

ハイスクール ロメロ

14

進路指導のウィザード

石踏一榮

ICHIEI ISHIBUMI



ファンタジア文庫

High School

14



Wizard of Career Counseling

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High School

WIZARDS OF CAREER COUNSELING

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Wizards of Career Counseling



Now, I will show you the powers of the young Devils.

Yes, I will make you regret turning the Devils of Kuoh Academy into your enemies.

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On a morning after quite some days had passed since the monster crisis in the Underworld...

“...This is my room, right?”

I was in a position where I had to ask myself that question.

“...Suu~, Suu~.”

“...Ise-san.”

Rias's breathing and Asia's sleep-talking that I could hear from my bed. A view that wasn't different from usual. After all, I slept with Rias and Asia all the time. The problems started from there.

“...Ise-kun...do it more roughly...”

Akeno-san was saying seductive words in her sleep.

“...Guu, guu...”

Xenovia was sleeping with her stomach exposed.

“...The manjuu^[1] of Heaven is so delicious...”

Irina was drooling and using Xenovia like a hug-pillow. On top of that—

“...Nyan...”

Koneko-chan was sleeping like a cat.

“...”

And Ophis was sleeping while putting her hand above her chest like a dead person.

So a situation like that was happening on my bed with those members. ...Yeah, even if my bed was huge, I wouldn't be able to sleep here with this many people... So there was a magnificent view of my bed full of girls. I'm already out of bed. Rather, I woke up on the floor. Most likely, I was kicked out by Xenovia in her sleep. That's because Xenovia was in a position where she was sticking her left foot forward! There are many girls on my bed! This should be a happy situation for me...but I suddenly became sad and lonely because there isn't any space for me! I breathe out while sitting on the chair. Since that monster crisis ended, it's been like this every morning. My bed was dominated by the girls before I realised it. It seems like the other girls sneak into the room while Rias, Asia and I were sleeping. It seems like the actions of the girls of our group got more daring since the incident about my life and death thing... They started to seek strongly for me. It's not anything sexual, but more of a daily life thing. For example, on our walk towards school in the morning, the girls started to fight over the position of walking beside me...

“Standing beside Ise is a position that belongs to me, Akeno. This is something which won't ever change.”

“I won't allow that, Rias! Ufufu, if it's next to him, there is his right side and his left side. If Rias is taking his right side, then I will be taking his left side.”

The Onee-samas take both my sides immediately!

“Hauu~! Both of Ise-san's arms are already full, Xenovia-san!”

“Asia, it becomes a fatal blow when a single guard is let down. If it's like this, then we have to take the position on his back. What do you think, Irina?”

“I think riding on his shoulders can be used as a last resort!”

The Church Trio of Asia, Xenovia and Irina had begun to research about this since the Onee-sama duo always made the first move. Having both my arms taken, while doing a piggyback-ride and carrying someone on my shoulders! There's no way I could go to school in a state like that! There was also some ruckus during the time of the club activity. Watching Koneko-chan who was sitting on my lap, Ravel finally took action.

“I will also sit there! It's not fair for Koneko-san to be sitting there all the time!”

Ravel comes to me and sits on my lap! It's a wonderful sensation of being able to feel her buttocks with my thighs, but—

“—! ...Ravel. This position belongs only to me...!”

“I-I also want to sit here. I couldn’t help myself from being jealous of Koneko-san who always sits here!”

My two juniors started fighting while sitting on my lap. And—

“I-I think I also want to sit on Ise-senpai’s lap...”

“I too want to sit.”

Even Gya-suke and Ophis, who always appear in the clubroom through the magic circle, seemed like they were interested in sitting on my lap! I’m super happy with the actions of the girls who want to get along with me even more! But it’s a bit difficult! I can’t respond to all of them since I only have one body. When I went to Azazel-sensei and Rossweisse-san to consult them regarding this matter—

From Sensei—

“Well, since they went through the incident of losing you, which was devastating for them, they must be seeking you as a feedback of that experience. I’m sure it’s something which will be temporary, so just tag along with them until they settle down. You should train your manliness with this.”

And from Rossweisse-san—

“I think this is the part where Ise-kun’s capability is being tested. Rather, if you are aiming to become a Harem King, isn’t this a good opportunity to get used to a situation where you take on many women? If you don’t have a good balance of getting along with them, then there will be girls who will go through sad experiences. —Oh, why am I answering something lewd like this seriously? Maybe it’s the influence of Ise-kun and the other girls... What I want to say is, from a teacher’s perspective, this is something that isn’t good for education. It’s the private life of the Oppai Dragon that can’t be shown to the children who are your fans.”

She talked about it for a long time... I’m feeling doubts about the raising and education of the Underworld since the name of Oppai Dragon is so popular...! ...However, I started to see the rough road towards becoming a Harem King. After all, I get lost when I’m dragged into the girls’ competition. When I discussed this with my friend Kiba, who is dragged into the fight of the common girls—

“Get used to it...I guess. This might be an example that may not be too helpful, but you do get confused when many girls start saying ‘Me, me, me!’ right? But I think you will come to see the way to solve it little by little when you encounter that situation many times, you know? I decided to do things which I’m capable of, but decline things I’m not capable of. That’s because that will be better for me and those girls rather than giving them unclear answers.”

He gave me advice like that! Too handsome! He even thinks like a handsome guy! A guy who has been confessed to by girls so many times and declined them politely sure does have a different opinion! I also want to decline them, but...when I see the gloomy faces of the girls of the Occult Research Club...I can’t come to reject them! I end up thinking that I have to do something! But, after that, Kiba added this line.

“By the way, Ise-kun. How about having lunch with me...? I made some side dishes which will be good for our lunch. I really want you to eat it...”

—Damn! A guy shouldn’t decline a girl’s invitation and invite me for luuuuuunch! Don’t choose me over girls! Please stop! Lately, I’m getting scared because the number of guys around me has increased! More than that, I will respond back to the girl on my right side that is in trouble, and I will also respond back to the girl on my left side that is also in trouble! I will do it even if my body can’t endure it! Though I’m a useless guy who can’t solve their problems! It also happens because the girls have so much power in them! What will I do if the balance of this state that Rossweisse-san mentioned goes down...!? A courage where I can decline them at times! Is something like that also necessary for a Harem King!? I hold my head down while looking at the army of girls on my bed! There are too many obstacles ahead!

But the bed which is only filled with girls, this situation sure was a treat... Akeno-san and Xenovia had their sleeping clothes coming off and their breasts were half exposed, while their thighs were so exposed that they were basically telling me to stare at them! More than that, Rias and Akeno-san were wearing see-through negligee, so their nipples could be seen! Thank you very much! Usually, Akeno-san wore yukata during her sleep, so seeing her wear a see-through negligee sure was amazing! It suits you! Like I thought, a woman with enormous breasts wearing a negligee sure had an enormous effect! More than that, Xenovia was wearing a t-shirt on the top and...pants! Xenovia’s pants! Thanks for allowing me to see something good this morning. Irina was wearing normal pyjamas. It’s the same as Asia. Like I thought, those connected with the Church normally wear pyjamas. She also looked cute in her own way. Koneko-chan was also wearing pyjamas today! She was wearing lovely pyjamas with cat marks on it. Last was Ophis.

She was also wearing black pyjamas, but...I think the reason why she came here to sleep was because she was copying the other girls. Ever since Ophis started living here, she followed behind me and everyone, and copied everything we did. She was like a toddler with no knowledge. She must be pure after all. That's why she was easy to deceive. I can understand why Vali tried to protect her. She was strong, pure and easy to deceive. If she was deceived and used by the terrorists, it wouldn't be weird for the balance of the world to collapse. That's why I think the reason she was sleeping on my bed was because the other girls are sleeping on my bed. Well, it's also because she was attached to me...

Knock, knock

Then, someone knocked on the door.

"Good morning, Ise-sama, Rias-sama, Asia-sama. Are all of you awake?"

This was Ravel's voice. If I look carefully, Ravel wasn't on my bed.

"Yeah, come in."

Ravel came in when I answered her. She stared in wonder when she saw the situation of my bed.

"...A-Amazing things are happening. Last night, everyone didn't show any sign of doing this... I also wanted to join..."

It seemed like she was regretting it a bit, as well as being shocked. The thing is, the bed was already overloaded with people! Where was I supposed to sleep!? The floor!? Rather than feeling alive, this was a new feeling of having to watch my bed full with girls from the floor when I was the owner of this room, so I didn't know how to respond to this! The fact is, I was actually in trouble!

"...Fuaaaaaa..."

Looks like Rias woke up with Ravel's entrance. She looked at me, Ravel...and the situation of the bed.

"...It seems like amazing things are happening on the bed."

She was making a bitter smile while looking at her servant girls sleeping on the bed. Ravel made her way into the room, and she spoke as if she had remembered something while shaking Koneko-chan, who was sleeping on the bed.

"By the way Rias-sama. Didn't you mention that it's about time everyone makes a pact with the Magicians, and that the time when the Vampires will show up approaches?"

Yeah, that's right. Rias did say before that, 'It's about time we discuss the pact with Magicians. Also, we will be getting a visit from a Vampire'. Putting the pact with Magicians aside, the main concern was the visit from the Vampires!

...Was it the House of Vladi that Gasper belonged to? While I tilted my head filled with doubts, Rias, who was beside me, said this.

"Ravel, I will leave the support of Ise in regard to the Magicians to you. Manager, I will be relying on you."

Ravel nodded her head while puffing her chest forward at Rias's words.

"Leave it to me! This Ravel Phoenix, the manager of the Sekiryuutei, will definitely choose a Magician who is fitting for Ise-sama!"

Oh, it sure did make me happy seeing my small-built junior stepping forward and declaring that she would work hard for me! For me, who has only been a Devil for a short period, having a manager was a great help. The truth is, the support I got from Ravel when I was studying for the Middle-class promotion test was a great help. But Ravel, who was putting her chest forward, and her oppai... They were growing very well despite her having a small build, and it was wonderful! Rias said it while ignoring me, who was fascinated with my junior's breasts.

"First, we need to wake everyone up, and then have breakfast."

Our day begins like this. When I thought that, someone I didn't expect showed up from behind Ravel. It was a black-haired beauty wearing a kimono.

"Ciao♪. I invited myself in, nyan."

—! It was the Nekomata Onee-san!

"K-Kuroka!? W-Why are you here!?"

Even Rias was shocked at the appearance of Kuroka. Ravel, who was taken from behind, was also shocked as she said 'W-When on earth!?'.

"Ah, hello. I also came as well."

The one who appeared behind Kuroka was the Magician wearing a pointy hat, Le Fay. Hey, hey, the girls of the Vali team came over to my house! T-Then, were Vali and others also here...?

"Vali and the others aren't here."

Kuroka said it as if she read my mind. Ah, so they were not here. I didn't want to see the face of my rival in the morning. After all, that guy had started to crave for me even more! Just like Kiba, just like Sairaorg-san, just like Cao Cao, and also Vali, why did I have to get popular with guys!? I don't need guys! Just give me girls~!

"...N-Nee-sama. Why are you here?"

Koneko-chan woke up as if she responded to Kuroka's voice, and she then crawled out from the bed while wiping her eyes.

"Even if you ask me why, I came here because you said you wanted me to teach you 'jutsu'. I wish you would be more grateful to me, nya. Ah, also, the room which isn't being used, I went ahead and took possession of it. So let's get along~♪."

Let's get along~, my ass! She took the empty room!? W-Well, certainly, we do have many empty rooms left since our house is six storeys tall! But don't just live in the Hyoudou residence without permission! I held my head down. Le Fay puts her hands up timidly.

"A-Also, it seems like you are going to negotiate with the Magicians, so I was wondering if I can also stay here as an adviser~. ...Am I troubling you?"

T-That certainly is helpful... Rias spoke while making a sigh.

"Trouble or not, why are you two, who are on the Hakuryuukou's side, here in our house? You do know that this place is basically your enemy's base?"

Kuroka walked into the room and pat Rias's head.

"Swi-chan thinks too much about complicated things, nya. That's why the energy which is supposed to go to your brain ends up coming out from your breasts, you know?"

Kuroka said that while bouncing Rias's breast with her hand. Rias shook Kuroka's hands away.

"That is none of your business... More than that, what is up with that Swi-chan...!? ...Huh! Don't tell me that you put the marking for the magic circle in this house when you came here last time!?"

"Bingo♪. Thanks to that, I was able to come here right away, nya. So that means I can use the big bath tub of this house anytime."

So Kuroka did a thing like that when she came to my house last time. I-It was scary since it feels like she did the same thing when they were allowed to hide in the House of Gremory... Well, I want to believe that they wouldn't do the worst thing possible with it. While we were confused, Le Fay handed me a letter.

"U-Umm, this is a letter from the former Governor Azazel."

From Sensei? I received the letter from her, and then checked inside by cutting open the letter.

[Kuroka and Le Fay from the Vali team will be showing up at your place sometimes, so look after them~♪. Well, they probably won't do anything bad, so get along with them. From Azazel who all of you look up to.]

"Geez! He acted on his own again!!"

I could only sigh and throw the letter on the floor. Sensei was pretty kind to the Vali team after all... By the way, you do realise that we are rivals?

"We will only come here occasionally, so you don't have to worry about us. Okay, Swi-chan? I will train Shirone very well♪."

Kuroka, who was begging while putting her hands together, gave us a wink. Rias then said this while putting her hand on her forehead.

“...Do as you please. In exchange, I will leave Koneko to you, okay? Also lend us your strength when we need it. It’s a give and take, just like how a Devil does things.”

So these two will be coming here sometimes, huh... It seems like the Hyoudou residence will get even noisier.

Life.1 I'm Also Doing a Devil Today

Part 1

Lately, I've started to enjoy my school life. It might be because we get assaulted by strong foes so often. I also think going through the experience of losing my body, which was something you don't quite go through at all, also had something to do with it. After all, I'm feeling at peace from just ordinary lessons. Before reincarnating, I was thinking 'End quickly~'. No, seriously, peace was the best. I wanted to spend my days just having a normal school life at noon, and doing a Devil's job late at night. ...Well, a Devil's life was something out of the ordinary if I compared it to last year...but I went through something beyond that... What was it with all those Evil Gods, descendants of the Old Maou and Longinus!? Give me a break! I'm okay with just enjoying my life with Rias, Asia and the others while going through ecchi moments at times! Having a battle in the Rating Games was already enough! ...Well, the reason why I was able to promote to a Middle-class Devil this quickly was thanks to the assaults... ..So it won't just be a dream to become a High-class Devil at this rate, huh. Even Azazel-sensei told me that I should think about 'Having the mind of becoming a High-class Devil and your career after getting promoted'.

It's break time and I'm looking at the sky through the window. ...My career, huh. He's right. I'm a second year high school student, and it's already winter. There's already a career meeting with my parents, and I've already filled out the form I was given about my desired career. My career as a human—that is to advance to the college of Kuoh Academy. This won't be a problem as long as I don't make any seriously big mistakes. Next is my career as a Devil... A Harem King! That's obvious, but maybe I should think of a more realistic way of living. First is to make Rias's dream come true, and I will be putting my all into doing it! Rias wants to become the Champion of the Rating Game. In order to support her, I will fight with all I have once Rias officially begins participating in the games. That will be my life as Rias's servant. And one other thing. What will I do when I become a High-class Devil...?

I will attain the Evil Pieces and become independent. That is my main idea...but I haven't thought about the details so much, and I only have a faint idea about it... I was told by Azazel-sensei that I should start preparing the campaign funds for when I go independent. I was also told that if I were to have my own servants, as well as my own territory, then I had to be ready to look after them properly or there would be no point. Funds. It's not like I don't have them. Some of the money the House of Gremory makes from the Oppai Dragon gets deposited into my account. It's just some of the profit from the copyrights. My Devil's bank account. It's something Rias prepared when I turned into a Devil. This is something everyone in the group has. The money earned from doing the Devil's job gets deposited there. In my case, the funds from the Oppai Dragon get added to it. And the figures of the funds are insane... Since it's too early for a high school student to use, Grayfia-san is managing it for me. I also feel that I will go crazy on how I use the money when I see just how much it is, so having Grayfia-san manage it is a great help. When I go independent, I will use it as my campaign fund! I don't know if it's enough, but I should earn as much as possible right now!

However, Kiba's sword master, Okita-san, taught me the ways of the Reincarnated Devils. He said that humans that reincarnate into a Devil tend to rush how they live. Since we live for a long time, it seems like they get troubled when they aim for their goals in early stages and accomplish them. It seems like they go through a syndrome where they burn out, and it may become possible for them to become less emotional. So he's saying that working while enjoying the life of a Devil very slowly will result in a good way of living as a reincarnated Devil. So if I become a Harem King early, will I also burn out...? I still don't know that, but even if I was to live for ten thousand years, and if I was to become a Harem King in a hundred or in a thousand years, I... ..Yeah, my remaining years might feel longer. In order to make sure that didn't happen, it wouldn't be bad to have many dreams. I want to participate in a Rating Game, and also attain some titles! But first, it wouldn't mean a thing if I didn't become a Harem King. It feels like I couldn't have my new dreams and ambitions unless I made the things in front of me a reality. If I live on, I may be able to find something else I want to accomplish! No, I will find it! Yup! I think I know what my current aim is vaguely! I will live on as Rias's servant! Also, I will earn even a single yen for my dream in the future! This should be fine! Yeah! Since I know what I have to do, I will spend my school life in peace! While I was making a victory pose by myself, someone hit my head really hard!

"Ouch! Who did that!?"

When I turned around, Matsuda and Motohama were standing there! I didn't know why, but their bodies were shaking with anger.

"You! I hear that you also get along with Ravel Phoenix-san from the first year!"

Ravel?

“Huh? Yeah, well, I knew her before she transferred to this school. I was also asked by her family to look after her, so that’s why I keep an eye on her.”

I had been seeing Ravel every time I went to the Underworld, and I was also asked by the Phoenix’s mother to look after her. She was my junior, so I had to look after her. Wait, right now, Ravel, who is my manager, was the one taking care of me instead. Upon hearing my words, Motohama’s whole body began to shake.

“S-So it’s acknowledged by her parents... What is going on...? Asia-chan, Rias-senpai, Himejima-senpai, Toujou Koneko-chan, Xenovia-chan and Irina-san... They are all the Madonnas and the idols of this school...! O-On top of that, even Ravel Phoenix-san...!”

“You two, can you stop it already with that reaction? Even watching you from the sides is getting old.”

The one who appeared while saying that was the Perverted Glasses also known as Kiryuu. Kiryuu continued talking with her eyes half closed.

“It’s wrong for me to say this, but you know that beautiful people tend to fall for weird guys, so there was that part of Hyoudou they were attracted to.”





What do you mean by that part...!? W-Well, the incidents I tend to get involved with have a lot of crazy stuff happening!

“Ah, I see.”

The two idiots pounded their fists into their palms and came to understand it! Shit! What was it with that weird way of understanding!? But Matsuda held his head down.

“No, like I thought, this isn't fair! If that were true, even me and Motohama, who are also perverted idiots, should be able to have miracles happen as well!”

“That's right! You know, me and Matsuda don't even get a single flag with a beautiful girl!? What is the meaning of this!? What is going oooooon!?”

Motohama also argued while shedding tears.

“Calm down. Hyoudou must have attained all those flags. It means that he is more of a perverted idiot than both of you, so give up. Okay?”

Kiryuu comforted Matsuda and Motohama by patting their heads. This damn Kiryuu! I never knew that you could possibly comfort people like that! So you're telling me that I'm a perverted idiot!? ...D-Disagreeing with it was something I couldn't do! If I was able to get along with Rias and others due to that, then I am honoured!

“It will be good if Matsuda and Motohama get a blessing from God as well...”

Xenovia's eyes were filled with sadness.

“Next time, I might discuss it with Michael-sama.”

Are you okay with that, Irina!? Are you telling me it's okay to give Michael-san's grateful blessing to these two!?

“Matsuda-san, Motohama-san, do you want to attend mass next time? Even if you are going through sadness, I'm sure you will feel better if you have a fun time with everyone.”

Asiaaaaaa! You are acting like those people from the Church without realising it! When I was looking at the culture differences that the Church Trio have, Kiryuu's eyes grasped hold of me. Her glasses shone.

“By the way, Hyoudou. Is the rumour true?”

“W-What rumour?”

“I hear that you address Rias-senpai without honorifics and call her ‘Rias’.”

The words Kiryuu just said immediately gathered the attention of everyone in the class! Everyone looked at me with keen eyes and began saying things like, ‘Now that you mention it, there was a rumour like that going around’, and ‘Good job on asking him something I wanted to ask as well!’. F-For real!? So rumours like that were going around the school!? Ah, I think I did call Rias ‘Rias’ within the school without thinking about it! Someone saw that...? I couldn't even let my guard down for a bit! I'd discussed with Rias that I would call her ‘Buchou’ during school and at places where normal students would be present, but did I make a mistake!? I was thinking hard about what I should do, and then—

“Ise-kun, Asia-san, Xenovia, Irina-san, I came to discuss about after school—”

Kiba appeared at the entrance of the classroom! Nice timing!

“Y-Yeah! Kiba! I will come now! Hey, let's go as well all of you!”

I left the classroom while pushing Asia and the others out!

“Hey, Hyoudou! So, what's the truth then?”

Kiryuu, I can't answer that! I wanted to, but if I did, I would be seen as an enemy by the whole student body! Let me date her quuuuietly~!

Part 2

After school on the same day—

All of us of the Occult Research Club gathered in the clubroom. Rossweisse-san, who came late from the staff meeting, joined us. Confirming that we were all sitting on the sofa, Rias stood up and spoke while looking at us.

“Now, everyone, there is only one reason why I called all of you here today. –From today on, we will be entering the time where we will start the work that we have been talking about, the pact with the Magicians.”

–The pact with a Devil. I swallowed my saliva, and then remembered. The relationship between Devils and Magicians was old and deep. It’s a totally different thing compared to the one where a human makes a wish to a Devil by making a pact. People that were Magicians were basically those that polished their research on magic for their entire lives. There was magic such as black magic, white magic, summoning magic, spirit magic, rune symbols, casting from different locations, and many others. They chose the theme of their magic among them, and put everything they had in there for the rest of their lives. Each person had different ways of attaining it and mastering it. Now, the relation of such Magicians and Devils was... Rias then said.

“There are three main reasons why a Magician makes a pact with a Devil. One is to use them as their bodyguard. When the time comes, having a powerful Devil behind their back will allow them to talk with opponents if they are caught up in a quarrel.”

“They sound like yakuza.”

When I said that, Rias answered by saying ‘I agree’ while smiling.

Rias then put two fingers up.

“Secondly, they make a pact because they want to attain the techniques and knowledge of Devils. To make it clear, the technique standards of the Underworld. These things will play a big role when Magicians do their research.”

If that’s the reason, they could just go to the Underworld personally to get the things they want, or they could also get it through different routes. However, it seems like those methods had high risks. For the former one, it’s risky because there were very limited ways to go to the Underworld. Those like me can go to the Underworld easily, but that’s because I’m a servant of the ‘High-class Devil Gremory’. Going to the Underworld was not an easy journey for Magicians, who weren’t Devils. You could go between the Underworld and the human world if you were the servant of a Devil, though it would be a problem if Stray Devils did it. I registered myself inside the train when I went to the Underworld for the first time during summer, but I heard that Magicians will be asked something with high risks. I hear that those who can leave their name in the history of Magicians can attain a pass to the Underworld, but that will also have quite a lot of requirements. In other words, those that weren’t a Devil or a Fallen Angel couldn’t go to the Underworld that easily. ...The reason why Vali and his team could appear in the Underworld like nothing was because they are insanely strong. If we are talking like that, then there were Magicians who trespassed to the Underworld by using their own powerful teleportation magic... Though those were people who were seen as a threat from both the Devils and the Magician association. Vali was the same, so entering without permission was bad.

And as for the later one about ‘How about getting what they want using different routes through another faction’, that route would cost money, and I heard the money they charge would skyrocket. Depending on what you wanted, it could even cost all of the fame and fortune that a Magician had earned through their research. For example, the Phoenix Tears. It’s also an expensive item in the Underworld, but for a Magician, it’s so rare that it wouldn’t even be enough to add the word ‘super’ ten times in front of the word ‘rare’. For those reasons, making a pact with a Devil would allow them to get it cheaper by having an equal exchange, though that would also be an expensive trade. Rias then put her third finger up.

“The last reason is a simple one. They make a pact with a Devil for their own status. Making a pact with a powerful Devil will be a big fortune for them. My Otou-sama and Okaa-sama also have a pact with a Magician, you know? If something happens, they will respond to being summoned to hear their words. For a High-class Devil and their servants, that is one of their duties.”

Yes, since Rias, who is the daughter of the High-class Devil Gremory, has reached the appropriate age, it was decided for the Gremory group lead by Rias to enter the time for making a pact with a Magician. Xenovia tilted her head with a complicated expression.

“Life sure is interesting. I never thought I would be summoned by a Magician.”

You are right. I also think the same. I never thought I would become someone who was going to say something like ‘Fufufu, are you the Magician that summoned me?’ even in the slightest. Rias chuckled.

“Yes, if you are a human that is related to special powers, then normally you will be the one summoning. The ones who will get summoned are Devils and monsters after all. That is the reason why I want all of you to take importance

with this pact. You won't be able to break off a pact that easily once you make one. If you make a pact, then you will have to work seriously. But if you make a pact with someone with low calibre, then people will question our quality. So choose the best trading partner there is. For Magicians, this is something to further improve their research on special powers, but for us Devils, this is business. The pact with a normal human and the pact with a Magician, doing both of them makes us Devils."

