want to die...,Oink.

. The first pork. Its value is priceless.

. In the great forest, you must be careful when acting independently.

. Pickaxe, get!

DAY 14

When I woke up, my body has changed so much that it couldn't compare to how it was before I went to sleep and my skin color has changed to black.

The changes to my body shocked me. I thought hard about what I heard yesterday before I went to bed. I see, so this is an [Evolution] ^{Rank Up}, huh. The mysteries of this world make me shudder.

Well, after experiencing it myself, I confirmed that something like this is really possible in this world, however, the natural laws of this world are so amazing that it's beyond scary.

Now I have a height on par with the orc we killed yesterday, that means I went from the physical body of a human child to the size of a medium-sized human in one night. My physical strength, eyesight, hearing, and my body's other specs increased dramatically. Even the abilities that I gained before going to sleep yesterday had become more powerful.

This is scary. Even though my body has grown to a ridiculous level, I didn't feel any sense of discomfort at all from my new form. Even though normally such a huge change should've caused me a great feeling of disorientation because of the difference in the sense of distance and body movement, nothing like that happened.

My body had grown so much, yet I didn't feel any muscle pains at all. Instead, I feel a sense of overwhelming power - a temporary feeling of omnipotence - flowing in my body. Freaky, right? Seriously.

If I was an ordinary guy, I would probably be so happy that I would do stupid things until the feeling passed. However, the reality is that I'm not the least bit close to being as powerful as I felt, and therein lies a trap.

That's why the rules of this world are scary.

Putting that aside, it was funny seeing Gobukichi-kun who had grown bigger as well standing with a confused look on his face in front of me.

It seems like he also reached Level "100" after the battle with the orc yesterday, causing him to undergo an [Evolution]. However, unlike mine, his skin didn't turn black. In fact, I couldn't see any difference in his skin color at all, he was still the same old green.

Well, let's put that aside as well. What interested me the most was his face.

He no longer looked like an ugly goblin like he had used to be. He had a naive look that held attractiveness in some aspects. His ears were still pointed, and his nose looked a little hooked. Nevertheless, he looked a lot more like a human than before. Having green skin might not be very human-like; nonetheless his looks were definitely approaching one.

Then, what about me? While wondering this, I checked the obsidian knife for my reflection.

What I saw reflected there was a younger version of my face before I reincarnated with black skin... Yeah, as one would expect, I was completely stunned until it settled in.

For now, I went to the wall close by our sleeping place, grabbed a caterpillar-like mystery bug, and started munching on it from the head.

After I calmed down, I grabbed Gobukichi-kun and went to look for Gobujii.

That's because if I don't make use of Gobujii at times like this, his existence wouldn't have any point at all.

Just in case, because it felt risky, I didn't mention the [Divine Protection of the Great God Governing « Origin and Demise »] that I received.

What I learned was:

1. Upon turning into a hobgoblin, a goblin's body build and appearance become closer to a human. The reason for this is unknown. It's one of the mysteries of this world. Apparently because hobgoblins look a lot like humans, they can even live in human towns. However, there is a long history of hobgoblin slavery, and most of those coexisting with humans are former or still slaves. I also heard that those with good looks become sex slaves for sex maniacs.

2. The difference between Gobukichi-kun's and my skin color is because I am a [Variant]. [Variant] s have special abilities and are generally stronger than regular individuals of their species and unless special conditions are cleared you can't become a [Variant], which is why they're rarely seen, so apparently I'm kind of unusual.
3. Furthermore, my skin color is black. Black is the symbolic color of the oldest [Great God] in this world, the one who governs <Origin and Demise> . Even among [Variant] s, my [Divine Protection] is of the rarest and strongest class, with some practice, I can use the strongest magic system, the [Demise] magic system. Also, to the believers of this [Great God] and his pillar, I'm somewhat like a living idol, an object of worship. If that's not the case, then parts of my body are thought to be materials used in rituals to communicate with the [Great God], so I have to be careful when it's late in towns and stuff. Religion is scary no matter what world you're in.
4. How should I put it, becoming a hobgoblin when not even a month had passed is supposedly very strange in the first place. The old man who's still a goblin said so, so it's probably true. By the way, of the goblins who left to work away from home - apparently exactly 40 Goblins -, only 3 had managed to Rank Up into hobgoblins.
5. Also, because Gobukichi-kun and I had become hobgoblins before we left the cave, we were given permission to use the human women in the cave as we would like. We also received the right to take things from the « Treasure Warehouse », and use them however we want.
6. Oh, really? I see, so that's how it is.

...Yes, because he was kind of long-winded, I ignored most of what he said by repeating those words and pretending to listen. Particularly around point three, and the reason for that is obvious. Like I said before, no matter what world one is in, religion is scary. Even more so now that I've obtained the [Divine Protection of the Great God Governing « Origin and Demise »] with my [Evolution]^{Rank Up}. If word about this gets out, it can get pretty dangerous. So I think that I should hide it as much as possible.

As you would expect, we didn't even consider going hunting today. I had a mock battle with Gobukichi-kun in order for us to accustom ourselves to our new bodies, the sparring was especially intense. Gobukichi-kun's power was too much for him to know

how to utilize it, making him look like a berserker.

In the end I who had learned many different forms of martial arts because of my job in my previous life didn't lose. From the spar, I can easily conclude that Gobukichi-kun became much stronger than before. As expected, it seems like his abilities are specialized in the vanguard role.

He wasn't very intelligent or quick, but his offensive and defensive powers had increased tremendously making him a powerful tanker and damage dealer, a hybrid build. Once we concluded our mock battle, the afternoon was dedicated to replacing our now too small and old armor.

Since I've grown, the horns that I've been using as main weapons till now became too small for me to handle effectively. However, I'll have to bear with it for now. My venom by itself is an adequate weapon, so I can overcome this handicap for now.

That's why, today I'll be using the stockpiled materials from the Armored tanukis, Night vipers and other monsters to create new armors.

I used the shells from the Armored tanukis and the snakeskin from the Night vipers to create new armor for myself. I was satisfied with the results. The armor I created was light, flexible, and quite robust.

To put it simply, it was an armor based off of leather. I didn't make a cloak, it looked like lightweight brown-leather clothes with long sleeves and full-length pants, they should be enough. The shells had been placed in strategic locations which further increased the armor's defensive capabilities. I thought about my freedom of movement while creating it, so when I tried it out, its performance was satisfactory, it barely obstructed me at all.

I also finished Gobumi-chan's armor which I couldn't complete the last time because of insufficient materials.

Though since it's mainly made out of Seven-Colored bats' wings, it looks a bit gaudy. It somewhat gives the feeling of being an ethnic costume.

By the way, today's meal was Horn rabbits caught by my goblin servants.

It wasn't filling enough, but it was still better than nothing, and because it tasted good, I pardoned them.

DAY 15

Today we're hunting for the first time after our [Evolution] to hobgoblins.^{Rank Up}

Since we'll be testing the performance of our new bodies in real combat for the first time, I'm a little nervous.

Today, the first prey we encountered were humanoids with dog-heads and fur all over their bodies, there were two of them. I don't know where they got them from, but they were equipping rusted armors with equally rusty long-swords. I decided to name this monster, [Kobold]. From observation, it seems like kobolds are higher than goblins in rank and are at about the same rank as orcs.

If we include the equipment, then compared to the orc we ate, they're probably of an even higher rank. In terms of physical strength, orcs would normally win, but kobolds are superior in terms of speed and agility.

These two traits are embodied in the kobolds.

If it were the 'us' from before, we would've retreated immediately, or more accurately, used my abilities to avoid the fight altogether.

However, this time, with Gobumi-chan's accurate, poison-coated stones as support, Gobukichi-kun and I attacked the kobolds from the front.

Excluding myself, who has become a [Variant], Gobukichi-kun's combat ability increased significantly thanks to his equipment. His cudgel was reinforced by wounding shells around it, his shield reinforced with shells and he wore a new leather body armor reinforced with shells. On the other hand, the kobold had only a rusted breastplate armor and a rusty long-sword. Gobukichi-kun won against the Kobold in a head-on collision.

[Evolution] is scary, isn't it?^{Rank Up}

Someone who was weak only just yesterday turned into a great warrior the next day.

Gobukichi-kun received some minor injuries, so he had Gobumi-chan treat them using some of our medicinal herbs. After Gobujii told us about these medicinal herbs previously, we stocked some of them.

In the meantime, I took the opportunity to dismantle the kobolds. On the waist of one of them hung a small bag carrying three stones. Using my [Appraisal] ability, I discovered that they were called [Fire Spirit Stones]. Apparently non-sentient low-level fire spirits dwell within the stones, I pocketed them, then started stripping the kobolds off of their armor and hung the two rusty longswords on my waist.

From the corpses, I took the heads, the hearts and the right arms. Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan split the rest between themselves evenly.

The meat left an impression as it had a strange texture. Although the taste was subtle, it was still delicious.

Ability [Kobold Language] learned

Ability [Predict] learned

As I thought, kobolds are stronger than the average hobgoblin. The reason why Gobukichi could win was because of the difference in gear quality. On the other hand, I could win due to my numerous abilities and combat experience.

Also, after eating the three fire spirit stones.

Ability [Pyrokinesis] learned

I gained the ability to produce and control fire. In the natural world, it's hard to overcome this advantage. With this, I can finally make grilled meat, I thought...

After that, we hunted some Horn rabbits, then returned.

Today, the tribute my goblin servants gave me were Horn rabbits mixed with Armored tanukis which surprised me. "These guys, they're finally growing up..." I mused to myself. I think I'll give shell-reinforced shields in the future to the goblins who manage to hunt Armored tanukis.

For the evening meal, I grilled the meat the others brought, and we had a barbecue party.

DAY 16

Today, the other goblins of our generation begged me saying "Please teach us more ways of killing things" while prostrating themselves to me. The goblins inside the cave were in a row alongside each other as they got on their hands and knees to prostrate before me. It was quite the surreal sight.

You see, the goblins that brought me food had managed to survive by killing Horn rabbits as I expected. However, they also had Night vipers to fight as opponents. Since we've been able to kill them, the goblins want us, or to be exact me, to teach them how to kill Night vipers.

"What do I get from this?" I asked, then they said that they'd give me tribute for it.

Well, there's nothing to loss for me, so I had a training session with the surviving goblins, in addition to Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan-chan till the sun reached its zenith.

In the end, I was the only one standing,

In a world of survival of the fittest, strength is everything. So from the start, using their bodies I'm going to thoroughly drill into their minds that I'm superior to them regardless if the trainee is a male or a female. Also, since dealing with insurrections is troublesome, I'm going to make obeying me an instinct, by endless repetition if I have to.

I stopped the training after they reached their limit, ensuring they didn't have any spare energy while at the same time preventing their bodies and minds from collapsing.

The result was that everyone, including Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun had no strength left to move.

For the goblins who trained and worked to the point of collapsing, I said that I'll craft equipment for them using some of the materials of the tributes they've gathered. Noticing that they have gotten motivated hearing that, I told them "Don't overdo it, It's the end once you die".

Gobumi-chan laid exhausted and trembling among the other females while showcasing her armor and necklace with extreme pride, but I'll pretend like I didn't see it.

In the afternoon, I went hunting alone for the first time since my reincarnation. I didn't know anything about it in the beginning, but now I can move around this forest like it's my home turf. When I somehow managed to procure enough for the ones who couldn't move, I concluded today's hunting.

That evening, I went into the inner parts of the cave where the human women were held captive. Since I turned into a hobgoblin, I've become closer in appearance to a human, so I thought having a conversation with them might be possible.

Well, the outcome was – I couldn't establish a conversation with them. They were completely broken. Their eyes were utterly dead, and they were drooling uncontrollably. There was even a faint smell of death around them.

Compared to how they were the last time I saw them, they were a lot worse off this time. Well, it can't be helped. Also, in this short period of time, the youngest of the girls got pregnant. Although this was an inevitable result, nevertheless, she seemed very pitiful.

I couldn't help but think that girls this cute would have married into a good family and became happy under normal circumstances, yet they ended up here only to get repeatedly violated.

I didn't want this to continue, so I asked.

"Do you want to die?"

If it was the me from before, I'd have just pressed my hands together and offered a prayer then left, but now that I've Ranked Up into a hobgoblin, I asked.

The way I am now, I'd be able to kill or help these girls if they asked me to. Since even if someone finds out about it, I can guarantee my safety.

My question was left unanswered, however, there were some movement. The youngest's small, weak lips quivered slightly, and as if she had remembered how to cry just now, tears fell from her eyes.

Having understood the women's intentions, I took out a small liquid-filled bottle - something that I obtained after hunting the kobolds - from my pouch, and left it behind.

After I handed it to them, I walked back to my bed. I didn't look back.

DAY 17

I woke up early and went to the interior of the cave. The captured women were all dead. They were laying on the ground without moving as if they were asleep. From the looks of it, seems like they drank a poison and died in their sleep. From where did they get that poison? that's a mystery. Truly, a mystery.

After recovering the small empty bottle that was laying close to them as evidence and storing it inside the bag hanging from my waist, being the one who discovered them, I went to report to Gobujii.

Gobujii hurriedly rushed over, then collapsed in front of the limp pseudo-goblins that spilled from the beautiful girls' wombs and cried bitterly, grieving their death, however, I couldn't care less.

For the girls' corpses, I took responsibility of their disposal, and because it was a pity to just let wild animals feed on them, I decided to cremate them. As payment for my labor, I took the hearts, stomachs, breasts, and uteri.

Since the [Pyrokinesis] ability I got the other day wasn't enough, I collected a bunch of [Oily Grass] to make it burn well and twigs to maintain the fire.

After using my [Pyrokinesis] to ignite the fire, I prayed for the girls' souls whilst looking at the pillar of blazing flame.

"Namu Amida Butsu", I prayed.

Among the girls, there seemed to be those with adventurer skills. Quite a lot of them actually.

This group of travelers may have been unexpectedly strong. They probably looked weak only because they were already captured.

Ability [Human Language] learned

Ability [Continental Letter Deciphering] learned

Ability [Mental Mapping] learned

Ability [Job - Magician] learned

Ability [Job - Light Swordsman] learned

Ability [Job - Druid] learned

Ability [Job - Craftsman] learned

It's unusual of me, but I didn't feel the slightest inclination to learn about my new abilities. After morning practice, I sent out Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan to go hunting since I wasn't in the mood, then I tried making shell-based shields, armors and swords from the materials accumulated to this day.

Lately, crafting has become somewhat of a hobby of mine.

Ah, it seems my new ability [Job-Craftsman] became useful immediately.

The goods I crafted came out a lot better than before. The ability, like its name suggests, corrects the mistakes.

By the way, the shield and armor came out successfully while the shell-based sword ended up in failure.

My meal for today consisted of what Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan shared with me from their hunt's spoils, in addition to the tribute that increased due to yesterday's training.

Ah, this might be a bit late, but Gobumi-chan had also Ranked Up to a hobgoblin this morning. She became quite cute. the difference from when she was a goblin was intimidating, it's simply remarkable.

Because her old equipment is now too small for her, I lent her my spares.

She made a subtle expression, looking happy and at the same time unsatisfied, so I decided to make her brand new equipment at a later date.

Truth is, I would have happily made it today, but there wasn't enough time.

DAY 18

After finishing morning practice, the three of us came upon some kobolds while out hunting.

This time, there were three of them, two of which were equipped like the earlier two with armor and longswords and the third one had a short bow and a quiver for a weapon.

While thinking “Is this the second day in a row to strengthen Gobumi-chan?”, I checked the surroundings for additional enemies in order to make a decision.

With it being all clear, I chose to commence the assault.

With the kobold that could attack from a long range using the bow having a higher threat level compared to the others, a sneak attack targeting him with a poisoned stone from Gobumi-chan's staff sling was the decisive action.

The poisoned stone hit the kobold right in the eye, which caused him to lose his composure and vision.

Not wanting to waste the chance that the other two kobolds were in a panic, Gobukichi-kun and I moved to defeat the two kobolds wielding longswords that looked slightly better than the ones I carry.

My longswords might be worn out, but for my current body, they're just the right size. I've also gotten quite used to my new body, so separating the kobold's head from his body was relatively easy.

The horn I used to kill the kobold we met earlier is like a knife for me now, that's why after I obtained these swords I was able to kill this kobold much easier than the last time.

Gobukichi-kun violently broke all of his opponent's bones. It looked a little grotesque.

Gobumi-chan slit the bow-wielding kobold's throat using a pseudo-knife - one of the knives I made using the obsidian-like ore previously - I gave her earlier, giving him the

finishing blow.

From the looks of it, Gobumi-chan's evolution direction lay in brains and speed. To use weapons cleverly, intelligence is needed after all.

After the fight, we worked hard at dismantling the body. We collected the armors, Gobumi-chan got the short bow and the quiver, and I took the slightly better looking long-swords for myself.

Because there was no suitable loot for Gobukichi-kun, he will have to wait till next time.

While these kobolds sadly didn't have any fire spirit stones, my collection of small waist bags increased by three.

One I kept for my own use, and the other two I gave to the other two for putting medicinal plants inside them. If something were to happen, I'm sure they will be of great use.

Each goblin got one body to eat.

I didn't get any new abilities, however, I felt that with just a bit more, I'd gain something new and the ability that I already had, [Predict], got slightly stronger. [Predict] lets me see my opponents' attack trajectories as red threads, so in battle it can be incredibly convenient.

After this, we hunted whatever we came across before we returned to the cave in order to sleep.

DAY 19

After finishing morning training, I didn't go hunting. Instead, I went to check the warehouse in the inner parts of the cave. Since some of the captured women had adventurer-like abilities, it occurred to me that items that have some relation to those abilities might have been looted together with them.

Just from looking at the stuff there, even I couldn't understand more than what is garbage and what's useable, however, thanks to the ability I got from the orc, [Analysis], I can see the items' details.

In addition, since analyzing stuff gave the ability experience, even analyzing duds wasn't a waste of time.

With such a carefree mood, I found an unexpected treasure trove. A fairly large one at that.

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Staff] Beginner Magician's stave]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Staff] Blessed Mistletoe stave]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Sword] Iron Estoc x3]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Dagger] Bowie Knife x4]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Axe] Iron Battle-Axe x2]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Ranged] Crossbow x2]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Weapon-Consumable] Iron Tipped Arrow x50]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Protection-Shield] Iron Round Shield x2]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Protection-Armor] Damaged Breastplate]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Protection-hand] Solid Iron-Wrought Gauntlet]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Medicine] Health Potions (spoiled) x6]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Medicine] Mana Potion (spoiled) x8]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Medicine] Bottle of The Holy Water of The « Enrique Faith » x3]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Storage] Backpack x2]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Storage] Field Pack x3]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Book] World Wandering Journal: From Imperial Capitals to Unexplored Regions, Vol.1]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Book] Introduction to Magic: Basics of Magecraft, Vol 2]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Book] Nature of Prayer Offered to The Gods: How Prayers are Accepted]]

[Goburou has obtained [[Book] Recommended Guide to Erietta Continent's Alphabet]]

When going over it, I found treasure after treasure.

At first glance, it seems to be composed almost entirely of unusable scraps; however, below the uppermost layer, lots of useful stuff laid sleeping. Yeah, it seems this place truly is a treasure trove. While there's no great difference between the estocs I found and the long swords I'm carrying now, the estocs were in a better condition, so I decided to swap.

Compared to the obsidian knives that I'd been using till now, the blades of the bowie knives were longer and their edges were sharper. The length of the blade is single edged, only the tip was double-edged, they're probably meant to be used as a hunting knife. I took the knives as well.

Four knives might be a lot; but since I had already made knives sheathes, there's no problem. I expect that from now on, the bowie knives will play an active role in dismantling. After that, I ate the remaining estoc and the long-swords.

Ability [Improved Slashing Power] learned

Ability [Improved Piercing Power] learned

I learned [Improved Slashing Power] from eating the long-swords, and [Improved Piercing Power] from eating the estoc.

As you can see, using my [Absorption] ability, I can learn abilities from non-living objects. However, that works only for items above a certain degree, the probability of learning an ability from an item depends on multiple factors, such as the power of the item's abilities, the quality of the materials used and my history with the item. If it isn't above the minimum required level, then eating the item would be pointless.

After reincarnating, I didn't try eating items till now. However, because the quality of the swords was relatively good, I thought "this might go well, wouldn't it?" and ate them. Even if it failed, it's not that big of an issue.

However, I felt really good after succeeding.

After I finished eating, Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan came by. Apparently they thought that it was strange that I wasn't around, so they began looking around for me. They came at a great time.

I stuffed all the potions and other small items inside the field packs. Then I crammed as much of the rest as I could into one of the backpacks. After that, I asked Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan to carry the rest that I couldn't fit inside my bags.

Gobukichi-kun graduated from his shell-wrapped cudgel to a battle-axe, and swapped his shell-reinforced wooden shield with an iron-reinforced wooden round-shield. Since there was a hole in the middle of the round shield, I fixed it by attaching shells there.

After that, I made him equip an iron breastplate instead of the shell-reinforced leather armor together with the shell-helmet I made for him two days ago. Now Gobukichi-kun's defensive capabilities are the highest by far out of the three of us.

He totally looked like a heavy infantry.

He kept the cudgel he used till today strapped over his back as a spare.

I gave Gobumi-chan the two crossbows and the fifty arrows. In addition, I gave her the obsidian knife I have been using till now and one of the bowie knives, this was her limit when considering the weight of all the stuff she was carrying.

Nevertheless, out of the three of us, the one with the highest ranged offensive capabilities was her, and with her deft handling of the two knives, her close-ranged offensive capabilities can't be made light of.

She gave off the impression that she was a hunter or an archer from how she looked.

And lastly, me. My two long-swords were replaced by the two estocs, in addition, I took a round shield reinforced with shells similar to the one Gobukichi-kun has. This shield was made so it could be fixed to my right arm, and still allow me to move my wrist without problems.

To protect my left hand, I equipped a wrought-iron gauntlet. The gauntlet possessed less defensive abilities than the round-shield, nevertheless, if the aim is to just deflect attacks, it should be enough.

This way, I secured a reasonable defense without sacrificing my ease of movement too much. With the effects of the ability [Job - Light Swordsman] added, I feel like the my defensive powers has risen by another level.

I put the staffs and the other items near my bed and went out hunting. Won't it get stolen you say? No, I already made it clear what will happen if someone stole anything before we left, so there's no need to worry about that.

And also, since the goblins collected a previously unthinkable amount of tribute for me today, I returned the rest to them. I can't eat that much by myself; it was far too much.

DAY 20

The morning was spent on combat training. Compared to when we started, the expressions of the goblins had changed. Because goblins mature quickly, startling changes can be seen even in a short amount of time if training is done in earnest. This might be because if they don't quickly adapt to their environment, they'll simply die.

In the afternoon we hunted. We caught ten Night vipers, fourteen Armored tanukis and five kobolds. This significant increase is probably because our equipment has dramatically improved.

The deadly combination of Gobumi-chan's poison-smeared arrows fired from both the powerful and accurate crossbows and the rapid-firing short-bow was brutal, and because Gobukichi-kun and I acted as her shields, it became even more brutal.

Gobukichi-kun made use of his high defense to get close to his opponents, and deliver a powerful strike with his battle-axe to decapitate them.

Together with my abundant abilities that I used to continuously vary my attack pattern and the direction of the battle, opponents at the level of kobolds couldn't pose the slightest threat to us. With our current level of strength, even if the kobolds turned up with twice our numbers we probably wouldn't have any problems.

Though what I truly wanted to eat was an orc. This is because I want to strengthen the abilities I got from the orc we ate earlier. After that one time, we couldn't find even a single orc. I wanted to quickly find more orcs, however, today I went back to the cave ahead of time in order to read books.

Well, having the ability [Job-Magician] is nice and all, and my magic power being increased due to my [Variant] status is also nice, but because I had no idea what magic is, I couldn't use any magic. That's why, I'm now reading [Introduction to Magic: Basics of Magecraft, Vol.2].

You can say that I had a surprisingly difficult time getting a grasp of it. Well, there's a limit to how much I can understand from just reading books, and what's more, I started from the second volume out of three!

If only I could see someone using magic just one time! Time, without listening to my complaints steadily moved forward.

DAY 21

The morning practice hasn't been going on even for a week, yet goblins who've turned out to be somewhat useful are popping up here and there.

It's probably because the realm of nature is a severe living environment, or perhaps because we belong to a precocious species that they've adapted so quickly. The strength of the goblins who underwent the combat training program has considerably increased. The training program is something that I composed using some useful information that I gleaned from my company's servers in my past life.

Some of my five servants have even managed to kill Night vipers recently. Now even the weakest goblins can at least kill Horn rabbits by themselves. The goblins who couldn't even get their own food a few days ago, can all manage by themselves now. As their mentor, I feel mightily proud about this fact.

Gobujii and the old goblins found the results genuinely astonishing too, and the looks they gave me were filled with awe and fear. I think their new impression of me is kinda handy, but it's slightly annoying. Well, it doesn't do me any real harm, so I guess I can just ignore it.

From the first day of the morning training, I have been personally participating in the training when the sun reaches its zenith. This way I can get a grasp on each individual's abilities accurately. I can also catch any weaknesses or bad habits they've developed and teach them the proper way to fix it. Also, being able to single out the outstanding individuals is useful, and above all it also serves as training for me too. In a world of survival of the fittest, there are no disadvantages to having a well-trained body and I think that thirty eight battles in a row is a good practice.

Although it seems to be in direct relation to how much they contribute when in a party, creatures in this world can get Experience Values by killing other creatures, which raises their Levels. Consequently, improving their bodies' qualities and durability through the mysterious laws of this world.

After the training ended, I once again came to the realization that amongst our generation, Gobukichi-kun and Gobumi-chan are the most outstanding individuals.

Regarding the results of Gobukichi-kun's recent training, it seems he's learned how to control his power efficiently.

At the present time, if I don't use my abilities, he is a tough opponent. If all the goblins except me and Gobumi-chan were lined up to challenge him in order, they probably wouldn't be able to get even one win.

Gobukichi-kun, however, would not leave without incurring some damage.

Gobumi-chan is slow when compared to me, however, the other goblins aren't even a match for her speed. Since she's a hobgoblin, her strength is also much better than the goblins, in addition, her nails which I taught her how to use skillfully are extremely sharp. This is in order for her to be able to fight well, even without a weapon. She's fast, and with her skills, if I don't use my abilities she'd make a formidable foe.

However, you might say she's still a cute little thing, when both are unarmed, Gobukichi-kun is still more dangerous in close quarters combat.

After we finished the spars, we broke up in order to go hunting. Usually we would go with our standard members, however, today we had an additional member in our party.

This additional member was a female, Gobue-chan. In our generation, she was the strongest one after the three of us and when the goblins were kneeling in front of me, she was the one in the front.

Well you see, while the two backpacks and three field packs were a fabulous find, Gobukichi-kun is carrying a giant cudgel on his back, while Gobumi-chan is carrying a short-bow, quiver, two crossbows and a field pack, so she can't carry any more than she already is.

With me carrying one of the backpacks, one was still left, and while Gobumi-chan and I were each carrying a field pack, one was still unused. That's why we required one carrier, and Gobue-chan was singled out. She would also barely be able to keep up with our hunting. Also, increasing our members with one more moderately strong companion isn't bad at all, and of course she'd be carrying the backpack as well.

As welcome gifts into our hunting party, Gobukichi-kun gave her the shell-reinforced wooden shield that he used before, Gobumi-chan gave her the staff-sling that she similarly used before, I also gave her a leather armor reinforced with shells in the

vitals, an obsidian knife and a bowie knife. Compared to the Horn rabbit's horn that she'd been using till now, the difference was like heaven and earth.

Because she was going to carry our luggage too, carrying any more equipment than this is unnecessary. Or how should I put it, when we're hunting, our preys will become her luggage, so having her equipment be heavy would be really stupid. Just enough to protect herself is sufficient.

Following that reasoning, this time's hunting was a lot easier than usual. Because unlike before, when everyone had to share the burden of carrying the prey, now Gobue-chan was doing most of the lugging; we finished hunting without feeling as fatigued.

After carrying the heavy luggage, Gobue-chan was tired, but compared to us who were responsible for most of the fighting, there wasn't that much of a difference. Also, since Gobue-chan contributed by shooting stones with the sling, she managed to raise her Level by gathering Experience Values. Perhaps Gobue-chan's day of Ranking Up to a hobgoblin like us is close.

We didn't find any new types of prey, however, our stomachs were filled.

Nevertheless, Meat is very delicious, isn't it?

After returning to the cave, I read before I went to sleep.

DAY 22

Today I crushed a goblin who became full of himself.

Of course I didn't kill him. He was recently becoming too overconfident in his new strength, he'll die quickly if I didn't correct him like this. For that reason, I steeled my heart and punished him. I think this is a reasonable thing to do in an environment where carelessness means death.

Well, even if this goblin came to develop some rebellious sentiments against me, I can just beat him up again, no problem.

Today the four of us went out hunting again as usual.

We searched for and found some kobolds that I could gain new abilities from. There were six of them. It's the largest group we've come across so far, but we can crush them without a problem as we are now. Although they have numbers on their side, we have superior individual abilities and equipment. So we decided to give it a try.

Gobumi-chan, armed with a crossbow, aimed at a kobold carrying a short-bow and prepared to pull the trigger, but then he came out from the bush.

A kobold of small stature wearing what looked like a Triple-horned horse's skull on his head considering the fact that there were three horns on the skull's forehead, the kobold was holding a twisted and crooked wooden staff too. He approached the group of kobolds while muttering something.

From his appearance, I think he's a [Kobold Mage].

I heard from Gobujii that goblins, orcs and other low-class creatures like kobolds are generally unable to use magic to interfere with the laws of the world, with the exception of [Variants].

But exceptions where ordinary kobolds and goblins can wield magic exist, these are called kobold mages, goblin mages, etc. It is a highly prized and rare ability, though not as rare as a [Variant].

As a result of my incomplete understanding of magic, caused by insufficient materials, I couldn't get the sense of how to exercise magic and this time I'm facing a kobold mage accompanied by six kobold followers. This could be difficult.

Even so, this is a good chance. If the mage uses magic, I might be able to learn how to wield it by observing him and even if I failed, I'll be able to get the corresponding abilities from eating him anyways.

Thinking that, we tailed the kobolds party and that somewhat troublesome mission was a success. I was able to see magic being exercised for the first time, the victim of the kobold mage's magic was a [Green Slime].

Even with the ability [Physical damage immunity], the slime's bodily fluids evaporated before the roaring blaze of fire, leaving behind a green nucleus. It was quite the flashy scene, but having seen that, I now have a rough understanding of what's magic exactly. If I go back to the cave and practice a bit, I think I'll be able to do it without a problem.

With this matter settled, we went on the offensive. The enemies were promptly annihilated. The kobold mage instantly died from a poisoned arrow hitting the back of his head, fired by Gobumi-chan. The rest were silenced by me and Gobukichi-kun with the support of Gobue-chan's poisoned stones and Gobumi-chan's rapid fire.

No matter how strong they're, they can't do anything if we crush them before they can show that power.

We stripped the ordinary kobolds of their equipment and put them in Gobue-chan's backpack, then I secured the kobold mage's staff. Moreover, we found eight [Water Spirit Stones] — strange stones that give off water when tightly gripped —, six [Thunder Spirit Stones] — strange stones that discharge electricity when given a strong impact -, and ten [Fire Spirit Stones] like the ones I ate before, all separated into three small bags.

I took the kobold mage's body and the six hearts for myself, the rest were eaten by the others, two for each one of them.

Incidentally, I also ate the Green slime's core.

Ability [Physical Damage Reduction] learned

Ability [Internal Mana Control] learned

Ability [Magician's Knowledge] learned

Ability [Intimidating Roar] learned

It seems like the Green slime did not have [Physical Damage Immunity] but the lesser version [Physical Damage Reduction], but that's remarkable enough as it is. This way, we now know how to deal with Green slimes if we happen to encounter one. Simply burn them down with the ability [Pyrokinesis].

Lastly, I ate the kobold mage's staff and the three kinds of spirit stones. Eating objects to gain abilities like this has become a sort of a habit of mine.

Ability [Hydro Hand] learned

Ability [Water/Ice Resistance] learned

Ability [Electromaster] learned

Ability [Lightning Resistance] learned

Ability [Flame Resistance] learned

Ability [Mana Operation]

Yes, these are good abilities, by practicing using them I'll be able to finally use magic.

After all of this, we encountered some Armored tanukis and Night vipers on our way back. They were mostly killed by Gobue-chan to gain Experience Values for her, then we ate them.

Ability [Endure] learned

Ability [Evil Eye Resistance] learned

With this, it looks like I have learned all the abilities that I can learn from Night vipers and Armored tanukis. Well, they tasted good nonetheless.

After that, night fell and I went practicing magic by myself. It was hard at first but after one hour I figured out the trick, although it needed some activation time, I was able to do it without any problems.

Incidentally a Green slime attacked me under the cover of the night, and seeing it as a good practice target, I decided to take care of it using magic. I constructed a black lance using magic and shot it at the Green slime, killing it in one hit with a fearsome power.

I took the core that was rolling around on the ground and ate it.

Ability [Self-Body Fluid Property Manipulation] learned

And with this, I gained this ability.

I'm now able to turn my sweat into an acid, which is useful, I was satisfied with this ability.

However, the fact that my equipment didn't corrode when I used it is another mystery.

DAY 23

It rained today, because of this we were unable to go outside, so we held a festival inside the cave instead.

Well, I don't know when it exactly started, but the goblins of my generation began to operate as a group led by me at some point, and this so-called festival is actually a round robin event that will decide the ranking within the group.

The results are exactly what you would expect.

At the top there was me, then Gobukichi-kun, followed by Gobumi-chan, Gobue-chan, etc.

After the event, with the rankings settled, I instructed the goblins about rankings, including that the ones on the top have certain responsibilities and that the ones below them have to strictly follow the orders of those above, I also instructed them about a few more rules that I have decided on.

With this, orders can be relayed efficiently, and while I'm at it, I'll be using military ranks.

At the top, there is me as a Colonel, Gobukichi-kun is a Lieutenant Colonel, Gobumi-chan a Major, and Gobue-chan a Captain; after that, there was a huge gap to Sergeant to match the difference in power.

Well, this much is okay for now due to our small numbers.

DAY 24

Today, after morning practice, the four of us went hunting, and the first thing we encountered was a large, 70 cm in length black spider with characteristic yellow lines on its carapace. I decided to call it [Demon Spider] (temporary name).

Because it'd made a nest, I burnt it to a crisp with my [Pyrokinesis] ability, thanks to this I had some trouble preventing the fire from spreading to the surrounding trees. If it had turned into a conflagration, we would have also died.

Ability [Spider Thread Creation] learned

And thus, I can shoot spider threads from my fingertips now — no wait, won't it be something like goblin thread? Anyways, it was gushing forth from my fingertips at my will.

Seeing threads come out from my fingertips vigorously with a “buryuryuryuryuryu”-like sound, it felt quite surreal, however, it's unquestionably an extremely useful ability.

Unfortunately, as I am now, I can't control it delicately. Skillfully manipulating the thread like a spider is impossible. The best I can do is to simply immobilize the target. If I make the slightest complex movement, I'll end up tangled in the web myself, unable to move. Yes, compared to sewing, spinning webs is in a league of its own.