[Yes!]

We nodded our head to our master's words. Yeah, it's a must for being able to do this. This is business. Aiming to become a High-class Devil who can't even accomplish this is out of the question. A pact with a Magician... I will find the best partner there is! ...However, I hope I can get a beautiful witch-sama if possible!

[Devil-chan, will you listen to my w~i~s~h?]

[Of course. Except, I will be groping your oppai as the price for it like always.]

[Iyaan, Devil-chan, you sure are naughty~]

...Wonderful. It's a wonderful thing to have a business partner like that...!

"...You were thinking something naughty, right?"

Koneko-chan, who is sitting on my lap, pinches my thigh! Koneko-sama is really strict! While we were doing things like this, Rias looked up at the clock in this room.

"It's about time. Everyone, the person standing at the top of the Magician association will be contacting us through the magic circle. So behave well."

Oh, I have to be careful. Koneko-chan, who was sitting on my lap, got off and sat next to me. Once all of us sat on the sofa in a well mannered way, a huge magic circle appeared on the floor of this room. The shallow lights formed a circle.

"...The symbol of Mephisto Pheles."

Kiba said that. ...Mephisto Pheles? Wasn't he the legendary Devil who belongs to the Extra Demon group, and the one who made the pact with the ancestor of the mist user Georg of the Hero Faction...? While I was remembering about that, the magic circle that appeared showed a holographic image. The holographic image of a middle-aged man sitting elegantly on a chair appeared in front of my eyes. ...He had his mixture of red and blue hair held firmly with gel. He had sharp, odd-coloured eyes where the right eye was red and the left eye was blue. This man was giving off a mysterious atmosphere similar to that of Ajuka Beelzebub-sama. He had a bit of a fierce look. His terrifying face then changed by making a smile.

[Oh, Rias-chan. It's been a while.]

He had a light tone. ...I thought he would have more of a frightening tone, so I loosened up right away. Rias responded to his greeting.

"It sure has been a while, Mephisto Pheles-sama."

[Oh my, you sure are becoming beautiful just like your mother. Your grandmother and great-grandmother were all beautiful people.]

"Thank you very much."

Rias introduced this person to us.

"Everyone, this person here is an Extra Demon, and also the chairman of the Magician association, Mephisto Pheles-sama."

[Hey, hello all of you. I'm Mephisto Pheles. Please refer to the books to know more about me. Books written about me are overflowing in the world.]

.....He said something metaphorical from the start. But, I understand now. So this person is the boss of the magicians. I never thought a Devil would be standing at the top.

Ravel, who was sitting next to me, told me quietly.

(...After he made a pact with the first Georg Faust, he remained in the human world even after the death of Georg Faust, and he took the position of the top of the association right away.)

Hmm, so did he come to like the human world?

“You are independent, right? Nothing like household and stuff.”

I questioned him since I was concerned about it. I haven't heard of something called the House of Pheles, so I wondered if he was just an individual. Rias explained.

“Mephisto Pheles-sama is one of the oldest among the Devils, and he spends most of his time in the human world. Also, he happens to be Tannin-sama's King.”

—! I got shocked upon hearing Rias's words! Oh, so this person was old man Tannin's King, who was a mystery till now!

[I gave my Queen piece to Tannin-kun. He came and said that he wanted to save the Dragon tribes which were almost near extinction. Yeah, he is the role model for all Dragon Kings. Well, I don't participate in the game and involve myself in the Underworld's riot, so I basically allow him to roam free.]

So old man Tannin is a Queen! That's why the overall balance of his ability is good. Oh man, you sure do learn things you wanted to know in unexpected places. I started to think he was cute since he was a Queen despite being an old man. Ravel gave me additional information.

(Apparently Mephisto Pheles-sama is from the same generation as the original Yondai Maou. Though it seems like they didn't get along. That's why he had differences with the old government and hid himself in the human world.)

So there was a reason like that. Wait, the same generation as the original Yondai Maou!? How long has he been living!? Even though he looks like a middle-aged man, he's lived that long!? No, Devils can change their appearance, and those like Azazel-sensei and Michael-san, who seem like they have been living just about the same time as him, have young appearances. There are many of those who look like young or middle-aged men, but have the personality of a geezer! It seems like he heard her whispers, so Mephisto Pheles-san nodded his head.

[Yeah, that's exactly right. I hated those guys a lot. That's why I really like the current ones like Sirzechs-kun and Serafall-chan. After all, they acknowledge most of the things I do, unlike those old Maou who were giving me orders telling me to do this and that, so I got fed up with them. Well, out of the current Maous, I have a different way of thinking compared to Ajuka-kun and have different views from him, but it's not like I hate him or anything.]

That means that he is getting along with the current government.

[Rias-chan, who will listen to the story of this old man right here, sure is a good girl. From the Gremory, even your grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather were easy to talk with. So, are your grandfather and others doing okay? It has been a while since they retired.]

“Y-Yes. They are living quietly within the Gremory territory.”

Rias answered like that... I see, so Rias also had a grandfather. Of course she does. Rias told me before that the current Head of the household would leave everything to the next heir and enter retirement after passing the household to them. Rias has already planned what to do after retirement, and she was saying that she will be living in Japan. It seems like she has already thought ahead about a majority of things despite not being Head of the household yet. Of course, it will be something she will do after becoming the Head and fulfilling all her dreams. Actually, I wonder after how many hundred or thousand of years that will be... I wonder what Japan will be like then? I can't even imagine it. Then, Rias and Mephisto Pheles-san continue to talk about the story of the past, the society, and about the recent business world of the Magicians.

“So, Mephisto Pheles-sama, have you already talked to Sona?”

[Nope, unfortunately, I will have to talk to her afterwards, Rias-chan. It seems like she is going to have new servants and she wants to talk to me after they join. That's why I'm talking to all of you first. By the way, I have already spoken with Sairaorg Bael-kun and Seegvaira Agares-chan.]

“I see. Sona's new servants. I have already heard about it.”

—! I got shocked when I hear their conversation. So Kaichou was getting new servants! I had heard that she had someone in mind, but it's finally going to happen! I'm looking forward to this! According to what I heard, the Rook and the Knight will be joining as their additional members. Were they from the same academy as us? After all, there were students studying in this school that were from the supernatural world, which was why I thought like that.

[Oh my, all of you, the Rookies Four, sure are very popular in our industry and in the industries of other factions. I had so many of my subordinates telling me to settle this matter with all of you quickly.]

(W-What is this Rookies Four?)

I couldn't help myself but ask Ravel about the words I heard for the first time.

(It's the title that was given recently to the four young Devils consisting of Sairaorg Bael-sama, Seegvaira Agares-sama, Rias-sama and Sona-sama. Even looking back at recent years, it's called a generation filled with promising rookies that are in the exceptional level. Did you know that even looking throughout the history of the Underworld, the generation you and Rias-sama belong to is something which is out of the ordinary for a rookie who still hasn't matured?)

I-Is that so...? So we are among such an amazing generation... Well yeah, Sairaorg-san and Kiba's strength was insanely crazy after all. Then, someone entered the room. It was Azazel-sensei.

"My bad, I was the only one who had to stay longer for the meeting. Oh, if it isn't Mephisto!"

Seeing the holographic vision from the magic circle, he responded by making a smile right away. Mephisto-san also raised his hand gently when he saw Sensei.

[Hey, hey, Azazel. It hasn't been that long since we last met. I had myself talk to Rias-chan first.]

"Yeah, the Magician association must be having a rough time after all. More than that, do you want to go drinking over here next time? I got my hands on some good alcohol."

I have the impression that they have known each other for a long time.

"Do you know him?"

I asked Sensei.

"Yeah. We go way back. When Mephisto distanced himself from the old government of the Devils, we, the Grigori, allowed ourselves to contact him personally."

Hee, he sure was a former Governor-sama who knew his own way. Rather than that, this person really had many connections with other places.

[Grigori's information was a great help, Azazel. After all, I'm still getting assistance from Grigori even now.]

"Same goes to us, Mephisto. Well, there isn't any disadvantage for the Fallen Angels to have connections with the association of the Magicians in secret after all. And we don't have to keep that as a secret now since the Three Great Powers made an alliance."

From there, the two of them talked about this and that about the business world while leaving us behind.

"What!? Seriously!? That mythology which has been declining to make an alliance came for a negotiation?"

[Rather than that, it seems like there are those investigating the Dragon's incident that was mentioned previously. So you shouldn't be expecting for the alliances. They have basically been cutting ties with us. Thanks to that, we can't obtain proper information on the mythologies which have isolated themselves.]

"...That matter, huh. Well, the old mythology faction has been completely ignoring the other factions. Even if the rebels from their factions turn their fangs on us, they will probably continue to play dumb about it."

[That proves just how much they have shunned themselves towards us who have stolen their believers. Especially us Devils, Angels and Fallen Angels who are recorded in the holy Bible are hated so much by the other factions. Just how many mythologies have we crushed, and just how many legends and believers have we spread. You can't even tell what's going through the minds of the factions who have responded to the negotiations. I guess we can only depend on the leadership of the Chief Gods of those factions. Naturally, we have lost the real Maous and God, so our mythology is horribly weak from the truth. It wouldn't even be weird if the history that we are currently making is thought to be a fake.]

"...Even so, we have to continue on living. Even if God and the Maous don't exist, we are still alive."

"Well, I also like the current Maous, so I have no problem."

...The discussion of these two was at such a high level that I couldn't understand it! Maybe they realised it, so Sensei and Mephisto Pheles-san stopped their conversation and went into the main discussion.

[I'm sorry for taking a long time, Rias-chan. Now, I will send the data about the Magicians that want to make a pact with all of you through the magic circle.]

Upon saying that, Mephisto Pheles-san swirled around his finger from the vision, and pointed it to us. A new magic circle appeared in the air of this clubroom, and lots of documents come falling down from it! Akeno-san and Kiba picked them up. Me and the other members help move the mountain of documents elsewhere. There was no stop to the documents falling down from the magic circle, and it kept on piling up! When I took a glance, a document that seemed to be a resume appears to my eyes. ...I could see their faces from the photo or the portrait of them. The other thing visible was...the entries written in Devil letters or magical letters that I had never seen before. ...This was a written document to appeal themselves! The other things written were their previous experiences and their households. This really was a resume! There were also many documents attached to it! Kiba said to me while I was looking through the documents.

“Putting the past aside, the pact that Magicians make with a Devil now starts from having their documents being selected. The selection which will come after that will be selected by us.”

Document selection! Wow! For real? ...It's like a job hunt in the human business world.

“Instead of a job hunt, it's more of a pact hunt. This is the mainstream right now. There was also an era where they fought to make a pact with a certain Devil first.”

Rosswisse-san said that while carrying loads of documents. So there was a war between Magicians fighting over a pact with a Devil...! So having a pact with such a powerful Devil becomes their status, huh... It means that this will have a big meaning for their background. While I was thinking like that, we split the mountains of documents between us. The one who has the most documents was—Rias! She had mountains of documents! Sensei had an expression that seemed to convey that this was an obvious result.

“Well, obviously. Rias is the King of the Gremory group. They must have thought that having a pact with Rias will allow them to control all of you who are her servants. Since there is also a possibility where they can have a good relationship with the House of Gremory, it's obvious that Rias will be the most popular one within the ‘Gremory group’ category.”

It's just like Sensei said. Making a pact with Rias will have many benefits. Sensei then continued.

“For that reason, Rias will have to choose a partner very carefully, and the Magician also has to be very powerful.”

If it's a Magician that Rias will be choosing, then it definitely will be someone famous. Then, the one who had the second most was Rosswisse-san! Oh! Is it because she is a spell caster?

“I see, on top of researching on their magic, they craved for the wisdom I obtained in the Norse and the information regarding the world tree Yggdrasil.”

Rosswisse-san analysed her value calmly. It means that there were many Magicians that wanted to obtain the truth and the wisdom of the Norse mythology. I do hear that the Norse was one of the central factions for magic. So Rosswisse-san, who is a half-God, must have a big role.

“A Valkyrie who is a Devil isn't merely rare.”

Sensei also added that. Certainly, that must be true. Now then, the one who has the most after her is—Asia! This was quite unexpected... No, if I think about it, she has a Sacred Gear which can heal anyone, so it would be natural for her to get many offers.

“...H-Having this many documents... Are they really okay with it being me?”

Asia was feeling timid. She probably didn't think even in the slightest that she was being sought for this much. Mephisto Pheles-san then said.

[There is a big merit in having the ability to heal. The power to heal is always one of the ultimate themes in whatever era or person. Making a pact with you and getting blessed with the power of healing. Using that to obtain fame is easily possible.]

Yeah. There were people who were seeking the power to heal all over the world. It could be a good business to make fortune, and it could be used for many trades.

“Asia! Choose your partner carefully! Don't get caught by a vicious guy! No, I will choose the person together with you!”

I'm concerned about Asia that I protect her too much. That's because I'm feeling scared!

[Well, they are the people that we, the association, picked, so there shouldn't be any cruel people.]

Mephisto Pheles-san said that... I didn't want Asia to go through a painful experience...

"Don't worry. Akeno and I will also consult with Asia, so we won't allow her to go through troublesome trades."

Rias smiled. If our King and Queen were there for her, then I wouldn't have to worry about it. I hope she makes a good pact. ...If it's possible, I want Asia's partner to be a female. I will be worried if it's a bastard! The order after Asia went as such; Me→Kiba→Akeno-san→Xenovia→Koneko-chan→Gasper. Gasper had the least. Sensei then said this after seeing the result.

"Well, it was predictable that Rias, who is the King, would receive the most. The majority of the Magicians think that they will be able to pull all of you out by making a pact with Rias. Rossweisse the spell caster, Asia who possesses Twilight Healing, Ise the Sekiryutei, Kiba of the Holy Demonic Sword, Akeno who is the daughter of Barakiel, and Xenovia the Holy Sword Wielder. These members would be nominated the most. Koneko and Gasper, who still haven't unleashed their own powers, didn't get solicited that much, but they might be Magicians with higher quality rather than quantities. To begin with, a majority of the ones who solicited Rias and the rest could be thought of as small fry. Only very few numbers of them among these piles of documents are exceptional."

Sensei sure knew how to say it. Well, I didn't think all the Magicians in these documents were amazing either. Then, the reason why not many people choose Gasper was because they haven't seen his real powers? Well, I haven't witnessed it either. Upon hearing Sensei's words, Mephisto, who was the chairman of the association—

[Hahahaha, well, the majority of them are small fry.]

He said something like that! Was it okay for the chairman to say things like that!?

[Even so, Sekiryutei-kun who is popular in the Underworld and who has made meritorious deeds didn't have that much of an increase for his solicitation as I expected. Even still, you were solicited a lot. Maybe the young ones from my side aren't into the popular ones.]

"The Magicians take importance in their status, but more than that, they value how they are seen within the industry. They are especially a bit strict on things which aren't elegant. They must have thought that the popularity of Ise is too vulgar. Even Ise himself has perverted techniques. Well, that's the difference of our culture and the values we have."

Mephisto Pheles-san and Sensei said such things... No, please allow me to say this. I think the Underworld is the weird one since something like Oppai Dragon is popular! Mephisto Pheles-san continued after making a cough.

[Anyway, I have sent all of the documents I received this time. It will be great if you contact us if you see anyone who lives up to your standards.]

...This time? I started to feel suspicious about Mephisto Pheles-san's words.

"When you say this time, does that mean there's more?"

When I asked, Rias answered me.

"Yes, of course. It doesn't mean that we will choose from these ones, and even if we do make a pact, that Magician will not live long like a Devil, and there's no way that they will be able to live for eternity. If there isn't any suitable partner this time, we can just ask for newer documents. Also, even if we make a pact, we will become free again if the person we make a pact with passes away due to their age or by an accident. Then we will have to make a new pact."

Ah, I understand now. So that's what it is. So we don't have to force ourselves to choose this time. Even if we did choose our partner, we could find a new partner if they died. Kiba gave additional information.

"And even if you do make a pact, there are times when it's for a certain time only. For example, a year long pact due to the partner's circumstances, or the pact can also be cancelled if they can't pay us the price."

A temporary pact, and cancellation due to receiving unfair payment. ...It's really like a business. So this was also one of the jobs of a Devil. ...The pact between a Devil and a Magician that I imagined before was more dark and fantasy-like. Something where they performed a creepy ritual in a dark laboratory and they summoned a Devil through the magic circle to make an evil pact. It looks like reality is more of a business-like thing. Since we couldn't carry all these piles of documents, we decided to send them to my house through the magic circle. While we were doing that, Mephisto Pheles-sama spoke to Ravel, who was helping everyone.

[Is the lady over there a Devil from the House of Phoenix?]

"Y-Yes. My name is Ravel Phoenix."

Ravel introduced herself politely. Yup, she's acting like a girl who was raised in a good house. Mephisto Pheles said it while rubbing his chin.

[Yup...the thing I'm about to tell you is a top secret which is only known in our organisation. It seems like a group of Stray Magicians have joined forces with remnant Magicians from the Khaos Brigade, and they have continued to make contacts with those related to the House of Phoenix.]

—! ...That sure was creepy information. Rias questioned him.

“...What do you mean by that?”

[You do know that the Phoenix Tears has been passing around to the terrorists in secret, right?]

Ravel nodded.

“Yes. I heard that one group of distributors were making trades in secret. But that has been dealt with, and I have heard that it's now back to normal—”

[No, in the black market, tears which aren't produced by the House of Phoenix are being sold now.]

[—!?!]

Everyone got shocked at that information! Seriously!? So tears which aren't made by the House of Phoenix are going around now!? Rias's eyebrows twitched.

“If it isn't a genuine one, then I think it's something without any effect, a fake—! Don't tell me...”

Mephisto Pheles-san shook his head to Rias, who seemed to have realised something.

[That's right, Rias-chan. Tears that have an effect close to the genuine one are being distributed in secret. Here, this is it.]

A small bottle appeared in Mephisto Pheles-san's hand. ...So this was the fake tear?

[I don't know how they are doing it, but the Phoenix Tears which aren't made by the House of Phoenix are being distributed, and the Stray Magicians are trying to get contacts with those related to the Phoenix as if they are related. Well, they must be related. That's why I wanted that lady over there to be careful because she might be targeted.]

“...”

Ravel put on a bit of a gloomy face at Mephisto Pheles-san's words.

“I will also ask the Grigori to find out what's happening. Oh, and don't worry. A strong prince is behind Ravel. There won't be a problem. Also, there are powerful barriers put on this area, the place related to the alliance of the Three Great Powers. They won't be able to pass through that easily. If Ravel stays here and has her prince by her side, she will definitely be safe.”

Sensei pat my head. Was I the strong prince that he's referring to? W-Well, I will certainly protect Ravel at all cost if anything happens. That's obvious. Sensei then gave information which makes me feel uneasy.

“Not just that. It seems like there is someone who is trying to unify the remnants of the Old Maou Faction, the remnants of the Hero Faction and the Magicians that are hiding themselves. I hear that he's the official person standing at the top. I will be getting more detailed information from now on, but...I feel really uneasy about this. It's certain that their forces are dying out. But what are they planning to do while their forces are weakening?”

Please stop saying that... Your bad feelings basically turn out to be true... Rather, who was the person trying to unify those guys who have already collapsed? I also wonder about Ophis's stolen power... Ah, am I going to get involved with this again...? I sure hate this. Mephisto Pheles-san then said.

[I'm sorry that we went off topic. Anyway, I will leave my Magicians to all of you. I'm hoping that all of you will be able to make a good pact with someone~.]

Like this, the talk with the chairman of the Magician association, Mephisto Pheles-san, ended. I was concerned about the case involving the house of Phoenix, but I will have to look through the documents given to me. It seems like it will be a long night today...

Part 3

“Ugh, I feel dizzy...”

On the night after a few days had passed, I, who had finished my job for the day, was looking through the mountains of documents on the upper floor of the Hyoudou residence.

"Ise-sama, I have finished decoding this magical symbol. Please read it."

The one who sat besides me was my talented manager, Ravel-chan. It's late at night. Ravel and I lined up the documents on the floor, and we were going through each document one by one. In the other room, everyone was looking in their own way at the Magician-style resume. Asia, Koneko-chan, Xenovia and Gasper were looking through the documents while listening to Rias and Akeno-san's opinions. I also went downstairs to get Rias and Akeno-san's opinions, but I'm mostly looking through the documents while discussing it with Ravel. Yup, rather than depending on Rias, who is our King, I have decided and thought that it will be a good experience to choose for myself while getting the advice of my manager Ravel. Of course, I will get the final check from Rias, but I decided to do this with Ravel until then. I can't describe how happy Ravel was when I told her that.

"Leave it to me! I will choose a person who will be the most fitting for Ise-sama!"

She was really eager to do it. Even now, she was checking this and that while looking through each document while holding the dictionary and books in one of her hands. Even I'm eager to do this when I see how hard she is working. Ravel looked for certain standards when she is checking the documents, mainly if the person was beneficial for the Gremory or me, she then cut off those who hadn't satisfied those standards without any hesitation, and then she checked on the remaining ones very carefully. Of course, she had finished checking the standards of those she cut off. You are working too much, Ravel! B-But I think it's a bit of a waste that she cut off witches who were beautiful and had superb styles...

"This Magician is a man who is researching on a rare topic of alchemy, the ways of using rare metals for magical use. This woman over here is—"

She broke down the information so even I can understand it. She explained it to me while thinking about the benefit I would get from these pacts. From Koneko-chan's story, it seems like she was also researching it during break time while avoiding being seen... I won't be able to raise my head to her. It seems like she received the information from the House of Phoenix regarding those people who were related to the Phoenix which we learned about a few days ago. She said that Riser was really worried about her. I then said it.

"Ravel sure knows more than me."

Ravel put her chest forward.

"Of course. Despite looking like this, I have a longer history of being a Devil than you, Ise-sama."

"You were also observing the Game by standing next to Riser, right?"

She was working as her brother's servant after all. It's normal for her to have experienced many Games. You could say that she had more experience in the Game than us.

"Of course. ...My brother made me avoid participating in the actual battle, but I have experienced the atmosphere of the actual Game with my own body."

"From your eyes, Ravel, how would you judge the Gremory group?"

Upon hearing my question, Ravel put down the documents she was holding onto and sat formally.

"If I had to say it in one sentence, then it's a super-high offensive team. It's so overwhelming that it basically doesn't need any commands."

Yup, I also felt the same way.

"But it also has many weaknesses. It seems like we would have the tables turned if we fell into the trap of a technique-type."

Yeah, we had many weaknesses. A group which would crumble immediately once we fall into a trap. Sensei also pointed that out, and we actually fell for a trap in the Sitri match. We also went through hell against Cao Cao. But Ravel showed a different reaction.

"Even if you say that, it will be normal for every team to worry about those things. Anyone will be frightened if there is a person who is a superior technique-type. You can also say that the team that has to take on the super-high offensive Gremory group is a team which will be very frightened as well."

—! ...This was a new opinion. Ravel continued.

“Also everyone in the Gremory group, including you, Ise-sama, is working very hard to cover their own weaknesses. The truth is, the professionals have too much pride in their ability and their tactics, so they don’t do such a thing as training themselves. Basically, the High-class Devils are beings who don’t like to work hard and train, and they move accordingly by relying on the trait of their household and the talent running through their blood. If they feel that their servant is lacking in power, they try to solve it by trading. Of course there are many High-class Devil players who have pride in the servants they chose. But trading is something which occurs often among the players.”

Hmm, so the professional players made a trade if they were lacking in strength. That’s why they didn’t have the ideas to train for the Game. So they solved the problems by trading their servants that they felt were weak. I could only say that they had no affection towards their servants. Well, I might feel like that since I belong to the Gremory who have strong affections. After all, Devils were logical. Now that I remembered it, that bastard Diodora tried to make a trade easily. I was listening to Ravel’s words really seriously, and her opinion continued.

“Among them, Rias-sama’s group are all personally training themselves. In terms of that, the Sitri group and the Bael group are doing the same, but these actions are unheard of even if you look back into the history of Devils. And these actions are actually giving results.”

She was right. The Sitri group, Bael group and I have shown results by having the terrorists as our opponents. Unlike Sirzechs-sama’s intention of not wanting to send the young ones to the battlefield, our strength has become of use for the Underworld. Ravel then said this while having her eyes shine with light.

“The way of the Gremory group that I imagine, is a group where each individual trains themselves and increases the strength of their overall team balance rather than relying on tactics, and I think that alone is enough. If the group can’t use their full potential because you have concerns about lack of tactics, then isn’t it better to just polish the current stance? Relying heavily on power is also good. If you train enough to overcome your weaknesses, then I think your strong points can cover your weaknesses.”

—! She has a different opinion than Sensei and Rias. Yeah, I think her suggestions are also good. No, for certain members of our group, this method will make it easier for them to get stronger. ...She is thinking more seriously despite having a small body. Man, she sure is an impressive junior.

“...”

I got taken aback by Ravel’s words. Ravel then came back to her senses, and started to act nervous.

“...I-I’m sorry. It was rude of me to say such things...”

“N-No, I was just impressed by you. You really are amazing, Ravel. You think about things more than Xenovia and me. You might become a good tactician.”

She definitely was a Devil who used her brain. She was a girl who was the opposite of Xenovia and I, whose brains were also made up of muscle! Upon hearing my compliment, Ravel’s face turned red.

“T-Tactician might be too much of a compliment, but I study a lot daily despite being like this! So I think about many things.”

Yeah. You are exactly right. Instead, it means that I lack knowledge...

“I also have to work hard as well. However, I feel bad that I can’t do a single thing to show my gratitude towards you.”

I couldn’t help but feel this way. I couldn’t do anything at all for this girl who was working really hard as my manager. Then, Ravel’s face became more red, and she muttered a few words.

“...T-Then, p-please pat my head...”

...T-This was a request I didn’t see coming.

“I-Is just patting your head enough...? Don’t you have anything else you want? You do know that I feel really grateful to you?”

But Ravel shook her head to the side. She then told me upfront.

“I feel proud just being your manager. That’s why having you pat my head will allow me to work hard at anything.”

—! ...Yeah. Aaaaaaaa! Sirzechs-sama! This girl was a really good child! Thank you very much for assigning her to me! I started to pat Ravel’s head while holding back my urge to hug her!

“...Ehehe.”

Ravel responded by making a big smile. Yeah, I'm thinking of working hard from now on together with this manager. Then, Ravel took out the schedule list as if she suddenly remembered about it.

"Ah, yes. After this, I will also adjust the work for Oppai Dragon as well. There are also many requests for you to show up to hold a charity event for the children who went through the shocking experience of the monster crisis in various areas of the Underworld, and that number has already exceeded the dozens—"

...She is so capable at doing her work that she isn't allowing me to rest!

Maverick Magician

“Did you check the ranking made by the association? Starting from that shitty geezer Mephisto, everyone started talking about it ever since the ranking for this generation’s youth Devils was announced.”

“Yeah, I heard that the youth Devils of this generation are a bunch of excellent ones and that they aren’t comparable to anyone in the past several decades.”

“They aren’t even comparable and they are in a league of their own. Two younger sisters of the Maou, the next heir of the Great King and the King of Lion, the next heiress of the Archduke, the daughter of the new Vice Governor of Grigori, Sekiryuutei of the Heavenly Dragons, Holy Demonic Sword, the Durandal wielder, and the host of the Dragon King Vritra. Just listing them up frightens me. Even the other group members are monsters.”

“Of course, the association will come together to give them the documents to make a pact with them.”

“...The spell casters from the Khaos Brigade did say this. That the leaders who got involved with them were taken down and their organisation was almost forced into disbandment. But we are still going through with it, right?”

“Yeah. Since we received the request from the Khaos Brigade that you mentioned about, we will also go along with it. I hear that the spell casters from their side are also willing to do this. After all, just getting the Phoenix will be boring.”

“The level of their strength. Boss lady Shien is looking forward to our impression of them.”

Life.2 The Rulers of the Late Night

Part 1

Using your head was fine, but having to train your body was also the harsh reality of being a part of the Gremory group. Besides the selection of the resume of the Magicians and the job of a Devil, we, the Gremory group plus Irina, changed into our jerseys, and were continuing to train in the battlefield located underground the Gremory's territory. We were training in two groups within this spacious battlefield. In this location, there were the warrior-types that consisted of me, Kiba, Xenovia and Irina. My mock battle for today, which was my match against Kiba, ended just now. Kiba, who has attained different types of Demonic Swords, including Gram, and who is also using Dragon Slayer Holy Demonic Swords, was starting to become an opponent who was hard to take on with my normal Balance Breaker. It would have been easier if I could wear my crimson armour. ...Ddraig had increased the time he needed to sleep since the battle with Cao Cao. There were times when he didn't respond for a whole day. And currently, I was in a state where I couldn't promote to use Triaina and True Queen. According to Azazel-sensei—

"He must have used too much of his power to revive you. It's a body created from Great Red's flesh with Ophis's power added to it, so you can't calculate how hard he worked for it. His soul didn't wear down and he didn't lose his power, but his exhaustion must be really bad. He will probably sleep longer for a while, so let him sleep without stimulating him."

That's what he said. ...My partner, the Heavenly Dragon who used a lot of his power to resurrect me. Ddraig didn't have a body, and he was in a state where only his soul remained. Even so, he did all that for me... I just couldn't thank him enough. If having a sleep will bring Ddraig back to his old self, then I want him to take a rest. However, do come back before strong foes appear. An opponent whom I might need to use my Triaina and True Queen against might appear. I was just worried that I wouldn't be able to give my all in terms of battle since those who appeared in front of me were getting stronger and stronger... While I was drinking a sports drink after finishing the battle, Kiba appeared within my sight. He was staring at Gram. He said this after taking a breath.

"...Like I thought, finding the right time to use Gram is hard."

"Is it at a level where even you find it hard?"

When I asked, Kiba narrowed his eyes.

"It also has to do with the technical part. Either way, the consumption is really bad. Just swinging this drains a lot from my stamina, demonic power and other departments. If I use it continuously for a single battle, it will probably also trim down my life. It certainly is a masterpiece fit to be called the Demonic Emperor Sword."

That bad, huh? Certainly, Kiba, who was using Gram, looked like he was searching for a way to use it. Though the pressure I was getting from Gram, which was a Dragon Slayer, was insane! Just standing in front of it when he wasn't wielding it gave me the chills. Even now, just looking at it from here when he wasn't making a stance with it made me sweat a lot. That's how much the Dragon Slayer trait of that Demonic Sword was a deadly poison for me. I just couldn't help but feel the killing intent that sword had towards me. It wasn't Kiba's will. I could feel the will of that sword with my own skin. Just having it near me would have an effect, so Sensei gave an order to Kiba to place it in a different space during usual times. Kiba made the space at the tip of his right hand distort, and he put Gram inside it. It was the same logic behind how Xenovia kept Durandal in another space. I heard that Kiba also put each of the Demonic Swords he took from Siegfried inside it.

"I wonder how that bastard Siegfried was able to use it."

When I asked, Kiba answered.

"No, I think that was also the reason why he couldn't use Gram to the fullest that easily. I think the only reason he couldn't use it to the fullest was because of the Dragon trait of his Sacred Gear. You need determination to use this. I'm not Xenovia, but if I have to use it, then it will be when I have to finish someone off with a single strike."

"How about the other Demonic Swords?"

"They all are good Demonic Swords. Except, since they are all demonic items, there are risks in using them. Each of them either makes the wielder get cursed, or it trims a certain thing down every time you use it. Siegfried...I don't think he was planning to live long. Or it could mean that his life was played around with when he was at the warrior raising institute."

A Demonic Sword wielder who went as far as trimming his own life, huh. That bastard Freed might have also received excessive training from the institute. Did his personality turn out like that because of it? No, it was pointless to think about it now. Kiba said while gulping down his sports drink.

"Either way, rather than wielding it myself, there will be less demerits by having my Dragon Knights carrying and wielding it."

Now that you mention it, he did have a mock battle against Xenovia using that fighting style.

"...I couldn't even touch Kiba since the Dragon Knights that were wielding the Demonic Swords stopped me. Fufufu, it proves how a power idiot like myself is weak against attacks from out of my range."

The one who was acting weak was Xenovia, and she was sitting down while grasping her knees. Xenovia, who was receiving technique training from Kiba, received harsh comments from him. Not using Durandal Cannon and relying on destroying as much as possible, she had a mock battle against Kiba while using the traits of the other Excaliburs... The more she tried to take in techniques, the more she came to realise the huge difference between her and Kiba. Kiba then said.

"If it's you who doesn't have a power restraint, then you will be able to destroy the Dragon Knights who are wielding the Demonic Swords with ease. Also, it will be the end for me if I were to receive your attack. However, not learning how to use the seven traits of the Excalibur will be a waste. If you come to use them to their fullest, you will be able to become a swordswoman that will surpass me."

The seven abilities of the Excalibur were a threat. Xenovia could only use Destruction's destructive force as her main, but there was no loss for her to at least learn how to use Mimic, which has the ability to transform, and Transparency, which gives the ability to go invisible. Actually, even Freed was able to use it. So I think it will be natural for Xenovia to master using it too. In fact, she was learning how to use it...but it was also true that there was a gap between her and Kiba. Increasing your strong points to cover your weakness like Ravel said might also be good. But if we were talking about Xenovia, then I think she would definitely become stronger if she learned several abilities of the Excalibur. She was aware of that herself, which was why she asked Kiba to become her opponent for her training. Kiba was happy when he was asked to become her opponent.

"...Xenovia is finally starting to do training as a technique-type...!"

He was shivering with happiness back then. He must have had many concerns regarding Xenovia. Irina, who was tagging along with the training, took the Ex-Durandal from Xenovia and swung it. The blade started to change by twitching, and then it turned into a large Japanese sword.

"Look, this is how you use Mimic. What you need is imagination. If you come to master it, you can make it change into many things."

To be expected from the former wielder of Mimic. In terms of using Mimic, she was more skillful than Xenovia, who was the current wielder. Even if it was just for a temporary amount of time in the match against Bael, Rossweisse-san also showed an impressive technique with it. Excalibur was separated into seven different swords. Each of them had a unique ability of their own. Those abilities still remained even after fusing with Durandal.

Excalibur Destruction. Just like its name implied, its ability specialised in attacking. It had overwhelming destructive force, and Xenovia was originally the wielder of that Holy Sword. For that reason, she specialised in wielding it the most. It had the best compatibility with Xenovia who was seeking more power. Next was Excalibur Mimic. This was a Holy Sword that Irina originally had. It had the ability to change its shape into anything. Irina originally had it take the form of a rope, but changed its shape to a Japanese sword when she was battling. It seemed like this one also showed many traits depending on its wielder. The third one was Excalibur Rapidly. It was the Holy Sword that bastard Freed was using first. It enhanced the speed of the wielder and the velocity of the sword also increased when you swing it. Excalibur Transparency. Not just its blade, but it could also make the wielder become invisible. Excalibur Nightmare's ability seemed to be mainly controlling illusions and dreams. This seemed to have good compatibility with those who specialise in using magic. Xenovia, who wasn't good in that department, was having a hard time mastering it. If you got used to it, you could use illusions to deceive your enemies. Or you could take control of the dream that the enemy was seeing when they were sleeping, and it seemed like you could do many things with it... Excalibur Blessing was related to your belief in the teachings of religion, and it was said that it mainly showed its effect when you used it during holy rituals. For example, it could do things like weakening Devils and Vampires during exorcism, strengthening an Exorcist's power, and giving blessings to those who were participating in the mass. Its ability would belong in the special category class. Mastering this also involved the talent of a certain kind of wielder, and Xenovia wasn't that good with it. Lastly, Excalibur Ruler. It was the one that Arthur from the Vali Team had. It was said that it had the ability to control all things as you wished...

"I probably won't be able to control legendary creatures like Arthur did. ...I can't even make it activate properly."

Just like Xenovia said, she was having difficulty mastering Excalibur Ruler. Not just Xenovia, but also Rias was predicting that mastering the ability of Ruler would come last. Since Irina, who was a former wielder of one of the Excaliburs, was supporting her, she would most likely master using Mimic first. By the way, Irina was tagging along with our training, and was also starting her own training. She was starting to create her own battle style while asking Kiba for the way to use the Holy Demonic Sword that was mass-produced for Angels. Irina was an Angel, but if I had to classify her as a Devil, I think she would be a technique-type who was closer to a wizard-type. I heard that she was asking about magic from Rossweisse-san and was learning how to use it.

"At this rate, you will become a self-proclaimed swordswoman, Xenovia."

Having Irina say that to her, Xenovia seemed to be in shock. It seemed like she was opening her mouth wide and was saying 'Gaan!'. Xenovia talked back with teary eyes.

"...Damn self-proclaimed Angel."

That was basically a taboo to Irina, and she suddenly got mad while putting on a weird face.

"I am an Angel! Right, Ise-kun? If it's Ise-kun who is my childhood friend, you will understand that I'm a real Angel, right?"

She dragged me into their quarrel! ...Oh, man. When these two started an argument, they started with a horrible insult to each other and even I found them childish. However, she was right. So Irina and I were childhood friends, huh.

"Oh, if I think back, it certainly makes me and Irina childhood friends. I start to forget at times."

As soon as I said that, Xenovia started to chuckle.

"I see, so Irina is a self-proclaimed childhood friend. I see, I see."

Ah, Xenovia attained a new word which she could use to tease Irina! Looks like I made a mistake! Irina made a weirder face while having teary eyes.

"I am an Angel! I am his childhood friend! You are horrible!"

"Yay, a self-proclaimed childhood friend~."

"Look who's talking, self-proclaimed swordswoman! Even your brain is made up of muscles!"

...Ah, it made me think that they are stupid and cute. Everyone, can you believe it? Did you know that these two were swordswomen sent from the Church, and they had a dangerous vibe to them? Particularly Xenovia, who was a calm and collected Holy Sword wielder, and she gave an impression that she would cut you down just by touching her. Irina was bright, but she was a messenger from Heaven who didn't give in towards her teachings and job. And now, they were simply a power idiot and a self-proclaimed Angel. Seriously, you can't tell how your impression of a person changes. Actually, this was the attitude of those who were the same age as them. Showing this side of them proved that they had opened their hearts to us. Anyway, the warrior-types, which consisted of me, Kiba, Xenovia and Irina, often gathered at one point of this field and practiced together. A bit away from us, the wizard-types, which consisted of Rias, Akeno-san and Asia, were doing their own kind of training.

"I think the actual battles are the best after all. I'm hoping there is another mission to capture a Stray Devil."

Xenovia complained. Yes, ever since the matter with the Hero Faction ended, there were many incidents where Sacred Gear possessors who were made into a servant of a High-class Devil with unfair trades awakened their powers and strayed. It was because Cao Cao and his group leaked out the information of using Balance Breaker. Thanks to that, we were given hunt orders from the House of Archduke Agares quite often. Those who ran away after going through painful experiences got arrested by us after we talked to them, but those who went berserk after being too proud of their own power...even though it might be harsh, there were times we take them down. But there were cases where they were using Balance Breaker, and our missions could become quite severe at times. If it was a special type of ability within a technique-type, we might fall for their trap and receive a fatal blow if we weren't careful. It was made so that we, the Gremory, had to handle those who escape into Japan. I heard that Sairaorg-san was also dispatched for a hunt in the Underworld. ...Attaining true peace was harder than I expected. They said that the reconstruction of towns and villages destroyed by the gigantic monsters had begun, but I didn't think their hearts would come to peace that easily... We could only train ourselves to make sure that doesn't happen.

"Now then, how about we stop here and go over there?"

When I asked everyone, they nodded. Anyway, that's how it was. We headed towards the area Rias and others were training. While heading there, I was thinking about a certain thing. I had studied many things ever since I became a Middle-class Devil. For example, regarding the High-class Devils from the 72 Pillars, I'd been studying about the situation of their household, the trait of each household, and their speciality. I had started studying about them in more detail than before. The reason for doing this was because my dream to become a High-class Devil wasn't something far out of my reach. No, obviously, the road for becoming a High-class Devil was long and hard. But it became a goal which wasn't reckless or impossible. The Rating Game was among one of the things I was studying. There were many things I was unaware of despite participating many times. For example, the information about things regarding the match.

"I thought that we would be told the rules of the game on the day we have the match."

I said that while walking. Kiba answered.

"Actually, that is quite rare. Usually, they tell the rules of the game beforehand to both teams. Without it, you can't build tactics for it at all. Well, maybe they were seeing what kind of tactics the young Devils can come up with by having them clash against each other without knowing it. As a result, I think the young Devils that were able to show sufficient potential were the Sitri group."

"We are the 'Muscle-brained Team' after all. Rather than thinking, acting on the spot and finishing the battle suits us better."

Xenovia said this while eating onigiri and walking... You know the one who was setting that example was none other than you? Though I wasn't in a situation where I could tell people off...

"But I was wondering, Kiba. How come we weren't told anything beforehand and had to wait until the actual match?"

"It seems like the higher-ups were the ones who decided that, Ise-kun. The youth Rating Games, especially the matches we participated in, somehow had rules told to us at the actual match. In the matches like Bael vs Glasya-Labolas and Sitri vs Agares, their groups had the rules told to them a few days before the match."

I didn't know that! So Sairaorg-san and Saji had matches where they knew the details beforehand!

"Why were we the only ones given those kinds of situations which made us become nervous!? This is unreasonable, and it isn't fair!"

"For our first match against Sitri, we were told about the rules beforehand, but for the matches after that, there are rumours that the higher-ups decided to purposely tell us when the match took place."

"What the hell, are we being played with?"

"I hear that the higher-ups put us in an irregular situation on purpose. I hear that they were trying to have both sides, which included us and the group of the player we were put against, go through a different type of growth. —And that actually did happen."

—! ...It's just like Kiba said. We did attain a certain something through the game. It happened either during the game or after the game. Those things could be like when I awakened my new power, and it could also connect to the growth of those in our group. I even thought it could also have Saji and Sairaorg-san go through a change or evolution. No, maybe each member of the Gremory, Sitri and Bael group had attained some kind of special growth?

"...So you are saying that the sudden situation of having a game where we don't know the rules was for the purpose of having us go through growth...?"

Kiba put on a frowned expression to my question.

"You can say 'Yes', and you can also say that it was a coincidence. This will be a hindsight opinion, but we learned many things through the youth battles."

...You might be right... But I feel like we were controlled by someone to their liking and I didn't feel good about it. Well, we were still young and didn't have the right to say that. ...But I certainly didn't feel good about it. It's true that we fought while having our dream on the line. But who among the higher-ups did that...? It certainly couldn't be Sirzechs-sama. I didn't think that person would do such a thing.

—!

Then, a single person came to my mind. Ajuka Beelzebub-sama. ...I heard that he created the basic theory behind the Rating Game, and that many technical researchers were among his faction. ...If it was that person...then wasn't it

possible? While I was thinking about that, we reached the area where our wizard-type comrades were training. Really, this place was seriously spacious, since there were spaces without anything no matter how much we walked forward. The only thing inside here was the light above our head which was located high up. Just how many times was this underground space bigger than the Tokyo Dome? Rossweisse-san and Le Fay were standing on top of the glowing magic circle and were speaking. The ones who were sitting down crossing their legs while concentrating were Koneko-chan and Gasper. Koneko-chan was silently enveloping herself with Touki. Kuroka was watching over her. Le Fay and Kuroka were also helping out with our training. From afar, crimson demonic power and lightning were swirling violently. Rias and Akeno-san must be training their demonic power and magic over there. It seemed like Asia was talking with Ophis and Rassei. The reason why Ravel wasn't here was because she remained in the Hyoudou residence by herself and was continuing the selection of the documents of those who will be my partner as a Magician.

"Ise-sama, please go for training. I will continue researching like I always do."

—So, I was always being sent off to train like this. Seriously, while I was feeling thankful for her, I also felt bad. I'm sorry for being useless. However, I will have myself depend on you. Asia realised that the warrior-group, which consisted of me, Kiba, Xenovia and Irina, had arrived and rushed towards us.

"Ise-san, everyone! So, have you finished your training?"

"Yeah, we are done for today. So, what were you doing Asia?"

When I asked, Ophis approached me while carrying Rassei on her head.

"I, have been teaching Asia, the way to socialise with Dragons."

Socialising with Dragons? I became a little confused, so Asia explained it to me in detail.

"Before, I was told by Azazel-sensei that making a pact with monsters and using summoning magic might suit me, so I had Ophis-san teach me how to socialise with Dragons."

Irina spoke while stroking Rassei's back who was on top of Ophis's head.

"Even if you say you want to make a monster obey you, there are many ways, like a pact as a 'familiar', which makes them your servant, and a 'give and take' pact which requires giving them a price."

Ah, I was also told that after making a pact with a familiar. I heard the level of complexity of making a pact differed depending on the practitioner's skills to make a monster obey them, and also whether they were a person who got a liking from monsters. Those who had high skills and were people who were liked by monsters could make pacts with different monsters easily. The more powerful the monster was, the more they sought for a 'give and take' pact rather than becoming their servant. It also had to do with their compatibility. I made a master and servant relationship with the familiar, Skithblathnir, that I got a few days ago without any problem. It didn't ask me for a particular price. Putting their usefulness during the actual battle and their abilities aside, these familiars could be quite troublesome in the game. Asia then said.

"Oh yes, I got shocked when I was studying together with Ise-san about the game. —It's regarding the familiars."

I nodded my head and continued after her.

"Won't it be easier to make a pact with a strong familiar and keep on using them during the game? That's what I thought first, but it looks like that isn't possible. It says that there is a certain degree of restriction. Especially the very powerful monsters, they come with a restriction during the game."

Kiba nodded to my question.

"If they don't put a restriction on using the familiars, both sides will just have a battle of familiars during the game. A game where they don't stand in the frontline and instead have their familiars battling for them...which will turn into a simple battle between familiars rather than a battle between servants."

He was exactly right. If the usage of familiars was unrestricted, then they could just summon them from the safety zone and attack the opponent by giving orders. Kiba continued on.

"That's why, for most times, familiars that are only handy can be used during the game. Of course, that isn't everything there is to it. Depending on the rules, it's not like you can't use powerful familiars. Except there will be a restriction on using it, and you can say that it might be easier to use them to their fullest by making them your servant. You can also use the power of the piece to enhance their ability. It's also true that the importance of the monsters has

risen instantly ever since the Rating Game and the Evil Pieces were created. Because of that, occupations as instructor called familiar trainers were created.”

Devils that have monsters as their servant instead of their familiar must have thought that it would be more beneficial that way. Instead of just using a powerful monster as a familiar, they made them into their servant to enhance their ability and to command them. Though there were those who thought using them as their familiars would be easier and more of a bargain. Maybe making a rare and powerful monster into your servant would be better instead. The ‘give and take’ relationship meant that it could be revoked if there wasn’t any benefit for the monsters in the pact. Though each person would have a different opinion and there would be differences in how people thought. It seemed like there were times when the monsters approached them personally to become their servant to have their ability enhanced. I, myself, would be troubled to choose between making a monster into my familiar or my servant if I was to encounter that situation.

Just like that, Asia wanted to make pacts with many monsters and to strengthen her power to summon, and so she was finding her own direction of getting stronger. Xenovia then said.

“Summoning demonic power, or summoning magic. The moment you choose to aim higher with it, and even comparing it with other magic and battle styles, it is a world where your talent is everything, and there are only a few experienced users in this department. –But.”

“You are right. Azazel-sensei is saying that Asia may have some talent in it.”

While saying that, I looked towards Rassei and Ophis. Asia made a master and servant relationship with a Sprite Dragon (even if it’s a small Dragon), which is said to be hard to make a pact with. No, for Asia, it might have been more of a pact as friends, but at least they aren’t in a ‘give and take’ relationship. It’s a pact formed by their bond. This was something where the familiar master Satooji-san was shocked about.

“...I have asked Rossweisse-san about the summoning magic just in case...but I still haven’t shown any remarkable results yet...”

Asia looked as if she felt bad about it.

“No, no, you will start from here. Wait, Rossweisse-san can use summoning magic?”

When I asked, Rossweisse-san approached us as she finished talking with Le Fay above the magic circle.

“I’m not that good at it, but I’m teaching her at least the basic theory behind it.”

Ah, is that right? To be expected from the genius girl from the Norse! I think there won’t be any problems if Rossweisse-san and Ophis stay with Asia... And when I looked around the area, I witnessed Kuroka, who was making Koneko-chan and Gasper sit down while having their legs crossed a bit further away from us, wave her hand at me. ...Me? When I pointed at myself, Kuroka nodded her head. I went towards Kuroka after telling everyone ‘I will be gone for a bit’ and left the discussion.

“What is it?”

I asked Kuroka while stepping into the location where everyone was concentrating their mind. Kuroka had a big smile on her face.

“Nyahaha, right now, I’m having Shirone and Gya-kun make their minds go blank.”

The reason why not only Koneko-chan but Gasper was doing this as well was so he could find the power hidden inside him. It was similar to the time I sent my thoughts deep within my Sacred Gear. Though it seemed like there hadn’t been any progress... By having her mind go blank, Koneko-chan was trying to become one with nature, which was the basics of Senjutsu. Rather than that, this bad cat was also calling Gasper, ‘Gya-kun’. Well, I also called him ‘Gya-suke’ after all.

“Help me out, Sekiryuutei-chin.”

Even if she said that, what was I supposed to do? When I twitched my neck at Kuroka’s words, she took my hand and—

Munyuun!

My hand was sinking down into her oppai which had been visible through the gap of her kimono since beeeefore~! My hand was in joy with this extreme softness, this feeling and the volume of the flesh in my haaand~! This breast was like a collection of the good parts of Rias and Akeno-san’s ones, and it bounced, it was tender, and it had a

smooth sensation to it...and I was so delighted! I have experienced the wonderfulness of an older girl! Maybe she sensed this scenery, so Koneko-chan opened her eyes and was putting on a face.

“N-Nee-sama! Please get away from Ise-senpai! If Ise-senpai were to feel Nee-sama’s skin before my body gets bigger...!”

The big sister cat smacked Koneko-chan’s head, who was arguing against her.

“Yup, you fail, nya. You can say that you’re still an amateur since you stopped your training and disrupted your Ki with something like this, aren’t I right, Shirone?”

“...Y-Yes.”