Thus, in order to be able to freely control the thread, I decided to search for more Demon spiders.

After some time, I found a few, and this time I tried killing them using electricity before eating them. In a short amount of time, I caught three spiders.

Ability [Thread Wielding Arts] learned

With this, I became able to delicately manipulate the threads. The threads were very durable, so I'm thinking of using them to make clothes and such from now on. Also, the Demon spiders carapaces seemed sturdy, so I think they will make for good armor materials.

After this, while walking around the forest, we found a group of orcs for the first time after the last one we killed.

The place where we found them was close to where we found the orc from the last time, because this place was quite far away from the cave, we didn't explore the area, but now I think that we should have come here earlier.

The orcs we found were in a group of six, and wore vastly different equipment compared to the one we met last time. These orcs were carrying some splendid looking weapons like halberds, staves, hunting knives and long swords and wore either breastplates or full plate armors.

Moreover, I think that the halberd-wielding orc with the best physique was the group commander—The Orc Leader.

We decided not to attack them, but gathering intelligence is important, so we followed the orcs and arrived at the foot of a mountain after walking for around an hour, where we discovered the location of the orcs' base, a mine.

There, I saw dozens of orcs with pickaxes, and the sound of their efforts could be heard even from where we were watching them. For the time being, I was satisfied with this, so we left quietly. If we try attacking this many opponents with our numbers, we'll die.

True victory is if the four of us could escape with our knowledge and remain undetected.

Or so I thought, but then I spotted three orcs walking in the direction of the mountain.

Even if they called for help, since the other orcs were far away, it would take a considerable amount of time before reinforcements could arrive, so we decided to quickly attack them.

Hiding in the bushes, we waited for them to reach our shooting range. Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan killed one orc each using the crossbows. The last one was stunned by my lightning, after which I calmly walked up to him and slit his throat.

To transport the corpses, Gobukichi-kun and I each carried one orc while Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan helped each other with carrying the third one until we reached a place I deemed as safe where we leisurely took our time to eat.

Ability [Stench] learned

Yes, this is clearly an ability that I don't need. [Stench], seriously? Well, because I'll not activate it, I'm not that bothered by it, and since orc meat is really delicious I'll endure it. Moreover, if I were to find a use for this ability by any chance, it can be considered a profit.

DAY 25

In today's morning training, I noticed that some individuals started developing bad habits when moving their bodies', so I pointed them out to them. After we started the morning practice no one has died during hunting, though some did get hurt. This being the case, I felt relieved knowing that my training wasn't meaningless.

After the training, we went hunting. While hunting the likes of Night vipers, Armored tanukis and Demon spiders, we found a new prey that undoubtedly possessed better individual abilities than the spiders.

They were a pack of wolves covered with black fur that looked as if it was made of metal. I decided to call them [Black Wolves] (temporary name), and for the time being, I decided to quietly observe them.

The pack consists of sixteen Black wolves who currently seem to be engrossed in eating. Luckily, we are standing leeward, so they have yet to notice us; however, were that to change, we may end up like the kobolds the Black wolves are feasting on.

Their numbers were four times as many as us, but above all, the Black Wolf Leader seemed incredibly dangerous. It was considerably larger than the other Black wolves.

If we go at them from the front, we'd probably suffer a great deal of damage. Because they had greater numbers, the advantage was heavily stacked in their favor, but this advantage can be overturned by a surprise attack.

Gobumi-chan let loose an arrow from her crossbow which pierced the body of the Black wolf leader that was chewing on a chunk of kobold meat. At the same time, an arrow from Gobue-chan pierced the neck of a nearby wolf.

With the Black wolf leader vitality, it wouldn't die easily from an ordinary arrow, but because the arrowhead was coated with my venom, it staggered unsteadily after several seconds and then collapsed while convulsing and foaming from its mouth.

Even so, the Black wolf leader didn't immediately die. It was barely hanging on with its life slowly slipping away. By the way, without any resistance against the fast-acting poison, the ordinary Black wolf that got shot through the neck instantly died.

With this, we were able to prevent the wolves' quick teamwork. Considerable time is needed to decide who is going to replace the top member in a pack. You could see the panic in the wolves' figures when it suddenly happened.

Making full use of the mess we created, Gobukichi-kun and I moved closer and attacked.

Although it was the first time since I reincarnated that I fought a wolf-type monster, I was sure that I could easily deal with them as usual, as long as they didn't have any special abilities. When I approached one of them, the wolf bared its sharp fangs at me and launched its most powerful attack [Bite], in response, I thrust my estoc dripping with venom towards its mouth. With the force of the charge from both sides combined, I easily tore through the flesh, drilled the bone and destroyed the wolf's brain.

Catching a glimpse of a wolf trying to escape through the confusion, I charged a high pressure water blade with electricity and slashed at its feet.

The battle-axe wielding Gobukichi-kun couldn't hack through the stiff-furred Black wolves, but his attacks forcibly broke their spines and ribs, and by using his running momentum, he forcibly broke the neck of a Black wolf that collided head on with his shield.

In the midst of all that, Gobumi-chan's and Gobue-chan's sniping further reduced the enemies' numbers.

After a while, the pack of Black wolves who lost their greatest weapon, their teamwork, and the effectiveness of their bites had been nullified, were annihilated without sparing even a single one.

Once the battle finished, the three of us except for Gobukichi-kun started dismantling the wolves' bodies. The wolves' fur, for later use, had to be kept in the most pristine of conditions, both for function and aesthetics, therefore, the extremely clumsy Gobukichi-kun had to be excluded and couldn't be entrusted with such a task.

Because of this, I placed Gobukichi-kun on lookout duty. Due to my [Sense Presence] ability, having Gobukichi-kun on lookout was unnecessary. However, in a world of survival of the fittest, the gained experience from this task will be important.

I think Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan will be able to acquire the ability [Dismantle] soon if I assign more dismantling tasks to them, their hands are already becoming

more skillful at dismantling.

After we finished skinning the fur, we ate the meat, each of us ate four.

Ability [Pack Leadership] learned

Ability [Pack Hunting Proficiency] learned

Ability [Steel Hide] learned

As expected, the Black wolf leader was an excellent commander.

[Pack Leadership] and [Pack Hunting Proficiency] are a huge bonus for leading operations.

[Pack Leadership] allows me to quickly identify the most suitable subordinate for a particular task, as well as giving them instructions efficiently. It enhances the overall ability of the group too.

[Pack Hunting Proficiency] gives me the ability to accurately and efficiently move my subordinates in a large-scale operation, allowing me to move my subordinates in a coordinated manner with as few orders possible.

[Steel Hide] this ability increases the defense of fur and leather-based armor in addition to one's own skin and hair. The ability to increase my defenses at will is very useful, I'm certain that it will be handy in the future.

After this, we hunted some Demon spiders and Green slimes before going back. After having dinner, I went to bed.

DAY 26

When we got up in the morning, Gobue-chan had already Ranked Up to a hobgoblin. To congratulate her, I gave her a gift: an accessory made from fangs that gave off the vibe of an ethnic tribe.

Usually when combat practice ends, the goblins end up scattering for the day's hunt.

However, today, everyone underwent an arms inspection. The lowest and most numerous equipment that goblins used were primitive spears made by binding a Horn rabbit's horn to a stick, shell-reinforced shields, and their regular clothes. I counted the number of armaments, then after around thirty minutes had passed, we left the cave together.

Today, to raise everyone's Levels and to increase my abilities, we'll launch a surprise attack on the orcs' mining base. We didn't have a particular grudge against the orcs, we simply did what we needed to in order to survive.

Therefore we'll attack them. Attack and eat. To survive in the future.

As for the results, our camp suffered injuries ranging from light to heavy, however, we didn't have a single casualty. As for the orcs in the mining base, they were annihilated without leaving any survivors. This included the orc leader and his warriors. Mainly because the content of the daily morning training focused more on defense rather than offense and also because I was stern and relentless during sparring, thanks to this, the goblins' defensive powers were quite high.

A large part of the reason why we didn't incur any casualties would be because the main force of the orcs like the orc leader and the warriors were trapped in my threads before getting pricked to death by the goblins though.

What? Cowardly? I don't care, In nature, the world of survival of the fittest, there is nothing wrong with adopting such a strategy. When you die, it's over, so no matter how cowardly you may act, the one standing in the end is the winner.

Only the winners get to decide what was right and what was wrong. In order to live and stay a winner, I'll always keep up my caution.

After the battle had ended, we squeezed the medicinal herbs [Healing Grass] that we brought with us, soaked cloth wraps in the extracted fluid, took those cloth wraps and applied them to the wounds. It is a very simple process, but is surprisingly effective.

For those who bore heavy wounds, I proceeded to apply the holy-system healing spell that I came to possess thanks to my [Job - Druid], [Regeneration] to heal their wounds.

When I was practicing magic earlier, I thought that I might be able to use it in the same way as when I created the black spear, and after experimenting with the ability for some time I managed to handle it.

Even if one of their arms had been chopped off, with some time, it's possible to reattach it with my healing spell. You'll have trouble trying to move it satisfactorily for a while, but compared to losing an arm, that is nothing. In addition, moving the arm without problems is possible after rehabilitation. I can't help but think that this healing ability is amazing.

I am truly thankful for having this ability.

Towards the woman who was a druid, I truly harbor feelings of gratitude. This is because if I didn't have this ability, our numbers would have dwindled considerably. In the past, I wouldn't have blinked an eye no matter how many of these guys died, but after training them, I've started to see them as my subordinates and disciples.

Thus, if I can, I'll help them. After remembering those girls who died, I offered them a prayer "Namu Amida Butsu".

While I was administering medical treatment, under my orders, Gobukichi-kun together with the other uninjured goblins ran around gathering the orcs and their equipment in one place, so that when the treatment is finished, we can immediately move to the next part.

It seems like the materials of the orc leader's halberd were reinforced with magic, which made it a high quality item. It was just the right size for me and it was of a high quality, so I decided to make it my new weapon. Swords are nice, but I prefer using longer weapons. There were lots of other weapons as well, and thanks to this everyone received better weapons. Even the lowest ranking goblins went from using horned rabbit horns to using short swords, which is an extremely significant difference.

Above all, besides the large quantities of fire spirit stones, water spirit stones and

lightning spirit stones, there were also [Wind Spirit Stones] and [Earth Spirit Stones] which I still haven't eaten yet, not to mention that we can mine even more from the mine.

After we stripped the orcs off from their equipment, we gathered to eat the delicious meat. As there was more than enough meat, the food division would be decided by the member's rank, where the higher the rank of the individual means the more meat they'll be able to eat. The main force of the orcs which was composed of the orc leader, the [Orc Mages], etc. were of course destined to end up in my stomach.

Ability [Rallying Cry] learned

Ability [Improved Digestion] learned

Ability [Halberd Proficiency] learned

To be honest, I'm not sure if all of them will be useful, nevertheless, a time when I need them may come. Well, because there's no harm, the more abilities I have the better.

While indulging in the orc barbecue, I ate some fire spirit stones, lightning spirit stones, water spirit stones, the newly discovered wind spirit stones and earth spirit stones by myself as snacks.

Ability [Aero Master] learned

Ability [Storm Resistance] learned

Ability [Earth Control] learned

Ability [Earth Resistance] learned

The orc barbecue party was really satisfying.

Orc meat has this peculiar taste and texture, it tastes like extra special high quality pork, and there were large quantities of it. No matter how much we ate, there never seemed to be an end to it.

This aside, I want some steamed rice and alcohol together with it. Especially alcohol,

I want it so much that I can't bear it. Thinking back on it, I haven't drunk a drop since I reincarnated.

I wonder what happened to the beers I bought from the convenience store after Aoi stabbed me on my way back home?

Ah, now I want to drink alcohol even more.

After the party, we returned to the cave to sleep before it became dark.

DAY 26

SIDESTORY: THE ORC LEADER'S POV

[POV: The Orc Leader]

[Time Axis: Day 26]

Recently one of my subordinates have been hunted down. Life and death are normal cycles in this world. Even I don't know when I may die. However, as a chief, I can't just stay without doing anything when one of my subordinates has lost his life.

Thinking like that, I ordered the miners to move only in groups when going to the mining site, I also patrolled around the mine with the warriors. However, that wasn't enough, the miners got hunted down yet again. This is annoying, it's quite frustrating.

Who is the enemy? Is it the [Elves]? No, we're not hostile against them, I did everything that I can to not get close to their living area. Although we don't have a friendly relationship, it's not hostile either. Why would they attack us without any reason?

Then, is it the kobolds? No, it's not them either. If it's the kobolds, then they will be able to kill the miners if they have numbers on their side, however, their numbers are not that high, so they know what will happen to them if they became hostile towards us.

Did they get a powerful leader? If there was an individual that managed to undergo [
Rank Up Evolution] among them, then it's possible that they will have the courage to do this, but I can't be sure, I lack information.

Then, is it the humans? They come out from anywhere. If it is those lunatics who constantly slaughter each other without getting tired, if it is those greedy humans who love our meat, then it's even possible that they came to this forest just to get it. Also, when considering that they see the elves as an object of lust, it's possible that when they entered the forest to kidnap some, they encountered the miners and killed them.

Hmm, I don't have enough information. Isn't there something I can do about this

situation? There are the dealings we have outside the great forest too, so I don't want this issue to get anymore troublesome.....

As I was thinking about this, the orcs outside the mine suddenly became noisy. When I asked, "What is it!?" one of my subordinates responded "it's an enemy attack! goblins are attacking us!".

"What!? goblins!? Don't be stupid, why would the weak goblins attack us"

I asked back, but the battle has already started outside.

There is a considerable number of warriors, and the miners can fight using pickaxes. We are using the pickaxes as minimum weapons, and we have strong physical bodies, so we hold a great advantage over them, but what I saw when I got out of the mine were the figures of the warriors who were our main force tangled in something that looked like spider threads and a bizarre scene in which the warriors were getting stabbed by the goblins using primitive spears made by binding horns to the tips of wooden sticks.

The moment I saw it, I felt great anger that my head started boiling.

Oiiiiiiiiiiiiiiink!

I raised a roar, wielded my halberd and tossed the goblins away. After I tossed away a few goblins, as expected someone stood in my way and took my next attack head on, it was a hobgoblin armed with a shield. Of course, I blew that hobgoblin too away with the sheer difference in power between us. Even if he's armed, in the end he's just a mere hobgoblin, he's still a weakling in front of my power.

I will turn these cheeky goblins into mincemeat!

While I was burning with anger like this, a black skinned hobgoblin came in front me. Clearly, this is the enemy's head.

I can feel an intimidating air around him. This one is clearly abnormal, he seemed pretty strong. That is why I attacked him before he attacks me to raise my chances of winning, but before that my body got entangled by threads that came out from his fingertips.

Bastard! You're the one who bound the warriors?

I swung my halberd to tear the threads off, but new threads were released to bind me. Arrows stabbed my whole body, I felt intense pain and bled heavily from the injuries.

The situation became hopeless. I gave instructions to my subordinates, but the situation of the battle has already deteriorated beyond salvation. We will not be able to recover from this situation. Regardless, as the chief, I still have to fight till the end.

In the middle of my rampage, my heart was stabbed by the black hobgoblin's estoc. Thinking 'At least I'll take... ', I reached out my hand, but it got shaken off very easily. Is this the end?

My consciousness disappeared at this moment.

. The orc leader was a competent chief but his opponent this time was in another league compared to him, he was simply unlucky.

. He was strong, and had wisdom, so if it was a frontal fight the orcs would have won.

. In terms of Level and potential, the orc leader was an individual capable of undergoing ^{Rank Up} [Evolution].

DAY 27

Today we were training in outside the cave as usual when an unfamiliar group of goblins arrived.

They most likely don't maintain their weapons well, as I saw three fourths of the group carrying chipped short swords and battle axes that looked roughly handled hanging at their waists. They also wore blood-stained leather armor on top of dirty chainmail shirts. Lastly, there were three hobgoblins amongst them.

Will a battle for survival break out for the second day in a row? I got a little excited, but it seems to be the return of our parents' group who were working outside the forest.

How did I know that you say? Gobujii who was watching us practice, stopped my hostile stance and told me that.

Oh I see, so they weren't enemies. When I thought "I should go greet them then", I noticed it. Although they were hidden in the shadows of some goblins who were carrying large backpacks - in all likelihood the fruits of their latest raid -, there were five young women who had their hands and feet bound, with their mouths gagged to prevent them from becoming violent while being carried by several goblins.

Judging from their clothes, four of them were ordinary people, and the last one wearing leather armor was probably an adventurer - who I heard about from Gobujii -.

The girl who looked like an adventurer had slight visible traces of having been hit in the face. Their clothes didn't seem to be in disorder so they probably hadn't been raped yet. It's only a matter of time though. Judging from the swelling in the crotches of Gobujii and the Hobgoblin Leader - most likely - who was talking to him, anyone could tell what they were talking about, even if they didn't want to.

I don't have the slightest hesitations about proactively attacking others, killing them and eating their flesh, however, I don't like forcing those who didn't proactively take a hostile stance against me. Of course, I understand the instinct of living creatures to leave offspring, but to decide if it's right or wrong, such things are a very different

matter.

I've also had sex with some of my female co-workers to relieve my stress when I go to dangerous places for work, but there was mutual consent in those situations.

Forcing people like this makes me sick. Cute girls should be loved, this is what I think.

For the weak goblins to be able to resist humans, numbers are necessary. After this expedition, there's a need to replenish the numbers.

However, I don't care about that! It's not like I can change the way I think in the short amount of time since I've been reincarnated.

With things being this way, I decided to help them. You say that it's hypocrisy? Yes, but it is no problem because it's even more hypocritical to do nothing.

I walked up to the hobgoblin leader who was talking to Gobujii and asked him to leave the women to me.

The moment I said that, I don't know why, but Gobujii gave me a helpless look which I ignored.

The hobgoblin leader made face that seemed to convey "what the hell are you talking about!?", but nevertheless I repeated my request.

It is important to discuss everything first. No matter how much you dislike the opposition, you should start by discussing your problems. Any hostility should be put aside if possible. I tried to persuade him patiently but the hobgoblin leader wasn't willing to listen.

That wasn't all, given that he started emitting killing intent, he probably got irritated at me who kept obstinately asking. Realizing that this was a waste of time and will just result in the other goblins in his group to also get irritated, I stopped.

Then, the hobgoblin leader pulled out his short sword and pointed it at my throat in ridicule. The reason why he didn't attack me is probably because Gobukichi-kun and the others behind me were brandishing weapons of comparable level to the ones they have.

I'm me, that's why trying to persuade him more than this is troublesome, I'll just kill

him. I pulled out one of my estocs and knocked away the hobgoblin leader's short sword.

At that moment, the atmosphere clearly changed.

The goblins from both sides took hostile stances and drew out their weapons, and if either I or the hobgoblin leader made the slightest move, the status quo would be disrupted. Of course, everyone would be trying to kill the enemies in front of them.

The reason no one moved was not only because we held the executive decision-making power, but also because instinct told them that if a fight started here, each side would take a lot of damage regardless of who will win.

They numbered twenty eight while we numbered thirty nine. In pure numbers, we had the advantage, however in combat and teamwork experience, they were far above us.

Honestly, I had no idea which side would win, because I don't have enough information and starting this fight head on would inevitably cause huge damage for both sides which is why I didn't move.

Incidentally, the group of old goblins were only watching us from the side. It may be because they think that the youngsters should decide the way of the clan, regardless, they didn't do anything and seemed to prefer watching what would happen as neutral observers.

For a short while, we glared at each other, but thinking that this was troublesome, I prepared myself to trigger the fight by adapting a forward-bent pose.

I clenched one of my estoc-holding hands and pointed its tip straight towards the hobgoblin leader's heart.

I bent my legs in order to propel myself at high speed and pierce the hobgoblin leader's heart, then—

—just at that moment, a voice suddenly reverberated. Everyone instinctively stopped moving, and turned towards the source of the voice.

The owner of the voice was one of the three hobgoblins from the opposite camp. Judging from the appearance, it was a female and since she was holding a staff, most

likely she was a hobgoblin Mage that could use magic besides me. She said, "Don't involve us in your fight" and "The strongest will be the leader and gets to decide the policy of the clan" Because Mages have a higher intelligence than regular breeds, she was able to think of a calm judgment even in this situation.

When I asked her "Aren't you, who can use magic, stronger than this guy?", she said that she isn't interested.

It was thus concluded that a fight to determine who reigns at the top of the « Goblin Community » was to be held.

The rules were very simple: use of weapons is forbidden, and while killing was permitted, the fight ends when one party faints or gives up, they were such barbaric rules.

Gobujii would be acting as a referee for the fight. It was an appropriate position for Gobujii who held a neutral opinion and was the wisest.

Nevertheless, I was surprised to find out that the goblins on their side began making bets in the middle of the preparations. So they had a gambling mentality, huh? Furthermore, because they were using copper coins, they seem to have some wisdom.

Well, this kind of thing is certainly well-suited as entertainment.

Meanwhile, the goblins on our side were sitting with impeccable manners. They were staying still to watch the fight that was about to take place. Yep, this is surreal.

At any rate, I felt bad for the girls who became a prize, because we were pointlessly scaring them. Well, this is all for their sakes. Just bear with it for now.

Then, after the preparations were finished, the fight to decide the leader began.

On one side was a long-serving soldier full of scars who had drawn many subordinates to follow him with his achievements.

On the other side was me, who had thoroughly trained those of my generation, and Ranked Up into a [Hobgoblin Variant].

Apparently, most of the bets the goblins placed were on the hobgoblin leader, but I didn't care about that, when Gobujii announced the beginning of the fight, I

immediately attacked.

Well, I'll say the result. Of course, I won.

[Evil Eye] which stops my opponents' movements like a frog glared at by a snake.

[Intimidating Roar] which causes my opponents' to cower from the volume of the roar that can't be issued with my vocal cords normally.

I confused the enemy by overlapping these two abilities at the same time, I didn't miss the gap created and immediately closed the distance, then I wrapped his body with my threads. Lastly, I hung him from a tree like a sandbag.

Gobujii asked me about the thread, but it was definitely a part of my body. It's a little like saliva. Since it comes out from my body, it can't be considered a weapon. Therefore, there aren't any problems. Since it isn't a weapon, I didn't violate the rules even if I use it. It's like that. Yeah, it's safe.

After turning him into a makeshift sandbag with my threads, it was time for violence. I tried going easy on him so that he won't die.

However, he belongs to the hobgoblin species, who are tougher than goblins, in addition, he was impertinently shouting things like "I'm the leader! How dare you, you impostor! Do you have no shame!?" showing that he doesn't understand his own situation, so I got a bit serious.

Well, it can't be helped. It was unavoidable. That's why I beat him.

First of all, to prevent him from saying something boring like "I give up" I stuffed a gag made out of thread in his mouth.

After that, I beat him up for about three minutes, but he still had spirit, so I did that again for ten more minutes until he was just a bloody bag of soft moans. I didn't kill him though. By the way, even though I beat and kicked him for ten minutes incessantly I still have plenty of physical strength left.

This is the result of daily training. I soon stopped because he fainted. Judging from touch, it seemed like his bones were just barely at the point of breaking and his internal organs didn't rupture. If I left him like this, he surely wouldn't die.

Nevertheless, I forcibly made him drink a [Life Potion], a weak but effective self-made physical recovery drug, I made it by mixing several types of medicinal herbs like Healing grass and several kinds of insects mixed in with fresh water. Then, I cut the thread and let him roll on the ground.

Seeing the effect of the potion, I managed to prove that it was capable of healing little cuts for the time being. Given that, his insides should be more or less better by tomorrow. However, he will most likely be unable to wake up today.

Once I finished the job, I became aware that the others had drawn away from me, who was immersed in a weird of sense of accomplishment.

While the goblins on our side seemed in a better state than the others, there was still a hint of terror in their eyes, why?. Also, they would instinctively try to run away whenever I approached, this hurted my feelings a little...

Eh? What is it Gobumi-chan? It's because they were completely unable to understand my thread, and in addition to the tragic scene of the hobggoblin leader, I was making a scary face while beating him? But wasn't that just my normal face?

Ah, I'm the only one that thinks that, huh.

But it really isn't that big of a deal, don't you think so too Gobukichi-kun? Ah... don't be like that.

Even Gobue-chan...? Okay okay, if it's like that, then fine. I have no allies here.

After letting out a sigh, I asked if there were any more challengers. By making my position clear now, I'll be able to reduce the possibility of any trouble coming up later on.

In the end, because there were no more challengers, I officially became the Leader of this « Goblin Community ».

I then declared that it is strictly forbidden to touch the women and that there would be a more detailed set of rules given in due time before dismissing everyone.



Afterwards, I removed the gags and untied the hemp ropes around the hands and feet of the five women and brought them to the deepest parts of the cave where those pitiful women from before were kept, made to reproduce and die in despair. I did this because it would be troublesome if they escaped.

Well, the women escaping is fine, but five unarmed women running around in this dangerous forest can only lead to them being killed and eaten. And since I have gone through the trouble to save them, I won't allow this to happen.

Fortunately, since I have the ability [Human Language] the minimum requirements needed to speak with them were fulfilled.

It wasn't long before we arrived. I took the torch I made beforehand and lit it to provide a light-source.

goblins have [Night Vision], but it is difficult for humans to see in the darkness.

After these preparations were finished, I began talking to them. I promised them that I will not harm them and that I will ensure food, clothing and shelter. I also told them that if they were assaulted, I'll deal with the assailants, and that it would take some time, but I'll deliver them to a town.

I think probably 5 or 6 hours passed before either because of my insistent persuasion, or some other reason that I don't know of, the girls began to speak.

The first one who regained her composure was the adventurer girl, with short flaming red hair, rather than a charming beauty, she possessed cuteness that reminded me of small animals.

From my conversation with the redhead girl, I concluded that the four women were peddlers from a merchant association called « The Star God's Pavilion ».

As for the redhead, she was a member of the adventurer clan « The Sword of the Weak » who applied for « The Star God's Pavilion »'s escort request. « The Sword of the Weak » seemed to consist of fledgling adventurers.

As I thought, such an occupation existed. Her clan seemed to be a typical adventurer clan with the main policy of nurturing the strength of their individuals via mutual support, and the redhead, a holder of the [Job - Warrior] and a fledgling adventurer, wanted to obtain power by serving as a member with them.

How did these girls get caught? After hearing the story, briefly explained, it goes like this :

The girls were on the highway heading towards the defense city « Trient ».

→ They were been ambushed by a goblin raid who used poisoned arrows - in other words, our parents' generation -.

→ Their leader who was a mid-ranked adventurer his companions who were at the same rank as him were all killed by the first attack.

→ There were a few experienced escort adventurers, but they were fledgling adventurers. However, The goblins were skilled at methodical teamwork, so they couldn't compete.

→ Even a fledgling adventurer can kill a few goblins, but the presence of the three hobgoblins who were systemically dealing with adventures that stand out was fatal.

→ In addition, there was the presence of a hobgoblin Mage.

→ When opposing the magic-wielding Mages, it is necessary to have a higher overall Level than them. Alternatively, although the number of times magic can be exercised using it is limited, magic items like scrolls or wands that enable even children to use magic can be used to fight Mages. However, there was no way a fledgling adventurers could buy such a high-class item.

→ As a result, they were subjugated without resistance, their weapons and goods plundered, the men were killed, the girls who survived were carried off and we arrived at the present situation.

As a hobgoblin myself, I shouldn't be the one to say this, but it was a difficult story to hear. Not to mention, everyone were annihilated besides these girls. Well, there's nothing to say about it other than that it was their bad luck.

After telling me that much, they couldn't bear it anymore and bursted into tears.

As expected, they could not even put their feelings about living together with goblins who killed their friends in order, so I thought that any more than this would only be painful. I told them where I left the torch that I prepared along with some blankets, then I went back. Now I should just do them a favor and let them cry their feelings out.

Well then, I suppose I should now start talking about [Jobs]. For non-human beings like demi-humans, beastmen, and monsters - any species in a hostile relationship with developed civilizations, though non-monsters can appear in a monster species like Mages and [Variants] -, there is a law in this world called [Evolution (Rank up)]. As you could probably guess from my phrasing, the law of [Evolution (Rank up)] does not apply to humans.

But in exchange for that, there are a large number of [Job] s that they can take.

The basic stats of humans are inferior compared to non-humans.

To compensate that, they acquire as much [Job] s as possible, each [Job] has its acquisition conditions, and the stronger the [Job] the harder the conditions. And by acquiring [Job] s humans get [Improvements] that strengthen their bodies.

Anyone can raise their [Jobs]'s Level by spending time and if one has the prerequisites, it is possible to [Promotion (Rank up)] to a higher ranking [Job].

Also, [Job] s are largely responsible for the rise of those who are called [Champion (Eiyuu)] s and [Heroes (Yuusha)] s, in addition, the improvements from such [Job] s are very high. And don't laugh, because it looks like people with the [Job-Heroes (Yuusha)] and [Job-Champion (Eiyuu)] really exist.

To put it simply, the non-humans' [Evolution (Rank up)] is heavily influenced by their achievements, but can dramatically increase their potential all at once.

Whereas humans' with their [Promotion (Rank up)] grow more slowly than non-humans, but anyone can get power to a certain level if they spend time on it.

It's like this: either raise several Levels in one leap, or slowly, but surely, raise one Level at a time.

It's either that or the following. Non-humans, few, but very strong individuals. Humans, many, but weaker than non-humans in individual ability.

By the way, this information is from Gobujii, so it's most likely correct.

DAY 27

SIDESTORY: REDHEAD'S POV

[POV: Redhead]

[Time Axis: Day 27]

It should have been a simple common quest. However, it did not end so easily. In fact, it ended in complete failure.

The quest was to escort a medium sized group of merchants from the merchant association « The Star God's Pavilion » to the fortified city « Trient » and protecting them from bandits and monsters. Because I'm a fledgling adventurer with no reputation, I am viewed with a lack of confidence and competence, so normally I shouldn't have been able to apply to such a request. However, because I was part of the Adventurers' Clan « Sword of the Weak » I was able to apply for it.

That's because the Clan Master arranged it so that the fledgling members will be able to apply for it for experience. As a result, this job which normally would require only ten adventurers or less, included eighteen fledgling adventurers like me and six senior members who are mid-ranked adventurers, a total of twenty-four people. The large number of participants lowered the income, but we put up with it since this was to help us gain experience.

At first, everything was fine. The government issues a monster subjugation request to the Adventurers' Guild periodically for the road we used, thus clearing out most of the monsters, thanks to this it was much more secure. Still, there is some risk involved. The large chicken monster with a height of 70 cm called [Misuteddo]. Encountering these monsters help fledgling adventurers that hunt them to get some experience points, and as only three came out it can't really be called risky.

The journey did not have much of a danger, so everyone, including me and the other fledgling adventurers who didn't apply to an escorting quest before, weren't nervous at all. Inevitably, because there was a lot of free time, most of it was spent talking, and as it turned out, I was the only female adventurer in this quest.

Fortunately, everyone were openhearted and carefree, and the seniors spoke of stories full of information that will be useful in the future. It was also helpful that there was four women in the « Star God's Pavilion »'s merchant group that we're escorting. The Blacksmith Emery Furado sold me a ring and a necklace at low prices, saying that they're prototypes. The Cook sisters Alma and Felicia Timiano gave me some sweets. The Alchemist Spinel Fean who was older than me was normally quiet and seemed cold, but when I talked to her she was very gentle, in addition, she gave me a self-made physical recovery drug, [Life Potion] that seems to be a little inferior compared to the commercially available ones, nevertheless, for me it's more than enough. My life could well be saved by this one day. Physical recovery potions are essential items for adventurers, however, they are expensive, so they are usually out of the reach of a fledgling like me. So, above all, I was thankful.

With the unexpected income, I relaxed my guard. I was thinking that after the quest this time is completed, I would have a drink in the tavern with everyone. At that time, I really believed this.

But that was not to be.

Suddenly, arrows came flying out of the forest on the roadside and struck the seniors' bodies. Apparently the arrows had been coated in a fast-acting poison, we quickly began treatment, however, the seniors died while foaming from their mouths. And though it was not the first time that I saw someone die, I can't say that I'm used to it. While looking at the corpses, I couldn't help thinking what if I was struck with an arrow like the seniors? Thinking that, my head stopped working for an instant. However, I didn't have the time to continue thinking about that. That was because a large number of monsters had just jumped out from the forest and are now heading towards us while roaring.

■■■

"Ttsuaaaaa!!"

Whilst raising a roar of fighting spirit, I drew out my steel short-sword [The Sword of Love], the only parting gift from my uncle who was a mid-ranked adventurer.

[Rubellia Walline used the Combat Art [Slash]]

It was a basic Combat Art that I learned from my uncle along with the [Warrior] Job. A pale red light covered the blade of my killing intent-filled sword.

The enemy in front of me was a monster with a distinctive green skin, pointed ears, and an ugly face, it was a [Bandit Goblin] - a specific type of goblin tribes -. I launched a slash aiming to cut off its head, however, the enemy managed to parry my sword with its short sword. With the collision between swords, a high-pitched sound was generated and sparks scattered. My hand became numb from the impact, although the power in my hand has weakened a little, but I can still firmly grip my sword. It's okay, I can still fight.

However, it's different for the Bandit goblin in front of me. The shock of the previous blow caused it to drop its sword from the numbness, leaving it unarmed.

That's probably because even though my combat profession [Warrior] is only at level 10, I grew up working in the fields with my uncle till the last month when I became an adventurer; so I managed to get the [Farmer] job up to level 48. That's why I had the upper hand in muscle strength and endurance.

The hard day-to-day farming work made my arms strong and hardened my skin, so it was sturdy, this helped me keeping hold of my sword and not dropping it down. Only for a moment, I thought back on those days. I swung my sword again aiming for the kill, but the Bandit goblin was able to barely block my sword with a round shield at the last moment. I broke the round shield but couldn't deliver a fatal injury. The enemy is fighting desperately. However, I was able to break the posture of the Bandit goblin. Without giving it the opportunity to escape, I aimed for the exposed thigh not covered with the hide armor - it seemed to be made of beast skin -.

"Ttsua!!"

[Rubellia Walline used the Combat Art [Slash]]

Due to the use of a [Combat Art], the blade's sharpness was increased and it easily tore through the meat, its momentum slowed down a bit when cutting the bone, nevertheless, I succeeded in cutting off the Bandit goblin's leg and large quantities of fresh blood spewed from the wound.

I raised my short-sword high in order to give the finishing blow to the Bandit goblin groaning in pain desperately while clutching its cut leg. I slashed down aiming for the crown of its head, Without resistance, my sword cut through the skull splattering cerebral fluid and blood and staining my leather armor, 'I have to wash it later', I thought.



"Rubellia!! Behind you!!"

A male adventurer the same age as me who I got along with recently, Charles, called out. I turned around equipping my shield in my left hand and pushed forward.

[Rubellia Walline used the Combat Art [Shield Bash]]

Pale blue light wrapped around my shield as I struck the Bandit goblin trying to surprise attack me in the face, it was unable to avoid my surprise attack as it was the one trying to attack me by surprise and didn't expect me to react. The round shield which increased in hardness than it's originally is by using a Combat Art struck the face of the Bandit goblin and broke its nose causing a gushing nosebleed as its body fell back.

This is [Knock Back], one of the Combat Art [Shield Bash]'s effects, it breaks the stance of the target.

I seized the chance and rushed in to cut off the head of the Bandit goblin. I didn't use a Combat Art because it consumes a lot of physical and mental strength, in addition, it's an overkill to use a Combat Art against an undefended enemy, moreover, when using a Combat Art my stance will break after the attack is completed.

I slashed through the neck of the Bandit goblin unopposed due to its broken stance. I hit an artery, and fresh blood spouted out like a fountain, the blade got chipped a little when I cut through the bone, then I thought about sharpening it again in the corner of my head.

In the corner of my view I saw the figure of an enemy striking at me. I avoided the large spiked club that is clearly too much for my small shield to block and jumped back.

"Fuu!"

The club missed me and the winds it raised shook my hair with a whistling sound. That was all. I didn't get any damage, and succeeded in getting back. However, that seems to have been the aim of the enemy.

"Ggyacacacaca"

"Why is a Bandit Hobgoblin here??!!"

A formidable enemy, a [Bandit Hobgoblin] appeared from my blind spot, from behind me while releasing a fearsome cry.

Hobgoblins are a higher species of goblins, it's a monster famous for having physical prowess somewhat beyond that of an average human, it's an opponent that fledgling adventurers must overcome.

I fought a hobgoblin that my uncle caught before, nevertheless, it was a troublesome opponent to kill one-on-one. Goblins just charge without thinking, so they're easy to deal with, however, a hobgoblin is much stronger than a goblin and it possesses wisdom, and this one is dangerous even among hobgoblins.

From the fact that it's leading the troublesome Bandit goblins, it's most likely a Bandit hobgoblin that evolved from a Bandit goblin. According to my uncle, a hobgoblin that evolved from a goblin have superior physical prowess and techniques, and I agree with him, that's because after killing a lot of creatures, raising it's Level and climbing the hierarchy from below, there's no way a born hobgoblin can have an equal amount of power to it. Effort makes all kinds of creatures strong.

This kind of powerful enemy, the Bandit hobgoblin, launched a strike at me with its powerful fist, it didn't hit me directly since I was quick enough to block it with the round shield, However, I didn't have the time to use a Combat Art, as a result the round shield released an unpleasant sound as it got damaged. I felt as if I collided against something huge, then my body flew backwards.

At first, I couldn't understand what happened, but when the gravity pulled me down and I started rolling on the ground I understood. It was a very simple matter, that strike was powerful enough to send me flying. My round shield that took the attack head on got smashed at the part that received the hobgoblin's punch, my left arm that was holding the round shield broke and I couldn't move it well. As I continued to roll, I hit my head upon a stone, because of the pain and the blood loss I started to lose consciousness. I caught sight of the blood which flowed over my left eye dyeing half of my view red.

Exhausted, I wanted to continue staying on the ground and take a rest, however, taking that choice was impossible. I gritted my teeth to the point that blood started flowing from my mouth, ignored my body screaming in pain and pierced my sword into the ground to support myself as I stood up. My legs were shaking, and half of my view was dyed red. The Bandit hobgoblin didn't attack me again. Hobgoblins apart from their

skin color have features which resemble a human's, however, this one is quite ugly. It is the ugliest hobgoblin that I've ever seen. It stared at me with eyes tinged with intelligence and a vulgar smile on its face. A swelling crotch vividly expressed what it was thinking.

I suppressed my nausea that welled up from thinking about it and looked for other adventurer in the battlefield with my eyes. This Bandit hobgoblin is certainly strong, but even if it's strong, it's not an opponent that fledgling adventurers can't defeat with numbers. If there are three of us, then we'll be able to relatively easily kill it. With some effort, even two are enough to beat it. Somebody, Anybody. I looked around the battlefield desperately while rubbing my left eye that got blurry because of the blood covering it.

However, there was no one else, everyone were doing their best to survive.

Because the seniors who assumed the position of the commanders were the first to be killed, everyone panicked and thus got scattered. I didn't know what to do in this critical situation. Because there is even less than the eighteen fledgling adventurers who participated in this quest including myself, we must regroup and cooperate to survive this predicament.

Some of them grouped together and are fighting back, some got cut from behind as they were trying to flee, others were burned by fireballs - then that means there is a Mage too!!

Moreover, it's a hobgoblin Mage, for a moment my view became dark, that's because Mages are able to exercise the powerful art of magic. Against a Mage fledgling adventurers will only get massacred. According to my uncle, if there is a big difference in Level, it's possible to kill a Mage, however, that's impossible for me now.

I was trained by my uncle, a mid-ranked adventurer, however, I can't find a way to overcome this situation at all. I looked around looking for the owner of the voice I heard earlier. Charles, the one who called out to me before and is a little stronger than me, can't afford to help me because he is confronting two Bandit hobgoblins at the same time. Rather, he is in a situation where he needs help.

This situation is the worst.

But I don't want to give it up yet. As an adventurer I know how it will turn out if I give

up. As a female I will be taken away and used to satisfy their desires, repeatedly violated and impregnated with goblin children until I die. An existence, like a livestock. It's absolutely disgusting. I would rather be killed. Both of my parents passed away a while ago and I don't have a lover. I apologize for my uncle who trained me in swordsmanship to ensure my life for doing this, but now I don't have any fear of death. I can accept death. However, I refuse to be raped repeatedly and die like livestock.

".....gulp....."

From the field pack around my waist I took out the [Life Potion] I got from Spinel. Luckily it was not broken, I drank it in a single breath. A subtle sweetness spread in my mouth, at the same time, the pain in my body disappeared. My broken left arm can also move without problems. In addition, my fatigue lessened. I was told that this is an inferior product compared to the commercial goods, however, I think its effects are great. Now I can continue fighting.

"As if I will give up"

After raising a roar I charged, to kill the enemy.

■■■

However, it was useless. After that, I killed a few Bandit goblins, Charles was killed by the two Bandit hobgoblins he was fighting. After that, I got stunned and eventually was captured. My limbs have been restricted by ropes and a gag was placed in my mouth. It's hard to understand the Goblin language, but it seems we will arrive at their home soon. This is the worst. The bulging crotch of Bandit hobgoblin who defeated me crossed my mind, it was looking at me with an obscene smile while raising a vulgar laughter.

It's disgusting. I do not want to be violated by that thing. I hate it, I hate it, I hate it!! I hate it, but I can't escape my future now. My limbs are bound, so I can't run away. I can't even bite my tongue because of the gag. After we get to the goblins' destination, if I try striking my head against the wall, I will not be overlooked, Even if I managed to do it, that will be only after I get soiled, that would be too late

As we are being carried, I prayed to the [God of Fate «Shikkuzaru»]. In this world, Gods exist. Although the possibility of the Gods answering my prayers is low, but I have to try. My prayers have never been answered before, nevertheless, no matter how small it's as long as there's some hope I want to cling to it.

However, I stopped praying because there wasn't any changes to the situation, then I raised my face. My eyes met with those of who I was trusted to defend, but failed. The other women who are in the same circumstances as me. Emery, Felicia, Alma and Spinel. Even now, they did not blame me. That hurt me further. I cried. I felt nauseated from how weak I am. I felt ashamed that everyone who didn't have the ability to fight helped me so much, yet I couldn't even protect them. I'm very ashamed, I apologized to everyone with my eyes. I apologized from the bottom of my heart. I'm sorry that I am weak.

Then I recalled my memories of my parents and my uncle. My tears flowed out without stopping, I thought 'father, mother, I'll be coming soon. sorry uncle'. Then I saw a cave in the distance. 'It's the end' I thought.

However, it seems my luck has not run out.

As I was crying, near the cave I could see many goblins doing something - most likely combat training -, but there was a hobgoblin that particularly caught my attention, it was black skinned. When I saw it, I couldn't believe my eyes. It was astonishing, to the point that I stopped thinking for a second. I didn't ever hear of the existence of a black hobgoblin even in rumors.

There're brown skinned goblins who live in mines and caves most of their lives called [Mine Goblins]. Although they exist, this is the home of the Bandit goblins who have green skin, moreover, Mine goblins are dark brown skinned at most, there aren't any black skinned Mine goblins.

However, the skin of this hobgoblin was a jet black color, it seemed like a sea of darkness that could absorb everything.

That's why I think that black hobgoblin must have received a divine protection from a God when it evolved and thus became a [Variant]. While I was thinking about this, the black hobgoblin approached the Bandit hobgoblin and spoke to it.

"Those women. Can you release them into my custody?"

On the surface, he is gentle-looking, but he has an overpowering voice. He had a charismatic charm that was difficult to describe. Coming here to meet him may have been my destiny. I got attracted to him who possess "power", which is something that I don't have.

This moment marked the beginning of my turbulent fate.

Author's Note:

Redhead got captivated by Goburou due seeing the power he held and gradually fell in love with him.

DAY 27

SIDE STORY: CHARLES'S POV

[POV: Charles]

[Time Axis: Days 27 and a few days before it]

My name is Charles.

It has been a month since I joined the adventurer clan «Sword of the Weak».

My weapon is a steel longsword. It isn't a magic item, it's from the [Normal] rank, but it's a good sword forged by a famous Blacksmith using high quality steel.

It's worth a considerable amount of money, and I don't have enough money to buy a sword of this quality. Of course, I didn't steal it from a store either. When I left the village where I was born and grew up, my uncle who was an adventurer in the past, gave me this sword.

My uncle is my benefactor, my foster parent and my master who I aim to surpass in the future.

If I include the details of my story it'll get really long, so I'll focus only on the important points.

When I was around eleven years old, my parents were killed by a group of monsters that attacked the village. I was close to death too, however, my uncle who returned to the village at this time by chance fought the monsters with his long sword in his hand while sustaining many wounds, and he succeeded in repelling the monsters, thus he became the hero of the village. But my uncle lost his right leg in the battle, and he couldn't move his left hand satisfactorily anymore. This spelled the end of my uncle's adventurer occupation and he decided to stay in the village. He also took me in and brought me up at that time.

From that day, we started living together in hardship. Although the other villagers supported us, my uncle lost his right leg and couldn't move his left hand satisfactorily,

and I was only a kid. There was a field that my father left behind him after his death, but it's mainly my work to cultivate the field, so the amount of food we ate was meagre. However, my uncle often told me stories he experienced as an adventurer, so I was living happily. I never hated those days.

After living together like this for five years, I turned sixteen, at this point our life became stable, so I earnestly asked my uncle to teach me how to fight. I want to become an adventurer and travel around the world like my uncle, I told him that and he easily accepted my request.

To be honest, that reason is only a part of why I want to become an adventurer, the other reason is that my childhood friend who is two years older than me, Rushana, who was also secretly in love with my uncle, married my uncle recently.

In other words, it's because I lost my love. Even I think it's a pathetic reason, but finding a wife in this small village is really hard, so I think that I'll have to leave this village someday. Moreover, since they are newlyweds, I had to sleep with my ears closed at night. Given all of these reasons, I finally decided to ask my uncle to train me and leave this village.

I've been training after the field labor everyday for about one year now, and finally completed the basic combat training under my uncle, after that I got permission to leave the village and became an adventurer.

Although I started training due to pathetic circumstances, I who has finished my uncle's basic combat training have a certain degree of confidence in my power, and the Level of my [Warrior] job is relatively high.

If it's a fight against fellow fledgling adventurers, then I won't lose. Even if it's 1 vs 5, my chance of victory is high, moreover, that's when I'm holding back.

Because my uncle knew the clan master, I didn't get a bad treatment in the clan. However, I felt a subtle dissatisfaction with my position in the clan.

Then, I met her, Rubellia, I thought that her short red hair suited her well. We trained together, and that was the first I lost in a fight.

I was underestimating her, however, that doesn't change the fact that I lost to Rubellia. In addition, we're at the same level, so I think I'll be able to win next time. After that day, we trained together several times, and the winner would be the one in a better

condition. Like this both of us continued growing stronger together.

While fighting, I started getting interested in her. Rubellia, isn't a charming beauty. But she had a kind of vigorous beauty, when seeing her carefree joyful smile, I feel my heart skipping a beat. Part of the reason may be because her smile somewhat resembled Rushana's. However, it's probably because I had romantic feelings for Rubellia.

After realizing that, I tried talking to Rubellia in our spare time. From that, I learned that I and Rubellia had many things in common. Just like me her parents are dead, her uncle is also an adventurer who trained her. We've a lot of things in common, even though I don't have the right to say this, but aren't we a well-matched couple? No, because I didn't confess, we aren't even a couple. But I didn't get a good opportunity to confess, so I couldn't confess till now. I'm really a pathetic guy.

"Charles, when will you confess to Rubellia?"

While I was thinking of all of this, Lux, the guy who I get along best with and a member of my party asked me that question. Right now, under the request of the merchant association known as «The Star God's Pavilion» we're escorting them to the fortress city «Trient». The number of adventurers participating in this request is more than usual, and among them there's the figure of Rubellia. And knowing that he asked me that question, I retorted in panic "what will you do if she heard you?", however, fortunately Rubellia was talking with the women merchants and didn't hear him. I was relieved, then glared at Lux, but I let it go while blushing. Although he toyed with me just now, but I turned my head to my best friend and declared.

"After we finish this request, I'll confess."

I thought that this is the time for me to stop being a pathetic guy. In addition, I vaguely felt that I had to say this. Lux responded "good luck". I know that Lux also have feelings for Rubellia, but even then he supports me. I felt sorry and at the same time thankful, and thought 'I'll do my best to get bonded with Rubellia'.

At the time I was thinking this, we who were advancing in the highway were attacked by surprise. It was a group of goblins that attacked us.

They first killed the seniors by ambush, who had the highest combat power among us. It seems they applied a poison to the arrowheads, as the seniors who shouldn't have

received fatal wounds fell on the ground while blowing bubbles from their mouths and died. Normally, this request can't be received by fledgling adventurers like us, this time the clan master arranged it so that we'll be able to receive it to gain experience, however, that's under the condition that we'll be under the supervision of our seniors. The seniors who were supposed to take command in such a situation all died. When a unit comprised of inexperienced combatants lost its commanders, it's pretty obvious what will happen to them. There are those who took their arms and fought the goblins, those who fell into panic and tried to run away, and those who paralyzed from fear.

I fought with my treasured sword in my hand. I partnered with Lux and crossed blades with the goblin who were armed with daggers, axes etc. Generally speaking, goblins are small fries. Although they have good physical abilities, they don't have the required intelligence to make full use of it. They just idiotically charge forward. So they are easy to kill even for amateurs as long as there is something that can be used as a weapon like a hoe or a club. But this group isn't weak. They applied poison to the arrowheads, that indicates that they are bandit goblins. They have some intelligence, so they're much more troublesome than ordinary goblins. Even with their numbers, if they didn't ambush us and just attacked head on, we would have been able to easily kill them, how annoying. And it seems like they judged that I'm stronger than the others, so two goblins attacked me at the same time. As expected, even for me killing both of them is hard. I tried focusing on attacking one goblin, but when I damaged it to a certain degree, it fell back, so I couldn't kill it. I tried to make use of this opportunity and kill the other goblin, but a new goblin took the place of the one that fell back immediately, and the number of goblins I'm fighting didn't change from two. I wish I had enough power to kill a goblin with a single blow.

I crossed blades with the goblins while clenching my teeth from frustration, and injuries gradually accumulated on both my and their bodies. Because my enemies switched places with other goblins multiple times, I'm in a worse shape.

While I was in this situation of not being able to kill the goblins, Rubellia's figure entered my sight. She was fighting desperately too. She killed a goblin while sustaining some injuries. But there was a goblin approaching her from behind, so I raised my voice and warned her. She reacted and struck the goblin in the face with the shield while using a Combat Art. She didn't miss the chance made when the goblin lost its balance from the strike, and dealt a fatal blow to it.

However, I didn't have the time to relax, I parried the attack of the goblin in front of me. Then I slashed at its flank after its posture broke. There was a heavy resistance,

but I succeeded in cutting the goblin in two. The upper part of its body flew in the air and sprinkled blood in the surroundings, and the lower part of its body fell to the ground. The other goblin seeing it's companion killed raised an angry shout and attacked me from the back, I avoided it by lowering my body to the ground, then I tripped it by extending my foot and revolving my body. The goblin which lost its balance, leant forward and collapsed. I stood up immediately using the revolving momentum, stepped on the goblin's back and stabbed its heart. I felt the sense of taking a life certainly.

It was hard, but I managed to kill them. It may be hard to win the goblins, but we may be able to do it. When I started to feel some hope, it appeared.

It was a Mage. Moreover, it wasn't a goblin, it was a Hobgoblin Mage. From its looks it seems to be a female, and I can see it holding a cane. It seems like it finished the incantation, flames were dancing on the cane's tip. At the same time it was fired in my direction, then I moved unconsciously and avoided the flame ball narrowly. I avoided that one just now only by luck, I'll not get another chance. I felt my body burning from the heat wave, the exposed parts from my skin felt hot and painful. But it wasn't a fatal wound, that's I endured it and tried to close my distance with the mage. Even though I say mage, it's a Hobgoblin Mage. For the current me it's a powerful enemy, but I don't think that it can fire magic rapidly. That's why I didn't hesitate even a little, in addition, after closing the distance, a Hobgoblin Mage is easier to kill than an ordinary Hobgoblin.

Because my judgment was fast, I would be able to reach the Hobgoblin Mage faster than it can fire its magic by a few steps. Impatience started appearing on its expression.

But my goal was foiled by the appearance of another hobgoblin. It was a female hobgoblin holding a sword. It jumped between me and mage from the side.

I attacked it with the [Warrior] job's Combat Arts [Slash] and [Rush] while using my running momentum to increase its power, however, all of my attacks were either stopped, parried or avoided. Although there was an attack that it couldn't avoid, I only managed to graze it once, it's far from being a fatal wound.

The enemy's attacks that aimed for the gaps in my posture after using a Combat Art were fast and heavy. Although I didn't get a fatal injury, my leather armor is in tatters.

This hobgoblin is good at handling swords. When judging by sword skills only, it may

even be better than me. By the standards of humans, it would be equivalent to a [Swordsman].

Such a hobgoblin attacked me relentlessly, I could only defend myself without being able to counter attack, accumulating wounds while fighting desperately, then the hobgoblin jumped backward suddenly. I was very tired, and couldn't follow it immediately.

Immediately after that, a flame ball flew towards me from the direction of the Mage. I got checkmated. The hobgoblin with the sword was just earning time.

The heat waves released from the flame ball which is drawing near got stronger every moment it approached me. It can't be avoided. I'll die. I'll get killed. At that time, I felt as if the world stopped moving. My view and the flame ball were moving slowly. Only my thoughts were revolving at high-speeds, but my body doesn't move as fast. At these moments when I couldn't do anything and could only wait my fate, I remembered a story my uncle told me.

According to him, my uncle seems to have cut a magic spell using this long sword in the past. He was quite proud of this, so I remember it well.

When I heard this, I had my doubts and didn't believe him completely. While sweating, I slashed at the flame ball with the long sword. It was the best slash using a Combat Art that I executed in my life. Even I couldn't visually follow it, its speed was unlike any slash that I executed before. If even this slash can't cut the flame ball, then I'll have no other choice but to die. However, I didn't want to die, so I desperately used all of my strength, and succeeded in cutting the flame ball. The two halves of the cut flame ball fell to my left and right, and the ground where they hit burnt down. I didn't care about the heat waves that engulfed my body and exclaimed.

"I did it..... I... I did it?"

Witnessing my achievement, I let my guard down for a moment. As a result of doing this which is something that must never be done in front of an enemy, I got easily killed. To make sure to kill me in case I managed to avoid the magic, the hobgoblin with the sword approached me from my blind spot. After I let my guard down, it beheaded me. From the corner of my sight, I saw my collapsing trunk. I also can see Lux knocked down on the ground and getting stabbed by several goblins repeatedly. The impression the sight of his wide opened eyes were and the expression of agony

on his face gave was striking. The other adventurers were also mostly killed. As for the guard targets, the men were killed, and the women were captured.

The form that Rubellia is fighting with was a big hobgoblin. I wouldn't say that the ability difference between us is hopeless, but the difference in numbers between us is overwhelming. Before long, Rubellia will also lose. Will she be violated by goblins from now on? that's probably what will happen. Bearing the goblins children, breaking down, and finally dying in despair. I can't stand the fact that this is what will happen to her, however, I can't do anything about it, my consciousness is already disappearing.

Ah, this is frustrating. I can't maintain, my consciousness anymore. My sight, is turning black. After that point, I couldn't see anything anymore. I couldn't hear anything anymore. I couldn't feel anything anymore. It was pure darkness, darkness wrapped in silence. Is this death? It's dark and cold.

God... at least, lend a helping hand to Rubellia.

Author's Note:

Rubellia fell in love with Goburou while Charles who fell in love with her died in agony and got forgotten. Such a tragedy...

DAY 28

Maybe it was the weeping, getting tired, then going to sleep, but she seemed to have more or less recovered. Perhaps her mental adaptation was simply that fast, but when I went to check on the girls in the morning, the Redhead greeted me cheerfully.

The other four still seemed afraid of me, but that couldn't be helped. Time is required to have them come to an understanding. Among the stolen goods that came with them there was a cooking kit and some ingredients, using those I made a pseudo-stew for them.

Well, having my first civilized meal in a while really made me happy. It might be self praise, but the pseudo-stew really tasted good.

Eating is absolutely essential and the more delicious the food is the better, because delicious food can heal even mental wounds. After eating, I saw that the girls calmed down and began to lower their guard. I asked them to tell more details about them, I wanted to know if there is something they are good at, it seems they also wanted to do something to repay me.

By the way, I forgot to mention it, but except for the Redhead, the other four were holders of [Job - Peddler]. The one with a fuzzy atmosphere around her held [Appraiser], as well as [Blacksmith], she said that she'll polish the blades of our weapons and if I can arrange better facilities for her, she promised that she would forge equipments for me.

The two girls who looked similar turned out to be sisters, and they both held the jobs of [Tailor] and [Cook], so I arranged to have them be in charge of cooking and making clothes in the future. As expected, I couldn't ask them to make clothes for the goblins who killed their friends and acquaintances, so I told them to make clothes just for themselves.

As far as making food for everyone, I told them to just put up with it for now. I want to eat delicious properly cooked food after all.

One of the women that looked like a cool-type intelligent beauty held the job [Alchemist], so I asked her to make potions for us. I should have someone supervise

them in case they try to serve poisoned food, when I warned to not do that, they got scared, I wonder why?

The Redhead is capable of doing farm work, but speaking bluntly, that's useless for me now, so it was decided that she would be participating in the morning training from now on to get stronger. The women had to be able to protect themselves, particularly in situations like the one they were in.

After eating, we would have proceeded with training if we followed our usual schedule, however today was different. We were gathering all our belongings in preparation to move out of the cave. If you're wondering why, after the older generation returned the cave became too small for everyone.

Until now, most of the goblins who were newly born died quickly, however, that changed with my generation. That's why we were moving to the orcs' former mining base. If we relocated there we would have no more problems with space, and since it's a mine it had been reinforced to prevent collapses, so it was really sturdy. Also, I wanted to collect as many [Spirit Stones] as possible.

I sent out Gobukichi-kun with a group of ten goblins to act as an advance party. The rest of us completed our packing and left an hour later. There were a lot of workers and backpacks, so we were able to move immediately.

Escorting the human women were Gobumi-chan, Gobue-chan and a few who I could trust for this matter. The walk took over an hour, then we finally reached our destination.

It seems like some orcs were wandering around the mine, however, Gobukichi-kun's group had already killed them. I received their hearts, and the rest of the orcs were split between the members of the advance party as a reward. After that, we entered the mine arrange living quarters.

Since we didn't have many decorations, I just had decide the storage places for weapons and food, then I arranged the sleeping areas of the goblins quickly. Of course, I didn't forget about the toilets too.

When I finished with constructing the general layout, I left the rest to Goujii to arrange and started to construct the living quarters of the human women. Luckily I had my [Earth Control] ability so the work was easy. I quickly finished the Blacksmith's smithy, the Sisters' kitchen, the Alchemist's workshop and lastly their sleeping area, I made a

bed for them by making a wooden frame of a bed then wrapping my threads around it. It's a somewhat simple bed, but as it was wrapped with multiple layers of my threads, it was fairly comfortable to sleep in.

The [Spirit Stones] were used for drinking water and light sources so those weren't a problem, as for the [Spirit Stone] s' supply, they can be easily mined in this mine. The Blacksmith also said that with some time she'll be able to forge simple things using the [Spirit Stones]. Thus, we spent the rest of the day cleaning up and doing routine tasks.

The food was prepared by the Sisters. As expected of those who possess the [Cook] job, it tasted really good.

DAY 29

Finally I started the training of the older goblins today. First, as an example, I had them observe simple things like standing in line and combat practice. The older goblins were surprised by that display. However, them getting this surprised from seeing something like of this level is troubling for me, that's because they'll also start performing this training from now on.

After that we began the real thing. First of all, we started from the basics, like standing in line quickly and endurance running. I acted like some demonic training officer, throwing insults at them. Those who fell behind were gifted with push-ups as punishment.

There was an idiot goblin that tried to hit me, I gave him a punch to his face and broke his arm. After I left him screaming and rolling from pain on the ground for some time, I healed his arm and returned him to the training.

The training continued like that for a few hours, then I finished it by sparing with all of them. I got a strong sense of déjà vu from the scene that resulted. By the end, no one was capable of moving except for me.

Gobukichi-kun and the others who were watching from a distance were saying things like:

“Ah! I knew this would happen” “I knew that it would happen too” “Training is harsh when he gets like that!”

As expected, their stamina was higher than that of Gobukichi-kun and the others, so they recovered quickly, and so I decided to resume the training. I didn't go hunting today, instead I spent the day training the older goblins and teaching them about the rules and the ranking system I decided on.

DAY 30

It rained heavily today. Of course, I was having reservations about going outside.

Because of that, it was the right time to hold another tournament to determine the ranking within the clan. This method to determine the rough ranking quickly was somewhat convenient, because there is a large difference in the basic abilities between hobgoblins and goblins, we will have two separate contests to decide the ranking.

The results, are like this: At the top there was me as always, the runner-up was Gobukichi-kun, next after him was the previous hobgoblin leader, and after him was Gobumi-chan. The three hobgoblins after her were generally at the same level of competency.

The hobgoblin Mage Hobusei-san might have come after me if magic use was permitted, but that is not the case this time.

After the tournament ended, we split into three groups: Gobukichi-kun's group continued practicing, Gobue-chan's group who carried pickaxes to go mining, and the third group was studying things like the rules that I had decided, the ranks, the Continental Alphabet and so on with Gobumi-chan as their teacher.

Meanwhile, I chatted about various things with Hobusei-san. I was interested in what kinds of magic she could use. She told me that the three systems of magic she could use were the [Fire], [Water/Ice] and [Void] magic systems. I pretended that I understood what she was talking about, but in reality my information were from an incomplete source and had no idea what she was talking about. After we exchanged all kinds of information, the two of us moved on to our own tasks. Hobusei-san went to Gobumi-chan's place to study while I went to check on the human girls.

Having both fire and water guaranteed by the [Fire Spirit Stones] and [Water Spirit Stones] the Blacksmith's smithy was in the middle of producing tools using the [Spirit Stones] and iron ore that we mined. She could do that without any problems thanks to several sets of tools which were among the things the older goblins looted.

I asked her if she had any complaints, then I modified the structure of the smithy under her request. Because I noticed that she didn't seem afraid of me anymore, I left

satisfied.

Next, I went to the kitchen where the two human sisters were cooking. Since the older goblins looted cooking utensils too, they didn't have any problems. Though, after looking around the kitchen, I realized that with just two of them it would be tiring to prepare everyone's food and so I decided to sit down and help them.

The Sisters were still a bit afraid of me, that's why I thought that if I was proactive and spoke to them more, they would begin to warm up to me. Once in a while I caught them smiling, which was great. The smile of a beautiful woman is always a good thing. While we were at it, I taught them some of the recipes that I knew.

After that, I went to the Alchemist's workshop who spent all the day making potions.

The necessary alchemy equipments were also looted by the older goblins like the other places, so that wasn't a problem.

I inspected her completed goods with my [Appraisal], but so far it didn't seem like she made anything poisonous. I was interested in the creation process, so I stayed to observe.

The Alchemist who gave off the impression of a cold beauty didn't talk at all while she was working, however, she was still a feast for my eyes, so I had no issue with waiting. After she finished, we had a short conversation then I went to my own workshop.

I worked on making a leather armor using the Black wolves leather. I stitched the leather with my threads and thanks to my production ability the armor was of high quality and the crafting process progressed faster. Nevertheless, I finished the armor only past the nightfall.

Before I went to sleep, I did some practice swings with my halberd in order to become used to how it felt. Because I had been fervently moving around today I got really tired, so I slept like a log.

DAY 31

The heavy rain from yesterday continued, so we spent the day inside the cave.

The day went as usual. After the morning training finished, I equipped the Black wolf armor that I made yesterday and my halberd, which I still haven't tried using in a real battle yet, before facing a fully equipped Gobukichi-kun in a somewhat serious practice battle.

My new armor consisted of flexible black leather pants and a long sleeved black leather coat. My left hand was equipped with a wrought-iron gauntlet, and on my right I equipped the carapace-reinforced round shield. I wore a pair of sturdy looking boots that the older goblins looted from the adventurers, however, I didn't have anything covering my head.

Since my skin was also black, this equipment made it easier for me to conduct covert maneuvers at night.

Gobukichi-kun's equipment was replaced with various items we got during the orc raid.

His main weapon was a crescent axe that burned from having a flaming blade, it was made by embedding a [Fire spirit stone] into the axe blade. His carapace-reinforced buckler was replaced by a black iron tower shield and, although it was quite heavy, it had high defensive abilities. Additionally, it seems like it had been strengthened using magic.

His armor was based on what the orc leader had equipped. Using my threads to bind it together, it was now reinforced with pieces of carapace and black wolf leather, which raised its defensive power and mobility.

He almost looked like a moving fortress, well, in the first place Gobukichi-kun's body build is specialized for the vanguard role and after improving his equipment this much, his combat ability became nothing to joke about.

Gobukichi-kun had become truly strong.

I can sense it during our normal training as well, but facing him fully armed truly makes me understand just how much he has improved.

I, who uses a variety of techniques to overpower my enemy and win using methods like striking my opponents from behind was bad in a situation like this, where I have to fight head on without using any abilities against a genuinely strong opponent like Gobukichi-kun.

He's still an opponent I can win against if I use my abilities though, but if I used them then this training wouldn't have any meaning. Nevertheless, even if I'm not using my abilities, having my halberd, with the full force of my whole body behind it, being almost perfectly blocked by his tower shield is, as expected, still kind of shocking. Each and every one of his blows is also extremely heavy but, above all, his skillful handling of his axe is worthy of admiration.

It seems like he learned from experience how to swing an axe for a sharper, faster and heavier blow.

Well, the weapons he has been using since our very first hunt till now have always been similar, from cudgel → axe → battle-axe which was probably the reason.

In our « Goblin Community », the one who handles axes best is Gobukichi-kun.

Also, his burning crescent axe was more troublesome than I thought it would be. I've obtained the ability [Fire Resistance], so I didn't get any burns from his crescent axe's flaming blade, however, resistance is only resistance and the fire from the axe was a little hotter than what my ability can negate, it only felt a little hot. Also, because of the blazing flames my vision was impaired and it became troublesome when the handle of my halberd became searingly hot from long exposure to the flames.

Continuing like this, we spent quite some time fighting.

Then I spent some time sewing clothes, picking up the mined [Spirit Stones], eating the food the Sisters prepared, until I finally went to sleep.

Then, in the middle of the night, it happened.

Eight bodies were moving towards the place where the five human women were

sleeping, and my [Sense Presence] ability caught those movements.

When I looked at what woke me up, I saw the backs of some goblins who were exchanging words in whispers between one another while heading to the girls bedroom, enthusiastically discussing what they were about to do in low voices.

The moment I saw that, I gripped the halberd that I keep near my bed in one hand and chased after them. I made sure to do this stealthily in order to get firm proof that they intended to assault the women's sleeping place. Conclusive proof that they couldn't refute is extremely important.

It'll be annoying if they said something like "you misunderstood" later.

Once I made sure, I swung my halberd at the closest goblin, beheading him.

His head flew then, attracted by gravity, it fell to the ground and rolled near my feet, where I crushed it flat with my foot. After squashing the head, my boots were soiled, but at that moment, I didn't care.

I made sure to cauterize the goblin's severed throat as I decapitated him, because cleaning up the blood afterwards would be annoying.

The smell of burnt flesh sparked my combat instincts.

I dare say I was smiling while doing this.

The sudden cold-blooded murder instantly caused the atmosphere to freeze.

Everyone were looking at me with dumbfounded and terrorized expressions but, ignoring their reactions, I bound the rest of the goblins using my threads. Looking at the captured goblins, they were the former hobgoblin leader and his close aides.

Then, I understood that the former hobgoblin leader who was trying to attack Redhead and was rolling in front of my eyes with a bulging crotch was the one who instigated it all.

I thought about hearing his story before killing him, but he just said that he couldn't suppress his sexual desires. When I asked him why he didn't just let it out on a female of his own kind, he responded that after having known a human woman's body, a female goblin's body couldn't satisfy him any longer, the pleasure he felt was in a

league of its own. However, I don't care about that.

I slapped him on the cheek then ignored him, because the girls who were assaulted had some parts of their clothes torn. I'd already heard what I wanted to hear.

I handed over some cardigans that I made using my threads yesterday to the shivering girls who were hugging their bodies, because leaving them with torn clothes could make them a temptation for the other goblins.

As I finished handing out the clothes, Redhead hugged me while crying, I rubbed her back and repeated her name in an attempt to calm her down. However, she started crying even harder, so I continued to patiently call out to her. Then Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan came over, so I gave them instructions to carry the goblins I bound with my threads to the training hall near the entrance and to wake up everyone who was still sleeping.

After I gave them their instructions, I continued trying to comfort Redhead who calmed down after some time, she still wouldn't let go of my clothes though. For some reason, she would not open her hands regardless of my intentions. She was still faintly trembling, so I thought that it would be unreasonable to forcibly brush her hands away. Though I thought that it would be better for her mental health if she don't see what I would be doing, but this couldn't be helped so I took her with me.

The other four girls, although still trembling, either because they hated to be separated from me who rescued them as promised, or because they thought that they wanted to see what I'd do to the goblins with their own eyes, or possibly for some other reason, followed us.

Having made sure no one was still sleeping and that they had gathered in the training hall next to the entrance, I pointed at the thread bound goblins with the tip of my halberd to explain what these guys did, giving that as the reason I'll be punishing them, to make sure the others understand, then I began the torture.

For starters, I cut off their fingers bit by bit with a bowie knife. I cauterized the wounds with flames to prevent them from bleeding to death and used a healing spell to recover their vitality, I did all of this to prevent them from dying easily.