Having Kuroka warn her, it seemed like Koneko-chan couldn’t say anything back to her. She seemed to be regretting it, but she shook her head to get her head straight, and she crossed her legs once again. Gasper, on the other hand, didn’t break his posture even with the thing now. Oh, this guy sure was showing a splendid side of him in weird situations. It seemed like Gasper got the upper hand against Koneko-chan for the mind concentration of this day. But Kuroka’s oppai...sure was good! Thirty minutes passed, and everyone had finished their training for today and was gathering here. The only ones who weren’t here yet were Rias and Akeno-san. It seemed like they were having training using demonic power and magic away from here...

“I’m sorry, I got more into it with Akeno than I expected today.”

“Ufufu, Buchou, you were rougher than usual.”

A bit later, both of them finally showed up. It seemed like they did quite a lot of training, so both of them had their jerseys worn out and their skin was visible. Yup! Rias and Akeno-san’s lower part of their breasts was superb! — Then, I gulped down my spit when I witnessed the object which came along with them. ...The gigantic sphere floating above Rias. A crimson and black aura was going wild inside the sphere. ...Even I could tell. It was something which was a compression of unimaginable amount of demonic power. I asked both of them while pointing at the sphere.

“...What is that thing which has been giving abnormal pressure since before...?”

“It’s Buchou’s new special move. ...Like I thought, you can tell?”

Xenovia nodded at Akeno-san’s words while having sweat fall down from her cheek.

“Yeah. It’s quite a dangerous thing, isn’t it? It’s one of those demonic power attacks which you don’t want to be hit with.”

Yeah. I could tell that it was something which was concentrated on destruction only. It was something which she used by strengthening her Power of Destruction, right? No, since it was Rias that we were talking about, that wasn’t the only thing. Except, if it was only used for shooting it, a demonic power attack which was that big could be dodged easily. It seemed like it wasn’t just mainly power. Rias then said.

“...This crimson sphere will definitely become a forbidden move for the game. I was too naïve until now. After all, I was thinking of an attack which can be used for the game... But after receiving an assault from the terrorists and losing Ise once, I changed my view. What I need in actual battle is a power which will completely annihilate the enemy.”

“Then, that means...”

Kiba continued after me.

“It must mean that it has a power which even the retiring system of the Rating Game can’t avoid.”

Everyone put on a frightened expression with Rias’s new special move which was filled with mysteries. Rias was a wizard-type, but she was closer to a power-type. Her brother Sirzechs-sama was also a wizard-type, but since he was closer to a technique-type, there were differences between their Power of Destruction despite being siblings. Unfortunately, it seemed like Rias didn’t have a high level of talent like Sirzechs-sama in the technique department. But they said it’s different if she was seeking for more power for the Power of Destruction. ...I see, so it meant that she was increasing the destructive power for it. The powerful energy I could feel from that sphere explained it. Rias and Akeno-san fixed their worn-out jerseys back to their normal state using their demonic power, and they put on a smile.

“Now, let’s go home everyone.”

Like this, the training for everyone ended for today. ...We have to get even stronger together. In order for all of us to live on, no matter what happens...

Part 2

“Ah~, I’m at peace.”

I took a bath after finishing my training, and now I was eating the ice block ‘garigari-kun’ while relaxing on the sofa at the living room. This was good. Doing this healed me...

“...Senpai, do you want some chocolate mint?”

Koneko-chan, who was sitting on my lap, gave me her ice cream.

“Okay, I will have a bite then.”

I ate some while opening my mouth and saying ‘Aaan’! Man, this was the best! Getting ‘Aaan’ from my junior. It was like we were having an indirect kiss since I was eating from her spoon. Koneko-chan wouldn’t have done this if it was back when she hadn’t opened her heart to me, but now she was okay to have an indirect kiss with me as if it was a natural thing! When I was feeling at peace, Ravel stood in front of me.

“...K-Koneko-san, I have been thinking this for the whole time, but it’s bad manners to sit on Ise-sama’s lap in front of everyone.”

Oh, she has been scolded. However, Koneko-chan continued to sit normally.

“...This is a special seat which belongs only to me.”

“S-Special seat!? Ise-sama, please tell her off as well!”

“W-Well, Ravel. It’s not like I’m troubled by it. Koneko-chan is light.”

Actually, she was really light. It was also because she had a small body. And I have got used to this posture. It became part of my living style. Koneko-chan then sat in a posture of hugging me.

“...I’m going to become Senpai’s bride in the future, so I’m going to keep this place.”

“...~!”

Upon hearing that, Ravel put on a very envious expression. Even though Ravel said that, there were times when she said she wanted to sit on my lap when we were alone, so I let her. Koneko-chan, who saw that, put on an unpleasant face. Lately, Koneko-chan had been taking this spot immediately. It was as if she was trying to say that ‘This will always be my seat’. ...I was told by someone that she had attachment to her territory since she was a cat. In other words, my lap was like territory for Koneko-chan. Ravel gradually started to have teary eyes, and then started to protest.

“N-Not fair! Not fair, not fair, not fair, not fair, not fair!”

—! The capable girl Ravel was...stamping her foot on the ground like a child!

“It’s not fair for Koneko-san to be sitting there all the time! Ei!”

Ravel pushed Koneko-chan off!

“I will also sit here! No, I will be taking possession of it!”

On top of my lap which was now free...Ravel sat there like a rock!

Koneko-chan, who was pushed off, was twitching her eyebrows and her mouth looked unpleasant.

“Ei!”

“Kyaa!”

She then pushed Ravel. This time, Koneko-chan sat on my lap!

“...This is my seat! I won’t give it to you...!”

Koneko-chan, who was clinging onto me, seemed like she wouldn’t hand this place over to her at all costs.

“I won’t allow you to take it all for yourself! I also want to sit~!”

Ravel who pushed Koneko-chan was also in a rage! It felt as if I could see a cat and a fire bird, which were glaring against each other, behind them! O-Oh yeah, there was a time when I talked to Riser on a private line, and he did say this.

[That Ravel. She is well-mannered and humble in front of those she is close with... She is basically on the same level of being a selfish princess like Rias. She has a habit of wanting other people's things especially. ...You might be able to see that side of her since you are living with her, you know?]

It's just like Riser said. But having a fight between friends wasn't good! I was somehow able to calm both of them. And as a result—

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

Koneko-chan was sitting on my left thigh, and Ravel was sitting on my right thigh. Since they were fighting just now, they weren't looking at each other's eyes. W-Well, there was a wonderful thing going on with the soft flesh of their buttocks that I could feel from both my thighs! My lap wasn't a battle ground, so I wish they would settle down on the fighting. However, mysteriously, Koneko-chan and Ravel were confronting each other normally the next morning. Like I thought, although both of them like to argue with each other, I do think they are friends after all.

Part 3

There was a day when I had a night like that, but during lunch time the next day, I went to the Student Council's room to play. Only me and Saji were inside the room. It was a rare thing since we were playing a board game.

“You are still naïve~, Hyoudou~”

...Saji checkmated me! On top of that, this was my fifth defeat in a row!

“Shit! You wait a bit! I will find a way to defeat you and increase my win rate!”

The thing we were playing now was a board game based on one of the types of Rating Game, Scramble Flag. If I had to explain the rule of the board game type Scramble Flag in few words, it was a game where several flags were put down within the game field, and each player had to move their pieces to take each other's flags. You won if you took all their flags within the time limit, or by having more flags than the opponent. You could also take back flags that were taken, though you would have to use dice for that. Depending on the number you roll, it would determine whether you defended your flag or had it taken. In the actual game, it seemed like you might or might not use the dice depending on the rule... It was alright as long as you didn't have more than half of your flags taken. So in the actual game, you could use any method to protect your flags by hiding them in the field, luring your enemies by using them as bait, and by discarding one of your flags to fix the formation of your team. So there were many ways you could battle in it. Certainly, this was a rule which was favourable for the Sitri and Agares groups, who were tactics type. If we did this, then we might lose by a margin. No, maybe using force to take it was... Ah, they would just use traps and reduce the number of people in our group! ...This certainly was a complex game. When I was staring at the game board while thinking hard, Saji spoke to me quietly.

“...By the way, you...”

“Why did you suddenly put on a gloomy face?”

Yeah, his face looked gloomy. The lights in his irises were gone! Saji then said it to me.

“I hear that you are dating Rias-senpai huh!”

—! S-So it's thaaaaat! C-Certainly, I haven't told him about that! Saji continued to speak while making a big sigh.

“...You know there was a monster crisis we had a while ago? You know how you showed up then? You kissed Rias-senpai as if you two were lovers just before fighting the leader of the Hero Faction, Cao Cao, remember? Upon seeing that, I was really shocked. So when I asked Kaichou—”

[Yes, both of them have been lovers since the school festival. ...Saji, you didn't know about this?]

That's how Kaichou answered him. Then, Saji suddenly approached me and shook my shoulder!

“I didn't know about it! Hyoudou, yoooooooo~! You and I are friends, right!? Why didn't you tell me!? Kiba knew about this, right!”

“...W-Well, you know, there wasn't a chance to tell you...”

I talked back at them...but Hanakai-san and Nimura-san were also beauties. He should at least go on a date with them! Well, I wasn't in a position where I could say that! Then, the vice-president—Shinra-senpai approached me and spoke in a low voice.

(...There is no way Kaichou will fall easily like that. Hyoudou-kun, don't pay attention to these girls.)

(Ah, yes, Shinra-senpai.)

Putting that aside, Shinra-senpai, can you please make Kiba fall for you quickly? I can't endure it since he has been looking at me with even more passionate eyes lately! You know that he even makes a lunch box for me!? It's so serious that I'm starting to feel that I need to protect my chastity at all costs! Gya-suke is also sitting on my lap when Koneko-chan and Ravel aren't there! I'm also receiving calls from Riser every now and then through the magic circle! I'm also receiving gifts from Sairaorg-san! Even with Le Fay and Kuroka, I'm feeling scared that Vali might be up to something in the shadows! I'm scared about the increase in the number of guys around me! I admire this kind of naughty and erotic lifestyle with girls! But why am I receiving a macho-kind relation from guuuuys!?

"Ise-kun."

While I was screaming inside myself, Sona-kaichou called me.

"Y-Yes."

A small communication-type magic circle was floating above Kaichou's hand. Did something happen? Kaichou then said it.

"I received a call just now. I think you will be receiving a call soon as well, but...it seems like the date for the meeting with the Vampires will be tomorrow night."

—!

Oh yeah, I forgot about it due to the things with Magicians and my training, but Rias also told me about that. That we would be receiving contact from the Vampires' side. Vampire. It was a being which was the closest to us, yet it was also a being the furthest away from us. I, who only knew Gasper, would be having a real meeting with a Vampire from here.

Part 4

Late at night, the day after.

In other words, today was the day of the meeting with the Vampires. I was currently at the Occult Research Club's clubroom. The ones who have gathered here from the Gremory side were all of the Occult Research Club's members, Sona-kaichou and Shinra-senpai from the Sitri side, Azazel-sensei as the representative of the Fallen Angels, and one Sister from the Heaven side. She was a Sister who was wearing her veil down. She was a beauty who looked like she was from Northern Europe and had features that were standing out like an actress. She looked to be in her late twenties, and she had a soft smile with a gentle atmosphere. The truth is, I had met this Sister before. The Sister looked around and greeted everyone here.

"I still haven't introduced myself. My name is Griselda Quarta, and I am supervising the staff members from Heaven in this region. I have introduced myself to Sekiryuutei-san and Sister Asia before, and I'm hoping I can get along with the rest of you whom I haven't met."

"She is my Boss-sama!"

Irina said that. Sensei exchanged a handshake with Sister Griselda.

"Oh, I have heard about you. Gabriel's Queen! Sister Griselda, the Exorcist who is among the top five women Exorcists."

"Thank you for your words. Having my name known to the former Governor of the Fallen Angels...I'm honoured."

This Sister was Griselda Quarta, a Reincarnated Angel that supervised the staff from Heaven in this region. She was the Queen of Gabriel-san who was one of the Four Great Seraphs, the boss of Irina, and also someone that knew Xenovia from her country. I had met her before and she had already introduced herself to me. Gabriel-san governed the card suit of Hearts. This Sister was Hearts' Queen! It seemed like she was called [Queen of Hearts]. She couldn't easily show up in the headquarters of this region because she was going between Heaven and the Vatican, so we were only able to meet her recently. The way that Xenovia was panicking back then was abnormal. Since they were from the same institute and since she had been under her care since she was little, she had told me this Sister was

one of the people she couldn't act mighty against. It seemed like it was quite a shock for this Sister when she found out that Xenovia, who was a devout believer of their religion, became a Devil, but she did say she was more sad about Xenovia not contacting her. This was the first time the members here besides me, Asia, Xenovia and Irina, would be meeting this person. Sister Griselda apologised.

"I apologise. I should have come and greeted you all much earlier...but it didn't fit my schedule, and I am regretting how incapable I am."

She really was polite. But, in terms of how she acted towards one person—

"Oh my? Xenovia, you don't look well?"

Irina asked a question to Xenovia which had a hidden meaning behind it.

"...Don't tease me, Irina."

Xenovia put on a stiff face and tried not to be within the Sister's sight, but...the Sister grabbed hold of Xenovia's face with both her hands!

"Xenovia? Do you hate seeing me that much?"

"...N-No. It's just..."

"Just?"

"...S-Sorry I couldn't answer your calls."

So the phone calls that Xenovia was ignoring were calls from this Sister, huh. Receiving the apology from Xenovia, Sister Griselda let go off her face.

"Yes. Very well done. Since I gave you my number, you should at least give me a call. Understood? You can at least have dinner with me, right?"

"Of course. I would be concerned about you since we are in the same region once again."

It seemed like they were a troubled little sister and a capable older sister. Rather, this was a new view, since Xenovia, who was always acting so mighty, was showing a cute reaction like this. I have witnessed an unexpected thing once again. We finished our introductions like this, and now we only had to wait for the Vampire guests to arrive. The night got even darker... It became completely silent outside, and we felt something abnormally cold from outside by the time everyone exchanged a few words. Every one of us sensed it, and we looked out the window towards the direction where the entrance of the old school building was. Rias stood.

"Looks like they are here. ...The presences of Vampires are cold like always."

Rias looked at Kiba. Kiba stood, and then left the room after bowing to us. ...He must have gone to welcome the Vampires. I then remembered about the information that everyone told me about Vampires earlier. Vampires were beings that couldn't enter a building which they hadn't been invited to come into. They didn't appear in mirrors, and they didn't have shadows. They couldn't cross running water, they hated garlic, and they were weak against the symbols of the Church, the cross and holy water. And they couldn't heal themselves unless they slept in their coffin. Gasper, who was a half Vampire, was a bit different from that description. He had a shadow, and he appeared in the mirror. He could walk across rivers, he was overcoming garlic, and it wasn't like he had to sleep in his coffin. Apparently, it was because the human blood inside Gasper was stronger. ...That's why he could sleep inside the box.

The reason why Kiba went downstairs was because the guest Vampires were Pure-Bloods, so they wouldn't be able to come in without being invited. We, the servants of our King Rias, stood up from our seats and lined up next to her to welcome the guests. Shinra-senpai also stood behind Sona-kaichou. Irina was also standing behind Sister Griselda who was sitting on the chair. Akeno-san was on standby in front of her personal push cart so she could serve them anytime. Azazel-sensei was basically the only one who was sitting down casually. We waited for the guests in a posture where the Kings and Boss-class people were sitting down, while their subordinates were standing upright. And our Vampire-kun, Gya-suke was...

"..."

He was putting on a very complicated expression. Of course. Since the real Vampires that chased him out were coming here. It seemed like the Vampires coming here weren't from Gasper's family, but he still couldn't hide the fact of being nervous. After a while, there was a knock on the door.

"I have brought the guests."

Kiba opened the door and brought in the guests in a gentleman's manner. The one who came in was a doll-like little girl who was wearing a dress worn by those princesses back in the Middle Ages. The reason why I thought she was like a doll was because she had a very beautiful face. Her eyes, nose, and even her mouth looked like those western dolls so she didn't seem like a human, and her beauty seemed like it was made by someone. You could say that she was overflowing with a very mysterious atmosphere. She had long wavy blonde hair, and it made her look like a doll even more. And the colour of her face was really bad, so she looked like a corpse. Unlike Gasper, who was pale because he had been staying inside hiding, she had a skin colour which didn't seem alive. Her very red eyes were darker than those of Gasper. Could I presume she was the same age as us from her appearance? Like Devils, Vampires also had a long lifespan, and I heard that they could change their appearance to their liking...

—!

I opened my eyes wide after looking at her feet. —There were no shadows. ...So she was a real Vampire then. No, that was obvious. I was just reminded of that once again. There was a man and woman wearing a suit behind the girl. Her escorts. Were they her bodyguards? Both of them had a bad skin colour, so they also had to be Vampires. I could sense a cold and sharp presence from them. Ah, I also realised one more thing. I couldn't feel even a glimpse of their aura. They didn't have any kind of lifeforce-like thing around them. The girl—the guest Vampire greeted Rias and us politely.

“How do you do, people of the Three Great Powers. I'm especially honoured to meet two of the little sisters of the Maous and the former Governor of the Fallen Angels.”

Being urged by Rias, the girl sat right across from Rias. She introduced herself before sitting.

“I am Elmenhilde Karnstein. Please call me Elmen.”

...It certainly was a name which sounded so exaggerating. It certainly had a noble ring to it. Sensei put his hand on his chin.

“...Karnstein. If I'm correct, it's one of the two big factions of Vampires, and it's a household which is ranked one of the highest among the Carmilla Faction. It's been a while meeting a Pure-Blood and noble Vampire...”

Carmilla Faction... Yes, I had Rias and Sensei teach me about the world of Vampires to a certain degree beforehand. Vampires were residents of darkness that had existed since ancient times. They had similar rankings and weaknesses like High-class Devils. However, Devils were residents of the Underworld. Vampires were beings that lived in the darkness of the human world. They might seem similar, but their views and culture differed a lot. Devils and Vampires have continued living by using humans while not stimulating each other's territory. The part where Heaven and the servants of God were our natural enemies was the same, but both sides had distanced themselves from each other while not fighting together. The Devils had settled down on the three-side battle this summer by agreeing to the alliance of the Three Great Powers, but the Vampires weren't even trying to sit down for negotiation. Because of that, they still had quarrels with Heaven and the warriors of the Church.

—Well, I will end my basic information about Vampires here, but the problem was about the two big factions. Apparently, an incident which split the world of Vampires occurred several hundred years ago. That gave birth to the Tepes Faction and the Carmilla Faction. The Tepes Faction follows the principle of men standing above women, while the Carmilla Faction follows the principal of women standing above men. I didn't understand it that well, but in order to produce Pure-Blood Vampires, the ones who had been arguing a very long time between choosing a female True Ancestor and a male True Ancestor had finally split into two groups several hundred years ago after their sides had been splitting away. If it was just like how Sensei explained, then that made her, Elmenhilde, a Vampire from the Carmilla Faction who followed the principle of women standing at the top. Elmenhilde was sitting on the chair. After confirming that Akeno-san had given her tea, Rias asked her a very straightforward question from the beginning.

“Elmenhilde, I feel bad asking you this from the beginning, but I will ask you. Can you tell us your reason for wanting to meet us? What is the reason for the Carmilla Faction, who has avoided contact with us, to suddenly come out in front of the Gremory, Sitri and former Governor Azazel?”

Elmenhilde closed her eyes, and then opened them slowly after nodding her head.

“—I would like to borrow Gasper Vladi.”

——!?

...We became speechless at the answer we didn't expect, and could only be shocked about it. Everyone's gaze gathered at Gasper. ...Gasper was trembling over his whole body. It seemed like he didn't expect himself being appointed. No, we also didn't expect that they were after Gasper. —Then, the thing which appeared immediately to

my head was Gasper's ability which had just awakened... No, no, even so, why were they seeking for it? I had many questions about it, but Sensei asked Elmenhilde.

"A straightforward answer to a straightforward question. Sorry, but I will have you explain things to us by steps. — What happened in the world of Vampires?"

Elmenhilde spoke.

"A certain incident happened in our world of Vampires which can cause the sense of our values to crumble. You may already know it because of the information being leaked out, but a half appeared from the Tepes's side that possesses a Longinus."

...Ah, that. If I remembered right, I was told that a Longinus possessor appeared in the world of Vampires and that it was causing a stir... So it had to do with that. This will be more complicated than I thought. So it didn't appear within the Carmilla Faction that she belonged to, but in the Tepes Faction, huh. So the half-Vampire from the Tepes's side was a Longinus possessor. But the one who came to talk to us is from Carmilla's side. ...This was troublesome, this definitely was troublesome! Sensei asked while narrowing his eyes.

"So what is the Longinus that the Tepes's side is in possession of?"

Longinus... After the monster crisis, I was told about Longinus from Sensei. Among the total thirteen Longinus whose locations were known were Boosted Gear and Regulus Nemea from the Devils' side. In other words, that would be me and Sairaorg-san's Pawn, Regulus. And in Heaven's side, there was the Joker who was said to be in possession of the second strongest Longinus, Zenith Tempest, and from the Fallen Angels' side, there was Canis Lycaon, also known as Slash Dog, who was under Sensei. And in the Magician association, there was Absolute Demise which was within the organisation of Mephisto Pheles, who had a good relationship with the Three Great Powers. Among the group of outlaw Stray Magicians who had distanced themselves from the Three Great Powers and who were seen as threats from many Magicians, there was Incinerate Anthem. Besides that, there was Divine Dividing that Vali possessed, and there were the trio of True Longinus, Annihilation Maker and Dimension Lost from the Hero Faction of Khaos Brigade. Except, since the Hero Faction had ceased their actions, the whereabouts of those three were unknown. ...What was creepy was that those three Longinus hadn't reached the stage where they transfer to a new host despite leaving their bodies...

Those were the ones which were currently known. Even so, they said that they had confirmed the ones mentioned recently, so you could tell how hard it was for them to find the whereabouts of the possessors. There were three of them where the whereabouts are unknown. Even the Three Great Powers were having a hard time finding Sephiroth Graal, Innovate Clear and Telos Karma. ...From what I had heard, it seemed like Ajuka Beelzebub-sama had found the whereabouts of Innovate Clear...but, he was still investigating for more accurate information. With that, there were be two of them that the Three Great Powers didn't know about its whereabouts, Sephiroth Graal or Telos Karma. The ones that the Vampires had in their possession should be either of them. Then, Elmenhilde answered like this.

"——It's Sephiroth Graal."

The moment we heard her answer, Sensei made an even more serious face.

"Out of all things, it had to be the one of the relics, the Holy Grail, huh."

Relics... The Holy Spear that Cao Cao possessed was that. Among the Longinus, there were other relics, and I heard that Sephiroth Graal and Incinerate Anthem were ones as well. The former was the Holy Grail. The latter was the Holy Cross. Sensei continued.

"The one used in the Last Supper, the one which received the blood of Jesus. The Holy Grail has many legends. But that one which is a Sacred Gear isn't a normal Holy Grail. It's a Longinus, and a masterpiece which can turn around the principal of life. ...I think your name was Elmenhilde, but what are the immortal Vampire seeking for by using that?"

"A body which will absolutely not die. Even if they have their hearts nailed, even having a holy cross put in front of them, even if they don't sleep in their coffins, even if they walk under the sun, those from the Tepes side have gained a body which can't be destroyed. No, to say it more precisely, they have gained a body which is hard to destroy. It seems like the power of the Holy Grail is still incomplete."

She also continued by saying this.

"They are trying to become a being with no weaknesses. They have abandoned their pride as Vampires. Not only that, they are also attacking our side. There have already been casualties. We will not forgive their actions. We are planning to execute them as fellow Vampires."

Elmenhilde's irises were dark and filled with hatred.

It seemed like she found the actions of the Tepes side, which rejected the way Vampires have to live, and their assaults really annoying. Well, it was an appropriate response since they were attacked.

"So the Carmilla side doesn't like the ways of the Tepes, side which rejected the living ways of Vampires and the assault they started. Well, anyone would get pissed if they are attacked."

Elmenhilde nodded to Sensei's words.

"Yes, that's exactly correct. And our aim is—"

She then moved her gaze to Gasper. The red eyes and red eyes met with each other.

"To stop the Tepes side which is causing ruckus by borrowing the power of Gasper Vladi who is standing over there."

...Like I thought, it was getting messy. So they were planning to make our Gya-suke take part in the war between Vampires...! Rias asked calmly.

"...Does that have to do with how Gasper is a Vampire from the House of Vladi from the Tepes side?"

...She said it in her usual elegant manners, but I could tell. Rias was getting furious about this inside her, bit by bit. She was asked to have her adorable servant borrowed for the war of the Vampires who never responded to her negotiation. For Rias, who had strong affection, there was no way she would keep quiet about this. But in order to grasp their true intentions, she was acting calm on the outside to understand about Gasper and was trying to ask them about it. Having seen her up close till now, even I started to realise her changes. Elmenhilde put on a meaningful smile at Rias's question.

"That will also be a part of it, Rias Gremory-sama. But what we are truly craving for is Gasper Vladi's power. We have heard that the power sleeping inside him has awakened."

——!

From where did they hear that Gasper unleashed an insane power? No, I still hadn't seen it myself, but it had to be amazing, right? He defeated Georg of the Hero Faction who was a possessor of a high-tier Longinus and a magic user. It was certain that his power was on a different level. They must have thought that they could make Gasper take on the enemy's Longinus possessor. Elmenhilde continued.

"We are planning to solve the dispute between Vampires by using the strength of Vampires only. For that reason, we would like to borrow the power of Gasper Vladi."

They wanted to stop the dispute of the Vampires using Gasper's power? I knew that they were going through difficulties...but speaking honestly, there was no direct connection to us. Gasper was formerly from the House of Vladi, but now he was part of the Gremory after being kicked out of his home, and we didn't want to get involved in the conflict between Vampires either. ...Peace was the best. If Gasper would be in danger, then it was a different story. No, judging from this flow, it seemed like it would also make Gasper involved... Maybe instead of the Carmilla side, the Tepes side will come and say 'Gasper was originally from our household. Return him. We will use him in the dispute!'...? ...Since battles which gave me bad impressions had been continuing, my brain had adapted to think in a negative way. Rias asked while narrowing her eyebrows.

"...What is that power? Do you know what that is?"

She got right to the point. The truth we wanted to know. Now, how will you answer? Our gazes gathered at the Vampire girl.

"...There are very rare times when those born from our kind are born with the ability to surpass that of normal Vampires. We mostly see this from the half-Vampires in this era. Gasper Vladi is also be one of them. We, who are from the Carmilla side, don't have enough information to investigate about it. But there may be information which may become a hint in the Tepes side."

So even from the Vampires, Gasper's ability was abnormal. Rather, if we wanted to know more about it, it looked like we had to visit the House of Vladi. Elmenhilde continued.

"Now, about the Holy Grail which is the problem. Of course the possessor is those we despise, a half, but her name is Valerie Tepes. She was born from the House of Tepes."

Hearing that name, one person made a response. —It was Gasper. He had a face where he looked like he was about to cry.

“...Valerie...? L-Lies! Valerie wasn't born with a Sacred Gear like I was!”

Gaspar, who had been trembling with fear until now, argued against Elmenhilde as soon as he heard the name Valerie like a different person. ...Was it an important person for this guy? Elmenhilde answered.

“Even if it doesn't activate when you are born, a Sacred Gear can activate with a certain trigger. You should also know that, correct? Valerie, she was no different. We can presume that she awakened her powers recently and attained the ability.”

Certainly, I also had my Sacred Gear activate this year. Sacred Gears could be things which awakened without you realising it, and I heard that the age of the time it awakened would differ by each person. Sensei narrowed his eyes and crossed his arms.

“I can presume that they hid it before we and Heaven's side observed and confirmed it. Geez, they are pathetic. For the Vampires who detest holy power to not abandon the relic Longinus, the Holy Grail, and not even handing it to us but hiding it.”

“I also have the same opinion.”

Elmenhilde agreed to Sensei's words.

Elmenhilde looked at Gaspar. This time, Gaspar looked straight at her while feeling scared.

“Gaspar Vladi, don't you hold a grudge against the House of Vladi and the Tepes side which exiled you? With your current power, I think it will be possible.”

“...I-I'm satisfied with just being able to stay here. Just being able to stay with Buchou and everyone—”

“—Hybrid.”

As soon as he heard that, Gaspar started to gradually put on a gloomy face. Seeing that, Elmenhilde continued.

“—Mixed breed, the hated child, a fake, what kind of names were you called when you were living in Vladi's household, I wonder? The only one you were able to exchange your emotions with was the half from House of Tepes, Valerie, correct? Inside the castle where the House of Tepes imprisoned the half they had gathered for a temporary amount of time, I was told that you and Valerie worked together and helped each other. Don't you want to stop Valerie?”

Sister Griselda, who was silent till now, spoke.

“Your kind detests and hates the children who are half, but wasn't it the selfish action of Vampires that originally took humans, used them as their pleasure, and made them bear a child? The ones who had our people eaten and made countermeasures for it while having regrets were us, the people from the Church. If it's possible, I will prefer for your kind to not get involved with humans as mere hobbies.”

Even though she was saying it in a gentle manner, her words had so much hate in them. She was saying it without breaking her smile! To be expected from Irina's boss and Xenovia's former guardian! Elmenhilde put her hand to her mouth and smiled.

“I'm sorry about that. But hunting humans is the true nature of our kind, Vampires. I think Devils and Angels are the same, correct? To attain a price by granting human wishes, and having the need for the beliefs of a human. Aren't we supernatural beings the weak which can only live by using humans as our source?”

Yes, Devils weren't justice, since there were those who were made into a servant through an unreasonable trade. But I quit being a human. I could only live as a Devil. ...But I was going back and forth between the life of a human and a Devil. This Vampire girl was completely from the supernatural beings' side. She was very sure that humans were sources. So it was not an equal trade, but a one-sided slaughter! ...I didn't like this girl's eyes. The eyes she was looking other beings with besides themselves looked very discriminating. She even called Gaspar, who was a half, a 'hated child' and 'mixed breed'... If I remembered right, pure Vampires had stronger obsession towards bloodline and rankings than Devils. I see, I could understand that very well by looking at this Elmenhilde. —To them, the world was a place where there were only two species of 'pure Vampires' and 'others'. Elmenhilde called the Vampire who was acting as her bodyguard standing behind her, and she took out something that looked like a document.

“I didn't come here empty-handed. I have prepared a document.”

Elmenhilde handed the document to Sensei. Sensei, who received the document, sighed after looking through the document.

“...A peace conference with the Carmilla side, huh?”

[—!?!]

Everyone who was gathered in this place became shocked with Sensei's words! ...So they brought a trump card up their sleeve for having a diplomatic relation...! They didn't respond until now, and they made an action like this at this timing! Sensei put the document on the table, and then asked Elmenhilde.

“So then. This meeting today is for diplomatic reasons, and you were dispatched to us as a special envoy, right?”

Elmenhilde showed her smile at Sensei's question.

“Yes. Our Queen, Carmilla-sama, is saddened with the war we have been having with the Governor-sama of the Fallen Angels and the Church that has been going on for a long time, and she is saying that she wishes to have a truce.”

Sensei had veins appearing from his cheek because of the way Elmenhilde was handling this.

“You are getting the steps wrong, Missy. Normally, the treaty for the peace comes first, and the thing about the Longinus comes after that. This just seems like you are saying that you won't agree to peace unless we help you out.”

Sister Griselda, who narrowed her eyes mysteriously, continued after that with a calm behaviour.

“We, the Three Great Powers that have been asking and agreeing for peace with each faction without any discrimination, will certainly have a weaker persuasive power towards other factions if we don't agree to this term. They will think that ‘So even if they are asking for peace with each faction, they untie the tension with those they choose’. And instead of ceasing war, it's to have a truce. It feels like they have aimed at our weakness.”

...

W-What a bunch of cowardly guys...! They came to ask for Gasper by using the negotiation as their shield...! If we didn't agree, not just Rias, but her brother Sirzechs-sama would also lose trust from others! Rias had increased her meritorious deeds by being the Switch Princess and by fighting terrorists. If she was to decline this offer, wouldn't it be weird if it affected our actions from now!? Rias's body was shaking with rage. Sona-kaichou held Rias's hand, and she shook her head to calm her down. Elmenhilde said it while lifting her mouth as if she was truly happy.

“Please be rest assured. The fight between Vampires will be solved only with Vampires. If you lend us Gasper Vladi, we won't ask for more. We will also prepare a connection with you and the House of Vladi along with taking part in the truce.”

I wasn't able to hold myself, so I asked.

“Hold on. Even if we hand Gasper over to you, are you even going to return him back to us safely? No, we still haven't said we will hand him over to you! But still, I want to ask about that!”

Of course. If there wasn't any insurance that they were planning to return Gasper safely after we sent him to the dispute, I won't...there's no way I will allow that...! He's my precious junior, damn it...! Elmenhilde looked at me with discriminating eyes.

“You are the servant of the High-class Devil Rias Gremory-sama, the Sekiryuutei, correct? Do you have the right to speak to me, who is a special envoy? Even if you are the Sekiryuutei, a mere servant that doesn't have any qualifications has no right to question me, correct?”

—!]

My rage exploded inside me. I wanted to shout out ‘Don't screw around!’ right this moment! But if I did that, everything would be a waste.....! S-Shit! This bitch...! Just how much...! Well, I didn't have any qualifications! But Gasper was...! —They were saying ‘We will agree with the truce, so hand Gasper over!’ while looking down on us, you know!?

Kiba stopped me with his hand, and looked at Rias. Rias made a deep sigh and was trying to calm herself down. Sensei said it on behalf of Rias.

“Having a truce with the Vampires by sacrificing one of the servants of the next heiress of the House of Gremory, huh. If I have to sum up what you guys from the Carmilla side are trying to say, this is what you are saying, right?”

Sensei said what Rias wanted to say by understanding how she was feeling about all of this.

“It's not decided that he will be sacrificed. There is nothing better but to have this settled immediately.”

Elmenhilde started saying some crap.

"You don't want us to interfere, right? How about acting as the middleman or helping one of the sides? You need Gasper because you are lacking power, right?"

Elmenhilde shook her head to Sensei's suggestion and answered.

"No, we will settle our problem with our own hands. If you want to be an advisor, then be my guest."

...They were doing as they pleased. They really were selfish. So this was a Pure-Blood Vampire. They didn't care about the world besides theirs. And if it was a half, they would even use them despite being someone born from the enemy's side. Even if they persecuted them, they would still use them if they were half-Vampires. ...They were so consistent. It was unfair...! As she looked around us, Elmenhilde stood.

"This is all I have to say. It was fortunate that I was able to meet you tonight. Above all else, I thank your great kindness of allowing a Vampire into your territory, Rias Gremory-sama."

Rias put on a mad expression at Elmenhilde's cold smile which looked so fake. Her eyes were filled with rage.

"...Yes, I'm glad that I was able to have this precious meeting. After all, I understood very well about your kind."

"Then, farewell. I will leave my servant in this area. If something happens, please consult that person. —Now then, I will be waiting for your good reply."

She didn't even flinch with Rias's last sarcasm, and the resident of darkness left this old school building...

Part 5

The meeting ended, and about ten minutes have passed. The one who burst out by smacking the table was Xenovia.

"...I sure can't come to like Vampires like always..."

She endured it well, Xenovia that is. She was clearly giving out hostility towards them besides me. Sister Griselda drank from the cup, and then said it.

"If it was you in the past, you would have gone cutting at them with Durandal. You endured it well. You sure have grown."

Having the Sister praise her, Xenovia put on a complicated expression. But what Xenovia said was appropriate. Vampires, I couldn't come to like them! What was that!? I couldn't think of them as the same beings as Gasper! This guy was a lively guy who spent his time with a box brightly, but they...were just an embodiment of weird pride and sarcasm! Sona-kaichou, who was the only one capable of remaining calm, asked Buchou.

"What will you do? You probably won't be able to ignore their cooperation. If that happens, you will end up having to send Gasper-kun off. If that happens...at the worst case, you might lose him."

Gasper put on a complicated expression towards Sona-kaichou's clear answer. Of course. He probably didn't think that he would be used for a diplomatic reason. But it was a situation where it was hard to decline. I didn't want to say it, but since we were spreading word about making peace, we couldn't possibly decline the offer of the Vampires that were willing to take part in it. Even from the world's perspective, being able to have a truce with half of the Vampires by having Gasper alone as the requirement for it, it must be a bargain which was cheap, and yet still gave a substantial benefit... I was feeling mortified, and if possible, I wanted to decline this. But this happened to be the worst situation for the Gremory since there wasn't a reason to decline this. Gasper took a big breath, and spat it out with a trembling voice.

"I-I'm going."

——!

For this guy to say that he was going by himself... But his eyes were filled with determination. Gasper continued.

"...I'm not planning to return to the world of Vampires once again, because to me, this is my home. B-But I want to save Valerie! She...I am indebted to her. Thanks to her, I was able to escape from the castle and was able to reach this place. ...I have died once, but even so, I have a kind master, a Senpai I can rely on, and friends who will play with me... I was able to become this happy, but thinking that she is the only one continuing to receive a painful experience is... I am sure she is receiving unreasonable treatment!"

Gasper put on a manly face, and then told Rias.

"I want to save Valerie! And I will not die! I will save Valerie, and then come back here!"

...Good reply. He had a manly look in his eyes and face, this Danball Vampire that is. He knew how to finish it in a good way now. I patted Gasper's head without saying anything. My junior. Like I thought, you are a guy from the Gremory. After hearing Gya-suke's determination, Rias stood up.

"—I will be going there. This time, I plan to sit down and talk with those from the House of Vladi. First, I will go personally and see the situation over there with my own eyes. I think it won't be late if the dispatch of Gasper comes after that."

There were flames inside Rias's irises. So our master would be visiting them personally, huh. Gasper's words must have lit a flame inside her. Yeah, a fire lit inside me as well! To save a girl who took care of him in the past! For a guy, there wasn't a more serious situation than this!

"Then we will also—"

I tried to make a suggestion, but Rias shook her head.

"No, I want Ise and everyone to remain on standby. There might be a case where something happens."

"...And what do you mean by that?"

Rias put two fingers up to my question.

"For the precondition, it's appropriate for me, who is Gasper's master, to visit them personally, and it won't be rude towards the other party. And there are two main reasons as to why I'm having all of you remain on standby here. First reason is having all of you being able to take action without me if an incident were to occur. There might be those who would attack this place, so members who can handle them should stay here. For the second reason..."

Rias looked at all of her servants.

"If something were to happen to me over there, I will need reinforcements."

Kiba asked.

"So, Buchou, you are predicting that something might occur, or that you might get dragged into something over there, correct?"

"That's right, Yuuto. It will be the best if nothing happens, but judging from past events, there is a chance that we will get dragged into it judging from the problems the Vampires are having. So it won't be weird to take actions while anticipating it."

"Then isn't it better for all of us to go with you from the start...?"

I asked her once again, but like I thought, Rias didn't shake her head vertically.

"They will be on alert if we were to go there with all of us. 'Are they trying to solve it by using force?'. They will think like that and it will be harder to negotiate with them, so it will be appropriate for me to go there first. ...It was them who didn't even try to listen to our words, so it is a must for me to go there. ...Am I being naïve?"

She tried to get confirmation from Azazel.

"No, it's not a bad way of thinking for a King from the brute-power group. However, I feel uneasy if you are going there alone. For this incident, it seems like the secrets of both the Tepes and Carmilla side will be connected. And the discussion we had before had many unexplained parts."

"Of course, I will keep as minimal a force for my guards as I can. I'm planning to take only my Knight. Okay, Yuuto?"

"Yes, please leave it to me."

So Kiba would be escorting her. Yeah, then it shouldn't be a problem.

"I can feel relieved if Kiba is going."

That was my answer. I knew this guy's strength more than anyone. I had exchanged fists with Kiba many times, you know? He was Rias's genuine knight. Sensei said it while making a sound with his neck.

"—I will also go then. I will meet Carmilla first. I will at least make sure that we can dispatch several members of the Gremory group for the dispute of the Vampires. I'm planning to take several souvenirs. Instead, Rias should head to the House of Vladi directly. If Rias shows up in the Carmilla side, they will be on more alert."

He was trying to grant their requirement by taking a souvenir with him. To be expected from Sensei. He won't fall without doing anything! If several of us were able to take action, then this would become a different story. We could reduce the danger that would fall on Gasper, and we might be able to save that Vampire woman who has the Holy Grail.

"But won't they become more cautious if Sensei were to meet them personally? You are an important person from the Fallen Angels' side."

Shouldn't you bring someone with you? That was what I thought.

"It will be much better than to have Heaven and the Church, that is, the Angels, who are still fighting against them, go. Rather, me, who is knowledgeable about Sacred Gears, going there will be a better key for the negotiation."

"Ah, you mean about the Holy Grail!"

"Yeah, that's it. Even for the guys who came today, the main person they came to talk to is me."

Sensei then told the Sister and Irina, the staff from Heaven.

"Irina, Sister Griselda, tell Michael what happened here. The Holy Grail and the Vampires, it smells too fishy."

The Sister nodded.

"Yes, I understand. Michael-sama said we will be sending our Joker if something happens, and I hope we can avoid the worst case scenario."

Sensei became a bit shocked at Sister Griselda's words.

"...The Joker, can you send him off so easily like that? Rather, the way you cope with us has increased. Well, it's normal since outrageous guys have been after us. Since the Holy Grail will be involved, we might ask help from the Joker. The Holy Grail and Vampires. Normally, it's the holy and darkness which can't coexist. Most likely, something not good will happen. I want to make sure the casualty rate remains as low as possible."

"Yes, for that reason, it is the intention of the Four Great Seraphs-sama to use the man of leisure, Joker, as much as possible. Seriously, that child always wanders off somewhere when he has time to find delicious cuisines and we can't contact him at all. He is a child who is more troublesome than Xenovia who is standing over there."

The Joker. I hadn't met him, but was he an acquaintance of Sister? Well, leaving that aside, I needed to put everything that happened together in my head.

It was decided that Rias, Kiba and Sensei would be going to the Vampires' side. The other members, including Gasper, would remain on standby in this town. If something happened to Rias's side, it was planned that we would join them.

Though I hope nothing happened... From what Sensei said, it seemed like a battle would occur. And we would be placing ourselves in there...? I was hoping there would be no casualties, but it seemed like it wouldn't be that easy... What I could do was shake off all the danger which would fall on Rias and my comrades with all my strength. My spirit was heating up, but it was a meeting which took place late at night which I have started to feel uneasy about—

Part 6

Upon finishing the meeting, I had Azazel-sensei look at my gauntlet in another room of the old school building after everything ended. After the battle against the Hero Faction in the Underworld, Ddraig had increased his time to sleep, and the true power of my Sacred Gear couldn't be unleashed. Just like this, I was having Sensei look at the condition of my Sacred Gear regularly.

"...The glow of the gauntlet's jewel is still lacking. It means he used that much power to recreate your body."

"...U-Umm, Sensei. Will his condition continue to stay like this?"

"No, if he can recover the power which he used to resurrect you, he can revert back to his former self. It will be okay to think that he is just sleeping and is replenishing his stamina. More than that, I need to talk to you about your life force."

"...You said something which isn't comprehensible is occurring, right?"

Sensei nodded to my words. Yes, by using a part of Great Red's body along with the power of Ophis and Ddraig, I had attained a new body. Because of that, it seemed like my life force, which had been reduced in my old body, couldn't be analysed with the current data.

"The power of the two, Great Red and Ophis, who are the legendary Dragons among legendary Dragons has been mixed after all. The response of your life force either becomes zero or turns into infinite, which isn't measurable, so I can't tell what is going on at all. The zero probably represents illusion, which is Great Red. The infinite will obviously means infinite, which is Ophis."

"Does that mean my life force is going back and forth between dying and reviving?"

"Even that isn't known. There has never been a case like this. The current you is a Reincarnated Devil who reincarnated from a humanoid Dragon. Except, there is a way to stabilise it. Rather, there has been result. You understand that yourself, right?"

Like Sensei says, I was still having Rias and Akeno-san scatter the Dragon's power inside me, and I was still receiving the healing treatment with Senjutsu from Koneko-chan, so for an unknown reason, the response of my life force returned to normal for a temporarily time. Sensei continued.

"Anyway, I'm not sure what will happen with the response of zero and infinite. Suddenly, your life force can become empty, and it can even overheat by increasing drastically. In other words. Having Rias and others bringing back your life force to normal is the best."

In other words, I had to receive treatment from the girls like before. Gufufu! I was so glad! I was glad that a wonderful time like that wouldn't have to disappear! Yeah, having Rias and Akeno-san suck it with their mouths, and hugging the small Koneko-chan. I even wanted to thank the True Dragon and Dragon God because I wouldn't have to lose that time of happiness! No, I would put my hands together and pray in front of Ophis once I returned home! The sucking techniques of Rias and Akeno-san were improving daily...and Koneko-chan also became daring since she said 'Not wearing clothing and having our bodies directly touching each other might improve the effect!' —! Then, that phrase came back to my mind... Great Red-sama, please give me a break! Would it make a similar cry when I saw it again!? It would be embarrassing! Sensei was making a bitter smile while he was looking at me, who was having a hard time with hallucinations.

"You have to stay even more calm and fight. You can do it if you try, you know? It's your weak point to lose your calm and act differently. You know how you did a thing which totally wasn't like you in the Bael match against that Queen by being pissed? If it was the usual you, wouldn't you have used Dress Break on her and observed her naked body? You probably got heated up with having your comrades being taken down...but if you do that against someone who is stronger than you, you know that you'll get killed?"

I received a warning from Sensei. ...Yeah, I had a habit of losing my calm and going forward sometimes. It was my bad habit. ...So I should have defeated the Bael's Queen with Dress Break? When I thought like that, I suddenly got depressed because I couldn't see her naked body... That was the best thing I was capable of doing at that time.

"Well, you are a kid who's only seventeen years old. Rias, you, and everyone else in the group are still young. If you say it's normal for you guys to still be incomplete, then it's a normal thing."

So would I be able to calm down if my sexual desire also became that of an adult? I couldn't even imagine it! I also wanted to be lecherous even ten years or hundred years later! It was certain that Rias's breasts would become beautiful after ten years! Ugggh. I should think about that later. I then asked Sensei.

"Sensei, when are you planning to leave?"

"For now, I will discuss it with Rias first. This is a good opportunity, so I will negotiate with the Vampire side, or else it will become troublesome."

If it was possible, I wanted to pray that nothing would happen. Since Kiba and Sensei would be with her, Rias probably wouldn't be dragged into the worst situation... Even so, I was still worried. Rather, I hoped this meeting with the Vampires would head towards the most peaceful direction there was. Actually, we still had the thing about the pact with Magicians, but it seemed like the Gremory group always encountered troubles. ...Ddraig, please return to your usual self. Like I thought, I won't be able to give my all without you. My partner. Let's go straight ahead together again! While I was staring at my gauntlet as if I was speaking to it, Sensei sighed.

"Take care of the legendary Dragon, okay? Even if what's left is his soul, you do know that he is a valuable legendary Dragon-sama right? Do you know just how many Dragons there are that haven't even been sealed into a Sacred Gear, and even the whereabouts of their soul is unknown?"

E-Even if you say that... Of course, I will take care of Ddraig! W-Well, I did trouble him quite a lot with all that Oppai Dragon stuff! Sensei pounced his fist on the palm of his other hand as if he remembered something.

“...Oh, I should tell you this as well. I received some information from Vali.”

“From Vali?”

“You do know that he is travelling around the world investigating mysterious things, right?”

Just like Azazel-sensei who raised him, I heard that the Hakuryuukou-sama, who took interest in and investigated things, was travelling around the world and looking at mysterious things.

“It seems like he encounters the members of the Khaos Brigade quite often at his destinations.”

“But that isn’t to execute the Vali Team who became ‘wanted’, right?”

Vali was in a situation where he was being chased from the Khaos Brigade for the crime of sending Ophis to us without any permission. Rather, he was originally on bad terms with the other factions of Khaos Brigade, and I heard that they didn’t like him. Sensei continued.

“What Vali was searching for was...a variety of brutal monsters that are thought to be extinct. It seems like he was searching for them with uncertain evidence of them being alive. If his journey to find strong foes reached even that level, even I start to think of them as a group who is very bored with nothing to do. And this was where it started. Among the extinct monsters, it seems like besides Vali and his group, the members of Khaos Brigade, who are the groups of Magicians, seemed to be mainly coming to the region where the extinct Dragons originally lived. ...It’s not once or twice that they encountered each other, so it isn’t a coincidence.”

“The extinct Dragons... What kind of famous Dragons are there among them?”

“I’m not sure if you know them, but I guess it would be the [Crescent Circle Dragon] Crom Cruach, [Diabolism Thousand Dragon] Aži Dahāka, and the [Eclipse Dragon] Apophis. It sure brings back memories. They were quite dangerous. They were either sealed or killed for being too brutal. Other than them, there were Níðhöggr from the Norse, and the ferocious Grendel that is said to have been slain by the original Beowulf. There was Ladon, who was protecting the legendary fruit and was also a Dragon, but was defeated by the original Heracles. And in Japan, there was Yamata-no-Orochi.”

They were mostly names which I hadn’t heard before. The ones I had heard of were Yamata-no-Orochi and Crom Cruach, though I’d only heard the names. So there are that many extinct strong Dragons, huh.

“...Especially Crom Cruach, Aži Dahāka and Apophis, who are Evil Dragons that are now extinct. Vritra is also an Evil Dragon, but he’s cute if you compare him to the three I just named.”

Evil Dragons... Just hearing it scared me. But they were extinct, huh.

“Those three, were they that dangerous?”

“Even Vritra had his soul cut into many pieces and was sealed into Sacred Gears, right? Evil Dragons were so powerful that you would have to do at least that much in order to completely annihilate their existence. Vritra regained consciousness by having the Sacred Gears merge. It makes me wonder just how tough those Evil Dragons are. And among them, the ones who were the most brutal and were standing at the top were Crom Cruach, Aži Dahāka and Apophis.”

Wow, even Vritra-san gave me the creeps, but they were above him huh. ...They seemed scary.

“...Are they stronger than the Two Heavenly Dragons?”

“The Red and the White one in their primes will definitely be stronger. But all the Dragons did try to avoid fighting the Evil Dragons as much as possible. I heard that they found it really troublesome to fight the Evil Dragons and those affiliated with them. So that means they are bad news if you confront them.”

...Touching an Evil Dragon would bring misfortune, huh. Sensei continued while putting his hand on his chin.

“But it’s been a while talking about the extinct Dragons, especially the Evil Dragons. But you understand it, right? Dragons that had strength and liked to go wild were eliminated without exception. Tiamat, who is said to be the strongest among the Five Great Dragon Kings, must have a good point then. It seems like she has blended in well with the current world and is living as she likes.”