Their screams were noisy so I stuffed a gag of threads in their mouths. That was also to prevent them from biting their tongues. Well, to begin with they wouldn't die

quickly even if they bit their tongues, so I'll be able to heal them before they die.

Yep, I was putting everyone off.

Physically and mentally, they were drawing away.

Nevertheless, doing this proved to the girls that the promise I made was not an empty one, and it served to give a warning to the goblins of what will happen if they opposed me in the future, it was very effective. In the first place, I don't need those who are following the orders of the previous leader instead of me. Leaving behind things like that would certainly cause problems later on, so, for the sake of the future, I did this to nip potential troubles in the bud. It would be ridiculous if, in the end, I was stabbed in the back and died because I did not do something like this.

The 6 goblins were dealt with using various unique, colorful methods, and in the end, only one was left.

The last one remaining — the former hobgoblin leader begged me for his life with his eyes, but even after so lovingly turning him into a sandbag, this fool did not understand a something so simple, I could not see any value in his existence.

Within the group he had held a position that corresponded with his strength but, as I thought, it can't be helped that fools will always stay fools.

I don't get these guys who could not abide by the bare minimum number of rules that I established, simple enough that even idiots could understand.

The fact that things ended up this way is because of this guy's intentions, you reap what you sow.

Still, even I wouldn't kill others just because I didn't like them, unless I have a good reason for killing them, like this guy and his six followers. In the first place, cases when it is fine if there are two powers within an organization are exceedingly rare.

Because of that, without hesitation, again and again I burned his arm then healed it, tormented him with water, trapped him under a heavy stone while whipping him, keeping him barely alive as I continuously tortured him.

DAY 32

The moment the former hobgoblin leader finally died was the same moment sunlight peeked through the entrance of the cave. I got a little too enthusiastic and overdid it.

Since his vitality was greater than a goblin's, he simply didn't die easily. I did, however, continue to heal him as well, which contributed to his prolonged torture.

When I returned to my senses, I looked at my surroundings to discover that everyone were terrified.

While pleasantly smiling, I then asked the gathered goblins "Have I made myself clear enough?" and they all nodded their heads with astonishing vigor. Feeling satisfied with that answer, I disbanded the meeting and ordered everyone to sleep till noon, they must be tired considering that they were forced to stay awake for a prolonged period of time. Well, excluding those who had already fainted, it would be nice if everyone managed to sleep, considering that they'd been forced to watch my torture session till morning.

Thus I ordered everyone to sleep. I also told them that today's training is cancelled.

After creating a water ball with my ability to wash away the blood from my hands and face, I noticed that Redhead who was watching me torturing closer than anyone was shivering uncontrollably with vacant eyes.

In order to snap her back to her senses, I created another water ball and threw it at her.

Then I picked her up and carried her like a child to her bedroom. I disregarded when she began to shiver even more. When I safely dropped her off, I returned to the hall again and, because the other four were paralyzed, I repeated this four times.

After confirming that the other goblins had returned to their beds, I also went to sleep.

I woke up around 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

As a replacement for lunch, I ate the hearts and stomachs of the goblins I killed, and buried the rest of their remains with my [Earth Control] ability.

Around this time, the other goblins woke up and, because I had said that we will skip the training for today, I went hunting with the other three hobgoblins as usual.

I left the protection of the girls to my five servants, then warned them, Gobujii, and the others by asking "You know what'll happen if you tried assaulting them, right?". It was when they nodded vigorously that I acknowledged that the girls will probably be safe.

Well, the girls were within a walled off area that I created with my thread, and with the short-sword wielding Redhead there, at the very least they should be able to buy some time if trouble comes up.

In addition, when we subjugated the orcs at the mining site, I found an emergency horn. I gave it to the girls in case an incident were to occur. If they blow it, we should be able to quickly return and save them.

With that taken care of, the four of us left with peace of mind. The first thing we encountered on our hunt was a [Triple Horned Horse]. At a glance you could see that its body was covered with solid looking scales and was twice as large as a normal horse. It was such a big horse that with our current bodies we had to look up to see it. It was pretty clear that it was a creature in a different league compared to a hobgoblin, in addition, there were two of them. They were probably a couple and, as one of them had a swelling abdomen, it was probably pregnant.

However, I don't care about something like that, that's why we conducted a surprise attack like usual on the horses to eat their meat.

Our first attack went by the book. Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan shot poisoned arrows from their crossbows. One of Gobumi-chan's arrows went right through one of the horses' eye, while Gobue-chan's arrow was slightly off course and bounced off the other horse's stiff scales.

"Those scales are tough! Even though the power of these crossbows could easily pierce through standard plate mail, the scales easily repelled it!!" I nearly screamed that out loud.

Moreover, we applied a strong poison, created by me, on the arrowheads and yet the Triple Horned horse that was hit didn't instantly die, rather it began to act aggressively

because of the intense pain. It had a tremendous vitality!

While we were busy, the horse that wasn't hit noticed us. It turned in our direction pointing its three horns at us and entrusting itself to its rage, charging in an attempt to impale us. Well, with my thread and thunder combo I somehow managed to stop it, but my threads were under a tremendous stress and the thought that they might snap off made my innards go cold.

Just how much horsepower did this horse have?

There was no question that its physical strength couldn't even be compared to that of the likes of a hobgoblin.

While Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan's sniping kept the riotous horse pinned down, Gobukichi and I attacked the uninjured horse with my halberd and his crescent axe. At first our attacks were easily repelled, however, after repeatedly attacking we found a way to scrap off the scales. After that, the rest was quick.

My halberd and his crescent axe scraped off the scales and, once our blades reached the thick flesh below, we managed to behead it.

The other one was weakened by my poison and because we had already figured out how to kill it, it was an easier kill.

It was quite the heavy work, however, we didn't receive any major injuries, it was truly a significant hunt. It would've been okay to bring all the raw materials with us back to the mine, however, since it was our first time hunting this prey, we decided to eat it all by ourselves.

Since it's big, all three of us, except for Gobukichi-kun, were set to diligently removing the scales in order to get the meat, Gobukichi-kun was once again stationed to watch the surroundings. We needed the right hobgoblin in the right place. Thus I ate six horns, two hearts and a fair share of the rest of the meat which was split in four equal shares. After that I also ate the shells, since I thought I might get something from eating them.

Ability [Armored Scale Charge] learned

Ability [Scaled Horse's Neigh] learned

Ability [Rapid Recovery] learned

Ability [Enhanced Leg Strength] learned

Ability [Improved Charging Power] learned

Ability [Triple Stab] learned

After we finished eating I managed to obtain 6 abilities. Well, the Triple Horned horse was quite strong, so it's not surprising. Normally, it would have been impossible to kill even one with just four hobgoblins.

Also, this was the first time since I reincarnated that I obtained a physical attack skill, which was great. I thought [Triple Stab] would stab three times in a row, however, when I tried invoking the ability with my estoc targeting a tree, the result was that three holes were made in the tree at the same time. Yes, I actually only stabbed it once, yet I made three holes, one was above the place I stabbed and the other was under it.

I stabbed the tree again, then a hole on the right and the left of the place I stabbed appeared, after experimenting with it for some time, I found out that I can make the holes appear horizontally or vertically according to my will. After spending such a long time in this world I didn't feel the urge to question how it worked anymore. However, I wonder if the other holes ignore physical defense? I tried to think about it, however, the answer to this question will have to wait for another time.

After that, we walked around for a while, hunted some of our usual preys and brought them back with us before finally going to bed. After I fell asleep, Redhead snuck into my bed, so we slept together.

I'll say it just to make things clear, we didn't do anything erotic. I just reaffirmed that another person's warmth is a good thing.

DAY 33

When I woke up, I tried to move but my body felt heavy and trapped. I was lying with my arms spread wide and for some reason I couldn't feel them. I tried to figure out what was happening, looking to my left and right. When I looked to my right, Gobumi-chan was there sleeping on my arm and when I looked to my left I found Redhead sleeping on the other.

Yeah, this is the so called 'arm-pillow'. There was a faint sense of pain that came from my arms due to the two heads disturbing the blood flow in each of them for a long time.

How did it turn out this way?

Truthfully I wanted to move my arms which started going numb, but I couldn't bring myself to wake those two who were sleeping soundly. What I'd like to ask is, when did Gobumi-chan enter my bed? When Redhead snuck into my bed I was half asleep, yet I remember her slipping into the bed, so I can understand her being here.

Could it be that Gobumi-chan had developed a powerful [Hiding] ability that my [Sense Presence] ability could not sense her? No, there's no way that could happen.

Most likely, if the one approaching doesn't have any bad intentions or hostility towards me, then the signal is weak and, because I was sleeping, I missed that weak signal.

I was thinking, "For the time being, I'd like to do something about this situation..." when Hobusei-san happened to pass by. I pleaded for her help with my eyes, but she just chuckled and picked up one of my favorite books from my toolbox [Introduction to Magic — Basics of Magic vol 2 of 3] then went away gracefully.

Crap. She'd better return that.

After that, Gobukichi-kun passed by while heading for morning training carrying his crescent axe. I pleaded with my eyes just like with Hobusei-san. He seemed troubled for a little while, but ended up pressing his hands together in prayer and left. I bitterly watched his apologetic smile as he did so.

O~i, we're friends aren't we? Please help me.

After Gobukichi-kun, a yawning Gobue-chan followed. Recently she'd developed a hobby of collecting beautiful gem-like [Spirit Stones]. She even seemed to have formed a [Spirit Stones] mining group together with other goblin girls. She was holding a pick, so she was probably going to mine some before the morning training.

I imploringly pleaded with my eyes, because she smiled wryly as if saying "It can't be helped", I thought "Finally someone is helping me", but then she saw something and broke into cold sweat. While I was thinking "Huh?" she hastily went away.

Help me... the sense in my arms is gradually...

My plea for help didn't reach anyone, and I was left like that.

There were some guys who sporadically came over to check on me, but none of them offered me any help.

Then, approximately one hour after I woke up, the two finally opened their eyes. As one would expect it was starting to turn dangerous for my arms, so the reason they woke up was probably because I was trying to save my arms by doing some stealthy and very slight movements.

Frankly speaking, having your arms used as pillows for the entire time you're sleeping is severe, especially when it's both of your arms. For some time, I couldn't even feel them.

Once I ate the breakfast the sisters prepared for me, I began the morning training.

Everyone were training very hard with great enthusiasm today.

Eh? Well, since the higher post was suddenly thinned out with the death of the former hobgoblin leader - who was one of the highest ranked members -, the goblins understood that the only way to grab it is to become strong like me and the only way to become strong is by earnestly training to overcome your own limits. I got this information after putting together what Gobukichi-kun and the training goblins told me.

Yes, that's right. I didn't say it before, but since the goblins number had increased considerably recently, I began taking the role of the supreme commander of our group.

Gobukichi-kun became the commander of a unit consisting of those with high offensive and defensive abilities, their role is to engage the enemy from the front. This unit became our heavily armed corps, it's called « Anger ».

The last hobgoblin to be introduced is called Hobusato-san who became the commander of a unit consisting of goblins with high offensive abilities and with more mobility, specializing in “hit and run” tactics. This unit became our lightly armed corps that specialized in offense and mobility, it's called « Hatred ».

Gobumi-chan became the commander of a unit consisting of those who were bad at close range combat and had good affinity with long ranged weapons. This unit became our long-ranged corps armed with short bows and crossbows, it's called « Regret ».

Gobue-chan became the commander of a unit consisting of those who I judged to be lacking the required combat ability to belong to any of the above corps, this unit's members' training will focus on polishing their defensive power enough to defend themselves, in addition, they'll be focusing on support, cooking, fixing broken equipment, etc. This unit is our logistical corps, it's called « Pleasure ».

For now Hobusei-san was the only one, with the exception of me, who could use magic. Nonetheless, she became the commander of our magic-wielding unit, it's called « Agony ».

By the way, if the all of the different units are added together, they number 59. 39 from our generation plus 28 from the older generations minus the 8 I killed during my torture.

For some reason no one wanted to be my sparring partner, even though I would be using a wooden sword.

Well, I can easily win even with a handicap anyway.

But if I were to fight 1 on 1 against Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan or Hobusei-san, it would be close. If I used my abilities I can win a fight alone against everyone together, but that would be in opposition to the original purpose of the training, which is to increase the basic strength of the participants.

After that it was time for the afternoon hunt. This time everyone had things to do so I went out alone. Gobukichi-kun was asked by the goblins under his leadership to continue training with them during the afternoon, Gobumi-chan was still teaching the

goblins who couldn't remember things like ranks, the continental Alphabet and the simple rules I decided on, and Gobue-chan was mining accompanied by the members of her [Spirit Stone] mining group.

After departing, I first found a Demon spider.

I killed it the usual way and tore off its carapace. A Demon spider's carapace is useful because it's light and sturdy, in addition, I can further increase its toughness when equipping an armor made out of it by using [Shell Defense]. In fact, I've already integrated one into my armor.

[Goburou acquired [High-quality Carapace] !!]

After putting the carapace in my backpack, I ate all of the spider's body. Since Demon spiders aren't edible, the taste wasn't very good.

Ability [Expanded Field of Vision] learned

Because I felt good about acquiring a new ability, I turned a blind eye to the lacking taste.

Next, I found another Triple Horned horse. This time, unlike the last, there was only one. It was a perfect opponent to test the power of my [End] magic on, so I started casting my magic.

To successfully invoke magic, generally speaking there are three steps that must be completed.

The first is the chanting of the [Spell] to interfere with the laws of the world.

Second, [Internal Mana Control] to collect the necessary amount of magical power inside the body.

Thirdly, [External Mana Operation] to control the formation of the magic itself in the environment using the internal magical power outside the body — that is, releasing the magical power into the air, then constructing the magic.

Also, because the third part [External Mana Operation] is several times more difficult than the other two parts, it is typical to use a casting aid device such as a magic staff when casting a spell.

However, I already have the abilities [Internal Mana Control] and [External Mana Operation], so having a staff makes no difference when handling magic for me.

I constructed a black lance created with magic - a first tier spell from the [End] magic system called [Spear of The End (Gendihi)] -, then I threw it.

After aiming my black lance landed successfully and hit the Triple Horned horse right on its fat neck, where it cleanly gouged a hole 20 cm in diameter.

The body that had its flesh torn off with a tearing sound stood still for a moment, then its body went limp and suddenly collapsed on the spot. I was genuinely shaken from the impact of the scene. 'I didn't know this magic possessed such a ridiculous amount of power' I shuddered while thinking that.

You see, since I became a [Variant], the incantations for basic magic has become embedded in my memory, I think I already mentioned that, but until now I didn't know how powerful this lance was.

I understood that magic was strong from trying it on a Green slime before. However, to think that as long as I don't miss the target it's an instant death attack even when used against creatures as strong as Triple Horned horses, magic is amazing.

Or maybe the [End] magic system is just too strong compared to the other systems? Moreover, there are 10 tiers for each magic system and this spell is only a 1st tier spell. Well, the power of this spell is so high, so I'll use it only as a last resort, otherwise it won't be a laughing matter if some accident were to occur, I thought so whilst dismantling the horse.

I sliced off all 3 of the horse's horns, tore off the scales, cut off one leg as a souvenir and bled it and ate the rest of the horse in the meanwhile.

Ability [Armored Scale Formation] learned

Ability [Strong Frame] learned

The ability to grow scales on my body. It is extremely powerful, however, because I'll look kind of gross, I decided to refrain from using it. Well, as a test I used it once, then black scales grew closely packed on my arm...

It isn't something that I can show to others.

For an instant I felt like I had turned into a lizardman. Although it'll be fine as long as I get used to it, however, as expected the appearance of the arm I tried the skill on is slightly hard to swallow.

I began to move around searching for prey in order to fix my mood.

This time I found a Green slime. I fried it till it became crispy then popped its core in my mouth.

Ability [Metamorphosis] learned

I am able to change my arms to make them function as whips with this ability. You see, when you talk about Green slimes it's just a lump made up of mucus. So bones don't really matter when changing their body shape, once you know this it's easy to understand.

This ability allows my bones and the other tissue to have the consistency of a slime's body thus, using this ability, I can change my body's shape to a certain extent and move similar to a slime. I can even turn my body into a puddle-like form copying the shape of a slime and, to test this, I enveloped a Horned rabbit in my body, using [Self Body-Fluid Control] I changed my body fluids into acid, and the Horned rabbit was, in this way, turned into nourishment.

Besides, if I turn my limbs into slime form before receiving an attack and then take the part that got blown away into my body afterwards, it seems I won't even receive an injury. Though I think it's an extreme method to use. This ability is almost like cheating, though it has some limits of course. It's not like I feel bad for obtaining such a useful ability, however, I should be careful of whom I show this to.

The nightfall was close and I was already satisfied with my spoils, so I was about to return when I found, or to be more exact encountered, it.

A huge looking rock covered with red hair, is what the [Red Bear] looked like with its large frame.

From a quick estimation, it was more than 4 meters long when standing. You could tell that the Red bear is bad news with just a look from a distance, an existence not to be messed with, everyone could see that it was a born warrior.

I doubt if even my halberd could easily slice through its red metal-like fur and, even if I were to pierce it, the thick flesh below the fur would easily stop the rest of the strike's momentum.

In such a situation, one would normally flee. Running away at the first sight of it. That's the only sane choice when facing such a being.

However, before I realized it I already went into hiding while observing it and started to devise a plan on how to kill the Red bear.

Well, even though I haven't fought a dangerous opponent of this level since my reincarnation, I have already fought and killed far more dangerous guys before reincarnating. Each time, I killed and ate them.

That is probably the reason why I really wanted to fight this guy.

I want to devour it and get its abilities, my instincts were whispering this to me.

Well, with such feelings, I prepared everything I could use to kill the Red bear, and so, the fierce battle began.



DAY 34

When my deadly fight against the Red bear - that I started because of my overwhelming appetite to eat it - was finally over, I noticed the sun was already rising.

My body was seriously injured when the Red bear tore at me with his fangs and claws. Moving around and looking for a safe place to rest would be an impossible feat. Moreover, my left arm that was equipped with the gauntlet was cleanly cut off below my elbow.

When I defended myself from one of the Red bear's sharp claws and was sent flying, the cut off arm was then eaten by the Red bear in the middle of the fight, otherwise I would probably have been able to reattach it.

With my left arm lost beyond hope of salvaging I could only make a temporary fix by stemming the bleeding using my thread. To properly close the wound, many recovery abilities would have to be activated for some time. Fortunately, because I already cast [Regeneration] - a passive recovery buffing spell from the job [Druid] - and activated [Rapid Recovery] in the middle of the fight, the possibility that I might bleed to death is low now.

There was a large pool of blood under my body, then why it isn't fatal? You might think so, but the blood that I lost was already replenished by using another one of my abilities. Contrary to appearances, the blood remaining in my body is sufficient.

Well, let's talk about that later.

The damage to my equipment was also great. The gauntlet was eaten along with my left hand as I said earlier, the round shield I wore on my right arm was also smashed, both of my estocs were broken at the handles and became useless, even a few of my bowie knives' edges crumbled into pieces, leaving only the handles.

The edge of my primary weapon, the halberd, was badly chipped with the long handle greatly distorted from warding off the Red bear's constant attacks.

It hasn't been destroyed, but it clearly needs repairs.

The armor which should have still looked new before the battle now looks like a shadow of itself, all that remained are a tattered jacket and shorts.

At first glance, all you can see is a beaten dog. No, a defeated hobgoblin.

I was in a horrible state.

But, I survived. I survived.

I did well not dying, truly.

[Rapid Recovery] and the recovery spells, if it were not for them, I would have easily died more than 50 times in my current condition as a hobgoblin.

If I didn't have my defense enhancement abilities like [Shell Defense], [Physical Damage Reduction], [Steel Hide], [Scale Armour Charge] and [Strong Frame] and other defense enhancing abilities that had similar effects, it's most likely that this fight wouldn't have ended with me only losing one arm. Without my abilities, even at my best condition, a graze from one of its strikes would send me flying. That's how much of a foul play the Red bear's power was.

Even so, I still didn't lose.

Utilizing [Venom], [Electromaster], [Hydro Hand], [Spider Thread Creation] and other abilities, using simple combination attacks with various abilities was an effective way to whittle down its vitality.

Actually I would have liked to use a spell from the [End] magic system to quickly deal the killing blow, the problem is that right now my spell-casting is so slow that it's practically useless in the middle of close range combat, because the opening I'd leave would be too big, I'd instantly die if I tried.

Moreover, in the first place, when I tried to hit it with a sneak attack using a black lance it partially dodged it, so chances are that even if I managed to get one off, it's very likely that it would just be a waste of time.

The beast's instincts were fearsome. Well, because it lost its left arm in the initial surprise attack, I was satisfied with that attack.

I was also lucky that my attacks with my halberd were extremely potent when buffed

by my strengthening skills like [Improved Slashing Power], [Improved Piercing Power], [Improved Charging Power], [Improved Leg Power], [Pump-Up] and others.

By the way, after using [Triple Stab], I confirmed it. It turns out physical defense really was ignored. However, there seems to be a requirement where the attacks pierce to the same depth as the middle attack.

Furthermore, the size of the hole naturally depends on the weapon used to make it: A hole left by the spearhead of a halberd is going to be larger than one left by an estoc due to the difference in the size of the width of the blade and the strength of the blow.

One of the abilities that helped me the most was [Vampirephilia] that I got from the Seven Colored bats.

This blood sucking action can ignore the target's defensive strength up to a certain extent, and the sucked blood can be immediately used as my own blood. It is thanks to this ability that I could replace the blood lost from the Red bear's attacks which went through my defenses, even after I raised my abilities as much as possible.

In short, I was able to replenish my own blood using the enemy's, and I dealt an amount of damage proportional to the amount I took.

Since I can currently change my body like a slime, if I turned my finger into something like a straw and pierced the Red bear with it, sucking the blood through it means I didn't need to worry about the amount of my own blood lost.

I'll say it again, if I had lacked any of the abilities that I have now, things may not have turned out the way they did.

Ah, that's right, [Stench]. I guess I was helped by that, too. The very moment the Red bear was about to bite my body I used [Stench] to cause it to retreat holding its nose in anguish. Well, you never truly know what will turn out to be useful in the future.

After reflecting back on the fierce fight for a while after twilight, I turned my eyes in the direction of what was once the Red bear.

In the middle of the trees flattened in the aftermath of a violent fight was a great Red bear that had already ceased breathing. Its whole body was covered in injuries like me, however, carved on its chest was a large scar as a proof of my concentrated attacks.

My scarred figure looking down on it can be seen reflected in its empty eyes that had lost their light, and a bowie knife was stuck deeply between its eyebrows, its scarred figure and dull eyes would induce sorrow in the heart of any observer. I'll say this over and over again, the Red bear was truly strong.

Using my [Predict] ability I could see its attack trajectory as a red line, but even so, the attack was so fast there were times that I couldn't dodge in time, it intermingled its special skills - such as its explosion-like roar and its sharp glare that was inhibiting my movements - into its attacks.

Furthermore, this thing is a bear, and yet it blew fire like a flamethrower from its mouth. "Seriously, what kind of bear is this?"

Since I had [Fire Resistance] and [Hydro Hand] I didn't have that much trouble dealing with the flames, but it was troublesome putting out the fire.

It was really strong. A large part of me winning was due to luck.

However, since I won, I have the responsibility to live on for the defeated.

I extended my right hand like a whip and picked up the Red bear's hand that was rolling near its tattered body, eating it in order to regain my stamina.

Ability [Peerless Heavy Strike] learned

Ability [Intimidation of the Strong] learned

When I finished eating the right arm, all my exhaustion suddenly caught up to me and I felt my consciousness begin to fade.

During the fierce fighting I lost a lot of stamina, so my body probably judged that the best way to recover was to cut off my consciousness and preserve my stamina. As I speak right now, my [Rapid Recovery] ability and the passive recovery buff [Regeneration] are regenerating my body, so I'm confident that I wouldn't die even if I fall unconscious. It's my own body, I can understand that much about it.

However, it's obvious that I would be too defenseless if I faint as I am now. There is a high chance of getting eaten by monsters during the time I'm unconscious, so to remain alive I mustered what's left of my strength and sent out my threads to make a wall around me and the Red bear out of the trees which were scattered around as a

result of being mowed down during our fight.

It was an impromptu shelter.

In addition to using the trees as a wall, because I doused my threads in poison as I was sending them out, even if something were to break the walls, the poison would kill them. If, for some reason, all of this wasn't enough, then that would mean the end of me, I thought with resignation.

After I used up the last of my strength to build the defenses, I felt truly exhausted, my consciousness can't...

[You have exceeded the minimum required Level.

Special requirements «Kingslayer», «Tyrant's Swagger» and «■God■■»cleared, [Evolution (Rank Up)] to [Ogre - Rare Species] is possible.

Would you like to undergo [Evolution (Rank Up)]?

«YES» «NO»]

—With the last of my willpower I chose «YES» right before I lost consciousness.

DAY??? SIDESTORY:??? POV

[Time Axis : ? ? ?]

Note: the time axis is most likely Day 34, the reasoning contains spoiler, if you want to check it even then, visit this blog.

Obarou.

This place was a dimly lit room.

The only light source in this room was the huge screen on the wall, strings of characters and pictures appeared and disappeared on it.

Light flickered intensely, making it hard to see.

Inside the room, there was only one person quietly looking at it.

[Project [■ ■ ■ ■] moved to Phase Three]

[Ability Restraint Function (Limiter) Released]

[ESP [■ ■ Ability] Ability Complete Liberation Started..... Liberation Confirmed]

[Subject K's ■ ■ ■ ■ ---]

[On WA Axis' -----]

[Key Figure PA is -----]

[-----]

The person sitting on the chair continued looking at everything displayed, occasionally muttering 「Hmm」 , deep in thought.

Nobody knows the true identity of the person in the room.

Let alone the figure or face, is it a man?, or is it a woman?, is it an old man?, or an old woman?, everything concerned this 'person' was unknown.

The reason why the true identity of the person sitting on the chair can't be identified is because there was something mysterious covering the interior of the room.

「Well, well, well, what will happen now」

So, the unidentified person said.

Clap Clap, it clapped, Clang Clang, a high-pitched sound echoed. It sounded similar to the sound produced when hard metallic materials colliding.

「I'm looking forward to it」

While watching the endlessly flowing information, the one who knows everything looked happy.

It will continue observing the story that is about to begin as a bystander.

Everything started due to the will of someone.

This is, the behind the scenes of the behind the scenes of the story, someone's story.

DAY 35

I woke up due to a strong urge. The lighting was dim, but I didn't mind that very much.

I was stirred by an overwhelming sense of hunger, so I reached for the corpse of the nearby Red bear. After removing the bowie knife that was deeply lodged in the bear's forehead, I used raw strength to tear its head off. When I brutally ripped off the skin, flesh, and cervical vertebrae, the sound could be heard from afar.

Even though I didn't fully regain my consciousness yet, I reflexively munched on the Red bear's head that was in my hand.

Ability [Lord of the Mountain's Piercing Roar] learned

Ability [Intimidating Glare] learned

Ability [All Elemental Resistance] learned

After I forcibly ground the hard hair with my teeth, ate the cranium and the brain, after I'd finished eating the head in a few seconds, my brain started working a little, or enough for me to judge that the Red bear's pelt was important, so I took the bowie knife, that seemed smaller for some reason, and carefully peeled it off.

I got the feeling that the Red bear had gotten smaller since I fainted, however my head wasn't working properly, so I didn't think too deeply about it.

I just felt that the Red Bear's pelt was important, I did it for no other reason.

My left hand from the elbow down was gone, however, this much could be fixed by my abilities so there was no need to worry.

Using my [Metamorphosis] ability, I was able to make slender finger-like projections for my lost left arm from the elbow down and picked up the pelt using it.

Though I had some difficulties with using the small knife and prosthetic fingers, I was able to finish skinning off the pelt from the bear. After that, I started eating the flesh of the now naked bear.

Feeling an intense sense of starvation, I single-mindedly devoured its flesh and blood until nothing remained.

Ability [Lord of the Mountain's Stout Hide] learned.

Ability [Lord of the Mountain's Strong Muscles] learned.

Ability [Consecutive Raging Strikes] learned.

Ability [Tyranny of the Beast King] learned.

Ability [The [Demigod of Fire]'s Divine Protection] learned.

Ability [Complete Fire Resistance] learned.

Each time I chewed on the meat brought out its flavor more and more, it was truly the best meat I have ever had, I drank the thick blood that almost tasted like aged wine, I could feel the vitality that had filled Red bear's organs while eating them, then I devoured its crunchy bones until I had exhausted its bone marrow, just like the minerals from a mine. After I completely devoured the existence that was once the Red bear, my head finally became clear and started working properly.

Then, I looked down at my body.

My body's color remained black, however, in addition to the large quantities of blood covering it, I noticed some unfamiliar red lines that seemed to have a kind of religious significance — I wonder if it can be called a tattoo? — all over my body. In addition, after examining my body, it became clear that I was not a hobgoblin anymore but a completely different species, my arms seemed even thicker than the torso of an adult male and my abs had developed into a six-pack.

Moreover, my hair, I was sure it hadn't been this long. Although my hair grew when I evolved into a hobgoblin, it had barely reached my shoulders, however, now my hair reached the lower end of my shoulder blades and, aside from growing longer, it had also turned gray.

Lastly, two sharp horns grew out from my forehead. When I touched them, they felt extremely sharp and tough. If I charged like a bull, I'm sure that I would be able to stab the target. While I was checking out my new body, I remembered the message I heard before I lost consciousness.

Yeah, it seems I have turned into an [Ogre].

Yeah, I heard it say ogre, moreover, it was not a [Variant], rather, something that's even more unusual called a [Rare Species].

Well, if a hobgoblin kills a creature as strong as the Red bear, then they'll definitely be able to undergo [Evolution (Rank Up)], it can't be helped that I became a [Rare Species] though. I convinced myself that it wasn't that bad of a thing.

In the same manner as when I evolved to a hobgoblin from a goblin, when I evolved into an [Ogre - Rare Species], all of my abilities had been enhanced and my body was filled with a temporary feeling of omnipotence. However, I decided to leave the verifying of the enhancements for another time. I think it's about time for me to head back. The others are probably worried since I haven't returned yet.

I picked up the halberd that might be reusable if repaired, then I noticed something when I was about to leave the impromptu shelter I made using the trees yesterday. After the fight, my clothes were heavily damaged, nevertheless, they still covered the parts that needed to be hidden. However, as a side effect of when my body grew in size, the clothes that I was wearing had all been torn to shreds.

Basically, I am currently naked.

My member was swinging around between my legs, it was so amazing that I couldn't tear my gaze away from it for a while. I thought "what should I do about this?" for a few seconds, then I solved the problem by taking the Red bear's pelt, which I had already skinned, and wrapped it around my waist to cover myself.

I see, that's why I skinned the Red Bear's pelt, because I had a premonition that such a situation would occur. I strapped the pelt around my waist, then I used a wind-blade to cut an opening in the impromptu shelter made from trees making my threads release with a "zuban" sound.

After I evolved, the power of the wind-blade dramatically increased, to the point that even if I held back it would still be a one-hit kill.

Judging by the position of the sun, I'm guessing it's around two o'clock now. It seems I slept for a pretty long time, I should hurry back to the mine.

On the way back I collected my backpack and field pack which were lying in the

vicinity, after that I recovered as much as possible of the iron pieces that were once estocs and bowie knives to recycle them.

The Triple Horned horse's leg that I placed in my backpack got stolen, I think that I should be content that the other materials such as the demon spider's crust remained though, losing only the leg is much better than having the other materials and the backpack getting damaged.

Because I'd gotten bigger, and used some of my movement-related abilities, I arrived at the base quickly, where they were noticeably wary and afraid of me.

Yeah, if an unknown ogre suddenly appeared, this is what'd happen, I thought with a wry smile. Then they got even more frightened. Ah, seeing that, I thought that I probably have a violent face now after evolving into an ogre, I'm sure of it.

I think that it would be something like this:

Goblin → Ugly Hobgoblin → Human-like Ogre → an overly muscular berserker

I'm sure it's Something like this.

By the way, there's no concrete proof, but I'm probably over two meters tall right now. Compared to the wary goblins in front of me, there was a huge difference in size, I'm completely looking down at them. They'd get in my blind spot if they got too close, I'd completely lose sight of them.

Soon after, Gobumi-chan came out from the mine and realized that it was me. Just like that, the rest of the wariness vanished from the goblins. Gobumi-chan who identified me in an instant, had her facial expression turned into that of relief then anger, and with all of her might kicked me.

It didn't hurt at all, though I acted like I was in pain. However the one who truly felt pain was Gobumi-chan, so I casually used a healing spell on her to ease any discomfort. As soon as her pain subsided, Gobumi-chan made me do seiza.

T/N: Seiza means an upright kneeling position that is traditionally used in Japan in meditation and as part of the preparation in martial arts.]

She was really worried, saying things like "What were you doing?", "How did you turn into an Ogre?". Of course she also asked me about my left arm. Well, this is natural.

Noticing her eyes tearing up a little, I couldn't even refute her. When I said "sorry for making you worry", Gobukichi-kun and Redhead arrived after hearing the commotion.

Of course, they were surprised. So surprised they couldn't even stop their mouths from hanging open.

Well, of course they would if they were worried because I didn't return for the first day and then came back as an ogre on the third one.

Once the key members such as Gobue-chan, Hobusei-san, Hobusato-san and Gobujii came over, I started explaining what I'd been doing to them. I chased the other goblins away saying that I will tell them later.

Well, when I thought that I should return soon after hunting for some time alone I found a Red bear. I wanted to test my strength, and my instinct urged me on - actually it was mainly due to my appetite -, so I attacked it.

After that, the fight that started in the evening continued through the night, and it concluded only when the sun started to rise yesterday morning.

After that I couldn't move because I got heavily damaged in the battle, so I erected a barrier - impromptu shelter - using my threads and slept in an attempt to recover my strength.

Then, a while ago when I opened my eyes I realized that I had Ranked Up into an ogre. Moreover, it was a [Rare Species]. Most of my equipment became unusable, but I got the Red bear's pelt as a trophy, so it wasn't that much of a loss.

Well, I was just thankful to be alive.

After telling them that much, I noticed the stupid expressions that Hobusei-san, Hobusato-san and Gobujii were showing with their jaws hanging open as if they dislocated.

What is it Gobujii? Eh? Did I kill the Red bear you say? That's what I was saying, While saying that I patted the fur wrapped around my waist to draw their attention to it.

Hmm? What is it Hobusei-san? Hoh, so there's a considerably strong, almost peerless - in this forest - bear-type monster species called [Hind Bear] living in this forest, However, it's generally grey in color and can only go up to three meters long.

Additionally, among those bears there are [Variants] whose fur is red in color. Those [Variants] are unable to wield magic like a mage, but they do have a high intelligence and the ability to breathe fire, moreover, they are in a different league compared to common Hind bears in physical capabilities such as physical strength and sense of smell.

So in short, because it was the strongest among the Hind bears in this forest, it was also the strongest in the entire forest.

Therefore that [Hind Bear - Variant], in other words the Red bear was called the [Lord of the Mountain] and it has enough strength to easily kill and eat an ogre.