Dragons which go wild, huh. Ddraig and Albion were also one of them. And they went too wild, so they were taken down by the Three Great Powers.

"I prefer a Dragon to stand tall and with dignity like old man Tannin. He seems like a Dragon King, and I think he looks cool."

Yeah, old man Tannin seemed like the king of Dragons the most out of all the Dragons I have met. I gained respect towards him when I saw his posture of using his body to protect those Dragons! Sensei also agreed to my opinion.

"Yeah, you are right. It won't be a waste to hang around with that guy among the currently active Dragons. That's what a king of Dragons is supposed to be. A Dragon like that doesn't exist anywhere else, so observe him very well."

Yes, sir! In the future, I will become a splendid Dragon like old man...no, no, I will become a Harem King Dragon!

"Either way, it seems like the terrorist group is plotting something behind the scenes. ...Something bad might happen again, so just be prepared."

"Yes."

Sensei then rested his hand on my head.

"Sorry. I might end up having you guys get the bad end of the bargain again."

"Seriously, it sure does tire me out. But if they are to come at us, we will have to overcome them. We have always been going straight ahead like that."

I wasn't Koneko-chan, but we would just have to defeat them if they were to come at us. In order to survive, we would get even stronger, and I felt that we had to continue breaking all obstacles. That was the Gremory group! No, that was the Occult Research Club of Kuoh Academy!

"Well, I'm also busy with my own business in the Underworld as well."

"Did you start something?"

When I asked, Sensei suddenly put on a lecherous smile. Ah, that was the expression he had when he was plotting something.

"Yeah, I'm selling some territories."

Territories, huh.

"Even you know that the Underworld is split into two sides, those of the Devils and the Fallen Angels, right?"

"Yes."

"The truth is, comparing the Fallen Angel side to the Devil side, there are many free areas if you were to compare it with the number of residents. The ones living in the Fallen Angel sides are the pure Fallen Angels, the races which have a relation to the Fallen Angels, and the halves born between Fallen Angels and other races."

That's right. Sensei and the others who were part of the Grigori decided not to make the reincarnation system intentionally. They could make one if they tried, but they chose not to. According to Sensei, 'The evil Angels can just end with us'.

"—And so, by using the free lands, I'm making a resort area for the factions who made an alliance with us. We have a major plan for building businesses and casinos as well. We have already received an order from celebrities of different factions that want to have a mansion. I'm sure this will turn into quite a big industry. Well, the Fallen Angels also need a budget, the money, for many things, so we have to make business."

I-I see... The Fallen Angels, the Grigori, had started to do business, huh. I also heard that the majority of the source of income for the current Grigori came from their research. Sensei seemed like he would be suited to becoming a sales person. Then, there was a knock on the door. The one who entered was Rias.

"Azazel? Did you finish examining Ise? Let's make a schedule for leaving Japan."

"Oh, that's right. Rather, if we are going afar, there's something I have to tell Asia personally... Can Asia join?"

"Yes, I don't mind. It's about that, right? I'm glad it's going smoothly. Looks like having Ophis acting in the middle of it made it succeed."

Asia's case...? It really made me wonder. Was Ophis related to it? Like this, the discussion about the departure of Rias, Sensei and Kiba began.

Part 7

“...‘Even if you are the Sekiryuutei, a mere servant that doesn’t have any qualification has no right to question me, correct?’, huh.”

On the morning when the sun still hadn't risen. I was having a shower in the big bathroom located in the basement of the Hyoudou residence. I, who had woken up early, left my room and came here without waking up Rias and Asia. What I was recalling in my head was the thing the Vampire from the Carmilla Faction, Elmenhilde, said to me yesterday. ...A mere servant, the Sekiryuutei who didn't have the right to speak... She was right. Despite being called Oppai Dragon in the Underworld, I was just seen as the 'Sekiryuutei who is the servant of Rias Gremory' from the other factions. That was the reality and I had no comment regarding it. But when a diplomatic thing like this was involved, I was useless. I made a good relationship with Odin the geezer from the Northern Europe and the Youkai in Kyoto, but they were special. Normally, from the perspective of those from the other factions, I was just a mere Middle-class Devil that didn't have any right to speak. ...It wasn't like I was getting elated. But I was really frustrated that I couldn't be of any use to Rias and Sensei in situations like these. ...Damn it. My precious junior... Even if I wanted to protect my precious Gasper from the front, I needed something besides strength. ...No, I shouldn't get ahead of myself. I...should just protect my comrades when I have to. The diplomatic affairs were Sirzechs-sama and Sensei's job. I should just do what I could do. I bit my teeth due to frustration. The warm shower made me comfortable.

“I'm such a small guy. ...Shit, I will definitely become a High-class Devil... No, I made a promise with Kiba.”

That's right. He and I made that promise before the Middle-class Devil test. —That we would become Ultimate-class Devils.

“He will become the strongest Knight, and I will become the strongest Pawn—”

While I was voicing my determination, the door to the bathtub opened. When I turned around—Ravel, who had just entered and was naked, was standing theeeeeeeeeere!





“...Ise-sama.”

“Ah, sorry! Since it’s early in the morning, I didn’t think anyone was going to use it!”

I couldn’t do anything to help myself but apologise! That’s because the girls were basically using this bathtub! I used it as well, but I had the girls use it first! Of course, I did encounter them at times and bathed together! This would be rude to Ravel, who was a guest and who was also my junior! I should get out now! B-But the naked Ravel! Even though she had a small body, I could only say that she had a proper body of a woman...! Her oppai were quite big! Since she had her usual drill-like hair down, I had a different impression of her! No, this wasn’t the time for it! While I was thinking hard, Ravel said that to me.

“...I-I will wash your back!”

—!

My mind went blank at the words I didn’t expect to hear.

“...How is it?”

“Ah, yeah. I think it’s okay...”

Like that, I was having my back washed by Ravel. I had her rub my back with a towel. ...I thought she would have burned me with her wings of fire while saying ‘Ise-sama, you ecchi!’ ...And she happened to be quite daring this morning! I was getting confused! I didn’t want it to be silent while she was washing my back, so I started a conversation about the Vampires from yesterday.

“...That was my first time meeting a Pure-Blood Vampire...but there are still things I’m not sure about... I was able to become friends with Gasper-san right away...”

Ravel must have mixed feelings as well.

“...It’s also because they appointed Gasper-san who is my friend as the requirement for the deal, but also their ways of not caring about anyone besides them... But this may also be part of their politics. ...This certainly is a hard issue. Of course, I think it’s not a good idea to hand over Gasper-san recklessly to them. ...But Devils are also logical, and we put Pure-Bloods above everything else. I’m also a Pure-Blood Devil.”

That’s right. Ravel was a princess from the House of Phoenix. She was also the only daughter. She was a pure High-class Devil who had been living in the upper echelons of society.

“Even Pure-Blood Devils are able to choose their own friends. Koneko-san, Gasper-san and my classmates are also treating me well. Though, I’m sad that I have to hide my identity from them...I think it is a wonderful thing if you can choose friends despite being from a different race.”

She usually acted sharp, but she was actually an innocent good girl. But hiding your identity, huh. I couldn’t tell Motohama and Matsuda that I became a Devil, since telling them will put them in danger. At least, I wanted a peaceful time while I was at Kuoh Academy.

“But I realised just how small a person I am. I’m frustrated that I wasn’t able to talk back. I will become a more splendid Devil and make them acknowledge me. That is what I have started to think this time.”

I thought of aiming for the top once again. I wouldn’t allow it to end with them looking at me with those scornful eyes.

After having my back washed away with hot water, Ravel asked me.

“Ise-sama...h-have you decided about your future servants?”

“Servants? Ah, you mean when I become a High-class Devil? No, I still haven’t decided yet.”

You could have fifteen servants at most with Evil Pieces, right? I might end up using several of them depending on the person.

“Asia and Xenovia are saying that they will follow me, so there is a talk about having a trade with Rias, but even doing that isn’t decided. When I become independent, taking Asia and Xenovia with me will allow me to take actions right away, and it will become easier to do our job. But that will mean that three members will leave from Rias’s group right? How to fill those missing holes, even those parts aren’t clear yet.”

I then had a thought after saying that much. That having Ravel remaining as my manager even in the future would be a strong support. Ravel said it as if she responded to what I was thinking.

“...I want to continue being Ise-sama’s manager.”

“Yeah, I’m happy. That will sure be reliable.”

It happened when the atmosphere became good.

Splash!

There was someone who got out from the bath!

“I, went under for thirty minutes.”

...It’s Ophis. The Dragon God-sama got out from the bath. And did you go under there for thirty minutes!? And Ophis’s clothes weren’t in the changing room, you know!? Did you perhaps come from your room fully naked!? Give me a break, Dragon God-sama! Being naked inside the house also wasn’t allowed! You are a former Uroboros Dragon after all~!

“Fufufu, I can never win against Ophis-san.”

Ravel was also laughing. You are right. We sure are no match against our Mascot-sama, also known as Ophis-chan.

Magician for Khaos Brigade

“How is the final confirmation with the Stray Magicians?”

“There’s no problem. It seems like they will enjoy themselves as well. That’s why they were exiled from the association.”

“Hahaha, we are Magicians who are placing ourselves among the terrorists, so we aren’t in a situation where we can say that. —Anyway, is our leader really serious about doing this?”

“If that is the will of the ones at the top, then it can’t be helped.”

“This is crazy. Shalba and Cao Cao were also crazy, but the thing we are about to do this time is also insane.”

“The things that we always do are insane. We can’t turn back anymore.”

“The leader called and said that the preparations are set. Well, if they weren’t here, not just the organisation, but even we would have been finished. So we can only follow them. We can’t have a proper life. Then we have to enjoy it to our liking.”

“I’ve felt fate since we have encountered Vali and his group in the places we go to.”

“Dragons are said to gather strong foes. Then, they should just dance with each other. —Among Dragons that is.”

Life.3 Maverick Magicians

Part 1

Several days had passed since the Vampire guests came. It was planned for Rias to leave Japan late at night today. I heard that their destination was deep within the mountains of Romania. After finishing school, I thought of doing muscle training in the training room located in the basement of the Hyoudou residence until Rias finished packing. I thought I should train even a bit when I had time. The girls would be helping Rias prepare her things, so that would make me a nuisance since I was a guy. Since I became bored, I was thinking of doing some training. The joint training I had with Kiba and the others got halted ever since the meeting with the Vampires. Since the situation turned out like this, it got even harder to proceed with the selection of the Magicians' resume. ...Man, we really were busy. On top of that, we still had school during the day. We had a hard schedule. But I should at least do some muscle training so I wouldn't get dull. Actually, I was thinking about training my familiar as well. The magical airship which was flying around me, Skithblathnir! I gave it its name just recently. Fufufu, you know I gave it a cool name? When I entered the training room, Kuroka and Le Fay were already there before me. Both of them were sitting on the floor and had thick books opened out.

"What the, you guys were here?"

I said. These two really had been showing up sometimes at the Hyoudou residence ever since that day. Kuroka opened the fridge without our permission and had been drinking our milk and such! Mum got shocked, Rias got mad, and it turned into a mess all the time... Every time Kuroka did as she liked, Le Fay always bowed her head down desperately and apologised.

"Hello, we have excused ourselves in here."

Le Fay, who could greet people properly, was a good girl!

"Nyahaha, we have excused ourselves in here, nyan."

It isn't nyahaha... My house really was a nest place of the dark residents. There were so many varieties of races which included different types of Devils, an Angel, and the Dragon God-sama. It was too much of a chaos... I approached both of them, and what I observed was the books that were open, and that there was a diagram of a human body which had its hand emitting what looked like aura.

"What is this?"

When I asked, Kuroka said it while smiling.

"It's a book regarding life. It has things about aura, Senjutsu, Touki and such."

Hmm, so it was a book like that. But why was she reading it? Kuroka was an expert at those kinds of things, so wasn't it pointless reading those things now...? I tilted my head, and Le Fay said it while giggling.

"She's researching so she can teach her so-called sister more efficiently."

Oh, what was that!? So she was doing her role as the older sister! Kuroka said it while stroking the book's cover.

"The basic way of Senjutsu is to understand the ways of your own self, others, and the nature's ki. First of all, she needs to concentrate her mind, making a zazen posture quietly to release her ki, and then confirm the surrounding ki. It's the most basic of basics, and this is the best way to develop further. That's why I'm having her make a zazen posture first~."

"I thought you would make her do things which don't make any sense since this is you that we are talking about, but you are doing it more seriously than I expected."

When I teased her, Kuroka made an unpleasant face.

"Boo, you are so rude, nya. I'm a woman who does things seriously at proper times."

"Look who's talking. You tried to take me and Koneko-chan down with a poison mist before."

Her evilness was quite the thing when I first met her in the Underworld. She tried to defeat me, Rias and Koneko-chan without any mercy. Kuroka made a wink at my claim, and she tried to avoid it by acting cute.

"You know, I just became naughty because I was happy with my reunion with Shirone♪. Oops, lick, nyan♪. You know how you would get a heartbeat when a vicious person shows their kindness to you? Now then, has Sekiryuutei-chin got a heartbeat from me~?"

...I wouldn't deny it, but it was certain that you were a bad cat! And it wasn't 'Oops, lick, nyan'... You know that you had so much murderous intent back then? No, the thing was, telling this to her was useless. Actually, it made me think she acted like that with the flow of things and the atmosphere.

"You definitely have to reconcile your relationship with Koneko-chan."

Kuroka made sad eyes at my words. ...Stop that, you become just a normal beauty when you put on a serious face like that and it makes my heart skip a beat...

"You are right... However, it might be impossible. Even if it's something I did because of my concern for her, Shirone was cornered to a wall as a result because of what I did."

Just like Kuroka said, Koneko-chan received the guilt of the crime her sister did, which was killing her master. As a result, there was even a suggestion to execute her. The matter was solved because Sirzechs-sama defended Koneko-chan but...after that, I heard that it took a long time for her to heal mentally and for her to resume living normally. Koneko-chan, who had a scar in her heart, must be thinking that 'I was betrayed by my sister, and I was blamed for it by many adults'. And half of that was right.

"I don't know any hard stuff. But if that time comes, I will help you out to fix your relation with her."

They only had themselves as two sisters in this world. If they were going to get back together, then I wouldn't hold back from helping them. After all, I thought having Koneko-chan smile was the most important. Kuroka stared at me in wonder when I told her my thoughts.

"..."

She laughed as if she found it funny.

"Nyahahahaha. Yup, yup, I see now. I think I understand now, nya. Of course everyone would fall for you. Sekiryuutei-chin, you are more charming than normal handsome ones, you know?"

"Well, thank you for that. However, I would have preferred to be a normal handsome guy. Did you know that it's quite hard being a Sekiryuutei?"

It was like going through a death experience because so many strong foes attacked us. No, I actually had lost my body once because of it. Le Fay asked as if she was trying to change the subject.

"How is your negotiation with the Magicians going?"

"Well, so-so, I guess. There's such a huge number of them, and I'm taking some of them down by selecting them through their documents."

"I hear that the Sekiryuutei-sama is very popular."

Rias seemed to be the busiest, but she was continuing to do things about the Vampires and Magicians while doing her usual job, school affairs, and her role as our King. ...I really couldn't win against Rias. That person was carrying the most and the biggest burden out of all of us. Becoming a High-class Devil and the King was the same thing as carrying the issues of all your servants on your back. ...Would I be able to manage it when I became a High-class Devil? I was feeling uneasy about it, but I could only support Rias and charge forward for now. Talking about charging forward, there was the thing about Skithblathnir.

"Hey, if I was to learn magic from you, Le Fay, will I be able to acquire the ability to use it?"

I asked Le Fay. My familiar, the Skithblathnir, was a magical ship. I should also put some knowledge about magic into my head even if it was only a bit. Even more so if I was to have a relationship with a Magician. Le Fay nodded.

"I don't know what kind of magic you want to use, but if you are a Devil, you are adapted to use special powers more than average people, so I think it is possible for you to acquire them depending on how hard you work. By the way, it's the basics, but you do know the differences between demonic power and magic, yes?"

"Yeah, demonic power is something which you use to turn your imagination into actual form, and magic is something where you use equations to make supernatural phenomenon occur, right?"

"If you have to separate them simply, yes, that is correct. Demonic power requires the power to use imagination and the power to create, and it requires having good sense. Magic is just knowledge to control equations, and you need to use your head and need calculations, so they are different even though they may seem similar."

"Ah, for an idiot like me, that will be hard."

I couldn't calculate at all! Having control over the equations high enough to control supernatural phenomenon would be something I was bad at since I was only capable of controlling my demonic power to use Dress Break and Pailingual. Le Fay continued.

"I think it's possible to acquire something which doesn't need that much calculation. For example, a magic to warm up cold coffee, and also a simple magic to see through things."

——!

Magic to see through!? T-That's something which made me very interested in! If I acquired it properly, would I be able to see through wo-women's clothing!? My head was filled with seeing through clothes, and Kuroka added extra information.

"In other words, magic is something where you need knowledge and calculations to know 'If I do this, this will happen', nya. There are phenomena even I don't understand, and you can't make things like that occur using magic, nya. Though there are spellcasters who can use magic which isn't properly solved with their sense and talent. They are special people where you need to add the word 'super' ten times in front of the word 'rare'."

So the reason why Rossweisse-san used magic over demonic power was because it was easier for her to calculate rather than imagining. She certainly seemed like that type of person. Unng, it seemed like I could acquire them more than I expected. I wouldn't be able to use magic to the highest level. However, I might be able to acquire one or two things! Maybe I should seriously learn about magic by listening to the words of Rossweisse-san and Le Fay. As the result of it, it would be awesome if I could understand more about this Skithblathnir. Seeing the Skithblathnir, which was flying around me, Kuroka asked.

"By the way, has the name for this child been decided yet?"

Oh! I'm glad you asked!

"Yeah, this guy's name is Ryuuteimaru! You know how ships have names like that? And look at this thing over here!"

I had both of them look at the flag. It had the name 'Ryuuteimaru' written on it. Yeah, I wrote it using a brush! How's that, awesome, right!?

"Lame."

Kuroka rejected it right away! Shiiiiiiiiit! I thought really hard about it! No, this guy's name is Ryuuteimaru! I will definitely go with this! First inspiration is important! It happened just before I was about to argue back. Asia came into the training room.

"Ise-san."

"Oh, what's wrong Asia?"

"It seems like Rias-oneesama will be leaving Japan now."

——! It was several hours earlier than I expected. I did hear that they would be leaving tonight, but I never thought it would be this quickly. It was still evening.

"It seems like the weather is good again, and the small jet-plane is able to fly now."

I see. So that's why they were going earlier. I told Kuroka and Le Fay 'I will be away for a sec', and left the place together with Asia. The giant teleportation magic circle located in the basement of the Hyoudou Residence. All the members of the Occult Research Club and Sona-kaichou had gathered here to send off Rias, Kiba and Azazel-sensei. In order to visit the Vampires, the House of Vladi, they first had to go through many magic circles in Japan by starting from the Hyoudou Residence, and then they had to fly to Europe. Then, they had to charter a small jet-plane. The Vampires had their own barriers activated, and it seemed like they had to use several transport methods in order to enter their Kingdom. From what I heard, they would use magic circles to go to Europe, Romania. From there, they would use a small jet-plane, and then they had to transport using a car to drive up the mountain. It had to be located in a very remote place. So it was a world hidden from the towns belonging to humans. The reason why they were leaving earlier was because the weather was bad before, and therefore, it wasn't possible to fly the jet-plane, but the

weather was good now. Since the weather became better earlier than expected, they decided to fly while it was still good. Unlike the magic circle, which could be used to travel immediately, the weather would affect aeroplanes. So it couldn't be helped if the jet-plane couldn't fly because of it. Rias, Kiba and Azazel-sensei walked to the centre of the magic circle while carrying their luggage. The ones who would be visiting the House of Vladi directly were Rias and Kiba. The one who would be going there after contacting the Carmilla side was Sensei. Rias hugged Gasper.

"...I will be the one to protect you, so you don't have to worry about anything. I will also settle the matter with the House of Vladi."

"Yes, Buchou..."

Gasper also relaxed with Buchou's embrace. —The motherhood! Rias's motherhood was working! Rias looked at Akeno-san.

"Akeno, I will leave the rest to you."

"Yes, Rias."

I bumped my fist with Kiba's.

"I will leave Rias to you."

"Of course."

Yeah, it won't be a problem if I left it to this guy. Even if they got dragged into something troublesome, he would definitely protect Rias. Sensei, on the other hand, was giving his smiles to Sona-kaichou and Rossweisse-san.

"Then, I will leave the school to you two, President Sona♪, Ms. Rossweisse♪."

"Please come back quickly since we are busy." "

"Man, what a dull reaction."

Azazel-sensei seemed dissatisfied with the dull response of the two.

It was almost the end of the year, and the school's schedule was packed with preparing for the end of the year as well. Since one of the teachers would be gone during this time, maybe for the both of them who were deeply connected with school affairs, they couldn't be that happy to send Sensei off even if it was for diplomatic reasons. And it's this former Governor that we were talking about. It was possible that he would be having fun while he was gone... Sensei then told all of us.

"Those Magicians that are targeting those related to the Phoenix seem suspicious. Be careful."

[Yes!]

We replied back to him. Yeah, we will be cautious about that!

"Asia, Ophis."

Sensei called Asia and Ophis.

"Asia, it's about that thing, but what's left will depend on you. Go through with it while getting advice from Ophis. Ophis, I will leave it to you. If you, who is the Dragon God, are beside her, then it should be okay. I will leave it to the so-called blessing of the Dragon God, okay?"

"Yes, I am really embarrassed about it, but I will do my b-best."

"I, about Asia, will look carefully."

Asia and Ophis responded back to Sensei's words. What was this about? Asia, you had a really red face, you know? I was really anxious about it! After that the three of them, Rias, Kiba and Sensei, had the last check with everyone and bid them farewell, and they were finally leaving... The ones who were looking at each other were me and Rias. Rias took a step forward and closed in on me.

"...I will be going then."

"Yes, I will be waiting for the good news. If something happens, I will definitely come to your aid."

"Yes. I know."

We looked at each other, took our hands and spent a few seconds together before separating. But we smiled immediately and let go of our hands. No matter where Rias and I were, our souls would always be connected... The three of them lined up at the centre of the teleportation magic circle. The glow of the magic circle got stronger. After Akeno-san made the last check for the teleportation magic circle, the glow of the teleportation spread throughout the room, and the next moment...Rias and the other two were gone when I opened my eyes. The teleportation succeeded. ...Rias, Kiba, Sensei, good luck. While the three of them were gone, the rest of us who were left behind would look after here!

“Uuu, I’m so lonely.”

Even if I said that earlier, not seeing Rias on my bed...was very painful! It was sleeping time, and I was fighting with loneliness on top of my bed! I sent her off just before, and I was already craving for Rias’s warmth! That’s because we always, always had been sleeping with the three of us, me, Rias, and Asia! And that Rias wasn’t here...!

“Rias...uu, I miss the oppai.”

It was my healing source to sleep by sinking my face in that voluptuous oppai. Rias also welcomed me by saying ‘Come here’ and slept by embracing me! Aaah, Rias’s oppai! Aaah, Rias’s oppaaaaai~! I was so sad that I was hugging on Asia.

“...Asia, for tonight, can I sleep like this for a while?”

“Yes, Ise-san sure is a spoiled child.”

That’s right. It’s okay. I had Asia with me. I could endure it since Asia was with me! Aaah, Asia-chan! I always spoiled Asia, but I could have her spoil me sometimes, right? I couldn’t sleep by myself anymore! I was such a weakling! But! It couldn’t be helped! Since I knew the taste of sleeping together with Rias and Asia, I could no longer sleep by myself! When I was about to sleep while hugging onto Asia, there was a knock on the door. Asia and I looked that way. Then, the one who entered by opening the door was—

“Ufufu, I will excuse myself in here for a while from tonight.”

It was Akeno-san, who was wearing a see-through negligee!

“A-Akeno-san! W-What’s wrong?”

“I thought I should replace Rias, so I came here.”

Replacing Rias!? D-Did that mean she would be sleeping with Asia and I? Akeno-san walked towards the bed—

“Then, let’s start—”

—and started to remove her negligee while saying thaaaaaat!

“...I-It’s my first time, b-but please be gentle... ..It’s embarrassing doing it front of Asia-chan, but I will be happy if you turn the lights off...”

Akeno-san became fully naked! And what are you saying while making your face red!? W-What’s going on!? Is something about to happen!?

“P-Please wait, Akeno-san! W-What are you getting so serious about!?”

Akeno-san tilted her head suspiciously when she saw me panicking.

“Eh? That’s because I’m going to replace Rias from tonight so...is it wrong?”

She had a big misunderstanding about something! Asia also got shocked at Akeno-san’s action.

“Huuuu! Akeno-san! What were you trying to do!?”

“But, Asia-chan. If a man and a woman sleep together on the bed...it can only mean one thing, correct?”

I knew it! She took the meaning of sleeping together in that direction! No, apparently, that’s how it was normally! Even I would prefer to have it that way and...no, no!

“N-No! No, that may be it normally, but Rias, Asia and I are sleeping together peacefully, you know!?”

Suddenly, Akeno-san put on a confused look. Just how prepared were you about doing this!?