I see. I doubt I'll be able to meet another one, given its rarity in this world.

"Ouch, Stop hitting my head Hobusato-san." Though it really doesn't hurt. "Eh? You want to take a better look at the fur? It can't be helped". As I showed it to her, she said that it was definitely the real thing.

Well, the fact that even after I Ranked Up into an ogre I acquired a considerable number of abilities from eating it, and that there were even two named [Lord of the Mountain's Strong Muscles] and [Lord of the Mountain's Stout Hide], means it's probably true.

Also, Gobujii said that I who became an ogre in such a short amount of time stopped being 'abnormal' and became an 'impossible existence'. Although I retorted "it's pointless to mull over it now", they replied "at least be aware of what you've done, don't make it sound like it's an easy feat".

It's unreasonable.

We talked about various things for an hour before ending the meeting.

Well, as expected the current situation is not good since I'm as exposed as a newborn. I wanted to get some new clothes quickly. I feel embarrassed, as expected, I can't remain calm in a state with only the pelt covering my waist. Also, the stares of the goblins in the surroundings are a little unnerving.

I decided to go to my workshop, then I noticed Gobumi-chan and Redhead following me. "What are you, my parents?", I felt like saying that, but I refrained. I let them do as they please since there isn't any problems with it, I went and greeted the rest of the girls for now. I wanted to check if anything had happened in my absence.

They were really afraid. They were all screaming at me from the sudden meeting. Then I quickly drove away the goblins who started gathering to check the commotion.

The girls almost started crying when they saw me, however, I told them what happened then used my flames and threads to prove that it's me, with that they finally recognized me. I could still notice them shivering a little from fear, but I was content that they finally showed smiles. I felt like saying "Good job!" since they all looked so cute.

Nevertheless, I thought "stop pinching my legs, you two - Redhead and Gobumi-chan - ", it hurts a little bit. Well, skin can't be trained. However, I just thought of it as a punishment for making them worry about me, afterwards we talked about various things.

I asked Blacksmith-san to repair the halberd that got heavily damaged. She scolded me saying "You've really done well making it so tattered".

In addition, it seems that she made a knife using a [Spirit Stone] alloy, so she asked me to come check it out later. "And, if it's okay with you, I would like to try and create a new weapon for you", I nodded immediately as soon as she asked me this.

I found it cute seeing her getting happy after she heard my answer, smiling with beet-red cheeks. It made me involuntarily pat her head. So as not to hurt her I tried my best to control my strength. Still, I think it was nice seeing her blissful smile when I patted her. As expected, a woman's smile is nice.

For some reason the two pinched me even harder. Why?

When I told the two Sisters with the [Cook] job that I'll be hunting Hind bears later, they got fired up and said that they'll make a bear stew then. "To make a bear stew, we'll need to get this, this and that" and so I ordered my goblin servants to go out to gather them.

Lately I've been working these guys frequently, their Levels should be around 100, perhaps some of them will Rank Up to hobgoblins soon.

As expected, it's hard for the two to do all of the work by themselves, I wanted to at least help them in preparing the ingredients in the kitchen, so I appointed three female goblins of my generation from our logistical corps « Pleasure » to assist the two. I appointed females because I think that it's still impossible for them to interact with the males and it would be more dangerous, nevertheless, these girls are incredibly tough.

Even though they're not the same goblins that killed their friends and acquaintances, normally after what happened they would start to see all of the goblins as enemies, yet, when you look at these girls, you can see that they don't think like that. The mental strength and adaptability they possessed is remarkable, even though only a short period of time has passed since they started living here, they are already getting used to the goblins.

Really, these girls are amazing. Even if it is a miscalculation on my part, I'm still glad.

“You girls will become really good wives. Will it be okay if I made you two my wives?” I asked the two as a joke.

After saying that I was looking forward to tonight's dinner, I left.

When they faced me while blushing showing their blissful smiles, I found it really cute.

As soon as I left, I was struck in the back of the head by the other two with wooden swords.

It was unreasonable though, because it didn't hurt, I didn't bother stopping them.

Alchemist-san was concocting potions as usual and there was even a small container containing poison mixed among the other potions. Though it's not the type of poison that kills, it would only paralyze the body.

Well, this is unavoidable, I wryly smiled. Then softly whispered in her ear "How are you planning to use this poison?". Well, it seems to be only for self-protection.

Since she understood that just like there are all kinds of humans, someone like me existed in the clan of the goblins who attacked them, she didn't feel anything like wanting to mix poison in the food, however, she still made it because not having any measures is scary, that's how it was.

When I asked "Aren't there goblins that you hate enough to want to kill them?", she replied that there are many goblins that she hates to the point of wanting to kill them, however, she became capable of trusting me ever since what happened on 'that night'. Moreover, she can also trust Gobukichi-kun and some of the other goblins now.

At the same time, she told me that after becoming an ogre, I'm giving off an excessive feeling of power. She said that the feeling of power emitting from my body is amazing. As for my red tattoos, it seems like they were a little frightening.

"I can't help it though", I said as I extended both my hands and stretched out my prosthetic fingers toward her and jokingly picked her up, then I sensed icy glares coming from the two behind me.

Their glares were so strong I thought, "Oh crap, I'm going to get killed".

That being the case, I did the same to Gobumi-chan and Redhead to appease them. Then, I did the same thing to Blacksmith-san and the Sisters too.

My body aside, I felt mentally tired because I had to be careful not to break everyone's fragile bodies.

After that, I finally arrived at my workshop, I felt itchy wearing the pelt.

The Red bear pelt that I'm planning to use to make a new armor could not be processed yet, so I decided to leave it alone for now. In the meantime, I made shorts out of the Armored tanukis' hide that I had already tanned beforehand.

I don't really feel cold being an ogre and, since making trousers for my size would use up too much hide just to make temporary clothes, to save on materials I made shorts instead.

I think that any hide armor made out of the Red bear's hide will provide enough protection. However, it is the Red bear's hide and I endured great pains to get it after all. That's why I think that rather than making hide armor, it's better to make hard leather armor that has higher defense.

I nimbly finished making the shorts and put them on immediately. With this I can protect my dignity as a person. That was what I felt.

After that, I started processing the Red bear's hide, making it harder by boiling it.

Tomorrow I'll not go hunting, rather, I'll prepare new equipment to go hunting with.

Though there's another reason why I won't go hunting, it's because I can't use any of the weapons we have at the moment, since I'm too big now.

DAY 36

Among my subordinate goblins, out of my 5 goblins servants, 3 Ranked Up to hobgoblins.

I gave them a congratulatory gift.

Yesterday, I thought that soon some of them may Rank Up to hobgoblins, but to think that the next day 3 of them Ranked Up, I wanted to retort "Your timing is too good". Since they've Ranked Up to hobgoblins just recently, I told them to get used to their bodies in today's training.

Starting from today, I stopped pairing up with the goblins in the morning training.

Well, it's just too dangerous. Even if I held back my strength to the utmost minimum, a light punch would send a goblin to their death. More like, they would die unless treated immediately.

Even Gobukichi-kun, armed to the teeth, was pretty much trashed. His armor couldn't stop the force as it creaked. Even his tower shield made of black iron got a fist-shaped dent from when I punched at it.

Therefore, I stopped my sparring sessions.

And I decided to arrange one-on-one spars among the goblins instead of fighting me I added a rule that the loser will get a light penalty.

In the afternoon, I continued crafting the armor that I started yesterday.

Gobukichi-kun went out hunting with a complicated expression on his face. I thought that it would be dangerous for him to go out alone and ordered my 3 servants who Ranked Up into hobgoblins today to go with him.

Gobumi-chan and Hobusato-san got along with each other recently because both were both females and had some similarity in their close quarters fighting styles, so they led 4 goblins and went out to hunt.

Hobusei-san was sitting beside me while I was crafting my armor. I told her to return

the book after she finishes reading it but was ignored. Gobue-chan is mining [Spirit Stones] again today. It seems she found a spot with a lot of [Spirit Stones] and got very motivated, her mining speed went up.

Redhead was training using wooden swords together with the goblins who didn't go hunting. Maybe it was because she didn't want her strength to fall behind the goblins who had a fast growth rate, her expression was very serious, although she still have some hostility towards the older goblins who attacked their caravan, however, she was gradually getting familiar with the goblins from my generation. Really, she is such a tough girl.

Taking a break from crafting my armor, I decided to visit the girls. I first went to Blacksmith-san to check on the knives she forged using the [Spirit Stones] alloy, I was content with the interesting abilities they had. I also taught the Sisters some simple recipes. Then I brainstormed together with Alchemist-san for new ideas for potions.

It's been so long since I've taken it easy.

DAY 37

Two of my servants who were still goblins yesterday Ranked Up to hobgoblins today.

While thinking “It's the second day in a row, huh?”, I gave them a congratulatory gift.

After morning training finished, while I was eating the lunch the sisters prepared for me, Gobue-chan who should have been in the depths of the mines came to me flustered.

She was embracing a small, brown humanoid with a bright red jewel on its forehead, sharp cuts could be seen all over its body. It was covered in blood, just like me some time ago. I could tell from its erratic breathing that it would most likely die any moment.

I'm calling it “Carbuncle” for the time being, since Gobue-chan told me to help it, I treated it using one of the [Job-Druid] recovery spells, [Heal].

It would have been beyond saving if I was ten minutes late, I felt relieved that I managed to heal it in time.

However even healing doesn't return lost blood. Carbuncle fell asleep after I forcefully made it drink a potion I made with Alchemist-san, a [Hematopoietic Potion] (Prototype) made by blending various herbs that helped with blood formation. Luckily for Carbuncle I was sated after the meal so I didn't feel like eating it. Besides, Gobue-chan asked me to help it.

T/N: Hematopoietic means blood producing.

A few minutes later, the 30-cm tall Carbuncle opened its eyes and explained its situation.

“Thank you very much”, was the first thing it said after knowing that we helped her.

According to the story it told us when I asked why it was covered in injuries, the Carbuncle's name was Returner, and the reason it was covered in wounds was because it was attacked by some human adventurers.

The red gem splendidly mounted on its forehead, seems to be a super high-class item, if sold it would probably be worth a hundred million gold coins — after hearing the value of one gold I think it's equal to ten yen, by the way "gold" isn't gold coins, it's a unit to assess the value of coins —, that seemed to be the adventurer's objective.

When I thought that Returner must have had it hard, it went down on its knees and begged me to do something about the humans.

This is what I put together after hearing the story:

~ It seems like Returner is an artificial Carbuncle created by the legendary magician Velvet who lived in the ancient times and was well-known throughout the continent. Returner is the administrator of « Velvet's Hidden Treasury » — a structure recognized in this world as a man-made dungeon — that Gobue-chan and the others broke through when they were digging for [Spirit Stones].

~ Though its superficial wounds that I healed seemed to have stabilized its state, but the fact was that its core — although Returner is a non-living artificial Carbuncle without a set lifespan, it seems like it would die if the core is broken — was deeply damaged when the humans attacked it. The healing just prolonged until its death.

~ Within the innermost parts of the dungeon, there are gems, elixirs and magic items that Velvet had painstakingly collected over his lifetime, there are even some [Legendary] -Ranked magic items. There was no way Returner could tolerate something like the treasure chamber getting savagely broken into by those greed-stricken nitwits and its treasures getting taken away.

~ Returner wanted to solve this problem on its own, however, its fighting strength is lacking and because its core got damaged its time is limited.

In the dungeon there are the magical creatures called [Skeleton Soldiers] s, and their higher rank [Greater Skeletons] who can summon and command skeleton soldiers, however, against the party of the adventurers they were worse than useless.

That's why it asked us who seemed somewhat strong to drive the adventurers out and bury the entrances.

If we could help eliminate the problem, it is willing to hand over the contents of the treasure chamber to us as thanks. Velvet hated humans, so it might as well hand over the treasure to us.

After thinking about it for a while, I couldn't think of any downsides, so I accepted it.

I called Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan, Gobue-chan, then both Hobusei-san and Hobusato-san and ordered them to get properly armed. After that I asked Blacksmith-san to bring me the knife made from [Spirit Stones] alloy. Having a weapon is much better than going unarmed.

Also, because the Spirit Stone Knife is flashy in appearance, it seems like it would be useful as a deterrent.

As I was giving instructions to the other, Blacksmith-san, Redhead, the two sisters and Alchemist-san looked at me, their faces full of unease.

That is because they heard the request to kill humans. They would feel some unease, even if they are strangers.

However, because what Returner asked for is to just drive them away I'll first try doing that, we will not try to kill them before talking first.

First, we will try to persuade them, if that doesn't work, then and only then will we resort to the use of force. Since to protect ourselves we have to use deadly force, I'm afraid it will end with us having to kill them.

"If it's for self-defense then it can't be helped, otherwise we'll get killed, right?" I said.

When I told them that talking is important and showed them my smile, they more or less relaxed.

With the preparations complete, Gobue-chan led us to the route connecting to the dungeon that Returner managed.

In the end, this is what happened.

We killed all the six adventurers who entered the dungeon and tried to kill Returner.

Well, I did try persuasion first.

Initially, to prevent them from getting anxious because of our superior numbers, I had Gobukichi-kun and the others hide and went to persuade them by myself. This was an act I did in good faith.

But the moment they saw me they said something flag-like, "This dungeon not only it has Greater skeletons, there is also an [Ogre - Variant] here. This place has many monsters, but most of them are weak. This ogre is a little hard to deal with, however, it's not a match for us. Let's just kill it quickly. We've to look for the tiny one that escaped too", then attacked me full of killing intent.

I'm not an [Variant], but a [Rare Species]. They didn't want to hear what I wanted to say, not even a little. That's robbers for you, I thought.

Well, doing things like intruding on people's houses - dungeons -, recklessly killing its inhabitants - monsters - while plundering the treasures inside... This is without doubt a murder-robbery case isn't it!! Moreover, they're not even aware of their crime, these people are beyond saving!!

Upon using [Appraisal], it seems like the robbers' equipment were all high-class magic items, anyone can realize that they are quite strong from the air emitted by them. The composition of the party was two vanguards, three rear rearguards and an assassin, the six's teamwork was also good.

However, I felt nothing like the despair I felt when I fought the Red bear. Because I'm an [Ogre - Rare Species] my base specs are high, that's why I was having an easy time warding off the robbers' attacks.

Their attacks were totally clumsy. Their aims are also relatively dull, not only were they unable to handle their weapons efficiently, there were hardly any unpredictable and complex feints mixed into their attacks to mislead the enemy.

Their slashing attacks were quick, and their weapons were of a superior quality, so if a usual ogre were to fight them he'd be slaughtered leaving only pieces of meat behind, however, in my opinion their combat techniques were not on par with their body's specs, the impression I had of their attack was that it was crude.

And seeing their movement I felt something wrong, their bodies' movements and their attacks trajectories were slightly misaligned. Well, I don't have enough information about that now, I'll investigate it later

Considering the body reinforcement they gained from raising their [Job] s, they are certainly strong, but conversely, it could possibly be inhibiting their efforts to raise their potential. They were probably fighting without thinking of how to swing their

swords, and just focused on raising the Levels of their Jobs.

So far they must have been raising their Levels by killing their opponents relying on brute force, thus they had naturally started to spend less effort training their techniques.

I don't mean to find faults in others affairs, but their current methods were excessively lethal for themselves.

If they had spent more effort training, they would probably have been able to fight me on equal grounds. That's how high their base specs were.

Having neglected their training they were not real opponents for me.

There was a margin of error allowed for me because they were weaker and all of their attacks were warded off by me and while this was happening I continued my attempt to persuade them.

Usually when robbers are trying to murder you, you don't try to convince to leave.

As I was talking to them, while still being attacked, from the rearguard a young looking Magician fired a spell from [Lightning] magic system at me which was followed with a *bam* sound as soon as it struck my face.

I didn't collapse, but all the same I stumbled a step backwards. The resulting damage was only to the degree that I felt sore.

You may think that it's a weak spell when you hear that, however, I would've died from it if it weren't for my [All Elemental Resistance] and [Lightning Resistance] abilities. It was strong enough to evaporate my head without leaving any trace behind if not for my two abilities.

That's why, as expected, when they used an attack of this level, my patience reached its limits. I sent a signal to Gobukichi-kun and the others who were hiding to commence their attack.

Apologizing to Returner in my mind, I cut off the retreat path of the adventurers by destroying a part of the corridor made of a mysterious opal-like material that made me want to remark "What is this, an ancient holy temple?"

In order to attract their attention, I attacked from the front.

I originally thought the ability of the Spirit Stone knife was only somewhat interesting, however, it actually turned out to be amazing.

The blade itself has absolutely no sharpness, but since the materials used were [Water Spirit Stones] alloy, water was being ejected from the blade with each swing. When I swung it a little seriously, the water coming out at high speed became a water blade, it cut an adventurer's armor in half along with the contents while making a loud sound.

"Awesome! Awesome!" was what Gobumi-chan said, then I gave it to her to try it, however, although water came out, she couldn't cut with it.

It seems like it won't cut unless swung with a suitable speed, though it was still amazing.

After killing all of the adventurers, we stripped the bodies and ate them. I took the upper halves while Gobukichi-kun and the others got to share the lower halves.

Ability [Job-Assassin] learned

Ability [Job-Crusader] learned

Ability [Job-Guardian] learned

Ability [Job-High Wizard] learned

Ability [Job-Priest] learned

Ability [Job-Enchanter] learned

Ability [Quick Thinking] learned

Ability [Parallel Thinking] learned

Ability [Riding] learned

Ability [Anti-magic] learned

Ability [Shortened Incantation] learned

Ability [Chivalry] learned

Ability [Intuition] learned

Ability [Conceal Presence] learned

Ability [The [Demigod of Compassion]'s Divine Protection] learned

Ability [The [Demigod of War]'s Divine Protection] learned

They were probably high-ranked even among adventurers, most of their equipment were of high-quality. I also found some useful magic items on them, I ate them immediately of course.

Ability [Conceal Self-Status] learned

Ability [Item Box] learned

In total, I ate seven magic items from two types, [The Hermit's Ring] that hides the status of the wearer and [Backpack Storage - Large] x6 which is a rare magic item that have a very large storage capacity, I stored the rest of the adventurers' gear in my [Item Box] – when I tried to retrieve an item, a *pon* sound could be heard and the item appeared -.

It reminded me of the item transfer technology used in everyday life in my past life, I felt a sense of nostalgia when I checked the ability.

By the way, because I ate six of the same item, this ability allows me to store up to 1200 different types of items and the items of the same type can be stacked up to 99 times each which is just cheating.

After that, Returner guided us to the entrance of the dungeon that the adventurers entered from and we collapsed it.

Now there's no other entrance here except for the one Gobue-chan made. After we collapse that passage, there will be no way to enter this dungeon.

Then, Carbuncle guided us into the treasury.

There were various valuable treasures, the adventurers' equipment that we got our

hands on looked dull compared to the vast number of powerful magic items here. Amidst this treasury crammed full of items, in the innermost part there was a mummy with a strange left arm shining in silver enshrined in a throne.

Returner called this mummy its master, that meant that it's Velvet.

Returner's time was about to run out and before that it wanted to tell us something.

A wide variety of [Spirit Stones] can be mined in our mine, that was the influence of this dungeon. Usually depending on the type of [Spirit Stone] it could be found in a location that corresponds to its attribute — places with good ventilation have [Wind Spirit Stones], [Fire Spirit Stones] are found near hot places like volcanoes - [Spirit Stones] of different attributes aren't usually found in one place.

However, because this dungeon was a place built by Velvet who excelled at handling spirits, spirits who do not belong to this environment remain here even now and thus it's possible to mine a wide variety of [Spirit Stones] in our mine because of this dungeon's influence.

As soon as it finished talking, Returner showed a faint smile and its body disintegrated.

Clink*, only the jewel was left behind.

I picked it up and ate it.

Ability [Golden Rule] learned

I gave a silent prayer dedicated to Returner.

Then we took all the riches in the treasury. Really, [Item Box] is amazing.

We crammed everything in the treasury inside it and I still have a large surplus of space left. This is thanks to the adventurers party from a while ago.

Only the mummified Velvet with the strange-looking left hand remained in the lonely treasure chamber, as I thought, I couldn't bring myself to leave him as he is, so after recovering the gem-encrusted throne, I cremated the mummy.

Raising my face, I clapped my hands in prayer "Namu", after the rumbling fire died out only the strange-looking artificial arm shining in silver remained in the mummy's

place.

“What is this?”, I thought as I used [Appraisal].

----- [Appraisal] -----

Name: Silver Artificial Arm – Airgeatlámh

Classification: Artifact

Rank: Legendary Class

Abilities:

- [Arblast]
- [Spellblast]
- [Self-Evolution]
- [Attribute Echo]

Details: A divine artificial arm previously worn by Velvet who found it in the depths of a certain « Age of the Gods Dungeon ». Those who lost an arm can equip it and perform any movement flawlessly with it.

By taking in other kinds of metal it can evolve and improve, it is possible to change its shape to a certain extent according to the owner's intent. Destruction of this item is fundamentally impossible.

----- [Appraisal] -----

This is what I found out.

Hm, is Velvet saying “I don't need this any more, so I'm giving it to you” to me who had lost his left arm? I thought of this as I picked it up brought it closer to my left elbow

where my arm is missing. Somehow I was able to attach it.

My impressions: it was incredibly painful.

Well, when I brought it close to my elbow, some small gaps appeared in the silver arm's armor, then metallic tentacles extended from them and covered my left arm up to the shoulder. Then the tentacles did something that felt like they were eating my flesh, the pain was so intense that I almost blacked out.

After I recovered from my pain, my left arm was already [Airgeatlámh] up to the shoulder. The silver arm that was the size of a human's arm when I picked it up should have been far too small for me who was an ogre, but somehow it transformed into the same size as my right arm in both length and girth, it suited me well.

This might be the effects of [Self-Evolution].

There was no discomfort when clenching and opening all the five fingers. It didn't feel weird at all.

Moreover, it have a sense of touch, but when I tried hitting a wall I felt no pain at all. Even though I could accept having no sense of pain because it was a prosthetic arm, I wondered how it was able to transmit the sense of touch.

I was incapable of understanding it, and since I have no idea how abilities work in the first place, I'm didn't think too deeply about it.

The elbow joint seemed to have an outrageously wide range of motion, and there were all sorts of gimmicks here and there. The hand and fingers could be rotated like a drill and even the whole arm, in addition, I can move the joints at angles impossible for the skeletal structure of an ogre.

I didn't forget to confirm if I can properly use my abilities through the silver arm. I was able to spin thread and eject poison from the sharp pointed fingertips without a problem.

I have obtained an awfully good item.

Although I was managing somehow with the prosthetic fingers - slime fingers -, but as expected, having a solid basis made dealing with problems easier.

After that, we returned to base and had a party. Since we completed Returner's request successfully and among the things we got from the adventurers party — this is important — there were bottles of alcohol, I informed the others that we'll have a party and we started preparing. We finally got some alcohol if we're not going to drink now, then when are we going to?

This is also for sending off the souls of Returner and Velvet.

In Velvet's case, maybe it doesn't matter because he died a long time ago, but I didn't bother with such a petty matter, bacause I was in a good mood.

I explained the details gently and thoroughly to Redhead, Blacksmith-san and the others to make them understand that I didn't have a choice other than killing the adventurers.

Nevertheless, it's delicious, alcohol is delicious!!

DAY 38

After morning training finished, I went to Blacksmith-san to have the items we obtained yesterday appraised, classified and sorted.

As expected of the legendary magician, almost every article of Velvet's inheritance was outrageous.

I was unable to identify many things, On the other hand, Blacksmith-san being a Peddler and a Blacksmith who dealt with various equipment had a high level [Appraisal] ability. She assessed much more information than I can and then explained to me her findings.

Although there seems to be many parts that still can't be identified, but, it was really helpful.

After that, I spent the rest of the day sorting the items.

DAY 39

After concluding the morning training, I thought about what to do with the large amount of high quality items we've obtained, because I judged that to fully equip them would only lead to complacency, I decided to give magical items – weapon, armor and stuff like magical rings to be versatile – to only the ten hobgoblins and gave each one a max of two items.

The equipments the hobgoblins previously used were passed down to those of a lower rank. In the end, the worst equipped members were using shell-reinforced shield, leather armor and a short sword.

Since they have been practicing daily, the goblins reached Levels so high that it's normally impossible for such a large number of goblins to reach, additionally both the quality and quantity of their equipment had increased, even if they didn't perform a surprise attack with poisoned arrows and attacked enemies from head on, they would still have a high chance of defeating a mid-ranked adventurers' party according to Gobujii.

Well, it's normal that if the goblins who are as strong or slightly weaker than the adventurers attack en masse that the adventurers would lose.

According to this, this group is without doubt currently the strongest army corps here.

In the afternoon I went out with all the hobgoblins which numbered 10 in total along with Redhead since she desperately wanted join us, in order to hunt the previously mentioned Hind bears.

By the way, my current main weapon is from Velvet's inheritance, a vermillion long-spear named [Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazikli Bey)].

T/N: It's the same spear he is holding on the Alphapolis Banner. The one that looks something used by a Ritual Monk. Kazikli Bey is Vlad the Impaler's Turkish nickname, the Vampire Dracula was based on him.

My armor is a long coat-type hard leather armor made from the Red bear's hide and

the shells of Demon spiders, I am also wearing a pair of flexible red leather pants. On my flesh and blood right arm I'm wearing a magic item that's usually in the form of a black metal bracelet, however, it can quickly transform into a sturdy hand protector that manifests the ability to increase my physical strength – among other things – according to my will, named [Fury of the Haughty King (Beowulf)].

The spear and the bracelet and the silver arm, all the three of them are [Legendary] - Ranked [Artifacts].

Yes, it might be late to talk about it now, but I'll briefly explain about [Artifacts].

[Artifact] is a word that inevitably appears when discussing items gotten from the few dungeons around the world termed « Age of The Gods Dungeons » that are extremely dangerous yet unique places.

From what I can tell from when the item data of [Artifacts], there's an obvious difference in performance when compared to normal magic items.

Even for disposable potions, their effects can be more than two to three times as potent.

An [Artifact] -Class health potion restores 60 hit points, while a normal health potion of the same Rank restore 25 hit points. It's Something along those lines.

Blacksmith-san told me that it's a system that distinguishes superior quality items from the same Rank.

Next I'll talk about [Legendary] -Ranked items.

Items are categorized accordingly into 7 ranks starting from the lowest it's: [Inferior], [Normal], [Rare], [Unique], [Ancient], [Legendary] and [Phantasmal]

For example, the rustic long-swords I got from the Kobolds and the shell encased gigantic club that Gobukichi-kun used before are both of the lowest Ranked of items, [Inferior] -Ranked items, whilst the magic staff that the kobold Mage used, using this system would be ranked as a [Normal] -Ranked items.

The weapons that the adventurers we killed in Velvet's dungeon used were mostly [Unique] -Ranked, with a few [Ancient] -Ranked items mixed in.

In short, even for a high-ranked adventurer party it's hard to get an [Ancient] -Ranked

item, let alone [Legendary] -Ranked or [Phantasmal] -Ranked items.

If I say that a small country's treasury probably doesn't have items above [Unique] -Ranked, would it be easier to imagine how rare the higher class items are?

To begin with, magic items above [Unique] -Ranked are mostly all [Artifacts]. So to get one you have to dive into one of the « Age of The Gods Dungeons » around the world.

I digress, but apparently « Age of The Gods Dungeons » are often surrounded by the castle walls of the labyrinth towns which start flourishing near them. It sounds interesting, so I might try going to one of these sometime.

The fact that my red spear, bracelet and silver arm are all [Legendary] -Ranked items is proof of how powerful Velvet was when he was alive.

Because the act of finding even one [Legendary] -Ranked item is enough to shake countries, I cannot help but think that he was truly someone worth respecting.

As for trying to get a [Phantasmal] -Ranked item, it's unimaginable so I let the matter drop. I have far too little information on that subject.

Getting back to the original topic, the Hind bear hunt ended without a hitch.

The Hind bears were certainly strong, however, now that we are equipped with magic items and became quite capable in group tactics, the Hind bears were certainly formidable enemies but not something that we can't defeat.

Because the abilities of my bracelet, red spear and silver arm were beyond cheating, and that without even having to use my abilities I can easily kill the Hind bears head-on, I participated only as a support today.

That's why I equipped Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan and the rest with high quality magical items, which allowed them to exercise strength that exceeded a Hobgoblin's.

This time the main purpose of the hunt is to raise the Levels of the participants.

Yeah, bear stew is incredibly delicious!

By the way, because of the recent problems, I want to drink more alcohol, so much that I can't stand it. Alcohol... I want some alcohol...

DAY 39

SIDE STORY: A HIND BEAR THAT BECAME OVERCONFIDENT POV

[Time Axis: Day 39]

That nuisance got hunted.

Kumamamama, I feel good Kuma.

Just because he can spit flames, have a stylish red fur, have a big body build and is popular with females, he became full of himself Kuma.

From now on it's my era Kuma.

I will continue hunting, become stronger and dominate this forest Kuma.

Oh, I found some preys Kuma.

Although they're decently armed and there's an ogre, but my strength is second only to that guy.

In other words, this is pretty easy for me.

- His strength is as stated - the strongest Hind Bear after the Red Bear -.
- After the Red Bear's death, this Hind Bear started aiming towards the top, his bad luck was that he met Goburou and the others who were hunting out Hind bears.
- Carefulness, cowardice, these may be the secrets to survive in the harsh nature.

DAY 40

It rained today.

In order to determine everyone's new rank, we decided to hold a round-robin tournament.

Well, it's a good chance to fill the holes left by the previous hobgoblin leader and his close subordinates. While not many will rise in rank, I think that everyone's motivation in training would increase after this.

But because victory and defeat is obvious between hobgoblins and goblins, and it doesn't even need to be said for me who's an ogre which is why I'm not participating. Just like the last time, goblins decided their ranks among goblins and hobgoblins decided their ranks among hobgoblins.

There some rose and some fell in rank, it was a fluctuation between happiness and sadness.

Their overall Level has also risen considerably since the last tournament, perhaps it'd be good to embark to a city with Redhead and the others soon. Well, I'll think about it later.

When going outside, it might also be interesting to form a mercenary group. In the area where we're active in now, since there aren't anything that I can't kill anymore, my Level isn't rising very easily.

Once kill the [Lord of the Mountain], this is an inevitable outcome.

Yeah, it seems I should go outside sooner or later. While thinking deeply about many things, I fell asleep soundly...

DAY 41

As the early morning sun rose, I went out alone searching for prey that I have never eaten before in places that I have not yet visited, I'm walking in the blank area of my mental map that I decided to call the Unexplored Zone.

There's no need for me to take charge of the morning training anymore, because recently even if I'm not present Gobukichi-kun can competently supervise the morning training.

In other words, I now have free time in the mornings. The other reason is that I don't have anyone to spar with anymore.

Although, several days ago it would be problematic if something were to happen, like someone getting hurt for instance, now there's no need to worry about that as they have potions crafted by Alchemist-san.

So I tried to think of a good alternative to spend time after finishing my basic training, like making sleeping bags, clothes and armor. However, unfortunately, both the clothes and armors as well as the sleeping bags have already been distributed, so my ingenious plan was now gone.

Which led me to decide that for now, getting new abilities would be a worthwhile endeavor.

My first prey for today was a 2 meter-class spider with a distinctive shiny golden carapace, [Argiope].

Making a rustling sound when moving, the spider was capable of quick movement and the thread it shot out was both strong and abundant in volume. Its golden carapace was so much tougher that it couldn't be compared to that of the Demon Spider.

I somehow managed to kill it in three minutes, I retaliated with threads of my own, burned it with my fire and finally succeeded in bringing it down by piercing through the Argiope's carapace with my silver arm.

When the spider finally died, I stripped the expensive looking carapace that seemed like it could sell for a high price outside the forest, then ate the rest.

It was more delicious than a Demon spider, so I searched for and ate 8 of them in total.

Ability [Golden Thread Creation] learned

Ability [Adamant Spider's Carapace] learned

The abilities that I learned increased my personal defense and the strength of my threads.

[Golden Thread Creation] ability allows me to create extremely beautiful threads — does Golden in the ability's name means that the threads are made from pure gold? It's quite flashy —, I thought about making presents for Gobumi-chan, Redhead and the others using these threads.

Still, I doubt that making golden clothes would be a good taste, so it's probably better if I make some accessories like the one I made for Gobumi-chan before.

My next prey was a Four-Eyed and Four-Eared [Red Deer], sporting a pair of antlers that looked like they were made of Rose Quartz.

It seems like the Red deers have a wild temperament, the instant it saw me it started charging in my direction. The two sharp and beautiful antlers on its head thrusted into the trees in its way, shredding them like a drill, I pinned its head down using the indestructible silver arm and injected it with poison from my fingertips.

The Red deer began foaming at its mouth and died within four seconds.

Apart from the antlers that looked like they would sell at a high price because of their beauty, its fine pelt that was undamaged seemed like it would be useful, so I quickly skinned it and threw the pelt together with the antlers into my [Item Box], after that I ate its flesh.

Unfortunately, I could not secure any abilities, but after eating two or three I should be able to get a new ability, because I was able to strengthen my body I was satisfied.

In this world there is a species called [Dryad]. They are one of the many kinds of [Nymphs], born from long-lived trees that are hundreds of years old they lodge inside

theses trees, they have a disadvantageous characteristic which is when the tree they're lodging in dies they'll also die.

Therefore, in order to protect the tree they're lodging in, they use their abilities to inflict deadly curses upon anyone that tries to harm the tree, consequently, lumberjacks who make a living by cutting trees think of them as pests.

Moreover, if a male of a humanoid species such as a human or a werebeast appears before a dryad, they will be charmed and seduced by her beauty - dryads have female bodies only -, if the Dryad likes the male then after seducing the male she'll lock him up in a dream that he'll never be able to wake up from again and turns him into nourishment for the tree, if it doesn't like him then she'll just lock him up and eventually he'll be turned into nutrients for the tree.

And while wandering in the forest I met a dryad, she was a nearly-naked woman with a Greek-like appearance and extraordinary proportions.

After chatting for some time, she started seducing me, I know what will happen to me if I were to give in and do it. However, because I managed to get some information about the plants in this forest from her and because she isn't showing me any hostility but only following her instinct, I didn't want to kill her. That's why to solve this problem, I used an ability that I didn't use before.

About what happened, let's just say that I have experienced some things after reincarnating for the first time, my [Libido] finally flourished. With the stamina of an [Ogre - Rare Species], it might have been okay even if I didn't Activate [Libido], but there's no harm in being more prudent.

It was a very sweet time.

She leaned on my bosom and sweetly whispered "Come again~" near my ear, she seemed sexy when she directed her coy expression at me as she sent me off.

[Goburou obtained [[The Mistletoe's Dryad]'s Blessing and Love] !!]

I heard something like this in my head when I left.

After I parted with Dryad-san, I continued wandering through the forest again, then I

found a medium sized river. When, for no particular reason, I followed the river upstream, I discovered a large waterfall. I decided to wash my body in the small lake underneath it, my body was drenched with sweat and emitting a unique odor from doing the deed.

I took off my clothes to swim in the decent sized lake, where I was suddenly surrounded by green scaled [Lizardmen] who approached me while staying underwater.

That I was too negligent was also a factor, but with the current level of [Sense Presence], apparently if the enemy is underwater the reaction will be slower and weaker.

Becoming aware of their presence now was pure luck.

I thought about what would have happened to me if a strong enemy that I can't defeat head-on approached me like this instead of these lizardmen. I got chills in my spine.

Well, leaving that aside, I immediately refocused my thoughts. Based on their appearance, I decided to call the lizardmen in front of me [Green Lizards] s.

The Green lizards held refurbished falchions — a sword that had a curved edge and a straight back — in their hands. Also, they held bucklers which were damaged a little but seemed to be still usable.

Unlike orcs and kobolds, they were not wearing any leather or metal armor, they were only wearing light clothes made of thick cloth to cover their groins. They didn't wear any armor, but the green scales packed together covering their whole bodies may be no different from armor or perhaps they are even more effective than a regular armor, in addition, I cannot make light of their attacks from my blind spot using their long and thick tails.

I should consider the tails like a third arm, and since the tails were underwater, they represent a higher danger since it's hard to spot them.

There were eight Green Lizards and they seemed to be used to hunting in groups.

Moreover, they were pointlessly flashing their long tongues and falchions making incomprehensible noises like “hyacchahecchizo~ go~gyakutterowigya~ janbettenbachurua~”, I don't understand what they were saying, but I can at least

detect their killing intent in the atmosphere.

In addition to getting new abilities, I wanted to get used to my silver arm and confirm its abilities today, that's why I didn't bring anyone with me. They also had an environmental advantage which is the fact that my lower body is restrained by being underwater.

Perhaps they were thinking "Even if he's an [Ogre - Variant], with these advantages in our favor we'll be able to kill him" — which reminds me, although it's a little late, Gobujii never mentioned anything about [Rare Species]. I'll ask him about it when I have the chance —, yeah, there's no doubt about it.

I overlapped several of my abilities and made my move.

With the bottom half of my body still in the water, I can propel myself easily by using [Hydro Hand], in the first place, my leg strength which was strengthened by overlapping my abilities allowed me to move quickly in the water despite receiving heavy water resistance.

I gained an explosive burst of speed by controlling the water and along with the help of the current I was able to stomp the enemy deeply in the chest in an instant. I made a fist with both arms and with more force than usual attacked one of the Green lizards with my silver arm.

The Green lizard reacted well, using its buckler to guard against the strike of my silver arm at the last moment, but the buckler shattered uselessly in the blink of an eye and a life was crushed.

The blow from my silver arm sent the Green lizard's arm along with its buckler flying in pieces, without losing momentum I struck its body. The body fared no better than the arm, the scales got crushed, the flesh got torn and the bones smashed, all of which are results of the silver arm having penetrated through them in its path.

Then I struck a Green lizard who was approaching me from the side with my flesh and blood fist which was stopped after crushing the scales, bruising the flesh and breaking the bones. It was a magnificent blow, but it was still a lot weaker than the silver arm.

Well, I'd say it's to be expected.

Repeatedly striking and occasionally kicking, it didn't take me even 30 seconds to kill

the Green lizards. I caught the ones trying to escape with my threads and lightning, so none of them managed to escape.

After killing the Green lizards, I put their armaments in my [Item Box] and since their bodies are difficult to cut apart, I ate them whole.

Ability [Aquatic] learned

Ability [Lizardman Language] learned

The Green lizard's flesh and bones had an unusual taste and consistency, it was rather delicious.

Wanting to eat some more, but unable to find any more Green lizards nearby, I gave up and left.

I walked in the direction of the Unexplored Zone of my mental map that got automatically expanded as I walked by my [Mental Mapping] ability.

After walking for some time in the Unexplored Zone I came out from the forest, there I found a large expanse of grasslands.

It was the first time since my reincarnation that I saw something other than forests, mountains and rivers. The blowing wind was pleasant.

As I was having such light thoughts, I found a bull charging towards me. I decided to name the human-faced bull with two sharp horns [Bicorn].

Against the bicorn charging head on at me, I'd use nothing other than the Jolt Counter!! I hit it head-on with my silver arm and, then sank all the way to the elbow and left the bicorn as a splattered corpse.

[T/N: Jolt Counter reference to Hajime no Ippo.]

From today's experiences, I confirmed how strong my silver arm is. No matter how many times I thank Velvet who I got the silver arm from, it wouldn't be enough.

“Namu”. I offered a prayer for him again.

There was only one bicorn and although I ate it till my stomach bulged slightly, I didn't

gain any abilities, but I was satisfied with having some barbecue by myself on top of having my body strengthened. Furthermore, the bicorn's entire body tasted delicious.

I decided to hold a barbecue party with everyone when I find other bicorns. After that, since it was just the right time, so I hunted some Night Vipers as a souvenir, came back home, ate and then slept.

DAY 42

Among my 5 servants I identified 2 who displayed the characteristics of a Mage.

I immediately transferred them from my direct command to Hobusei-san's magic exercising corps « Agony » in order to have them begin training.

As I accompanied them out of curiosity, I discovered that Hobusei-san had scores of magic-related books in her bedroom. From what I heard, it seems like she collected them over the years from the plundered goods until now, she even added my [Introduction to Magic — Basics of Magic vol 2 of 3] to her collection, however, I overlooked it and pretended that I didn't see anything because I have already memorized its contents anyways.

Hearing what she was saying, I found out that Hobusei-san didn't start off knowing three systems of magic like she does now.

For individuals with magical aptitude, the most basic spell of the magic system that they have the highest compatibility with will be automatically — for me it was [End], for Hobusei-san it seemed to be [Fire] — recorded in their heads just like how I learned [Spear of The End (Gendihi)] and when they reach a certain Level they gain an additional spell, however, they will only learn higher tier spells of the same magic system that they have the highest compatibility for by this way and can't learn spells from other systems.

Well, it is only natural that only the spells of the magic system they're most compatible with will be automatically recorded in their heads.

However, as a result of studying from the books she gathered, Hobusei-san learned many new spells and expanded the range of the magical systems she can use. She was such a hard-worker.

This was the first time Hobusei-san received apprentices, so her mood was at an all time high to teach the two hobgoblins the fundamentals of magic, I got myself some books and laid down to the side reading, because I felt from the atmosphere around Hobusei-san that interrupting her lesson without thinking can go poorly.

"Hm hm, ooh, I see~", I murmured as I studied spells of other magic systems, like the [Fire] magic system, the [Water/Ice] magic system, [Lightning] and other magic systems besides the [End] magic system that I have been using to create highly destructive lances using the spell [Spear of The End (Gendihi)].

Well, it seems like the [Origin] attribute that I possess in addition to the [End] attribute is a pretty convenient attribute that allows me to learn many things which include magic in a short period of time. Having bad affinity with a magic system can limit you to be able to bring out only half the power that someone who's at the same Level and have a good affinity with this magic system can bring out when casting a spell from this magic system, or even not being able to use it at all etc., others will without exception have problems, but I can do it easily. It also seems to strengthen my memory, so it's really helpful.

Even though I learned magic, but [Pyrokinesis] and [Electromaster] and my other elemental abilities are probably better because they don't require mana to use, in addition, to use magic you need to chant the spell first, so I think that I'll probably not use any magic in the future excluding my [End] magic. However, there's no harm in having a wide range of usable magic, in addition, I can know the effect of the magic the enemy might use by learning it.

After about three hours had passed, I picked up a new book from Hobusei-san's collection and started reading it, I have finally found a use for my ability [Job-Enchanter].

Well you see, [Job-Priest] is slightly different from [Job-Druid] but there were many similar parts so I quickly became able to use it, but [Job-Enchanter] is completely different when compared to [Job-Magician], that's why without knowing how to use it I have been neglecting it until now.

Well, to put it simply, [Magician] is a job that allows you to releases magic in the environment, while [Enchanter] is a job that allows you to magically interfere with matter.

Although Mages can do things similar to enchanters like reinforcing objects, leaving aside the issue of it being just a temporary buff, a magician's enchantments are much weaker than an enchanter's, as low as only a fifth the strength of an enchanter's enchantments. However, in exchange, enchanters have a very low combat ability.

In short, it's better to treat enchanting and magic as different techniques.

Leaving this complicated relationship aside, now I can use the ability [Job-Enchanter]. So to get some experience in enchanting, I went to Blacksmith-san's smithy.

As soon as she saw my face she pouted a little which made me tilt my head to the side in confusion in response, then she let me practice using various things that she forged previously.

I enchanted knives made from [Spirit Stones] alloy and wrought iron knives made from iron ore.

As a result, the knives made from [Fire Spirit Stones] shot out stronger flames, the ones made from [Water Spirit Stones] spewed more water, while the wrought iron Knives' strength and sharpness increased drastically.

Yeah, I was surprised at how easy [Job-Enchanter] was to use. You can make powerful weapons comparatively easily by enchanting them.

Well, behind the scenes there were numerous prototypes that shattered due to failed enchantments...

The success rate is low if the enchanter isn't too familiar with enchanting and the ability level is low. Considering this, it will be necessary to continue training with enchanting and repeating failure to increase the ability level. Although I'm sorry for Blacksmith-san, but I decided to keep training using the items she made until the ability level reaches a certain point.

Time passed with me practicing like this, then I went hunting, ate and slept.

DAY 43

Gobumi-chan looks moody lately. It started around two days ago when I returned from my solo-hunting.

Why is it? I asked Gobukichi-kun about this and he just tilted his head saying he doesn't know, when I asked Gobue-chan about this she told me that I should look back on my actions, I asked Hobusato-san and Hobusei-san then they said "It's nice to be young" "think about that by yourself", in the end everyone evaded my question.

When I went to Redhead since I really didn't know why, she cutely puffed her cheeks and turned away, when I went to Blacksmith-san's smithy to ask her about it, she said to me "I'm also in a bad mood", "I've also been wondering about that since yesterday, Why?" as soon as I asked her this she revealed a shocked and slightly angry expression and left to somewhere.

Why...?

Feeling worried, I tried going to the Sisters' kitchen to ask, then they gave me some sweets with a little poison mixed in while saying "This is a prototype, please enjoy" with voices devoid of emotions. Why?

When I tried eating it, it tasted delicious — just to remind you, poison doesn't work on me — so I surprised them by telling them to make it again.

Getting really stressed about it and thinking that it was the last person that I can ask about it, I went to Alchemist-san and asked her about it, then she told me the reason while looking slightly amazed.

It seems like the reason was jealousy. Well, when I did it with Dryad-san, she left a hickey on my neck and when they noticed it, they got upset.

Since it was harmless I didn't really mind it.

So that's why, having solved the mystery I nodded in acknowledgment then Alchemist-

san suddenly hugged me tightly and greedily gave me a deep kiss.

Passionately, our tongues entwined ~wait what, we are exchanging saliva? Is what I was thinking. After a while I was released.

"This is my thanks for saving me and my feelings for you" was what she said, I replied "Is that so?", nodding she looked at me with moist eyes and quivering lips, she lost her balance then I held her close to me and got touched by her too, I got in the mood and the situation escalated.

So as not to harm her, I embraced her body carefully and as soon as we started flirting in a concealing manner Gobumi-chan stormed in.

I looked like a husband caught having an affair in the way I panicked, but surprisingly I got embraced instead.

Then she said "Do it with me too!"

Compared to when she was a goblin, as soon as she Ranked Up into a hobgoblin she became really cute so my feelings for her wouldn't be a problem, at this moment more intruders came in one after the other!!

Well, I don't want to explain what exactly happened after that, however, I decided to spend the night together with Gobumi-chan, Alchemist-san, Blacksmith-san, Redhead and the Sisters.

Using [Metamorphosis] and [Self-Body Fluid Property Manipulation] was a big success.

Not even in my dreams did I imagine that I would use my own twisting tentacle-like things this way since my reincarnation and I didn't think that I would use it on so many individuals at once. I also didn't expect that I would be able to use [Self-Body Fluid Property Manipulation] to turn my bodily fluids into an aphrodisiac.

By the way, I sealed off all the exits of the room with my threads in order to prevent the goblins from peeping and used [Aero Master] to prevent the voices from leaking out of the room.

My impression: It was a satisfying night that felt really good.

It's just that, because of my overwhelming stamina I did not feel any weaker no matter how many times I did it, on top of that it was so big that if I hadn't used my [Metamorphosis] ability I would have broken their bodies for sure.

"Nevertheless, it was very intense" I thought. Hmm... I didn't think something like this would happen. Well, it can't be helped. I should just take responsibility for it.

DAY 44

I felt something with my [Sense Presence] ability.

Because the ability's level had increased recently, the name of the species — though currently it's mostly only the temporary names that I've given them — will be displayed if I've already come across one and if I know their names, then it will also be displayed. Furthermore, it will indicate whether it's an ally or an enemy. It became a very handy ability.

So according to [Sense Presence], it seems that the ones coming over are Gobukichi-kun and two of his subordinates. I tried to get up from my bed wondering if something happened, then I noticed the beings lying down next to me and cuddling me tightly.

Because I couldn't bring myself to wake up the girls who were sleeping soundly due to the fatigue from last night's intense intercourse, I slipped through using [Metamorphosis] to not wake them up.

Then I exited the room sealed with threads and had a talk with Gobukichi-kun. According to him, three long-eared humanoids had come strutting up to the mine's entrance.

He judged that whether to attack and kill or invite them into the mine was an important decision that needed to be made by me as the leader. Because he couldn't make the decision by himself, he had the strangers wait outside.

This is the best course of action they could've done, it seems like their education is bearing fruit. If it was the former Gobukichi-kun, then he wouldn't have thought twice before attacking them.

For now I took out a bottle - filled with water from the lake where the Green lizards attacked me - from my [Item Box] and quickly washed myself with the water contained within it and prepared to give myself the minimum presentable appearance, then went to meet them. The strangers were [Elves] (temporary name). It was one man and two armed women who looked like his escorts.

The three had fairly good looks, in addition, both the man's ceremonial dress and the

two women's light metal armor were high quality products. Although form of dress may differ between species, it is very easy for anyone to guess their respective social status.

The rapiers hanging from the hips of the two women in the back were [Rare] -Ranked magic items, other than that they also wore ring-type and bracelet-type magic items, all of them [Rare] -Ranked.

Unless you have the appropriate social status, collecting equipment of this quality is impossible.

Incidentally, although you may think "Weren't the adventurers from the last week equipping even better quality items?", however, most of their equipment were goods looted from dungeons. It is inevitable that high ranked adventurers will have high quality equipment.

For those who are weak to venture into dungeons, they would have to be rich to get hold of equipment of this quality, that's just how it is.

Their fairly high-handed attitude was another factor that hinted at their social status. Well, that might be a racial trait.

Even though they came without any appointment, the man said something like "you're late! Isn't it good courtesy to immediately come out to greet me?" with a self-important attitude, hearing that I did my best to suppress my urge to respond with remarks like "For someone who came without making an appointment, you sure act self-important you bastard, I'll tear you apart and eat you" in my heart, and asked the reason for their visit. He said "If you serve us blah blah blah".

Putting together what they said over the long chat, the main point was that they wanted me and my subordinates to become their subordinates — which appears to be closer to slaves than subordinates from the way he's talking.

Also, "There is information that supports that the inferior humans are preparing an attack aimed at getting the elves' treasure soon" in short they want to get some useful pawns for the war.

They concluded that I would be a good pawn because I killed the former [Lord of the Mountain] the Red bear — which seems to have become a rumor lately. Well, a black ogre wearing armor made of the Red bear's fur would stand out -. The Red bear had

even been hunting elite elven hunters, that's why I who hunted it in turn appeared to be the most suitable pawn.

The rewards they offered me were a few months worth large amounts of food for all the goblins in our community and a [Unique] -Ranked magic item, in addition to the two elven beauties that came with him.

According to Gobujii, this is an exceptional reward for an ogre.

Buying a [Unique] -Ranked magic item, even the worst of them would cost at least 10 million gold. And of course the price varies by a lot depending on its abilities. It seems like some of them are worth more than 30 million gold.

The reward wasn't an [Artifact] as expected, but it's still extremely valuable.

The two elven maidens he brought were very beautiful. It's wrong of me to say this, but they were certainly more beautiful than Redhead and the other girls. Then again, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I was somewhat surprised by the reward, but it isn't hard to tell from the fact that they were willing to offer this much that they were at their wits' end. While on the surface they seem to show composure, perhaps they would easily lose against the humans when it comes to military strength. This is a standard tactic to recruit soldiers.

If they lose, the elven royalty would be enslaved, this was no laughing matter for them.

Fighting is about numbers in the end. Even if there are individuals with overwhelming power, there are plenty of stories about individuals with overwhelming power getting crushed by greater numbers, so they're trying to get more allies.

I would've gotten on board with this story if it was a few days ago, but we had already acquired many stronger and better quality magic items from Velvet's Inheritance, so my heart wasn't moved.

It's a shame about the two elven maidens, but I have no need for spies or traitors. While appearance is of course valuable, but for long term relations it's what's inside that's truly important.

In the end, I bluntly refused the elves' offer.

Leaving out the actual reason, I concluded the matter by saying “Why should I care about your situation?”

The inferior humans were not my problem and I have different concerns, so I don't want any part in the conflict breaking out between them due to interests and differences in opinions. Wars have both advantages and disadvantages, it's certainly convenient for me because it would be a good opportunity to obtain a lot of abilities and the rewards were nice. There are lots of benefits, and only a few drawbacks.

However, being unilaterally ordered around with such an obvious condescending attitude, who wouldn't hate it? All the more if the job involves risking one's life. I wanted to shout out loud and clear “Show us some sincerity!”

“If you don't want to lose dignity, then you better leave this place quickly” I warned in my heart.

A few seconds after I refused the offer, the man's face stiffened into a stupid expression. Apparently he thought he wouldn't be refused. Using metaphors to call me a fool, thinking that I wouldn't notice — a common ogre has muscles for a brain, so he probably thought that I was the same -. He had an unforgettable condescending look.

Regaining his composure — passing what would be a fatal amount of time if this was a battlefield — and putting together what he'd seen and heard to understand what I meant, the elven man turned red from anger, however, before he could say anything I glared at him to silence him.

I overlapped [Evil Eye] and [Intimidating Glare] then activated [Intimidation of the Strong], they worked perfectly together.

I didn't expect it to happen, but it seems he couldn't even breathe until I released [Intimidation of the Strong].

Finally able to barely breathe, his face paled from the terror which made me involuntarily smirk, scaring him even more.

This was because an ogre's face is scary among other things.

Making him this scared gave me a feeling of satisfaction. Then I grabbed him by the neck with my silver arm and lifted him up. I glared at the two escorts who tried to react after watching this which stopped them, then whispered in the man's ear to

order the escorts hiding in the forest to lower their bows. An arrow was shot at my face at the same time which I stopped by grabbing it with my teeth.

I made some crunching sounds as I ate the arrow, then I gave the man a look that told him that if they did anything else I would shred his neck. Well, I merely flashed a grin at him.

He mumbled about something with a weak voice, but I just ignored him saying “Just hurry up and give them the order” and tightened my grip on his neck. I smirked at him again seeing him loudly giving out orders in a panic and confirmed that the escorts who concealed themselves did as ordered by overlapping my [Enlarged Field of Vision] and [Predict], then without releasing him, I slowly warned the elf in his ear.

“I don’t feel like taking part in your ‘request’, so I’m rejecting it this time, but if it’s about this forest being invaded by humans, then I won’t hesitate to cooperate. Since I’m also an inhabitant of this forest after all, if I need to, I’ll deal with it accordingly. I’ve decided to do this much.”

“But if you’re thinking about getting revenge for this and hurt any of my subordinates, you’re getting eaten. You and all your allies will be killed and eaten.”, while activating [Intimidation of the Strong] I drilled this into his head.

To make it clear that I’m capable of doing that, I took out my vermillion spear [Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazıklı Bey)] from my [Item Box] and stabbed the ground with it, then used its unique ability [Army of Blood-dyed Crimson Spears (Tseng Pesch)].

Vermilion spears suddenly appeared in front of the eyes of all the elves that came today. Even the ones that should have been hidden from my view.

After displaying my power, the looks on the elves’ faces changed. While watching them run back home I looked at the vermillion spear in my hand.

Although I don’t understand the theory behind it, but I can make vermillion spears appear on anything physically connected to the point I stabbed using [Starving Impaler of A Thousand Thorns (Kazıklı Bey)] within a radius of 100 meters. This is only the second time I’ve used this ability, but seeing vermillion spears spring out from the ground and the trees felt a bit surreal.

Well, its sharpness and length are good, it’s the most suitable weapon for me who

specializes in 'piercing and stabbing', so I have nothing to be dissatisfied about.

However, there are many magical items that are capable of this and more, this world is really hard to comprehend.

From what I learned from my conversations with Redhead and the other girls, this world is something like a fantasy world with the technology of around the European medieval ages or even worse, so it's obvious that with the existence of such unreasonable items and over-technology that this world is severely distorted.

Some say that [Artifacts] are relics of the gods, but I still feel it's completely out of balance with the current level of the civilizations in this world.

Leaving that aside, doing this much I doubt the elves will even consider returning for revenge. It's highly unlikely, but I can't say that there's absolutely no chance. It's impossible to be sure of anything 100%.

Oh, yeah. Apparently, the elven man I threatened is one of the candidates for the position of the next clan chief for one of the elves' clans and that's why he was acting so self-important.

« The Elves Village » is located deep inside the Unexplored Zone that I have yet to map. Going to see it next time might be interesting.

By the way, I was able to guess and infer the elves meaning to some extent with my [Orc Language] ability.

It is convenient to use the languages I've learned with my abilities with species whose way of speaking is greatly different from ours like Green lizards, however, all humanoid species like ogres, goblins, elves and humans have similar languages. So even if I haven't learned their languages, it's still possible to have a conversation with them.

This is how I understood the man's speech. I still don't have an ability for the elves' language since I haven't eaten any elves yet, however, I managed to communicate with him nevertheless. Well, having the language's corresponding ability would make communication easier.

In short, the ability helps me with understanding the exact meaning of their words — namely their meaning within their dialect. For example, "Well done" turns into "I'm

tired" due to difference in languages and "Scary" turns into "I'm tired". Basically, it helps me in understanding the meaning of some words with a differing meaning in different languages.

After chasing the elves away, I went hunting and spent the day as usual. Then after eating dinner, I spent a hot intense night.

DAY 45

Early morning, I left the mine and wandered through the forest alone.

Walking in the Unexplored Zone of my mental map, I discovered a [Gray Slime] (temporary name) that looked like a superior species of Green slime. The reason why I gave it this temporary name is because of its gray color, its size is twice that of a Green slime and the overall speed of its movements and the twisting tentacles is higher than I expected, the digestive power of its bodily fluids scattering around is much higher than the Green slime's.

As soon as I fought it, I realized that it was quite tough compared to Green slimes. More like, it was somewhat strange.

I figured it was the same kind of monster, so I attacked it with a spell from the [Fire] magic system but it wasn't very effective, "Then how about [Pyrokinesis]?" when I tried it out it died pretty easily. I deduced that Gray slimes must be resistant to the [Fire] magic system.

I picked up the gray nucleus that was rolling around and placed it in my [Item Box], then I searched for more Gray slimes, that's because I wanted to conduct further experiment to discover what other characteristics they have.

After about an hour, I hunted roughly 20 Gray slimes.

As things turn out, except for the [End] magic system I can't use any of the other magic systems against Gray slimes effectively.

It seems like Gray slimes are resistant to magic itself, not just the [Fire] magic system and unless the magic's power is at a certain level it wouldn't work, anything below that level would be neutralized and if you add [Physical Damage Reduction], these two abilities would work perfectly together.

The basic slime ability [Physical Damage Reduction] can significantly reduce the damage from physical attacks or even nullify them if they're below a certain level. The slimes are supposed to be weak against magic but these guys gained some resistance to it and with its decent speed and high digestive power, what should have been a

normal enemy - Green slimes - becomes a formidable opponent - Gray slimes -.

However, I wonder why they die so quickly when I use [Pyrokinesis]'s flames and [Electromaster]'s lightning.

Is it because it's not magic? I don't know what's exactly the reason, however, at least I know the "How to deal with/ Ways of Killing" Gray slimes, so I don't care what's the real reason.

I took the 20 gray nucleuses out from my [Item Box] and ate all of them. The candy-like nucleuses are about 5cm in diameter. Although they are tasteless, they feel like candy when I pop them into my mouth and roll them around.

Ability [Physical Damage Resistance] learned

Ability [Self-Replication] learned

Ability [Infused Liquid Restoration] learned

It seems like the physical defense ability that the Gray slimes had wasn't [Physical Damage Reduction], but a superior version [Physical Damage Resistance]. I kind of expected it, they were very resistant to physical damage after all.

By the way, it seems like a slime multiplies by increasing its volume to a certain level then dividing itself into two. Well, I was able to understand this as soon as I learned [Self-replication].

I bit my finger and let the blood flow, soon after the blood began twisting and wriggling, I created a crimson colored mini version of me. Both my original body and my tiny clone are connected to some degree. I can share what I'm thinking and seeing with it.

I can see the clone in my own field of vision and I can also see myself in the clone's field of vision. It was a bizarre experience.

As expected, sense of touch seem to be impossible to share as expected, but it's a good ability since it's so convenient, even I think it's foul play.

It's not the kind of ability that could be appreciated immediately, but give it enough time to grow and its usefulness would show. It can be used to gather intelligence or

determine the enemy's combat strength easily.

The material needed is my blood, so it's easy to replenish it since I can suck blood from others using [Vampirephilia]. After that, I hunted and ate things like Argiopes, Demon spiders Triple Horned horses, returned him, ate dinner, then slept.

DAY 46

Instead of hunting today, I planned to make presents for Gobumi-chan, Redhead, Alchemist-san, Blacksmith-san and the Sisters.

Not armor, but rather cute clothes for traveling would be good is what I was thinking. I will measure their sizes for the time being. Although I have already seen every corner of their bodies, I could only roughly guess their size. I don't really know their exact sizes.

It shouldn't be too flashy as to not attract attention when going into a town, but I don't think the design should be too plain either. It also needs to be able to provide enough protection in case something happens. I knitted a beautiful cloth - I found it among the loots of the older goblin - with my normal threads.

In addition, I made a small clone of myself with my blood and put it on the back, it will notify me in case of emergencies. If it comes down to it, it can work as a diversion before I arrive or monitor their location and the situation around them if they get kidnapped.

I made some clothes with my threads and clones which have higher defense compared to low-quality armors, I thought that they would look a little bland by themselves, so I made some bracelets and accessories with the Red deer's Rose Quartz antlers and the Argiope's carapace as materials. They didn't look too luxurious, but they are beautiful nonetheless.

They were delighted, seeing them so happy made the effort spent well worth it.

That night, everyone were a little intense.

Afterwards, Gobumi-chan and Redhead started wearing the clothes everyday during hunting or training, though I don't think they should since the clothes might tear. Well, I guess it'll be okay.



DAY 47

After I woke up as usual, my [Intuition] sprung into action.

It's telling me that I should stay inside mine and hide myself quietly and that if I leave, I'll regret it.

I activated [Job-Assassin] which gives a high correction for [Hiding] and overlapped it with [Conceal Presence] as I headed to the back of the mine where Blacksmith-san's, the Sisters' and Alchemist-san's quarters are located and spent my time relaxing there.

T/N: [Hiding] is not an ability that he learnt by eating, rather he learned it by practicing the action of hiding in his daily hunting, it's like how Gobumi-chan and Gobue-chan learned [Dismantling] in the earlier days, ~Obarou

Lately it has become my hobby to fill in the unexplored area in my mental map, so it's just my main body that's relaxing, yesterday I created a clone of myself that was as tall as my waist using small meat pieces and blood - compared to me its overall abilities are halved, because I'm not controlling it directly it behaves under the instructions I imparted on it, it also has some self-awareness — and sent it out.

This clone have the ability [Infused Liquid Restoration] that I got from the Grey Slimes, so even if it receives an attack that costed it its limbs or it got a large hole pounded through its stomach by a monster, it can restore itself to a certain degree by absorbing the necessary amount of water.

Its current combat ability is rather low compared to me, but it is still reasonably strong, so it won't get killed easily. It can also run fast.

Using [Metamorphosis] the clone changed its appearance to that of a large wolf and sprinted outside. After seeing it off I went back inside.

I assigned some goblins of my generation from the logistical support group [Pleasure] to assist Blacksmith-san, because it would be inconvenient all by herself. Went to the Sisters' kitchen and brainstormed for ideas for new dishes together and successfully created one. Analyzed the old medicine that for some reason hadn't degraded at all

which we secured from Velvet's inheritance with Alchemist-san at her workshop. After doing all these things, time passed.

And then it happened.

The place where Gobukichi-kun and the others were training is linked to the cave's entrance, it's called the « Great Hall ». It's the largest space within the mine.

At that time my [Sense Presence] detected some enemy contacts approaching the entrance. The species name was [Elf]. Furthermore, the name of the man I drove out the other day was mixed in among them. Even I didn't expect that they would turn up this soon.

I went to the « Great Hall » where the goblins were training and made preparations. Luckily, since they were already in the middle of training, they already had their equipment on, so they finished preparing quickly.

After a simple inspection of the equipment, we hid ourselves in the trenches we made beforehand on both sides of the entrance. We simply waited in the trenches where it's easy to conduct a surprise attack against the intruding elves. I had Gobue-chan increase the number of miners and raise her mining efficiency, the resulting sound of mining that can be heard throughout the cave will be used for cover.

A short time later, the armed group of elves entered the cave.

Hobgoblins like Gobukichi-kun notwithstanding, for the goblins to win against the twenty five quiet and swift elves armed with high-quality weapons even when facing them three to one would be quite difficult.

The atmosphere is already full of hostility, but still, I wanted to capture them and hear their story first.

Alone, I jumped out from the trench and used my [Intimidating Roar] and [Scaled Horse's Neigh] together to issue a strong roar that made them flinch, furthermore I immediately activated [Intimidating Glare] and [Evil Eye] which gave me the chance to easily capture them with my threads.

After lining up the captured elves, I had a quick talk with the elf who was the next clan chief while roughly patting his face with my vermillion spear.

According to him, I seem to have deeply injured his pride the other day.

After two days had passed, his fear of me faded a little bit. Once he became capable of thinking a little clearly he determined that he had no choice but to kill me, the one who looked down on him thinking "Why does a noble Elf such as myself bla bla bla..., why do I have to feel afraid of the likes of an ogre? I'll kill anyone who looks down on me...", so he took along elite level elves from among his subordinates, allowing himself to be controlled by his emotions and attacked. As a result, they arrived at the current predicament having had the tables turned on them.

I pity the other elves for having to work under such a boss. The two escorts from the other day were hanging their heads down before my eyes. I asked them why they didn't stop him, then they said that they did but he refused to listen to their argument.

I pitied the elves because they had to pay the price for their incompetent boss's foolish actions and due to that the idea of killing them did not sit well with me, so I did the following more or less out of sympathy.

1. Give up on the next clan chief candidate, he's dead.
2. Fight in mock battles with goblins and hobgoblins without killing your opponents. To win you have to either make them faint, incapable of fighting or force them to give up. If you kill your opponent then you'll be killed and eaten.
3. If you win the mock battle, you won't be killed, if you lose, you will be killed and eaten.

That was the gist of it.

After I finished explaining, I untied the threads for all of them except for the next clan chief candidate.

When I did that, one highly loyal elf tried to attack me, I crushed his chin with a punch which sent him into a concussion. Then I grabbed the unsteady elf by his head and shoulders and killed him by twisting his neck until his cervical spine broke.

I've already told Redhead, Blacksmith-san, and the other girls to stay inside until I come back, so I devoured the fresh corpse without reservation, heart and all.

Ability [Elf Language] learned

The elves bodies started trembling without stop.

Because their bodies were frozen in fear and they started losing hope I said "Your war with the humans is close and yet you're fine with dying unseemly deaths in this kind of place? Don't you want to live?", to put some fighting spirit in them.

Those were my own words, yet they sounded shameless - because I knew what I will do with the winners -.

Nonetheless, it had an effect, they became motivated.

And then the mock battles began.

The final result, out of the 23 elves who participated in the mock battles, 17 survived.

I had to offer my condolences before the battle even started for those who got Gobukichi-kun, Gobumi-chan, Hobusato-san and other hobgoblins as their opponents. If they were average hobgoblins it'd usually end up with the elves winning nine out of ten battles, but the strength of Gobukichi-kun and the others who have continued to train daily already greatly surpassed that of an average hobgoblin.

Though the figures and circumstances of the defeated elves who begged for their lives were pitiful, but they came with the intentions to kill us so there's no way something too convenient like getting spared after I gave them a chance can happen, I'm not that merciful for my enemies to spare the elves even after they lost their mock battles, I killed them after saying that.

They're pitiful, but this is how things are in war. Besides that, it was the other side that pulled the trigger first. There's no need for excessive sympathy.

The six who lost all were men. Well, it became this way after I set up the matches so that the ones who lost their battles will be only men because I didn't want to needlessly waste beautiful women.

They were all delicious.

Ability [Inhabitant of the Forest] learned

Ability [Elemental] learned

Ability [Archery Proficiency] learned

Ability [Tracking] learned

Ability [Hiding] learned

After I finished eating the losers, I turned to the winning elves who were staring at me blankly in a dazed state, after putting all their equipped magical items in one place, I tied them up with threads again.

They complained about not being released, but I pointed out that I didn't say they'd be "released" - that's why I thought my earlier words were shameless -.

I only said that they wouldn't be killed, it's not my fault if they misunderstood. Although I help those who are one-sidedly oppressed like Redhead, I'm not interested in helping "Enemies" who attack us.

Although I pity them, it doesn't mean that I'll release them, my pity is just to the extent of not wanting to kill them.

That's how it is.

Breaking it down, there are ten men and seven women, let's cooperate to increase the number. Ah, doing it by force will just make them rebellious and build their resentment against us, that's why I administered an aphrodisiac prepared by adjusting the properties of my bodily fluids with [Self-Body Fluid Property Manipulation] to them.

I had them thrown in jail and gave a strict order that nobody is allowed to touch them unless they ask for it.

Because they may relieve each other if they were put in the same cell, they were placed in their own separate prison cells.

Although the male elves can't bear children, they will contribute greatly to controlling the libido of the female goblins. All of them without exception are good-looking after all.

But, to be honest I'm really grateful for their timing. The goblins of the same generation as me who didn't have any experience in sexual relationships aside, the

older goblins could no longer satisfy themselves with the female goblins and a lot of stress has accumulated. Because of our harsh training, they've somehow been distracted from this issue, but they've gotten used to the training so their limit is fast approaching.

That's why I am grateful for this.

...You're saying I'm acting like a villain? Nope, it's troubling me that you've gotten the wrong idea. In the first place, it was the other side who started it.

They lost while trying to kill us and yet you tell us who were attacked to release the prisoners peacefully? That's just not possible, we were unreasonably attacked, so if we strike back there's no way that would count as being villains.

We don't even have rules regarding prisoners of war as of now to begin with, so even doing things like this is no problem. The idea that what I'm doing with them is evil is only your personal feelings.