“Ara, ara, this is troublesome. I waited for this day by preparing myself and being ready for it...and I was looking forward to my precious first night.”

“F-First night...?”

T-There was a wonderful ring to those words! I didn't know how to explain it, but it was a sense of language that echoed throughout my body and mind...! While ignoring me, who was paralysed by the wonderful Japanese words in my head, Akeno-san tried to enter the bed while being naked! The finest quality of a woman's body was right in front of me! Her breasts were bouncing in every direction right in front of my eyes! I couldn't help myself but to follow the movements with my eyes! Akeno-san got inside the bed, and then made a posture of welcoming me into her arms by spreading them!

“Then, shall we sleep normally?”

You weren't planning to sleep normally, were you, Akeno-san!? So I would be doing it with Akeno-san when Rias wasn't here...and while Asia was looking! W-Was this what you called an affair!? I had expressed my feelings to Rias, but I was thinking of digging right into the woman's body which was right in front of me! Akeno-san took my hand as if she was enjoying it, and moved it towards her breast! Munyuu~, my hand got sucked onto her breast! Yeah, this was the thing! Akeno-san's breast! My hand was in joy from the different sensation to that of Rias! This worked well on my brain! Suddenly, Akeno-san put on sorrowful eyes.

“...When I thought you died, I felt that everything ended. My mind went blank...and I kept on remembering Ise-kun that remained in my memory. I was escaping from reality...”

I was told about that situation from Kiba. It seemed like she was in a horrible state. I heard that she was in a state even more serious than Rias, and that she probably wouldn't have regained her consciousness if her father, Barakiel-san, hadn't come. ...I made Akeno-san become that depressed just because I might have been dead. I was glad being a man, but even I wouldn't be able to endure seeing Akeno-san in that state. I then remembered Azazel-sensei's words.

[Once she removes her mask of being an Onee-sama, what's left is her true side of 'depending' on a man. That can be her father, Barakiel, or you. If danger arises to you two, she will become depressed once again. However, you can also say that it can be used to rise her tension up. You just have to show manliness. Listen up, this is what you have to say.]

Umm, I think Sensei said—

“A-Akeno.”

“——! Y-Yes.”

It seemed like she was shocked to have me suddenly call her name. I wasn't sure if I was actually allowed to say this, and I felt scared. Sensei, I will believe in you, okay?

“...I-I will definitely not die. I will de-definitely return to your side. Can you believe in me and Rias, and live for my sake?”

...I've said it, Sensei! I've said it despite being super embarrassed and daring! And from here wasn't Sensei's words, but my own words! I must say my true feelings! I took my hand off her oppai and placed it on her shoulder! I took a deep breath, and then said it!

“Let's become stronger together! Let's live on together with me and everyone!”

She was from the same group, she was my important senior, and she was Akeno-san who I liked very much. If we were weak, if there was a part of us being weak, then we had to overcome them! I was...still really weak! That's why, I thought we could just get stronger together and live on! Now, what would be her answer!? Akeno-san had lots of tears falling and—

“.....Yeah. Yeah, I'm okay now. I will live on for the sake of you, Rias and everyone else. I will become stronger with you, Ise. I will be with you forever.”

—she nodded! Since her attitude and voice of Onee-sama disappeared like this, and since she turned into a normal girl like this, Akeno-san...became deadily cute...! I then remembered the other thing Azazel-sensei said!

[However, you will have to take responsibility till the end if you say that, okay? Akeno is delicate and is easy to get depressed, so once you say that, you know the relationship will become solid? If you actually die next time, she will be done for. That's why you can not die at all costs, okay? If you die, it will be a disaster, you know? But if you don't die, Akeno will become even stronger.]

...I had a big responsibility now! I wasn't allowed to encounter a situation where I would die now! If this person saw that...wouldn't she break!? It seemed like I just cornered myself...but yeah! I have to do it! I had destroyed the path of turning back by myself! Akeno-san wiped her tears, and then put on her usual smile. She then said this in that state.

"Yes. Now, I will leave my body under the care of Ise-kun♪."

—! W-What kind of keywords were those!? She would leave it to me!? She was going to allow me to touch her breasts and have me take care of her body while Rias wasn't here!? T-Things like that were possible!? No, it was something which was becoming possible right now! W-What should I do!? The Devil and another Devil inside me were saying 'Go for it' and 'No, take Asia as well!!' Gufufu, I was so lost right now! It happened when I was thinking of what to do. The door opened once again.

"...Hello."

This time, Koneko-chan appeared! She was in a maniac fashion where she was only wearing a white shirt on top!

"K-Koneko-chan? W-What's wrong?"

"...I will also sleep with Ise-senpai and everyone."

—!

Koneko-chan walked towards me, and then hugged onto me.

".....Since I had Ravel steal my position on Ise-senpai's lap, I will protect the position of being lifted up by Senpai at all costs."

Oh my! Even Koneko-chan is acting this way!

What were all of you doing when your master wasn't here...!? Though I wasn't in the position where I could say that!

"It's not fair that Koneko-chan is the only one being treated like this!"

Even Asia was hugging me from my back!

"...Nya."

Then, those two appeared while my brain was being affected with Koneko-chan's sweet voice.

"And I was thinking of taking action while Rias-buchou isn't here..."

"I-I was dragged here by Xenovia by force! S-Sneaking into a boy's room to make love is something the Lord won't forgive!"

"That's wrong, Irina! We have to take action while Rias-buchou isn't here!"

It was Xenovia and Irina! They entered my room while dressed in pyjamas! And both of them happened to be standing near the door while making weird poses! What's up with that totally wrong posing style of a squadron of heroes!? Were they trying to make the whole world laugh with that!? Why was everyone suddenly coming to my room after Rias departed!? No, they were usually like this as well, but weren't they being aggressive today!? I felt like I would be going along with the flow at this rate! It seemed like by having our master, King Rias, absent, it was going to go wild because there wasn't any control in this! I then thought of starting a conversation. Ah, that was right. There was one thing that has been bugging me for a long time. How could Irina, who is always encountering the situation of falling, say things like making babies with me? That was what had been bothering me.

"I've been thinking about it for a while, but how can an Angel make babies with humans without falling? There are those people, right? Half-Angels that is."

Yes, just like how a child could be born between a human and a Fallen Angel, people said that a child could be born between an Angel and a human as well. During that procedure, the Angels wouldn't fall, and the child that was born between them wasn't a Fallen Angel either. Xenovia and Irina looked at each other. Xenovia opened her mouth...and she took her top pyjama off at the same time~!

"Yeah, there are very few of them, but there are half-Angels."

"Yup, there certainly are. I have also met them."

Just like I thought, Irina started to take off her pyjamas following Xenovia's words!

"However, I'm sure there are many restrictions for Angels when they make babies. Isn't that right?"

Xenovia, who had taken off her lower pyjamas, tried to get confirmation from Irina. Irina said it while also taking off all of her pyjamas!

“Yup. In order to start that procedure, there are quite a lot things that have to be prepared beforehand. You have to put a barrier on that location, you also have to pray the night before doing it to purify your body, and it’s obviously wrong to have lecherous thoughts while doing it. You have to remember the teachings at all times, and you have to do it while having the mind of a Saint. You will be out if you get drawn into greed even once. And it must be pure love!”

That was a situation which was totally impossible for me! I was sure the human’s side would be full with lust if they knew they could have sex with a beautiful Angel. Even if it was the Angel’s side, I think they would also fall just like how Sensei did, if they found out they could have sex with a cute human woman. I could say that with confidence! Rather than that, both of you were wearing your underwear only! What kind of situation were you two making while talking about something serious!? I was grateful, but the current me wasn’t capable of taking five girls at once!

“...Somehow, not permitted to have lust while being in love, and to make babies while having the mind of a Saint...sounds so impossible that it seems hard.”

When I muttered that out while wiping my nose, Xenovia nodded.

“That’s why only the chosen ones can become one with an Angel. At the same time, the Angel also has to finish till the end without being drawn to their greed. They will fall the moment they get drawn to their greed.”

So it meant it was a sex which had such a high level of difficulty. Oh man, that would be impossible for me. I would be all hyped the moment I saw their breasts. I was glad I was neither an Angel nor a believer! Looks like Devils were the best! Ah, then it looked like it would be hard for Irina. That was because she was in danger of falling when she encountered a situation which was sex-related. —Despite that, this Angel-san was only wearing her underwear!

“So it’s impossible for you, Irina?”

Xenovia said it to Irina as if she was speaking for me. Irina put on an unpleasant face.

“...S-Since we are childhood friends, I’m sure there are obstacles we can overcome together!”

“Oh yeah, that’s right. I forgot you two are childhood friends.”

“Geez, Xenovia! I decided to challenge the limits of an Angel!”

“To begin with, why are you approaching Ise? Ever since the peace meeting of the Three Great Powers, I decided inside my heart that this guy is the one. He talked to Michael-sama directly for my prayers! You do know it’s something which isn’t capable for a normal guy, right?”

“I-I...!”

“Irina, you won’t deny that you started to like him with the flow and influence, right?”

“T-That isn’t it! It’s because he looks cool!”

“Your reason is weak! I can only think that you started to like your friend’s partner!”

“I remembered it just recently! When we were little, Ise-kun promised me!”

I put a ‘?’ above my head when Irina said that. Did I promise you something...?

“Anyhow, Irina, I want you to emit your power of light behind me and Ise! I’m going to do this by showing my right breast, and then also my left breast!”

“Xenovia, you dummy! I’m not a light bulb! This time, it’s different compared to the time at the school trip!”

Ah, ah, these two started again...

“Ufufu, I’m a Devil and a Fallen Angel. So you don’t have to worry about anything.”

Akeno-san! Please stop taking my hand towards your breast again! I won’t be able to endure it any loooooonger~!

“Koneko-san! I knew you would come here!”

Even Ravel had finally come! She walked towards the bed and I could sense anger in her footsteps.

“...Excuse me!”

She then sat on the corner of my bed! Hey, hey, hey, Ravel!?

“...I may be inexperienced, but I will have myself stay at the corner of the bed! I am your manager after all! I must protect Ise-sama from this cat!”

Ravel threatened Koneko-chan while making a face. Koneko-chan's eyes were sparkling as if she was fighting back! Damn it! No matter what they did, my two juniors were cute!

“...Bird girl.”

“...Thieving cat.”

...It wasn't a situation where it was about sex or making a child, was it? My room was too chaotic!

“Ise-senpai! I have come because I'm too lonely~!”

The one who entered my room last while having teary eyes was Gya-suke! He made his appearance while bringing a box! I see, so he became lonely since Kiba, who was living with him, left!

“As you can see, my bed is already full! If the corner of the room is okay, then sleep over there!”

When I said that, Gasper actually made a base at the corner of my room and opened his box! The Danball Vampire could sleep anywhere as long as he had a box! Akeno-san also took my hand off her oppai as if she had given up. Ah, such a waste!

“Ara, ara, looks like Ise-kun's bed is full with people now. At this rate, I won't be able to have an affair for a while.”

...Yes, it was very regrettable, but...it wasn't possible in this situation... Actually, I didn't think tonight would be the only day it would be like this... Then, the closet opened roughly. Ophis appeared as if it was the last part of the night.

“I, appear from the closet. Ehem.”

What's with those words full with confidence!? Rather, since when have you been hiding there!? ...Haa. It's finalised with the appearance of our Ophis-sama. So I will sleep peacefully with everyone today as well.

Part 2

After a few days since Rias left Japan.

I was having a school life which was no different than usual. Apparently, Rias and the others arrived in Romania safely, and were currently heading towards their destination. Except, the territory where the Vampires lived was located away from the area where humans lived as I predicted, and I heard it was very difficult to travel to that location. I had been receiving calls periodically, and it seemed it would take a lot of time to get there. ...We could only believe in Rias and wait for the good news while waiting here.

“Why are you putting on such a serious face?”

I had my head poked by Matsuda. ...It was about time for our physical education class, so I had changed into my jersey and was about to head towards the sports ground. It was already winter. So moving my body in the sports ground as becoming more tiring. No, I also hated it in summer since it was hot!

“Lately, the physical education class has been you soloing it, Ise. It's alright if I team up with you, but I hate it if I have to take you on.”

Motohama said that while making a sigh. I'm sorry. Since I became a Devil, my stamina and such had improved due to training and fighting strong foes. ...If I didn't hold back I would surpass that a human's level, so you do realise that I was taking the physical education class while holding back? My power had spurred ever since I got my body renewed, so not just me, but also these guys got shocked because outrageous power came out at times when I wasn't expecting it. ...Since I was a humanoid Dragon, the way to suppress my power was different from before. I was shocked at my inhuman level of ability when I first became a Devil, but I got a complicated feeling as soon as I thought that 'I became a being that is different from Matsuda and Motohama'. ...How long would I be able to remain friends with these guys? If it was possible, I wanted to remain friends with these guys for the rest of my life. But Devil lives were long and they could control the age of their appearance. When Matsuda and Motohama became old men, would I have to make myself look like an old man despite having an appearance of a young man when fulfilling my life as a Devil? It seemed like hanging out with these guys would be even harder. W-Well, there was no point thinking about that now. I would just concentrate on physical education class. Matsuda then said it when we were about to reach the sports ground.

"You know how there was a guy called Taoka during junior high school?"

"Ah, that guy who had so much passion towards girls' body hair. He sure was a maniac."

I remembered him. Yeah, yeah, he was going on about hairs. He apparently liked the leftover shaved hairs. ...It was a bit hard for me to understand that feeling. Did it mean I was still young? Matsuda continued.

"It seems like his brother is going to become independent and have his own shop. And his partner who is doing business together with him is the manager of his club during his years as a student whom he got along with."

"Hmm, hmm, so he's going to have his own shop together with the female manager? You sure can see the relation between a guy and a girl from that story."

Motohama said that with a lecherous face. Well, it was natural that he would think that way. Matsuda shrugged his shoulder.

"Well, I'm not sure about that. But it seems like she supported him since they were students. Apparently he persuaded her since they were students by saying 'I will become independent by having my own shop one day, so I want you to come with me'. It seems like that manager is capable of doing things and other guys also have been asking her to come with them, but she decided to follow Taoka's brother since they had the strongest trust between them."

"Hmm, so he already thought about having a shop since he was a student. That is passionate in its own way."

So it was something like how Ravel tagged along with my business. ...Starting my own business, huh. Being independent. So it was necessary to have a partner. In other words, having a manager was a must. Matsuda nodded at my comment.

"Right? But having a promise about the future sure seems nice. I also want a manager like that who I can make a promise with!"

I did have one. It was Ravel. Even now, she was selecting the Magicians together with me. Making a promise about the future with Ravel? So when I became a High-class Devil and became independent, I should tell her to follow me as my manager? ...Not bad. Instead, it sounded good. I could truly feel that way when I looked at how Ravel was doing now.

"You are right. And if it's possible, the manager has to be a girl."

"Definitely!"

"Of course!"

The two bastards agreed to my comment. Yeah! Making a promise with a very capable manager, huh. It was something you couldn't declare to a person unless you had enough ambition, strength and confidence in you. That's because you would have to live on together with them by having that person's life and way of life in your hands. ...So there was a risk that you might ruin that person's life. And it was something very, very important. I also had a girl that I wanted to fulfill my dream...my life with. I was blessed. I had started to think that I wanted to work together with Ravel more seriously. That was because she was reliable when I saw her supporting me, who was still lacking. I also wanted her to be my manager from now on. It happened when I was thinking about it.

"...Hey, look. There are guys who are cosplaying."

Matsuda pointed at a certain direction.

"Oh, oh, what is that? Are they something like Magicians?"

Hearing Motohama's words, I looked towards that direction right away.

...

...I thought my daily life was something that wouldn't be destroyed somewhere in my heart. For example, the Hyoudou Residence would be safe and peaceful, and the Kuoh Academy during the day was a school that I could attend normally. I thought it would be different from the not normal daily life. There were several people wearing Magicians' robes in front of me, and they had their hands aimed towards me. ...A magic circle was glowing below their feet. They took off their hoods. Three guys! They looked like foreigners. ...Those guys were clearly sending out hostility towards me.

"Matsuda, Motohama, run."

Both of them put on a serious expression at my serious advice.

“Ah, what’s wrong?”

“You look pale, Ise. Did something happen between you and that group of cosplayers?”

The two of them couldn’t understand this situation! This situation must be kidding me! Those guys had activated a magic circle on their hands! At this rate, they would throw magical attacks this way! I sprinted from the location so I could change the direction of where they would attack!

“Matsuda, Motohama! Run away! Just go behind the building! Quickly!”

I shouted while running, so I could lure the Magicians to the area where there was no one present! It was fortunate that their target was me, so they came after me! Matsuda and Motohama were shouting something from afar...but this wasn’t the time for it! I needed to do something about these guys...or my friends would get hurt!

“So you are defending your comrades, Sekiryuutei!”

“Haha! It’s just like what is written on the report! You are soft!”

“But the ranking of his power in the youth Devils that the association gave him is SS! He isn’t just exceptional!”

What kind of nonsense were they saying!? Association? Magic? Was it Mephisto Pheles-san? No, that wasn’t it. I only met him once, but I didn’t think a good-humoured person like that would send Magicians with so much hostility to this school!

——!

...Stray Magicians. I remembered that I heard the story about irresponsible guys who weren’t acknowledged by the association and who had been repeating offences by destroying things. But why were the Stray Magicians here during noon at Kuoh Academy!? This area was within the territory of the alliance of the Three Great Powers. A strong barrier was built here, and it was made so bad guys wouldn’t be able to enter that easily! In order to pass through, you needed a certain level of qualification, and also by passing the examination! No, to begin with, there was no way someone would let terrorists come in! I somehow managed to lure these guys into the forest area within the school’s campus while having many doubts. Several Magicians and I confronted each other. They activated the magic circle once again, and they had the magical aura gather to their hands. Now, since there wasn’t anyone here, I would make my gauntlet appear!

“Boosted Gear!”

A red gauntlet appeared on my left arm! ...But there was no response from it. The jewel...wasn’t glowing! ...Oh man. Looks like I made it appear within the time when Ddraig wasn’t feeling well. Oh man. With this, the only way I could use my gauntlet was for defending! The Magicians were looking at me suspiciously because I hadn’t used my ability despite making my gauntlet appear.

“...Isn’t he going to activate his Sacred Gear?”

“No, maybe he can’t activate it.”

“Hey, hey, we came here to challenge the power of Sekiryuutei, you know?”

They were having a conversation like that. A challenge? They came here for a reason like that?

“You guys, what is your motive for coming here?”

I asked. They just laughed happily.

“The association of the chairman Mephisto has given ranks to you young Devils.”

I knew about that. That they had given ranks to the groups of what they were calling Rookies Four. Thankfully, I was also given a rank. And it was a very high rating. They rated my achievement of taking down the terrorists. ...Well, the real fact was that I wasn’t the most popular one since the Magicians that sent their resumes compared my history with how useful I would be for their research about magic. One of the Magicians showed a fearless smile.

“That’s why we felt like testing you while going along with the plan.”

Plan? Plan for what? I became filled with doubts, and then I heard the sound of an explosion. ...It came from the new school building! The ground also made a small shake, and it made me realise how serious this situation was! Did it mean they did quite a large-scale magical attack!? The new school building! Was someone taking on the Magicians!?

Both the guys and girls of our class were having physical education right now. The guys were at the sports ground and the girls were at gymnasium. So it was Akeno-san, who was a third year, or Rossweisse-san, who was a teacher. Or it was the members from the Student Council.

——!

Then, a bad premonition came to my mind after I thought about it! ...The first years' classroom. Koneko-chan, Gya-suke and Ravel. The Magicians...were after those related to the Phoenix. The plan these guys spoke of...

"You guys! So you are after Ravel!"

Three of them laughed after hearing my shout.

"Well, that's how it is."

"As a start, I want you to play along with us so that we can make time."

They activated a magic circle to their hands, and they released a fire attack at me! I dodged it by jumping backwards, and then leapt forward the moment my feet land on the ground!

"You can't be serious!"

I promoted to Queen right away. I then shortened my distance, and then went attacking towards one of the Magicians! I could still beat down all of you bare-handed even if my Sacred Gear wasn't activated! My attack was stopped by the defence magic circle which appeared right before hitting him. I could feel the hard impact from my fist. ...Shit! I couldn't break through the defence magic with a mere punch! It seemed like I could take them down even bare-handed if my attack lands on their face!

"You are full of openings!"

From the side, lots of stone-sized ice was released from the magic circle!

I blocked them with my gauntlet but...it wasn't good! Blocking all of it will be hard! Shards of ice hit deeply and heavily all over my body! My whole body hurt, but there wasn't the time for it! My junior was being targeted! I couldn't stay here like this! I...then concentrated my thought to my right arm. Aura gathered to my right fist. No, this wasn't a punch which had aura concentrated in it. My right arm thickened, and it showed itself while ripping apart my jersey. —My right arm had dragonified. With my newly tuned body, it was now possible to have a part of my body turn into that of a Dragon depending on how much thought I put into it. Dragonification turned my mind into battle mode, and I didn't want to use it much as possible because my body got dull after its use...but I was in a situation like this. Since I was in a situation where I couldn't use my Sacred Gear, this was the only option I had! And also, by dragonifying, that part of my body also got enhanced! I couldn't dragonify my whole body, but I had learned how to make one part of my body like my arms and legs transform! I made a stance with my dragonified right arm, then I took a step to my right and went hitting towards the Magician who was standing there. The opponent activated a defence magic circle in front of him—

BREAK!

—but it got destroyed with my strike while making a hopeless sound. Yeah! I could do it with this arm! I used the momentum to follow through and hit the Magician squarely in the face!

"Guwaa!"

That Magician went flying backwards, and he collapsed on the ground after hitting his back on the tree. There were still explosive sounds coming from the new school building. ...Looks like I can't be wasting my time here!

"You are quite the thing. I never thought you would attack with a Dragon's arm."

"Well, it's okay. It starts from here."

The remaining two still had fighting spirit in them. Shit! I can't take my time fighting you guys! But when I was about jump at them, a small magic circle appeared to the rear of both Magicians. ...Was that a communication-type magic circle? Both of them were listening to the information being told to them, and then broke their stances while putting on a disturbing smile. They continued by carrying the Magician who was on the ground and activated a magic circle below their feet. —They were planning to run away!

"Wait!"

I tried to capture them, but they disappeared within the teleportation light while leaving behind disturbing words, 'Let's play again!'——

After my battle with the Magicians ended, I went running towards the new school building. Since I needed to have Akeno-san scatter the Dragon's power to fix my right arm, I wrapped the jersey around my arm and hid it. ...I couldn't show an arm like this to the other students after all. ...I checked while coming here, but several locations of the building had been destroyed. The window side of the building had been destroyed very badly, and there were holes at the school garden. ...I only had bad feelings about this! I headed towards the first years' classroom—to where Koneko-chan and the others were. At the corridor, in front of the classroom. It had been destroyed violently, there were holes at the window side of the building, and it changed so much that you could view outside. The wind breeze comes in. There was one girl who seemed to be Koneko-chan's classmate sitting on the floor. The other first years were looking at the situation of the corridor from their classroom's door fearfully. I walked towards one of the first year students sitting on the floor of the corridor, and then spoke.

"Are you okay?"

This girl was looking with daze as if she had just experienced a very terrifying moment, and her body was stiff. It seemed like my words hadn't reached her ears. ...She must have gone through a scary experience by being attacked from the Magicians. I shook her shoulders, and then looked towards the classroom...but I didn't see Koneko-chan, Gasper and Ravel. They escaped? It would be good if they did... However, that probably wasn't it. It's those kids who thought a lot about their comrades. They would have taken actions to protect their comrades. Even though she hadn't come to her senses, the first year girl muttered.

"...I was caught by suspicious looking people...and Koneko-san, Gasper-kun and Ravel-san saved me and..."

——! Koneko-chan, Gasper, Ravel! So this girl was taken hostage and...!

"Koneko-chan and the other two were covered by lights along with those weird people who were cosplaying as Magicians, and then disappeared!"

A student who was observing the situation of the corridor from the classroom's door told me. ...So they were taken hostage and got taken away...!

BANG!

I banged my left fist at the corridor while having ill feelings. ...Shit. Protecting her my ass...! I couldn't even protect Ravel while Rias was gone...! I bit my teeth with frustration...! After a while, my comrades and the Student Council members appeared. It seemed like everyone besides the first year trio were safe. ...Those Magicians, what were they planning to do with my juniors...!?

Life.4 Go, Occult Research Club & Student Council!

Part 1

Evening. We, the Occult Research Club and the Student Council members, had gathered in the old school building. The Bishop Kusaka-san from the Student Council was on standby in a different room so she could exchange information with the staff from the alliance. Shinra-senpai gave her report to everyone.

"The repair of the damage done to the school will commence now. All students have been sent home. Regarding the ones who attacked this school, the staff from the Three Great Powers who are working in this territory are searching for them now."

Kaichou spoke right after Shinra-senpai.

"...The device that Azazel-sensei left behind, which can control the memories of the students, came in handy. The memories of the students who have been attacked by the Magicians have been changed into the fact that 'trespassers came onto campus and school has been suspended temporarily'."

So it was the device they used to alter the memories of the students when three hundred of my doppelgangers were going wild on the campus. In that incident, we thought it might not be a good idea to leave those memories in the students, so we used the special device from the Fallen Angels to alter them. The Fallen Angels had the technology to erase the memories of commoners who got involved with abnormal powers and other beings. Just like how they erased the memories about Amano Yuuma, Raynare, from Matsuda and Motohama. Except, using that often would have a negative influence on their memories, so it was better to use it while having certain restrictions to it. That was why we changed their memories to 'trespassers came onto the campus'.