Also, although I'm judging the rules that will be passed down by my personally, I'm planning to pass down upstanding rules to regulate the elves' night activities. For me, the elves are too valuable to break down and be waste over something like libido management after all.

The ringleader behind the attack who was watching me administering the aphrodisiac to the 17 surviving elves from the side was saying something, but I ignored him.

After the 17 Elves had been taken to jail, the ringleader who was left behind became the teaching material for various things like lectures about new torture methods other than the ones I used with the former hobgoblin leader and his underlings, and lectures on the vitals of humanoids.

Of course he ended up in my stomach in the end.

Ability [Overcharge] learned

Ability [Discount] learned

Because I ate a fair number of elves and their individual abilities were high and because they held similar abilities I managed to secure a good number of useful abilities, I was so thankful to them that I could even pray for them.

DAY 48

Today I went out hunting kobolds, Demon spiders, Hind bears, Argiopes and many other monsters.

It's been a while since the last time I had such a peaceful and mundane day.

DAY 49

When I woke up, I discovered that Gobukichi-kun underwent an [Evolution (Rank Up)] and Ranked Up into an ogre.

He managed to kill a Hind bear by himself recently, so I thought that he would be able to Rank Up soon.

He didn't Rank Up into a normal ogre either, but a [Variant].

The color of his skin was "Dark Metallic Red".

His body color was similar to that of the Red bear. He told me that he got the [[Demigod of Fire]'s Divine Protection], so the red skin color seems to be a proof of having the [[Demigod of Fire]'s Divine Protection].

Because he had the [[Demigod of Fire]'s Divine Protection] like the Red bear I asked him if he could breathe fire, then he blew a familiar breath of fire as if he was a flamethrower.

He probably turned into a [Variant] because he prefers using weapons with fire manipulation abilities like the [Fire Spirit Stone] -studded burning crescent axe and the huge double-edged battleaxe that was as tall as him, a magic item from Velvet's inheritance [Decapitating Axe of Demonic Heat].

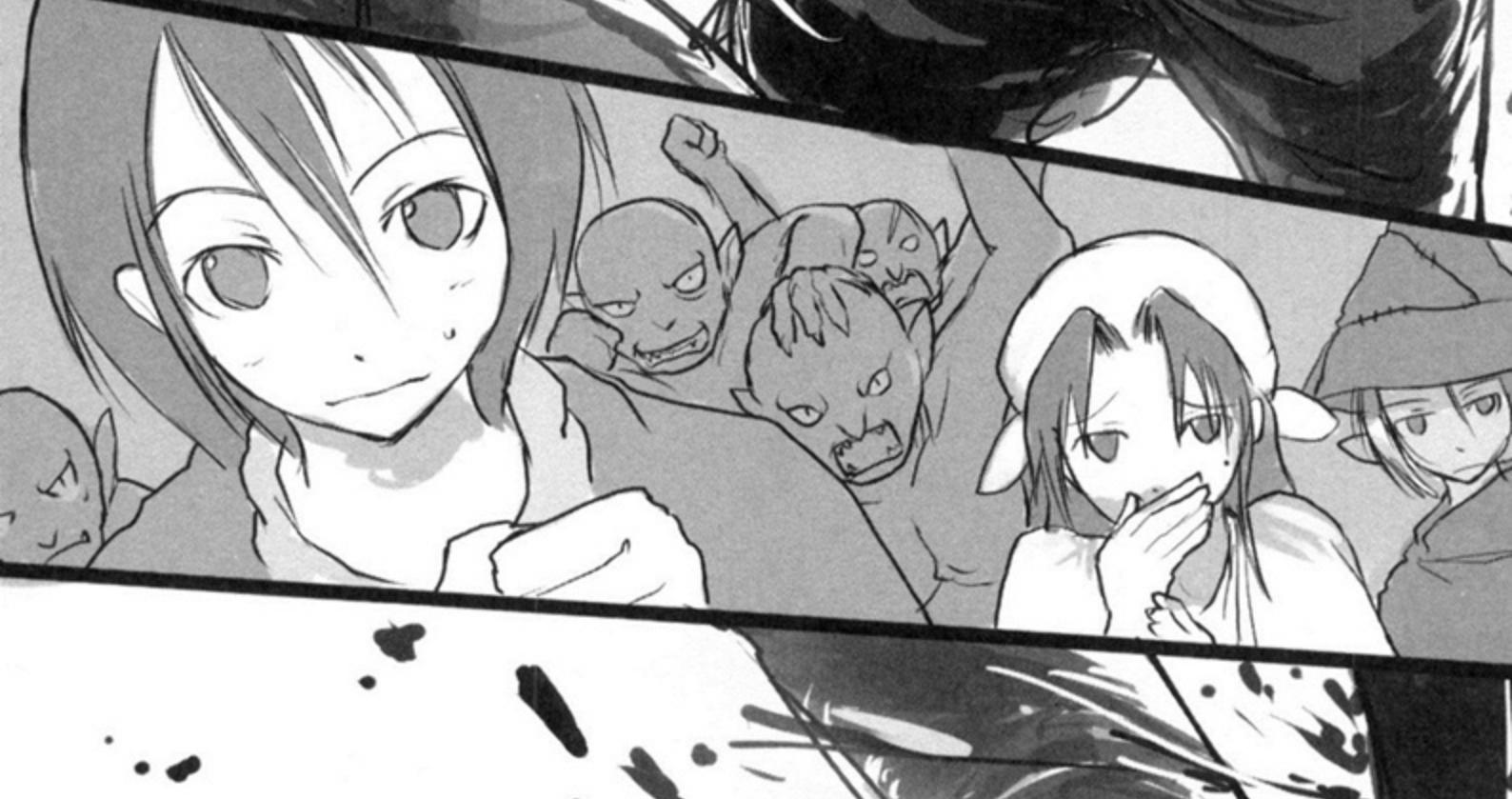
Also, the reason why his skin shines with metallic luster seems to be because he have the [[Demigod of War]'s Divine Protection] in addition to the [[Demigod of Fire]'s Divine Protection], or so says Gobujii. His arm responded with a metallic clang when I lightly tapped it.

"Getting two divine protections is amazing, isn't it?", when I asked Gobujii, he said "He is certainly abnormal, however, not as abnormal as you".

Oh really?

Later, when I was supervising the morning training Gobukichi-kun asked me "Goburou, let's have a spar together" with a smile that was somewhat charming despite being an ogre. My impression: Gobukichi-kun became too strong.

He is about 2m and 80cm tall, 30cm taller than me, with a dark metallic red skin and muscular body, he easily surpassed me in physical strength, stamina, durability etc. in my base specs without using abilities.



My body's base specs are strengthened by [Absorption] each time I eat and on top of that I'm a [Rare Species], so I didn't think I would lose to Gobukichi-kun who was a [Variant] in physical prowess, however, in the end I lost in terms of pure physical prowess because of build allocation.

Putting it in simple terms, if I'm an all-rounder type with my points divided equally between my physical strength, stamina, durability, intelligence etc., then Gobukichi-kun is a vanguard specialist-type who concentrated his points on close quarters combat-related stats. That much is obvious just from looking at the difference in the size of our muscles.

That said, I still won because I surpass him in terms of hand to hand combat techniques. It was a close match, Gobukichi-kun is unmistakably a worthy rival.

After concluding the spar we gave each other a firm handshake and exchanged words with our eyes.

Gobukichi-kun who I initially roped in as a disposable pawn had grown this much, frankly speaking I didn't expect that he would become this strong. Right now he is my irreplaceable right hand man and a close friend.

To congratulate him on his Rank Up, I arranged some equipment for him. His main weapon didn't change from the huge battleaxe-type magic item [Decapitating Axe of Demonic Heat], but compared to when he was a hobgoblin when it was too heavy that he had to hold it with both hands after becoming an ogre he can wield the [Decapitating Axe of Demonic Heat] that weighed several dozen kilograms with one hand, so I once again equipped him with a shield.

The shield I gave him is a rugged massive black iron wall-like tower shield known as the [Black Ogre's Chopping Board].

It was one of the magic items from Velvet's inheritance, it's also an [Ancient] -Ranked magic item just like the battle-axe.

Its abilities are [Weight Reduction], [Durable] and [Impact Reflection], in addition, it's extremely sturdy. After Gobukichi-kun is equipped with this items, breaking through his defenses would be quite difficult even for me.

His armor is made from my threads, Hind bears' furs and a [Unique] -Ranked metal armor from Velvet's inheritance, customized to suit Gobukichi-kun.

Yeah, after wearing his new equipment he gives off the feeling of a great power, no, more like an absurd power.

Despite holding the huge double-edged two-handed battle-axe lightly in one hand as if he's holding a tree branch, he still gave off the feeling of an experienced warrior that can handle it skillfully.

It's easy to imagine the black, huge and sturdy tower shield that covers three quarters of his gigantic body blocking all of his enemies' attacks and in addition to the support magic items I gave him, even though it can't compare to my long coat that I made from the Red bear's fur, I gave him a long coat that I made from the durable fur of a Hind bear and a leather armor-type magic item, he became an existence I very much wouldn't want to fight nor encounter if I was a human.

The aura of power the fully-armed Gobukichi-kun gave off was definitely higher than me when I just became an ogre. Equipment notwithstanding, it was quite fierce. Well, there's also the fact that it's hard to compare to myself.

Nevertheless, his fully armored figure was so powerful that it gave others the urge to ask "from which heavy-armed corps are you?", it was so great that I wanted to stay and just stare at him for an hour.

Even I had to look upwards to meet his gaze, so how will he look from the viewpoint of a human? It's easy to imagine.

I spent the rest of the day inside the mine doing various odd jobs.

The elves have not yet succumbed to their lust, so they're still in jail. It might be because their sense of pride is suppressing their desire, or perhaps it's because their racial biology itself have a resistance to lust, or maybe both?

"That's why Gobujii, stop coming here every hour..."

DAY 50

I saw a dream. Moreover, it was quite the strange dream.

There was an old man that looked familiar, I think he said something along the lines of "Sorr__please forgive__" "__please do me a favor" "This is__Please", but I can't remember it clearly.

After some time passed from when I woke up I started forgetting even these few details about it like a normal dream, but I cannot help but feel that this is something very important. To put in other words, I feel like this is a flag-like event?

I tilted my head trying to remember it in full detail, but it wasn't coming back to me. It feels like my memories of it are hazy. It's not the feeling "I can't remember it", it's a strange feeling that makes me think that "someone made forget about it".

Since I couldn't recall it I thought "Well, I can't do anything about it since I can't remember" and decided to focus on other things. In the morning I sparred with Gobukichi-kun, then in the afternoon I paired up with Gobumi-chan and we went out hunting for a couple of hours and flirted outside a little.

After that, I checked up on the goblins from the logistical support corps « Pleasure » who were learning about things like smithing and cooking.

At night, I had fun with everyone and then soundly fell asleep.

[Goburou obtained [Kin of XXX]!]

Huh? I felt like I heard something in my head just before I fell asleep... Although a question popped up in my head my consciousness faded away before I could think about it.

TL: the [Kin of XXX]! means He gets a skill that he doesn't know what it does. Therefore he "understands" it not. Author decided to use XXX to simply imply that this skill is unknown at this time.

DAY 51

When I woke up, I discovered that 4 goblins had Ranked Up into hobgoblins. There are 12 hobgoblins now.

Moreover, there was a Mage among the four and another one had the aptitude of a [Cleric].

The large wounds received until now have all been healed by me, so having another one with a healing ability is something I'm grateful for.

I can't rule out the possibility that some of the wounded might die before I reach them if there are a lot of wounded patients at the same time.

That's why I have established a medical unit named [Prière] with the new hobgoblin Cleric Gobuji-kun as its captain.

TL Note : Prière is “prayer” in french. - Sarah

Although he's currently the only member of his unit, I hope that other individuals who have a close relationship with him might get influenced by him and become Clerics too.

Incidentally, you might think that there should be more than twelve hobgoblins, but I didn't miscount.

Gobumi-chan, Gobue-chan, Hobusato-san, my 5 former servants and four additional goblins that evolved today, which totals 12 hobgoblins.

Hobusei-san was not mentioned because when she woke up she had undergone her next [Evolution (Rank Up)]. According to her, it has been years since her first Rank Up.

Hobusei-san became a [Lord] -based species called a [Half-Spell Lord].

Concerning Half-Spell Lords, it seems like hobgoblins who exercise magic becoming ogres is not a common route. Although the probability is low, Mage-types have a chance of advancing in routes that specialize in using magic.

It's really like Hobusei-san who is good at using magic.

Turning into a species that best leverages her strong points is a good thing.

The specialization comes at the cost of lower physical abilities than other Lord types, but magic is a technique to one-sidedly torment the enemy from a distance, so it isn't a major drawback.

Since it's mostly a close-combat averse species that specialize in using magic, it's not really a problem.

A Half-Spell Lord's appearance is like that of a human with two small horns. I haven't seen any besides Hobusei-san so there might be major differences in appearance between individuals.

From her appearance, one could guess that Hobusei-san is in the her early twenties, rather than calling her cute, she was like Alchemist-san, an intellectual cool-type beauty who seems like she would look good in a suit.

She has Bluish-white skin that radiates life, green somewhat tsurime eyes that show intelligence, a sapphire-looking round gem 3 cm in diameter between a pair of horns in the middle of her forehead, long grey hair that extends down to her waist and black tattoos on her forearms with patterns similar to mine yet slightly different. Measured by eye, her height is around 180 cm.

TL Note: Tsurime - Eyes that slant upwards, ending in a corner, usually seen on willful, proud, or intelligent characters in visual media. The opposite of Tareme, round eyes drooping downwards on soft, kind, or ditzy characters

According to her, the tattoos on her arms were something that originally weren't there and apparently she doesn't know how she got them. However, she felt power flowing in them and they didn't give off any bad feeling.

When I asked whether she received any [Divine Protection] s like Gobukichi-kun, she said no. Apparently she didn't get any.

Hmmm, this is an enigma. Well, I expect that I'll be able to explain it in due time.

Gobujii told us that the "Half" in front of the species's name means that it have inferior overall specs compared to the true species, [Spell Lord] in this case.

Well, I have already deduced that much because it was a "Half"-Spell Lord.

For those who don't quite understand what "Half" means, it's similar to the power relationship between ogres and hobgoblins.

It looks like the next time she Ranks Up she will become a Spell Lord.

Afterwards, to confirm the extent of improvement to her abilities when she became a Half-Spell Lord we set up a magic performance outside. It was amazing, no, incredible.

Among the spells that Hobusei-san can use, there is one classified as a [Second-Tier] spell from the [Fire] magic system called [Firestorm of Disaster (Char'dei Dirou)].

I think I was being cryptic suddenly saying stuff like "second-Tier", so I'll expound on that.

It seems like the [Gods] had defined all ten ranks of magic, from the lowest ranking [First-Tier] to the highest ranking [Tenth-Tier] according to difficulty of invocation, destructive power, the minimum Level to be able to learn the spell, and so on.

They are the ones who give blessings often, they are often called something like [God of Something] their names appear even in my blessings abilities, in this world beings that stand one domain above us are real. There are several places where one can meet gods in the world — the [Holy Lands].

Well, let's put aside the issue of the [Gods] and such for now and get back to the story.

After learning that it is only one step above the most basic spells you might think that it's weak, but you would be gravely mistaken.

Even by only being able to handle the lowest [First-Tier] magic, it's easy to kill several people at the same time.

Just by launching a single fireball from the [First-Tier] of the [Fire] magic system through the use of the spell [Flame Calamity (Char Rou)] several people can easily be incinerated.

By the way, the [Lightning] system spell that hit me directly in the face before was a [Third-Tier] spell. Even the body of an ogre-class will get blown to smithereens after getting hit by such a spell.

Editor Note : This is the same lightning magic that was used in Day 36 where he was fighting against the adventurers pillaging Velvet's Treasury. - Sarah

In my case I didn't become like that because the power was sharply lowered by my abilities, but it still hurt a little...

In addition, if you can handle a [Fifth-Tier] spell, even burning an entire city is possible.

Such an existence is fit for the title "Match of A Thousand". I heard from Redhead that she knows of some people that can do this or even better, though only through hearsay.

...I wonder what kind of ability I could get after eating one.

It's interesting to imagine the possibilities, since the High Wizard that I ate could only at his best use a [Third-Tier] spell.

There's no telling when such an opportunity will occur though, however, it's okay to think about it.

I digress, from what I heard about [Firestorm of Disaster (Char'dei Dirou)], when Hobusei-san used it in the past it produced a total of five fireballs with a diameter of 10 cm and launched them rapidly causing wide area destruction.

For Hobusei-san to cast it as a hobgoblin, she needed considerable concentration and a long chanting time, furthermore, for several days after she used it she couldn't use magic very well, those were the risks inherent in using it.

When thinking of the great risk inherent in using it, this destructive power could only be used as a last resort.

Now that she had Ranked Up, it had changed into a spell that could not be compared to that of the old days.

Not only the time needed to invoke [Firestorm of Disaster (Char'dei Dirou)] has been reduced to one-fifth the cast time compared to before, but also the diameter of each fireball is now 35 cm and the total number of fireballs increased to twenty.

Furthermore, she no longer even gets even a feeling of fatigue after using it once, with her current supply of inner mana, it seems she won't receive any backlash even if she

were to fire it twenty times in a row.

Additionally, she can use even more powerful spells than it now.

You wouldn't expect any less from a species specialized magician.

By the way, every shot was aimed at the sky. If she were to shoot at the ground dealing with the damaged terrain would be a bother.

Even so, since she is still only a Half-Spell Lord, it got me wondering how great the magic of a Spell Lord would be.

No matter how hard I try to gather information about this world, the information I have is too scarce, not knowing the limits of power is quite scary.

To congratulate them for their [Evolution (Rank Up)], I did the same as I always do and gave each of the four hobgoblins two magic items.

Hobusei-san got an item from Velvet's inheritance, an [Artifact] -Ranked robe made from silver and gold threads and a red sacred fabric, it had the unique abilities [Auto-Amplification] and [Physical/Magic Damage Resistance] among others.

Another present I gave her was a magic staff named [Arannote's Staff], made from ancient wood studded with a red magic gem that used to be in possession of the adventurer with the [Job-High Wizard] who I killed in Velvet's dungeon.

Just like the one gave to Gobukichi-kun, I also gave her a bracelet-type magic item that had the ability to store items and equipment which usually stand in the way.

Due to the weapons reshuffling this time, the equipment that Hobusei-san was using until now, a staff and a grey robe were given to two of the mage disciples who used to be under my command but had been transferred to Hobusei-san's corps.

Well then, now I'll talk about something that I found out lately.

Hmm, for some reason the goblins from the same generation as me seem to generally have an unimaginably high growth rate — Experience Values absorption ability - in general. This is demonstrated by the appearance of large of individuals who Ranked Up to hobgoblins even before we left the forest.

I've been told by Gobujii before that goblins normally need years to become hobgoblins. The reason for things becoming like this is undoubtedly me.

After I thought about it for a bit, I hypothesized that goblins future growth rate depends on their living environment one month or so after birth.

Well, because goblins as a species have a fast short growth period, I speculated that the growth of their abilities in this period is also higher than other species which would affect their future growth rate. I wonder if I can call it a rapid growth and development period?

In the first month after their birth these goblins have done things normal goblins normally can't like killing and eating many creatures as strong or even stronger than them and undergoing a harsh training regimen daily etc. which caused their growth rate to greatly change.

Assuming that the growth rate of an ordinary goblin is 1, then the growth rate of these goblins who continue to strictly train, kill and eat until their bellies are full would be 10.

There's no way to confirm it, however, I suspect that there's a very high probability that this is true.

I can't find any reason to deny this hypothesis.

Also, it's very likely that there was assistance from my [Pack Leadership].

I have already mentioned the effectiveness of this ability in raising my subordinates' abilities, but in order to fulfill the conditions for utilizing the ability, I had to come up with concepts for each corps, picking out individuals that I judge to be the most suitable considering their character and ability and assigning them there.

What I'm trying to say is that because I activate [Pack Leadership] at all time it must have become easier for them to get more and more powerful than normal.

Well, having an increase in strong subordinates is something good. Let's stop talking about this for now because I don't have any clear proof to prove my hypothesis.

Ah, something I want look up is the outcomes of Ranking Up into an ogre in the. Among the many things that I want to know is an ogre's lifespan.

If ogres are as short lived as goblins, it would be depressing.

Oh yeah, out of the 17 elves we have in captivity, one woman and three men yielded to their desires.

Although I already have Gobumi-chan and the other girls, I was curious what elven biology is like, so I made myself her first partner.

I will say that I intended to be as careful as I could to not hurt my partner, but I can't deny the fact that I made her faint.

Well, yeah, it felt good. Though I'm not saying anything. Not even that it's because a beauty was assertive.

After that, it was the goblins' turn.

This group mainly consisting of goblins from my generation. I assigned the older goblins mainly to the men..... I mean their partners.

I passed down some regulatory rules for the night activities.

The orders were mostly there for the sake of the older goblins. One of them is to consider the feelings of their partners.

Also many-to-one is forbidden. It has to be one-to-one.

I thought that they would hate it since they're proud elves, probably because they were stimulated with drugs, but they were delightedly gasping.

I thought "If they're happy about it then it's okay, right?".

Because I gave the goblins detailed instructions to treat them with care, and because the living quarters they were assigned to were better than the low-ranked goblins', they shouldn't end up tattered and then die like what happened with the human girls before.

I warned the goblins sternly particularly Gobujii who is a previous offender, so it should be okay.

Lastly, let's talk about the [Kin of XXX] that I have already received when I woke up.

TL Note : This is one of Goburou's "Sealed" Skills, he didn't get it by eating but through the world's laws.

Yeah, I don't understand how to use it at all. In fact, I don't even know what effects it has.

I couldn't even make a conjecture because the first few letters were blocked. I wanted to say "Somebody teach me!"

Because it says "Kin" I think that maybe someone is interfering with me...

If it's an ability I learned by myself I would have understood how to use the moment I gained it, but this ability is probably something that I got because of the laws of this world, that's why I don't understand anything about it.

For the time being, I'll stop trying to analyze it because I don't have enough information.

DAY 52

Since it had been a while, this evening I went hunting with Gobukichi-kun in the Unexplored Zone in my mental map where we found a group of 12 armed human men.

Their vigilance in watching their surroundings and speedy — though slow compared to us — advance in the direction of the place where the « Elves' Village » is located led me to surmise that they are the human army's reconnaissance corps.

Motivated by curiosity, we decided to follow them.

An ogre over 2 and a half meters should be easy to spot, but for us tracking them isn't really that big of an issue. Since the fourth day after we were born, we continued hunting to get our own food.

From that day on we followed my strategy which was, rather than charging straight at our prey, we stay hidden, read its breath, then strike from its blind spot accurately like assassins.

Because of this, Gobukichi-kun and I have polished our skills at hiding ourselves until it wasn't even comparable to the usual level of skill others have.

It's at a level where it's easily possible to hide with the gigantic body of an ogre and merge with the surroundings, completely preventing the target from spotting us.

In addition to this, I possessed the ability [Hiding] which boosted my ability to hide even more. I can easily support Gobukichi-kun as well, that's why we didn't have any problems tracking them unnoticed.

After tailing them for a while it seems that we'd reached their target point where the humans assumed a formation shaped like the letter "U".

As they finished moving into formation each human took one of their 2 crossbows in hand, erased their presence and hid themselves.

If you didn't know about their presence in advance, they'd be pretty difficult to spot even if you get very close to them.

Their hiding skills are very advanced.

Well, it's still at an incomparably inferior level compared to us who live in the wild.

Now that they were in position, they had a high chance of silencing their targets without being discovered using a surprise attack with their crossbows.

Since they had 2 crossbows each, they could fire both of them in succession then enter close quarters combat.

That's what I would've done if I were in their place too.

I wanted to know what they were doing here, so I secretly extended a superfine thread that was almost invisible and hard to see even if you were to look at it closely, then listened in on their hushed conversations.

Their mission here is to kidnap the beloved daughter of the « Elven Round Table Conference »'s Chairman.

Apparently the elves had adopted an institution where the representatives of several clans get together to make decisions.

The humans are planning of killing the daughter's guards and kidnap her.

From the conversation I also established the fact that the elves have a traitor among them, though I don't know who it is.

Although I didn't have any intentions of doing anything with this information, I had no doubt that this was a very useful piece of intelligence.

Well, no one wants to die, so the existence of those who betray their own comrades to save their own skin isn't all that unusual. Many had been left battered after getting influenced by personal interests, and I didn't have anything to do with it in the first place, so I couldn't care less.

I'll just squeeze as much profit from this as I can if I get the chance.

After about 2 hours observing the situation, an armed group of elves appeared in the distance. Gobukichi-kun got tired of waiting long ago, so I let him go hunting close by and told him that if anything happens I'd notify him with my thread.

The elf sitting on a sedan chair being carried by a number of elves is probably the Elven Maiden-san who is going to be kidnapped.

From her looks she seemed to be between her late teens to early twenties and frankly speaking she was the most beautiful person I'd ever seen.

She is what one would call an incomparably beautiful woman.

I couldn't help staring at her for a second, after I got mesmerized a little I noticed a small change in the humans hiding.

I thought something was going to happen, so I called Gobukichi-kun back with the thread. At the same time the 12 humans moved simultaneously and accurately killed an elf each with their first crossbow.

It didn't end there, they threw away the crossbows they just fired, took up their other crossbows, then fired once more and another 12 elves died to the bolts.

The humans quickly rushed the eight remaining elves in the confusion following the surprise attack. The elves tried to take up their bows to retaliate, but were silenced by the blades of the humans quickly.

They executed the operation in only ten seconds. They worked at lightning speed, I have to admit, they are quite skilled.

After that, one of the men approached the Elven Maiden-san who was the only survivor and covered her mouth with a cloth.

Although she resisted, ultimately strength left her body which went limp.

From what I can see from here, it seems like she had lost consciousness.

The humans who were able to finish their mission flawlessly picked up the unmoving Elven Maiden-san and withdrew back the way they originally came from.

I assumed they would use the same path they used earlier, so I waited on the path to ambush them.

When they reached the ambush site, I jumped out from my hiding spot and shot threads from my fingertips at them.

I activated [Earth Control] just in case and erected walls made from dirt on the three sides other than the front to prevent the 12 humans from escaping.

The expressions of the humans who were panicking after the sudden turn of events were funny.

They were all captured in one go.

Using the flexibility of the golden thread created by the ability [Golden Thread Creation] I managed to bind all of them at the same time. Though the golden thread is quite heavy, so it consumes strength. However, it doesn't have the normal thread's vulnerability to fire, it's also impossible to cut it quickly because of its high resistances.

They looked like bagworms as they wriggled around which looked hilarious.

After getting captured they may use a poison stored in the back of their teeth or bite their tongues to kill themselves to prevent leak of information. However, even if they did something like that I'll just quickly heal them to prevent them from dying, but healing them would be annoying, so I gagged them with my thread.

To make sure they that they won't be able to undo their bindings I dislocated their joints. As I finished tying up their wrists and thumbs firmly Gobukichi-kun finally arrived.

I gave the work of carrying all of the humans to Gobukichi-kun who arrived late.

Although his burden looked quite heavy, Gobukichi was carrying them like it was nothing.

...Including his armor it's definitely more than 1 ton, right? I thought about this while tilting my head a little, but he looked completely unfazed so I didn't say anything.

I was carrying the Elven Maiden-san who was sleeping in my arms.

We decided to return to the mine after I deal with the elves' corpses.



The heads of Elven Maiden-san's escorts were hollowed out from the bolts of the crossbows and separated from their necks by the blades of the humans.

The assassins were skilled, so the vitals of the elves who were shot by the humans were accurately destroyed and there wasn't anything I could do because I don't have any resurrection skills. I took all their equipment and their hearts, then I properly buried them because it would be pitiful if a monster ate their corpses.

Ability [Luck] learned

Ability [Doom] learned

For the time being, I guess I'll be activating [Luck] at all times and I'll be extra careful so that I don't accidentally activate [Doom].

Lastly, I clapped my hands together "Namu". I offered a prayer to them.

...Hmm? What will I with the captured humans you say?

Well, after interrogating them I'll turn them into Experience Values. I'll use them as materials to give lectures on torture and vitals too.

Yeah, tonight will be busy.

That's what I was thinking about when that happened. We encountered some goblins on our way home.

Their faces weren't unfamiliar. They were a group of the older goblins, six goblins who were in the upper ranks at the time of the former hobgoblin leader. Nowadays, even the goblins who carried Redhead and the other girls outclassed them in power. These guys couldn't keep up with the training and became failures.

I already mentioned before that the goblins of my generation were stronger than the older ones, but I'll add that because the low ranked goblins under the former hobgoblin leader were comparatively younger, they showed some likelihood of growing reasonably strong through training.

These guys fell behind so far that the other goblins have been gossiping about them

lately.

Oh well, that's doesn't matter now.

I wanted to ask what they were doing in this kind of place, but since they seemed to be in a hurry I just observed them in silence. Probably because they felt resigned, but they stopped and the strongest out of them spoke.

"We can no longer follow you".

Not being able to sleep with the human women against was hard enough and they could barely endure the rigors of the daily training. Even so, they endured thinking that this will change someday, but because they couldn't embrace the women elves when we took the elves as prisoners they couldn't take it any longer.

With their statuses, sleeping with the women elves was impossible, even if they held out their hands they were limited to the men. The men were quite good-looking, so they didn't feel too bad doing it with them, but knowing that they would never be able to embrace the women' first-rate bodies even though they were close by felt frustrating and they were helplessly tantalized by this.

However, there's a limit to enduring. Because there were first-rate meals right in front of their eyes, but only those other than themselves can eat these meals they couldn't continue enduring it anymore.

That's why they are leaving.

In other words, they want to leave the group.

After saying that much, they went silent and trembled.

They probably thought that they will be killed.

As for me, I thought 'Ah, they finally decided to leave?'.

Well, I have already expected that they'll eventually leave, and it's not really necessary to keep these guys who don't want to follow my orders around. If they want to leave, my response will probably be only "I see". If Gobukichi-kun was the one who wanted to leave instead, I would try to stop him to the point of pulling him back with me. He's my right hand man after all.

I force everyone to adhere to my rules, but I didn't consider what to do to guys who were like "we don't like it, so we're leaving" yet. Since they weren't a big group it would be okay for now, but I have to decide on a policy concerning this soon. However, I don't care about guys who are leaving because they don't want to follow my orders.

Besides, my goal right now is not increasing our numbers, but rather raising our individual abilities. Rather than increasing the number of burdens, I want to raise the goblins' individual abilities before considering increasing our numbers.

That's why, I don't have any intentions of dissuading these guys who are already falling behind. I will extend my hand and help those who work hard even if they don't have any talent, but these guys are already starting to complain without even working hard.

Nonetheless, I should take countermeasures to prevent leakage of information about us. No, I'm not thinking of killing them, I will monitor them though.

The weapons carried by these trembling goblins who were looking at me with tense expressions were only [Normal] -Ranked items that I distributed to them, the second rank from the bottom.

There were several [Rare] -Rank items in the equipment storage, but they tried to sneak out with only the equipment distributed to them.

It's probably because they knew that they would be killed if they stole any.

They judged correctly.

I digress, although they were armed decently, but it was only the minimum required equipment. With their Levels, the level of their skills and their equipments' quality, the chances of their survival are low.

I decided to give them a parting gift, so I took out six knives from my [Item Box] and gave them to the goblins.

These knives are from the belongings of Elven Maiden-san's escorts who died earlier. The knives blades were blue, - When I used [appraisal], I found out that they were made from a magical metal called [Mithril] - these knives are too precious for a goblin to possess one.

The knives don't have any unique abilities, but compared to the steel short swords

that they are currently equipped with the knives' sharpness is phenomenal. Would it be easy to understand how sharp they are if I said that a [Mithril Knife] can easily cut through the blade of a steel sword without getting a scratch on it?

Only the elves know the technology of how to manufacture [Mithril]. These knives are so rare that even a high-ranked adventurer can't obtain one easily.

To show them how sharp the knives are, I cut my fingertip with it and several drops of blood trickled out, then I sheathed it and gave each goblin his knife. The wound instantly vanished without trace due to the effects of [Rapid Recovery].

The older goblins just stood there with dumbfounded looks on their faces. Seeing that, I smiled wryly and left with Gobukichi-kun in the direction of the mine without looking back.

If there is a chance, we may meet again in the future.

Well, with a treasure like the [Mithril Knives] with them, there's a high chance that they will get killed by adventurers before we have the chance to meet again. It's unanimously agreed that possessing a treasure that doesn't correspond with your strength will lead you to ruin.

Lastly, an important point I want to mention is, "This day I shed my blood in this place".

TL note: This is likely a reference to the phrase, "lose a finger to save an arm". He's cutting his losses. He's losing some forces, but it's necessary for his plans, and referring to the fact that he may have created a clone with the blood he spilled on the blade to monitor their actions and prevent leakage of information about his group

DAY 53

From the group of 12 humans I caught I learned that their forces will start advancing within 20 days. However, because the forest is full of powerful monsters like Triple Horned horses and Hind bears, mobilization of large numbers of soldiers on specific routes was deemed impossible.

Naturally, I was told the routes they were going to take.

Normally one would think they wouldn't leak such important information since they are professionals. First I broke their limbs then stopped the bleeding, then I sliced their flesh and bones and healed them, after that I cut open their stomachs then healed them again, I also cut parts of them and ate it in front of them and their comrades while they are still alive etc., they told me everything after I did that.

Reading this you may label me a villain, no, there's no doubt about it, but if you look at history you will find things like this happening all the time, so it doesn't bother me. In the first place, most of the techniques I was using were ones innovated and perfected by people who lived in the past.

In addition, I'm an ogre now. I'm no longer a human, so doing this isn't a problem. That's just how it is.

After I heard everything I needed to hear I ate their delicious meat. I also secured their high-quality equipment which included some magic items and I got a lot of Experience Values.

Ability [Job-Secret Force] learned

Ability [Job-Monster Tamer] learned

Ability [Job-Vorpal Punisher] learned

Ability [Job-Hermit] learned

Ability [Identify State] learned

Ability [Bribe] learned

Ability [Unlock] learned

Ability [Release Trap] learned

Ability [Sense Trap] learned

Ability [Sense Enemy] learned

Ability [Improved Assassination Rate] learned

Ability [Hidden Weapon Mastery] learned

Ability [Humanbane] learned

Ability [Vorpal Strike] learned

Ability [Aura Slash] learned

Ability [Back Attack] learned

Ability [Needleshot] learned

Ability [Throw] learned

Ability [Severe Pain Resistance] learned

Ability [Charm Resistance] learned

Ability [Assassination Resistance] learned

I also got many good abilities.

[Triple Stab] was my only direct physical attack ability, that's why I'm thankful for the addition of [Vorpal Strike] and [Aura Slash].

I also secured many useful abilities like [Unlock] and [Release Trap], I'm satisfied with gaining so many useful abilities.

Elven Maiden-san who was sleeping soundly for a whole day thanks to the sleeping drug I gave her finally woke up in the afternoon.

She jumped in surprise when she woke up since I stopped by and was looking at her beautiful sleeping face to check if she's still sleeping, then she went into panic and said things like "Where are my escorts?!" "What are you going to do to me?!" "No way, my chastity...", so I gave her some tea I made - with the help of Alchemist-san — from medicinal herbs which calmed her down for now.

Because the materials have a strong sedative effect, after drinking it she calmed down quickly.

Then, I told her what happened.

The escorts were all dead, I took their hearts and equipment as payment for giving them a respectful burial. I told her that I watched - Gobukichi-kun was excluded since he wasn't there at that time - everything from the preparation phase, then after catching the humans I interrogated them before killing and eating them.

I didn't keep any secrets.

Ah, by the way, I didn't say anything about the elven prisoners of war we caught since it is unrelated. There might have been a problem if I told her, but I didn't because it doesn't have any relation with what happened to her.

Well, speaking of Elven Maiden-san's reaction, she was extremely mad.

I got punched in my abdomen muscles repeatedly, but to be honest, it wasn't a big deal. It was like getting hit by a small child. It something like pokpoka punching, that image is actually quite close.^[1]

I thought 'Is Elven Maiden-san behaving like this because there was a guy with a reasonable position among those who died?', but since it's not like I don't understand her feelings I let her freely hit me for a while, then I countered by flicking her forehead — My hits are no joke, even though it's just a flick and that I held back my strength as much as possible, it was still too strong for her — with my finger.^[2] ^[3] ^[4]

There was only a large swelling on her forehead, so she won't die, but it still must have been painful because she had to take a few steps back, she held onto the spot I hit and glared at me with teary eyes, but I didn't care about that.

I said to her "The dispute between you elves and the humans doesn't have anything to do with us, but I went out of my way and helped, so stop complaining so much... etc.". Then I told her about the existence of a traitor among the elves.

She became silent, after a while she erupted into tears, so I tried comforting her. The sight of a beauty crying genuinely is a foul play.

After that, I told her that I'll escort her to the « Elves' Village », but we talked longer than I expected, so she had to stay here for the night. I made a hammock for her to sleep in tonight.

Well, tomorrow we will go to the « Elves' Village ». I wonder how it'll go?

Oh, Gobujii don't look at me with those eyes that are conveying the words "Won't you imprison and drug the Elven Maiden-san?". How annoying. [5]

It's not like she's an enemy, in addition, there's no way that I'll do something like that after spending 2 hours talking with her.....

By the way, it seems like out of the elves we caught two men and two women yielded to their desires. Although I didn't have any interest in doing it, it became an implicit rule among the goblins that the boss must be the womens' first partner, so I just went with it.

Before long, I saw the surreal scene of the goblins standing in line and waiting for their turn. Well, since they are following the rules I set up I'm not going to say anything.

DAY 54

Waking up as usual, I felt a presence watching over me while sighing by my side. To ascertain who it was, I feigned sleep.

According to [Sense Presence], it was the Elven Maiden-san. For now, I want to ask "What are you doing?"

Later, Gobumi-chan-chan, Redhead, Blacksmith-san, Sisters-san and Alchemist-san all had me surrounded and were examining me closely as well, again I wondered why they were doing this.

Since it is impossible to feign sleeping forever and because I felt an eerie feeling from the looks of Gobumi-chan and the others that sent a chill down my spine, I opened my eyes.

Elven Maiden-san went into a panic, her movements were so funny that I laughed in spite of myself. Then I got hit by her.

Why?

After that I finished my breakfast, then sparred against Gobukichi-kun who just like me after becoming an ogre couldn't participate in the others' training, because an ogre can easily kill a hobgoblin even when holding back.

After we finished, the morning training was still in progress, so I told the hobgoblin currently in charge of the morning training that Gobukichi-kun-kun and I are going to escort Elven Maiden-san to the Elves' Village, then we departed from the mine.

We advanced on the way to « The Elves' Village » while hunting Argiopes etc. on the way and after walking for about three hours we finally arrived at the village.

We were suddenly surrounded by elves, there was 25 of them in our view, but according to [Sense Presence] there was actually 48.

They are aiming at my and Gobukichi-kun's vitals with bows and arrows made of [Mithril]. This isn't that dangerous of a situation for us though.

I can kill all of them easily if I used all my abilities and with our armors on the mithril arrows would just get reflected even if it's fired at a close range. In addition, the life force of an ogre is not something that can be underestimated.

Though receiving a direct hit to an unprotected head would be somewhat dangerous, but I am confident that we can avoid an arrow aimed at our heads even if it's shot at point blank range.

However, it is troublesome to fight here, in addition, Elven Maiden-san is here.

By reflex, Gobukichi-kun was about to slaughter the elves. He equipped his axe and shield immediately - he didn't have to carry them around because he's storing them in the bracelet-type magic item -. By the way, the bracelet-type magic item can hold up to 12 types of items and it is possible to stack 20 of the same type of item. I stopped him with a hand signal and Elven Maiden-san managed to talk down the surrounding elves quickly.

Then we entered the village while being surrounded by elves who were monitoring us under the pretense of escorts.

As for the structure of « The Elves' Village », to put it simply they live inside carved giant trees.

It is built around one enormous tree that you cannot see right when you enter the village. Traffic is handled by the other trees having scaffolds complete with stairs, residences, and suspension bridges.

The living area is primarily in the trees and not on the ground.

It's unlikely that everyone are living in trees though, since I can see things like stables on the ground.

While being exposed to uncomfortable looks ranging from disdaining to curious looks we continued climbing up the stairs, then crossed a bridge before arriving at our destination at last.

There was a mansion with a size completely different compared to the others. Apparently this is Elven Maiden-san's home.

We went into the mansion, where I met with the father of Elven Maiden-san.

He had a splendid mustache and was a Dandy looking old man with a fine toned body for an elf. If I were an elf, I would have felt jealous.

I tried sitting on a seat I was offered, but it creaked disagreeably, so I had to politely decline. Tea was served and as it got time to refill we moved onto business.

To summarize the contents of our agreement, because I saved Elven Maiden-san I'm going to receive a reward.

I didn't help her for free, but I didn't know how much to ask for as I didn't know how precious his daughter is for him and because it was my first time doing something like this, however, the main reason why I didn't ask him how much I wanted directly is to probe his personality.

I decided to ask him to give me a reward suitable for someone who saved his daughter's life, in other words a reward big enough to exchange for the life of Elven Maiden-san.

He said "Ask what you want, here's no need to be polite about it, is there?", then I retorted "She's your daughter, give me a reward appropriate for someone who saved her life". I implied my request like this.

He may hate me for it, however, if it's to know how he will act upon it and to understand his personality, it's a cheap price.

These were my only intentions.

To be honest the result was unexpected, but an [Ancient] -Ranked [Artifact] ended up in my possession.

The magic weapon was in the shape of a bow, and according to [Appraisal] its name is [Sure Hit Great Bow (Failnaught)].

It does not require arrows, when the bow is fully drawn the arrow is materialized by a mysterious power, therefore it will not run out of arrows.

It possesses a unique ability just like its name implies which is called [Certain Hit], by this ability's effect the arrows shot by this bow will always hit their target, unless it is

protected by a shield. It also possess other abilities that improve its power.

This bow seems to be one of this family's heirlooms considering Elven Maiden-san's reaction to it. Nothing is impossible to exchange for his beloved daughter, huh. He must be a really doting father.

Well, I can't help but be satisfied with such a reward.

After getting a family heirloom, I felt a little bad about leaving just like this, so I decided to give him some of the information that I had about the human's army.

It's also because I like Father Elf's personality.

"Ah, that's right, the humans will use this route too"

"They'll will reach the forest in about..."

"This trap is actually pretty effective in this scenario, it would be a good idea to use this strategy here too"

When I leaked some information, he said "I'll pay, so please continue".

The rewards were 30 chainmail shirts made of [Mithril], 30 [Mithril] short swords, 20 [Mithril] Ingots and a few magic items convenient for day to day life.

I got rewarded by someone who knows how important these information are.

He is basically saying " I'm glad he's someone that values information". ~Obarou

While I was watching Father Elf who was writing down the information about the human's army and about the traps and strategies that I recommended for him, I took out ten each of the knives made from [Water Spirit Stones], [Earth Spirit Stones] and [Wind Spirit Stones] by Blacksmith-san and put them on the desk.

Also while I was at it, I took out three shovel-type [Unique] -Ranked magic items with abilities suitable for the elves who excel at handling [Spirit] s.

It's not like I was thinking of selling him a favor, but I thought that it would make up for the shortage in combatants caused by the loss of the elite elves.

Our negotiations were safely concluded with this. Then, I exchanged a solid handshake with Father Elf while smiling amicably.

However, when I was asked "Do you know the whereabouts of the elite unit?", I had no choice but to smile and say "I don't know".

When we were about to head back, Father Elf gave me some souvenirs while saying "This is the elves's secret medicine, in addition, this is an elven alcohol. Please take them". By the way, there were three casks of the alcohol.

Yep, this was thanks to [Luck], wasn't it?

I'm looking forward to drinking this alcohol.

Before we left, Father Elf said "This a cheap price compared to the help you provided me".

At night. Since we finally got our long-awaited alcohol, I drank with everyone.

"Elven alcohol tastes so good-----!!" I shouted involuntarily.

Yeah, I'll have Father Elf treat me again.

DAY 55

I informed everyone about the goblins that left the other day. I told them that if anyone wants to leave they can leave any time they want, they just have to tell me beforehand. I will even send them off with a parting gift, I also informed them of several new policies that I adopted, in the end there wasn't anyone who wanted to leave.

Well, that's good then. Today I updated the rankings taking out the goblins who left, then went out hunting.

After I returned back, I worked on producing a new item that I had been thinking about making.

DAY 56

In the morning, I continued tinkering with the communication equipment that I started working on yesterday and now it's finally completed.

I don't understand how it works, but a production summary is as follows.

First, I absorbed the [Mithril] ingot that I got from Father Elf as a reward into my silver arm by using its ability [Self-Evolution].

→ Squeezing out the absorbed [Mithril] from the tip of my silver arm's fingers in the shape of an ear cuff.

→ Collect several drops of my blood from my fingertip.

→ Mold the blood drops in a shape resembling a jewel, fit it into the blue silver ear cuff.

→ With that the communication equipment is complete.

In short, it's a means of telepathic communication utilizing my [Self Replication] ability.

From what I heard from Redhead and the others, this world doesn't widely employ the use of communication equipment. So I expect that the ability to quickly share information will be extremely valuable.

However, it took more time than I thought it would to enchant the ear cuffs.

Because they are made from high quality materials they won't shatter when the enchantment fails, however, the low probability of success when trying to add three enchantments was troublesome.

After going through some struggles, I finally managed to provide everyone with an ear cuff.

Since I designed the ear cuffs so that they would fuse with the surrounding flesh after putting them on, it's impossible to remove the ear cuff after putting it on unless

you cut the flesh around it or ask me to remove it, however, this also allows it to give the wearer buffs through the enchantments [Regeneration], [Lesser Strength Increase] and [Lesser Dexterity Increase].

I grew tired from all the adjustments I had to do to make it comfortable for each individual, so I went to sleep after that.

I woke up in the evening and went hunting for some time before heading back and then going to bed.

I went without sleep though, since Gobumi-chan and the others came in and we spent another hot night.

DAY 57

I want pets. I have [Job-Monster Tamer], so I should make use of it.

That's how the original group of 4 went out together for the first time in a while to capture some pets.

My first priority target is a pack of Black wolves. Because if it's a wolf, it's likely to make as good a companion as a dog would if I tame it. It's also because Black wolves are pretty strong and if I train it properly I could even use it as a mount for long distance travel.

However, reality wasn't that simple. I couldn't find any Black wolves.

I didn't have a problem with that though, since I captured five Triple Horned horses and three Hind bears today.

Aside from Gobumi-chan, Gobue-chan's performance surprised me.

Although Gobukichi-kun and I tried to hold back, we ended up killing a few Triple Horned horses by mistake due to how hard we hit. So those two had to do their best by themselves to capture them, the accurate shooting at the gaps between the scales of Gobumi-chan who I gave the [Sure Hit Great Bow (Failnaught)] as a present was pretty good. This is probably because of the abilities of the magic item. However, I had to admit that the speed of her rapid firing was amazing.

But, the fact that Gobue-chan who used a pickaxe-type magic item that I gave her from Velvet's inheritance could overwhelm a Triple-Horned Horse by herself exceeded my expectations. Her pickaxe is a [Unique] -Ranked magic item that have only the ability [Difficult to Destroy].

Yeah, these are probably the results of honing her mining technique until she learned how to use her body's muscles efficiently. The superior speed and power of just one of her swings wasn't normal.

The horns of the gigantic figure of the Triple Horned horse that took a direct hit to the head broke from their roots and its head rotated a half-turn before it lost

consciousness and fell to the ground.

She might be overshadowed by Gobumi-chan and Gobukichi-kun, but I got convinced that the fourth place among the goblins of our generation truly belongs to Gobue-chan.

Levels are important in this world, but her swing just now can make anyone realize how important being able to use all of your body's muscles to support your strikes can be.

I turned the Triple Horned horse that was trashed by Gobue-chan into a [Familiar] with [Job-Monster Tamer]. It looks like this ability rewrites part of their memories. At most I can set two masters, and apparently the masters can talk with their pets telepathically. Isn't this too convenient? It got attached to me first, then after I set Gobue-chan as its second master it got attached to her too and thus it became her personal mount.

The hobgoblins, Gobumi-chan and Hobusato-san received Triple Horned horses too just like Gobue-chan. Gobukichi-kun, Hobusei-san, and I took the three Hind bears as pets respectively.

There were two Triple Horned horses left over, so I arranged them to the Vice-captain and a prominent member of Gobukichi-kun's corps who were particularly strong among the other hobgoblins.

The reins and saddles magic items we got from the twelve human members of the reconnaissance corps could not be used on the Hind bears, but they could be used on the Triple Horned horses, so I gave it to them.

In the evening, five elves, three men and two women succumbed to their desires.

And so the same deeds were repeated again.

It was quite the significant day.

DAY 58

I went out to look for Black wolves again for the second day in a row. However, today I'm going out alone.

Gobukichi-kun and the others are in the middle of training to learn how to ride their Familiars. I managed to ride it easily because of my experience in my past life and one of my abilities [Riding]. Being able to communicate with my Familiar was a great help too.

By the way, I made reins and saddles from my threads and hides for the Hind bears, so it should be easier for Gobukichi-kun and Hobusei-san to get used to riding their bears.

Nonetheless, an armed ogre riding on a Hind bear is an awesome sight in many ways. I wonder what it would be like if the Hind bear is also armed.

I detected a pack of Black wolves with [Sense Presence] and succeeded in catching 8 Black wolves and 1 Black wolf leader.

Although the Black wolves' running speed, stamina and leg strength is excellent, they still couldn't measure up to a Hind bear. Even I didn't expect that something with such a large body can run like this between the trees.

When they realized that they wouldn't be able to get away, the wolves stopped running. Initially they bared their fangs, but after I glared at them while activating my intimidating abilities, they started wagging their tails like friendly dogs which healed my soul a little.

Afterwards, I rewrote the memories of the Black Wolves the same way as the other Familiars, then I returned to the mine.

I gave the eight Black wolves to the goblins belonging to the light armored troops [Hatred] led by Hobusato-san.

They were struggling just like Gobukichi-kun and the others to learn how to ride, however, they'll just have to work harder to master it.

As for me, I spent my time deepening my relationship with my Hind bear named Kumajirou.

By the way, the Black wolf leader named Kurosabrou became my beloved wolf.

My soul got healed by their cuteness.

You couldn't see their previous ferocity at all as they were being stroked comfortably by Redhead, Alchemist-san and the others.

Oh yeah, I should tame some Familiars to act as bodyguards for Blacksmith-san and the others.

The remaining two elf women and two men gave in. The two women who resisted to the end were the two escorts that accompanied the next elf clan chief candidate up to the entrance of the mine.

I tried to be gentle, but I might have been a little rough.

DAY 59

Redhead and I rode on top of my Hind bear Kumajirou as we walked through the forest with my Black wolf Kurosaburo walking by our side. The four of us made for an unusual party as we strolled through the Unexplored Zones of my mental map.

Redhead's combat techniques improved lately, but she didn't kill anything so she didn't get any Experience Values. Basically, her Level didn't change.

Although in addition to her skills, her physical abilities have improved from the daily training, it's trivial compared to the increase in physical abilities from raising your Level.

By the way, Redhead's Level is "18". Her Level increased by ten during the Hind bear hunt which is good, but frankly speaking she's still beyond useless.

Her current physical ability is below even the common goblins in our community.

With that being the case, Redhead could no longer win against the goblins who went out daily to hunt and raised their Levels.

The reason we went out hunting together this time is to increase her Level.

Redhead wasn't equipped with anything special today. There's a high chance that an inexperienced person would mistake the performance of their equipment for their own abilities, so she wasn't equipped with any magical items.

Her weapon of choice is a steel kukri knife and she kept three ring daggers for backup.

For defense she held a round shield reinforced with shells.

They are equipment of the same [Normal] -Ranked items provided to the goblin common infantry. She was wearing her everyday clothes made by the Sisters out of Hind bear fur and my thread as well as a breastplate and a grey cloak.

Her forearms were protected by steel gauntlets. Her legs were protected by steel cuisses, steel kneepads, steel greaves and steel sabatons. Wearing all of these equipment

is quite heavy, so I enchanted it to make it lightweight and now it's actually quite light.

Because of this, Redhead's movements weren't affected.

Her first prey was an Armored tanuki. She was struggling a little bit against the defense of its back shell, but because of the [Job-Warrior]'s combat corrections or perhaps from the results of her training or maybe both, Redhead succeeded in scrapping off the Armored tanuki's shells and killed it.

The meat was given to Kurosabrou to eat.

Her next prey were three Night Vipers. Even though she flinched after they directed their piercing glares at her at first, she regained her composure, calmly observed their movements and was able to guard against their attacks with her round shield, then she succeeded in decapitating them.

Their meat was given to Kumajirou to eat.

Three kobolds were up next. I quickly captured two with my threads, creating a situation where she'll be able to fight one-on-one. Perhaps the last one realized that there was no way to escape and focused on Redhead, challenging her to a fight.

The Kobold had superior physical strength, but the combat skills Redhead developed by training with the goblins every day covered the difference in physical ability.

Dodging the kobold's slashes, sometimes parrying them, Redhead managed to decapitated the kobold without getting injured.

After a short break, I released one of the kobolds. Not to set him free, but to have him fight Redhead. Although she got a few light injuries this time, Redhead once again cut the kobold's body and killed him.

I asked the last kobold about the location of his Kobold clan before I released him to fight Redhead. As a result, I learned of their location.

While thinking that if I get a chance I'll go check on them, Redhead who had more or less recovered her physical strength said "Next Please", so I released the last kobold.

The final kobold put up a better fight than the others, but in the end Redhead killed him by slicing his head off with her sharpest slash of the day.

After healing Redhead's injuries and recovering her stamina, I let Kumajirou and Kurosaburo each eat a kobold.

Right as I was about to start munching on the remaining Kobold, Redhead said to me that she want to try eating it too, so I grilled it and we ate it together.

I was impressed at Redhead's adaptability yet again. To think that she would eat a humanoid monster's meat without any hesitation.

Well, I'm not one to talk about others when it comes to "eating", I can eat anything, be it raw, metal or any other thing you can think of.

Well, if Redhead is thinking of staying around me in the future then she'll need to be adaptable and openminded, that's why her current behavior is good.

Ability [Mountaineering] learned

As I was thinking "Okay then, our next prey will be...", Redhead tugged on the edge of my coat.

"What's wrong?" I asked as I looked down at her, her eyes that should have been blue sapphire were now a dull red.

What's more, the once circular black pupils turned into a rectangular shape resembling that of some monster's.

T/N: Google "goat eye" if you're interested - Vidar

They still looked somewhat different though.

Rather than calling them ominous, her somewhat strange eyes gave off a chilling feel.

It seems like she had obtained a new [Job]. Is it because she ate a kobold? Or is it because she was training with the goblins?

I asked her about it.

According to her, the [Job] Redhead obtained is called [Noire Soldier].

After greatly increasing their affinity with monsters, those with the [Job-Warrior]

have a certain chance of obtaining this rare job by clearing the condition of "eating a monster they killed by themselves".

I was probably the main cause of this, I didn't feel anything like regret about it at all though.

Having gained a new [Job], Redhead's combat abilities dramatically increased.

However, there is an outrageous drawback which is, a [Noire Soldier]'s body will rapidly deteriorate and they will die if they don't consume monster meat or blood at fixed intervals, but the growth rate of their combat abilities is amazing.

She now have physical abilities equal to or better than that of a hobgoblin.

Her combat power couldn't even be compared to how she was before.

Considering that earlier her combat ability was equal to or even worse than a common goblin in our community, it was a huge improvement.

Redhead's figure who kept saying "Awesome, Awesome!" while she deflected a Red deer's horns, kicked its belly which sent it flying in the air and then cut its thick neck covered by strong muscles with the kukri knife's blade looked cute.

I collected the horns, then we shared the meat.

Ability [Wild Horn Dance] learned

Ability [Red Crystal's Tone] learned

After that we hunted various things.

When evening came, I made a short stopover together with Redhead before returning.

I confirmed that Redhead's new job [Noire Soldier] increased her abilities in a big way when she took in some of me.

So, by taking in stronger monsters, she would become stronger herself.

As for what she took in, that is a private matter.

During today's hunt, Redhead's Level rose to "34" showing a dramatic rise.

TL note: she ate thousands of Rou's potential children -larvyde

TL note: This can be some kind of plot hole. I mean, what if the others took it in too? -Kouta

TL note: the condition to become a [Noire Soldier] is to eat a monster you have killed, I don't believe any of the other humans have killed monsters? -Alex

TL note: Sexual Innuendos. So she's gonna be drinking his semen from now on. - Sarah

DAY 60

I noticed something in the range of [Sense Presence]. Even though it was 2 hours past midnight.

[Sense Presence]'s area of effect has grown considerably recently. I always activate it before going to sleep just in case, so it started waking me up in the middle of the night randomly sometimes. It was very annoying.

That's why I overlapped it with [Sense Enemy] and set it so that only those with a hostile reaction will trigger it, to prevent it from waking me up at night. Now that I actually take a look there are a lot of enemies showing up, too many for this hour.

For a moment I thought "Did the humans come to attack?", but I instantly rejected that idea. At night the forest belongs to monsters.

If the humans were to attack us now, they would be at a huge disadvantage. Trying to figure out what it was, I was able to confirm it wasn't the humans.

The species name coming up after using my abilities [Mental Map] and [Sense Presence] together was kobold. For a moment, I thought "They finally came for revenge?", but... that seems to be not the case.

I could tell there were 53 kobolds by the number of red dots showing up on my [Mental Map]. There were also 38 blue dots that appeared to be chasing the kobolds. At the very edge there was a rather large gray dot. Individuals of the same species show up as the same color, so that means there are three different species.

I didn't know what the blue and gray dots were. From what I could tell, when the red dots made contact with the blue dots the red dots were disappearing.

It appears the kobolds were under attack.

Something like this happens all the time which is why I usually just ignore it.

It was different this time though, because the kobolds were heading straight for our mine.

I'd rather not have anything to do with this, but they were getting closer and closer. I decided to wake up everyone in order to prepare for the possible intrusion.

I can easily kill the kobolds, so the real threat was the blue and gray dots.

The kobolds ran as fast as they could towards our mine. Their numbers had been reduced to 36. There weren't just males. The group included females, elderly and children too.

In the rear was a line of armed male kobolds trying to hold off the blue dots. The blue dots were bleached white skeletons armed with swords, shields, and armor. The kobolds were desperately trying to slow the skeletons down.

“.....”

I was at loss for words.

When I was inside Returner's dungeon, I didn't get to see a skeleton. This is the first time I've seen it. Aren't these the [skeleton Soldiers], the magical creatures guarding « Velvet's Dungeon »?

Why are they here?... Ah, a kobold got killed. It looks like I don't have that much time to think about it. I gave out orders using the ear cuffs to attack the skeletons with crossbows.

Getting a good hit on them is incredibly difficult and even if they get hit head on, the bolt simply gets knocked down to the side. They were incredibly tough.

In all likelihood, there was an ability of some kind at work here.

Seeing that the crossbows were ineffective, I pulled « Regret », our long-range corps, back. « Pleasure », our logistical support corps, led the escaping kobolds to the jail. In addition, I ordered Gobuji-kun to administer medical treatment to anybody that needs it among the kobold's group.

I wanted them under surveillance and they'd only stand in the way if they stayed here.

Seeing that long range attacks were ineffective, I ordered our main close quarters combat corps « Anger » and our lightly armed corps « Hatred » to engage the skeletons. The black wolves also helped.

However, cutting through bone with a blade is hard. It was a tough fight in the beginning.

However, that all changed when Hobusato-san accidentally discovered that it's possible to break the bones with blunt force, that happened when she hit a skeleton approaching her from behind with her scabbard. The skeletons have a high resistance against slashing attacks but they are pretty weak against blunt force.

I relayed that information to everyone using the ear cuffs quickly. Then, as if the tough time we were having was just a bad dream, we took out the skeletons in no time.

Now that we found out their weakness, they were no longer a problem.

With his huge battle axe and tower shield, Gobukichi-kun's figure looking like a castle wall was mowing through them like nothing.

The sight of that huge figure going through the skeletons while emitting a bellowing sound from the clash and turning them into dust was awe-inspiring.

Gobue-chan was equipped with her usual pickaxe. It's not an exaggeration to say that she already have a certain kill swing. She was swinging downwards crushing the skull in one hit making it all the way down to the sacrum without stopping. It was an incredibly powerful blow. The skeletons were simply dug out.

T/N: Sacrum - Triangular bone at the base of the spine, between the hip bones.

At first, Gobumi-chan used her bow's [Certain Hit] ability to hit them in the skull, but it wasn't very effective. However, she was able to work around that not only with the amount of rapid-fired shots able to hit their mark, but also by changing the arrowhead which resulted in an increase in blunt damage.

The skeletons did not have anyway of defending against the wave-like rapid-fire of arrows modified specifically to counter them.

Hobusei-san burned the skeletons to ashes with her [Fire] magic. Of course, she didn't use her wide-area destructive magic because there was allies around her. After Ranking Up, her magic's power drastically improved. She didn't have much of a handicap against the skeletons.

As for me, well, I definitely wouldn't have any problems.

Unlike the kobolds, we have plenty of ways to deal with the skeletons.

Adding in the Hind Bears and the Triple Horned horses, we have way too much war potential to be worried about losing.

I thought that I won't need to personally end this, but then I noticed that something seemed off, the skeleton's numbers weren't decreasing at all.

The skeletons inside the mine were crushed until they were nothing but a heap of bones, but more and more kept coming in from the entrance. There was no end to them.

Thinking about where they came from, I remembered what Returner told me about them. There is a superior species to Skeleton soldiers called [Greater Skeletons], which have the ability to create Skeleton soldiers.

In addition, by absorbing the Mana from the surrounding darkness the number of Skeleton soldiers Greater skeletons can create during the night seemed to be infinite. She boasted "It's something that's normally impossible, however, it's only to be expected that Velvet-sama is capable of such a feat".

"Ah, so that's how it is" after I figured it out, I thought "Then, I just have to go and crush it."

However, I changed my mind after considering how much Experience Values we can gain by killing the Skeleton soldiers over and over.

"Isn't this a good chance to increase everyone's Levels?" I thought.

Then I informed everyone that we are starting a past midnight Experience Values harvesting festival.

The gray dot is probably the Greater skeleton spawning the Skeleton soldiers. It was standing outside without moving, so I wasn't worried about something unexpected happening.

At first I thought, "Isn't there a possibility that some may get killed?", but after some time everyone seemed to have gotten used to fighting them so we got by with almost no injuries.

There was the possibility that something could happen due to fatigue. That's why I had them fight in shifts to make sure nothing happened.

Even the long-range and logistical support corps can destroy their bodies with blunt weapons relatively easily.

I munched on a pile of bones while watching them fighting. Redhead came over to take a break during the fight too.

Blacksmith-san, the Sisters and Alchemist-san came out from the back of the mine in the middle of the fight. I was wondering if the bones could be used as ingredients for anything, so I consulted with them.

Apparently these bones can be used as an ingredient, moreover, it seems like skeletons' bones are high quality rare items. That is why I stored some of them in my [Item Box], if sold, it can get me quite a large amount of gold. I'll turn it into traveling funds when I go outside the forest later.

As expected of those with the [Job-Peddler], they have a lot of useful information when it comes to trading.

Ability [Slashing Resistance] learned

Ability [Piercing Resistance] learned

Ability [Weakness to Sunlight] learned

Ability [Weakness to Blunt Damage] learned

Ability [Critical Hits Nullification] learned

Ability [Tireless] learned

Ability [Bone Union] learned

Ability [Joint Magic] learned

Ability [Equipment Materialization] learned

Ability [Evil Miasma of Life] learned

Ability [Magic Power Absorption] learned

Ability [Negative Status Effects Nullification] learned

Ability [Cold Attack Nullification] learned

Ability [Thunder Attack Nullification] learned

Ability [Acid Attack Resistance] learned

Ability [Weakness to Light Damage] learned

Ability [Weakness to Holy Damage] learned

Ability [Weakness to Fire Damage] learned

Ability [Anaerobic] learned

I ate a ton of them, so I was able to secure a lot of abilities. There was a lot of harmful and useless abilities, but they won't be a problem since I won't activate them.

It's been around 4 hours since the festival began. Since it's almost time for dawn to arrive, in addition, because everyone gained a good amount of Experience Values and Leveled Up a bunch, I guess it's time for me to end this festival.

More like, I want to sleep.

That's why I decided to end this festival quickly. I charged towards the entrance tearing the horde of unending Skeleton soldiers asunder with my silver arm and red spear before I went outside.

Right when I got out, a black long sword was swung at my head. I have already saw it coming though and parried it with the vermillion spear, then I thrusted my silver arm's fingers at the enemy, extending them using the silver arm's [Self-Evolution] ability.

The one who slashed at me with the black sword was the Greater skeleton - whose body was twice as large and possessed equipment vastly superior compared to the Skeleton soldiers -, and the moment my silver arm smashed through its chest brought this festival to an end.



I picked up its skull which was making some nasty rattling sounds and ate it silencing the annoying sounds. After that, I devoured every last bit of it down to the last bone.

As expected of a superior species, the difference in the amount of Experience Values you can get from crushing it and its taste are at a different league compared to Skeleton soldiers.

It hadn't occurred to me that bones can be this delicious.

What is this, a luxury-class bone? It have a nice consistency. Yeah, tasty.

Ability [Lesser Summoning: Undead] learned

Ability [Greater Equipment Materialization] learned

Ability [Negative Energy] learned

Ability [Lesser Physical Damage Reduction] learned

Ability [Lesser Magic Damage Reduction] learned

At first I thought, "How dare these kobolds bring us trouble," but now I see them as dogs that brought us a gift.

For the time being, I went to the jail and seeing that the cleric Gobuji-kun was frantically healing some of the seriously injured kobolds, I finished the treatment of the rest of the kobolds quickly and gave them a sleeping drug.

It would annoying if they started making a fuss while we are sleeping and woke us up.

We were extremely worn out because of the festival so we all went to sleep quickly.

In the evening, I woke up the drugged kobolds and asked their leader, the [kobold Footman] equipped with a short spear and his associates about what happened to them.

Hearing their story, I was able to establish the following:

The kobolds lived in a cave just like us - though they were a little air-headed, they didn't do any expanding -.

→ They lived by hunting in the forest and the mountains. However, everything changed for them when they killed an orc and obtained an iron pickaxe.

→ Recently, the female kobolds worked on expanding their home by digging while the males hunted for food.

→ Like this they were able to improve their living area. They were happy they were able to expand.

→ While they were expanding their cave they came across « Velvet's Dungeon ».

→ The kobolds didn't know what the dungeon was. They decided that the male kobolds would investigate the dungeon during the day and they covered the hole up, however, while they were sleeping in the middle of the night, Skeletons soldiers appeared from the hole.

→ They were forced to flee.

→ Fatigue, something a Skeleton doesn't have to deal with soon overtook the kobolds who were trying frantically to run away and because they were weaker than the Skeletons soldiers they were mercilessly killed without being able to resist. The Skeletons soldiers didn't show any mercy to them, be it warriors, elderly, children, males or females, all were mercilessly killed.

→ While they were running, a kobold asked "where should we run away to?", the leader answered "there is a cave inhabited by a famous ogre around here, lets go there".

→ A kobold said "but we may get killed by him".

→ Then the leader said "Either way... we'll all be finished at this rate if we don't do something... So let's at least try"

→ You know the rest.

...What the hell?

No, nevermind, as long as everything worked out in the end it's okay.

Once they finished their story I tried to sort all the details in my head while fiddling with my horns. Then, the Kobold footman and warrior kobolds kneeled before me.

Kobold Footmen are Kobolds who underwent an [Evolution (Rank Up)]. The Kobolds lifestyle is fundamentally that of a Warrior or Samurai. I've only killed and eaten kobolds so far, so I wasn't aware of that.

I said to them "I've eaten many of your kind, is it okay to do this?" then they responded "The weak will inevitably be fed on by the strong and if it's someone as strong as you, Lord, then I'm sure that they don't have any regrets about being eaten by you".

That's right, "Lord".

I am called "Lord" by the kobolds with the Kobold footman at their lead.

The debt of being saved from death can't be repaid by anyway other than exhausting their lives. It's such a simple way of thinking, after recognizing me as their master they would never betray me and if I given the order they would happily give up their lives.

That's what I heard from them.

Well, there is no way I can believe them completely just like this, but looking at their eyes I can tell how serious they are. It's rare to see such honest and serious eyes.

After considering that, I decided to prepare something just in case before deciding on what to do with them.

I took out a certain magic item from my [Item Box]. Then, I ate all the ten pieces of that I own.

Ability [Enslave] learned

The magic items I ate are called the [Collars of Slavery], which belonged to the adventurers that we killed in « Velvet's Dungeon »

It's obvious what they are for. It's something that you can put on your guards if you didn't trust them.

Even though I knew that I'll get an extremely useful ability by eating it, however, I didn't eat it because when I tried eating it before it tasted awful.

Simply feeling its texture with my tongue and teeth felt nauseating. Its surface was sticky and its contents were hard and had a burnt taste. The more I chewed, the more I started feeling nauseated.

Moreover, it tasted bitter, sour and spicy. I can't even describe how awful the new flavor it brings out by mixing these three.

Is saying this enough to make you understand how bad it tastes?

It has been really a long time since I've eaten something this horrible. I thought that it would be good if I didn't have to eat it, however, I don't have any other options in this situation.

After eating it I got the ability [Enslave]. It's an ability that prevents treason. This ability won't do anything just by possessing it though. To make use of it, I should start manufacturing ear cuff-type communication devices that have this ability.

Eh? What will I do with the kobolds you say? I'll decide that tomorrow. For now they can use the cells.

The kobolds were very obedient, so I didn't want to be too hard on them.

Hmmm, should I kill and eat them or should I let them join our ranks?



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