"How about the memories regarding the places that were destroyed?"

Xenovia asked Kaichou.

"We have altered the memories of the students and made it so that planned repair work happens to overlap with today. ...It was fortunate that there wasn't a single person who left the school even though we had such crisis. It also seems like we can do something about those who took recordings of this incident on their mobile phones with the Fallen Angels' support."

That means the identity of the other beings, the truth of this academy, hadn't been revealed. But Shinra-senpai put on a frustrated expression.

"Except, the hearts of those students who went through such shock during this incident won't be completely healed. I'm sure the memories of 'encountering something terrifying' will remain with them for eternity. Thinking that they will spend their life without knowing the cause of it...the ones who attacked us, I won't forgive them!"

The female student who was used as a hostage... The memories about the Magicians had been altered. But the trauma of being attacked by a scary person might remain in her heart. And she would spend the rest of her life not knowing why that was... It was the fault of the Magicians. But, wasn't it also our fault? ...It was because we couldn't stop them... To begin with, this school itself was... Saji rested his hand on my shoulder. He was shaking his head.

"Hyoudou. Are you perhaps thinking that 'This school itself is operating while deceiving common people'? I understand your feelings, but right now, I'm more concerned about Toujou Koneko-san and the other two who were abducted. Right?"

"Yeah, I know."

Yeah, rescuing those three who were abducted was our first priority. But...I couldn't hide how shocked I was. I thought Kuoh Academy during the day was absolutely safe. There was a time when Kuoh Academy became the battlefield in the fight against Kokabiel at night, but I never thought I would encounter terrorism during my normal school life. ...With a little mistake, there was a chance that Matsuda and Motohama might have become victims. Since they were related to us who were Devils, I realised once again that they were standing next to the possibility of danger. That's why I thought about Kuoh Academy itself once again... By the way, I tried to tell Kuroka and Le Fay, who were at the Hyoudou Residence, about this case...but I couldn't contact them. I thought I should inform them about Koneko-chan who was abducted, but the one who answered the personal communication magic circle in our house was Ophis, who was looking after the house, and according to the Dragon God-sama—

"Kuroka and Le Fay, they left after being called by Vali."

They sure weren't present at crucial times, those half-lodger girls! ...Huh? Called by Vali? Did something happen? We got assaulted, and they got assaulted as well? No, it couldn't be... Actually, Vali wasn't important right now! When I tried to calm my mind, Xenovia said this next to me.

"So, are the culprits the Stray Magicians who are targeting those related to the House of Phoenix together with those from the Khaos Brigade?"

"Must be."

Irina said. Yeah, I also thought the same.

"What do you think, Rossweisse-san?"

I tried to get the opinion of Rossweisse-san, who was a magic user.

"Yes, judging from the analysis of the traces of magic—"

She was interrupted when a phone ring echoed within the room. It seemed like it was coming from Rossweisse-san.

"Cough, I'm sorry. Hello..."

Rossweisse-san answered it by making a cough. ...Who was it from? When I became curious—

"O-Oba-chan! Whatz wrong? Did something happen?"

G-Granny? Also, it seemed like her words had some accent in it... It wasn't just my ears, Rossweisse-san continued to speak in countryside dialect!

"Ya, me in important meeting now. Wha? Job? No worry, me, doing well. Oba-chan no need to worry, ya know?"

The meeting had been halted because of Rossweisse-san's dialect, and it became a situation where everyone had shock in their eyes! That was because she was a cool beauty (100-yen shop maniac) who seemed to match well with the city, but now, she was speaking in a countryside dialect!? Of course we would be shocked!

"Boss of me place me work now, she is important person, and ya know me salary is better than me earlier job ya? So, me can send me money over there, ya know. No prob, no prob! Nothin' is in the countryside, ya? Buy somethin' with the money me send ya, and if ya doing well, me is happy with that, ya know?"

I opened my eyes wide, and Asia told me.

"I heard this a while ago, but it seems like Rossweisse-san is sending her money back to her homeland and..."

Xenovia continued after her.

"I heard her homeland is a place where there is nothing. Since her grandmother is living there alone, it seems like she is sending the money she earned from her job as a Devil."

Irina also explained.

"Since her parents are warriors who serve the Norse Gods, they rarely come home, so she told me that she was mostly raised by her grandmother. That's why she is a granny's girl. Her dream is to build a discount store in her homeland which has every good imaginable."

Seriously? It was my first time hearing about this. She was a granny's girl, a countryside girl, and she was also sending her an allowance...! That's why she was so attached to money!

More importantly, she wanted to build a discount store in her homeland... So the reason why she was fixated with 100-yen shops was due to that reason.

"...I found out about this for the first time. Rossweisse-san's dream."

While muttering it, I couldn't help but feel fellowship from the former Valkyrie, who was showing more of her character. Damn you, geezer Odin! For you to leave such a good person like her...! However, it was certain this was an unfortunate side of her! They could settle the problem by saying that the one who was ditched was just 'Rossweisse-san'! But she was a good person! Rossweisse-san, who had finished talking on the phone, coughed.

"...I'm sorry. I never thought I would suddenly receive a call from home... Also, I asked my grandmother, who was a magic user, about a spell which could break through powerful security...and she gave me quite a severe opinion. I did think that it is a possibility as well..."

"What would that be?"

When I asked Rossweisse-san—

“...A traitor.”

—Sona-kaichou answered instead. Everyone’s gaze concentrated at Kaichou. ...So a traitor, huh.

“This whole region is under the jurisdiction of the alliance of the Three Great Powers, and there are many staff members here besides us. There is a powerful barrier within the whole town, having this school as the focal point, and it’s made so that anyone can be notified if someone suspicious steps foot in this area. There is a factor where it is hard to find them if they enter by hiding themselves, but it will be restricted by the few possible ways of coming inside here. The first one is to enter by force. This is possible for those with strong enough powers. But this method of entering would give them away immediately, so that’s not what happened in this incident.”

Yeah, if someone dangerous like that came in, even we would notice their presence. Sona-kaichou continued.

“The second method is a case where someone who lives in this town or one of the staff leaves the barrier and gets captured and controlled to enter here. Regarding this method, we didn’t get any response from the civilians, the students or the staff. If that is the case, then it means a traitor became the middle person to allow them to enter the school.”

“Is such a thing possible?”

Sona-kaichou narrowed her eyebrows. It certainly seemed like a severe opinion.

“It will be possible if it’s the core members who can pass the barrier without a problem. In other words, only the core members from the Gremory group, Irina-san, Ravel-san, we the Sitri group and Azazel-sensei are the ones that could arrange such a large scale assault.”

“Are you saying there is a traitor among us!?”

Saji shouted. His face said that he couldn’t believe it. Me too, Saji. There was no way I could believe it. For there to be a traitor among us who went through life and death situations together... Kaichou, who heard Saji’s shout, put on a gentle expression.

“I also don’t believe there is a traitor, but we can’t let our guard down against the culprit. We also don’t know whether their target is actually Ravel Phoenix-san or not. Either way, we are not so naïve that we will let this go. Now, about Toujou-san, Phoenix-san and Vladi-san who were taken away—.”

“Kaichou!”

The Bishop Kusaka-san appeared while interrupting Kaichou who stopped her explanation there. Kusaka-san, who had the attention of everyone, said while feeling nervous.

“...We have received contact from those who abducted the first years of the Occult Research Club.”

The situation started to move!

Part 2

Midnight. We, the Occult Research Club and the members of the Student Council, had come to the nearest station. The reason for this was that the culprits contacted us and told us to come here. What they said was,

[If you want to take back Toujou Koneko, Gasper Vladi and Ravel Phoenix, come to the underground station with only the members of the Gremory group, Shidou Irina and the Sitri group.]

That’s what they said. ...It was a message which specifically told us to come. Underground station. That must be the station connected to the Underworld located under the basement of the nearest station. During the summer holidays, we entered the Underworld using the train located in the basement of this station. ...I never thought they would be there. Kaichou muttered in front of the station.

“I never thought they would choose this place. The staff are investigating the other underground spaces used specifically by Devils...and there have been several traces of magic. There have been traces that they have been using it to hide themselves temporarily.”

“So they trespassed by digging into the underground basement’s from below? Or did they trespass from the Underworld side through the train route? By passing through the Dimensional Gap...?”

I asked, but Kaichou shook her head to the side.

"No, it probably wasn't either method. Just like I thought, was someone used by them...? I don't think this area was trespassed because of a traitor..."

It seemed like Kaichou was thinking hard while putting on a serious face. ...Well, if they trespassed from the Gremory territory of the Underworld, then that would mean that the Gremory house allowed the trespass of the culprits, and it seemed like the situation would become more complicated. We gathered in front of the elevator. Kaichou said while looking at all of us.

"The staff of the Underworld and Heaven have surrounded the area around this station. We also have closed the Dimensional Gap for the train located in the Gremory territory of the Underworld. We still haven't found out the true intentions of the enemy and what they are planning... All that's left is for us to meet them in person."

So it meant the preparations were set. They were already caught like a rat in a bag. I didn't know what they were planning to do, but we have closed their escape route. ...No, they were people who could trespass into this area, so they might have prepared an alternate escape route... But if they were waiting for us, it meant they weren't thinking that much about escaping. Either way, my objective was to retrieve our abducted juniors!

"Who will be taking leadership of the Gremory group?"

Xenovia asked. Then, Kaichou fixed her glasses.

"That won't be a problem. Due to the emergency, I will be taking command of both the Student Council and the Occult Research Club. Rias also has left the command to me."

—!

Sona-kaichou will be taking leadership! Oh, somehow, I feel that I have a strong support now!

"You may feel confused with your King being absent, but all of you will obey my command, yes?"

[Yes!]

We, the Gremory group, answered her at the same time! Of course! If it was Sona-kaichou, then we didn't have any problems! Kaichou asked Xenovia.

"First, Xenovia-san. Out of the seven abilities of your Holy Sword, how many of them can you use?"

"I don't have problem with Destruction. Thanks to the training, I can also use Mimic, Transparency and Rapidly. However, I'm not at a level where I have mastered using them. Using Nightmare and Blessing will be hard since they have bad compatibility with me. Ruler is even harder with its inherent difficulty. I can't rule others at all."

"This time, there will be restrictions to our battle since we will be fighting underground. The influence of severe destruction will collapse the building and cause land subsidence. We have to avoid doing our strong and flashy attacks. ...The situation is different, but it's similar to the game of Sitri vs Gremory. We have to avoid causing destruction, so please refrain from causing unnecessary impact as much as possible. If it is needed, I will give the order."

Yeah, it was just as Kaichou said. We couldn't cause that underground station to be destroyed. So it meant we couldn't do excessively powerful attacks. It certainly was like that match against Sitri. After that, Kaichou asked about the condition of us, the Gremory group. It seemed like she would be planning some improvised tactics. However, there was one thing that had been in my mind. There was one unfamiliar man with a large build standing at the Sitri's side. He was a foreign man. He had grey hair where his fringe was long, and his eyes were hidden. But he kinda had a handsome face. He was really strongly built. He was about the same as Sairaorg-san. I asked Shinra-senpai timidly.

"U-Umm, who is that huge man standing there...?"

"Oh, this person is a student enrolled in the college department of Kuoh Academy, and he is Sitri's new Rook."

Sitri's Rook!? Seriously, a new servant!? I got shocked since I found out about it so suddenly! On top of that, he was a person from the college section of Kuoh Academy! So there was a person with such a good build. Hmm, there were so many things I wasn't aware of! The man said it in few words with a boorish response.

"...Call me Loup Garou."

He muttered like that. Shinra-senpai continued.

"We call him Rugal-san. So please call him the same as well, Hyoudou-kun. Rugal-san, we will leave the backup of the outside area to you for this one."

"...Yeah."

The person called Rugal left this area after that. ...I-I see, so he would be taking care of the outside in this case. That was also a proper task. There might be enemy reinforcements coming from the outside.

《Master, it seems like the preparations for the surrounding area have been completed.》

I heard an unfamiliar voice! When we, the Gremory group, looked around for the person the voice belonged to, we stopped our sight at the ceiling of the station! Sitri's magic circle appeared on the ceiling of the station, and a head appeared from there upside down! And that person was...a small-built person wearing a skull mask dressed like a Grim Reaper! Hey, that clothing, that was definitely a Grim Reaper!

"G-Grim Reaper!"

When I shouted while pointing at the ceiling, Kaichou said it.

"This one is my new Knight."

《...My name is Bennia. ...I'm a former Grim Reaper.》

A small-built Grim Reaper fell down from the ceiling and landed on the ground perfectly!

At the same time, Grim Reaper-san took the mask off! And the face of a girl that seemed to be in junior high school appeared! A cute girl with sleepy eyes! She had long dark purple hair and golden eyes. And the symbol of a Grim Reaper in her hand, the scythe, had cute-looking decorations on it! A loli! A loli Grim Reaper holding a scythe!?

"G-Grim Reaaaaper~!? And it's a giiiiir!?"

Kaichou nodded to me, who was currently in shock.

"Yes, Bennia is a Grim Reaper. Even though I said that, she is a Demigod. Half Grim Reaper and half human."

"She says that she is the daughter of one of the Ultimate-level Grim Reapers, Orcus. Shocking, right?"

Saji added an extra bit of information. ...E-Even if you suddenly say that, I don't get it!

"...I did hear you had someone in mind for the Knight and Rook position, but a Grim Reaper..."

Rosswisse-san also stared in wonder at the appearance of the small-built Grim Reaper girl. Yup, I was also in shock. Who would ever think that Sitri's new Knight would end up being a Grim Reaper!? Shinra-senpai shook her head to the side.

"No, we had someone else in mind for our Knight. However, we couldn't arrange a meeting with that person. And then she appeared and—"

《I'm changing sides because I can't follow Hades-sama's way of doing things anymore. Will you consider making me your servant?》

She came negotiating like that. It seemed that, for a moment, Kaichou thought she might be a spy from Hades's side, but Kaichou tilted her head thinking there wouldn't be such a daring spy like her.

"I had much suspicion towards her, but I decided to trust her because of one fact."

I asked Kaichou.

"O-One fact...?"

Then, the loli Grim Reaper pushed an autograph paper toward me.

《Boss Oppai Dragon. I'm a big fan of yours, Boss. Look, I have so many embroideries of Oppai Dragon behind my cape. Can I ask you to give me one of your signatures?》

E-Even if you show me embroideries like that... Ah, there really are many embroideries of me wearing armour! Wait, she is a fan of mine!? I have another one after Le Fay!

"My fan...?"

I asked while signing.

《Yes, plus I didn't like the ways of my shitty dad and Hades-sama, so I left home.》

So that means there were many types of Grim Reapers? It seemed like the God of the realm of the dead also had many house issues.

"It was fortunate that it was enough with a single Knight piece."

Kaichou said it like that. Truly, that was a bargain.

《My blood from my mother's side is stronger, so I'm that amazing.》

The loli-girl says that but...it seems like her character is strong in terms of both her characteristic and ability. Kaichou then said to the loli Grim Reaper.

"Bennia, just like Rugal, can I leave the backup of the outside area to you?"

《Yes sir, master. I will be on standby outside with that brother who joined in at the same time as me.》

After saying that, the loli Grim Reaper, Bennia, activated the magic circle below her feet and disappeared by sinking into it like that. ...She sure did use an amusing way of passing through the magic circle. So instead of teleporting when the light burst, she went through it by sinking into it. Kaichou let out a small sigh.

"I'm very sorry that it turned into an introduction of my new servants right before our important plan... Things like these sure do happen at bad times."

"No, it was actually a good thing. It helped me loosen up a bit."

That's how I truly felt. I didn't have that much confidence because I had to retrieve my juniors from enemies whose identities were unknown, but my tension softened in a good way from being introduced to the additional members of the Sitri. So did that mean that the only pieces of the Sitri side left are the three Pawn pieces? I did hear that Saji was worth four pieces, and Nimura-san was worth one piece. Kaichou then asked me.

"Now, Ise-kun. How is Ddraig's condition?"

"The truth is, not so good. He wakes up at times, but he sleeps most of the time. He's sleeping right now, and he isn't giving me any response. I can make the normal gauntlet appear, but I'm not in my best condition."

Rather, I was finally able to have the gauntlet's ability work just before. So I was able to double my power and use Gift. I was able to use my armour form during the training, but it seemed like I couldn't use it right now... Since Ddraig hadn't recovered completely, my power was too unstable...

"So, it means Balance Breaker is impossible right now. Understood. Then let's go with a plan where Boosted Gear Scale Mail isn't involved."

"I'm sorry."

...Shit, I was so ashamed of myself since I was useless at such a crucial time. I was asked to take care of things at home while Rias was absent, but I had been feeling ashamed at myself continuously... Kaichou smiled at me, who was feeling down.

"There isn't a single reason for you to be apologising, Ise-kun. You are the hero who saved the Underworld. For the part where you can't give it your all, we will just have to make up for it. Also, you worked too hard within this short period of time. Truly, you worked so hard that I am ashamed at myself and feel that we are lacking in strength."

Not just Kaichou, but the members of the Student Council were also nodding.

"You should rely on us at times, Hyoudou. We are rivals during the game. But we are comrades during real battles. We want to protect the Underworld and Kuoh Academy as well after all."

Saji made a big smile. ...Yeah, you are right. You are exactly right. Sona-kaichou took my hand.

"That's why, we will lead you today. I'm not Rias, but please trust me for now."

[Yes, of course!]

Everyone in the Gremory group responded! Yeah, the enemies shouldn't be looking down on us who were from Kuoh Academy! Kaichou asked me once again.

"By the way, how many times can you use Gift?"

“It will change by the strength of how much my power has doubled, but if it’s twenty times, then I can do it with ease.”

Upon hearing that, Kaichou said it to me after thinking for a while.

“Very well. Then Ise-kun will—”

After being given the details of the plan, we went down to the basement using the lift. We reached the basement, and progress through the station made specifically for the trains which head to the Underworld. We passed through the spacious atmosphere, and when we went to the right and to the left through the passage...I could suddenly feel a dangerous presence. ...There had to be enemies at the end of the passage we were walking down. We confirmed it with each other with our eyes, and made the formation of charging in. For the offence, the vanguards were Xenovia, Irina, Saji, Knight Meguri-san and Rook Yura. The middle-guards were me, Akeno-san, Rossweisse-san, Shinra-senpai and Pawn Nimura-san. The rearguards were Sona-kaichou, Asia, Bishop Kusaka-san and Hanakai-san. The formation was set so the close-range type members were positioned as vanguards, the members who fight from long-range were positioned as middleguards, and the rearguards consisted of members of support-types and the person giving commands as the central pillar. Since I could promote without Rias’s authorisation, I promoted to Queen. Saji and Nimura-san also promoted to Queen with Kaichou’s authorisation. After the team’s formation was set, everyone put the Underworld’s communication item into their ears. It was something which replaced the earphone and microphone. It was used mainly in Rating Games. Using this would make it easier for us to communicate with each other. Once we signaled each other the final confirmation with our eyes, we progressed through the passage.

The place we set foot into was an open space of the basement we entered for the first time. It was a spacious place as large as the underground station. And the ceiling was also located up high. ...I never thought there was such a place like this. I wondered just what kinds of territories were hidden within this basement. Then, when I looked ahead, there were so many of them, the group of Magicians that was! Every one of them were wearing Magician robes. There were many varieties of robes, but I confirmed the robes worn by the ones who assaulted the school. We took our distance, and confronted them. ...Just from a simple look, weren’t there more than a hundred of them? There were quite a number of monsters which seemed to have been summoned. Just how many of you have gathered here!? Rather, we allowed that many enemies to trespass into this town. ...It was quite problematic. The female Magicians, witches, couldn’t be confirmed with a simple glance! It was just guys. Yeah. They wouldn’t be included in their formation if they knew the power of my pailingual. Their plans would be revealed after all. I said it while pointing at them.

“We came like you told us. Where are my juniors?”

My voice echoed through the basement. They were either laughing or shrugging their shoulders. ...A response which was looking down at us. My mind was filled with rage, but I needed to be calm. My weakness was that I charged ahead without being calm when my comrades were in danger. Sensei also pointed that out to me just recently as well. One of the Magicians stepped forward.

“Oh my, if this isn’t everyone from the Devils. For everyone from the Gremory and Sitri of the Rookies Four to come here for us, it’s such an honour.”

Kaichou asked.

“What are your objectives? Phoenix? Or is it us?”

“Both of them. Well, we are treating the lady from the Phoenix with care. We were ordered by our leader to do so.”

Leader? Who might that be? Leaving me, who was feeling dubious, the Magician continued.

“The issue regarding the Phoenix is done, and what’s left is the thing with all of you. We can’t help ourselves but become concerned about it. The strength of all of you that were rated by that shitty chairman Mephisto and the shitty association. This feeling, can you understand it? You can’t, right? Well, it’s natural of us, wanting to test ourselves and see if there are strong young Devils, right? For those who use magic in such rough ways like us.”

That Magician clicked his fingers. Then, every one of the Magicians activated a magic circle for attack-type magic!

“Let’s start, Devils! The decisive battle of demonic power versus magic!”

That became the signal for the start of the battle! The many magical attacks with different attributes of fire, water, ice, lightning, wind, light and darkness were released towards us! The herd of monsters they had under them also came charging at us! While being under the violent rain of an immeasurable number of magical attacks, Kaichou ordered us through the communication device.

[—Now, let's show them the power of the young Devils. Let's make them regret turning the Devils of the Kuoh Academy into their enemies.]

Hearing such a declaration, Xenovia leapt forward! She made a big swing with Ex-Durandal, and slammed down the many magic attacks headed this way with the holy aura! Rossweisse-san, who was the middle-guard also shot her full burst and supported Xenovia's attack! The herd of monsters that were charging this way were vaporised in one hit from Rossweisse-san's attack!

With the combo attack of Xenovia and Rossweisse-san, most magical attacks and several monsters were taken down, but the magical attacks that had avoided the attacks were still coming this way! Rook Yura, who was the vanguard, stood in front of me. She made something appear in her hand. A huge shield! Yura shouted!

"Expand! My shield, [Twinkle Aegis]!"

That moment, the glow spread from the shield and changed into a giant shield of light! It was a giant shield of light that took half of the space we were in! It was like a beam shield! The magical attacks that got through our counter attack struck the shield—but it was unscratched! Quite a number of magical attacks had got to us, but the shield didn't crumble even though it received all of them! It was a really hard shield! I then got a call from Sona-kaichou.

[That is the artificial Sacred Gear we received from Azazel-sensei. By making a pact with a fairy, then having it reside in the shield, it is able to change its ability.]

Making a pact with a fairy, and changing the ability of the shield! More importantly, it was Sensei's artificial Sacred Gear, huh! Thinking now, the Student Council members did say they would be receiving artificial Sacred Gears! By combining it with the defence of a Rook, it did seem like it would pull out an insane amount of defence! Having the many magical attacks and monsters which came charging at us stopped, a certain commotion arose from the group of Magicians. They probably didn't think all of their attacks would have been stopped with only few moves.

[—We will be moving into offence.]

With Kaichou's merciless command, we begun our advance!

[Ise-kun, please move around the battlefield all the time with the Skithblathnir just like I told you before.]

I received the order from Kaichou. Yes, that was what she told me to do before we came down here. If I couldn't use Balance Breaker, then I would fight in a different way! What I could do right now was to use Gift on my comrades!

[Once I give you an instruction, it will be very helpful if you use Gift as ordered.]

"Roger!"

I made the magical ship, Ryuuteimaru, appear, and grabbed onto it. Ryuuteimaru continued to fly around while having me hang onto it. Oh, it had amazing horsepower and strength despite having me hanging onto it! I was ashamed I couldn't fly with my Devil wings in my base form...but I will leave my support to you, Ryuuteimaru! I will start doubling my power so I can use Gift any time! Ddraig, I hope you will be awake soon!

[Boost!!]

The vanguards, which consisted of Xenovia, Saji and Knight Meguri Tomoe-san, charged forward. Xenovia demolished the magical attacks along with the Magicians with a strike with destructive power! The thing Meguri-san was carrying was...a Japanese sword-type artificial Sacred Gear? It looked like the light and darkness were blended!

[Tomoe's artificial Sacred Gear is a katana-type version of [Blazer Shining Aura Darkness Blade]. I think the formal name of it is [Blazer Shining Aura Darkness Blade Samurai Sword].]

Kaichou told me while muttering like that! Seriously!? So Meguri-san's Sacred Gear was from the Black History! But it had a very high attack power, since it could even cut down spirits that didn't have physical form as well.

"Geez, Kaichou! Please don't use that name! However, this is really strong!"

Meguri-san used the sword which had a mixture of light and darkness to take down the Magicians from above their defensive magic! Meguri-san, why did you pick that one!? Because of its features? W-Well, it had incredible destructive power, and it could even cause the wall and the floor to be grazed from the wave of the slash! Like I thought, that artificial Sacred Gear was strong! If I remembered correctly, the godfather for all the names of the artificial Sacred Gears was Sensei! He was a former Governor who still couldn't forget the mind of an eighth grader!

"I won't lose to Xenovia!"

The one who was wielding the mass-produced Holy Demonic Sword while gliding in the air by spreading her pure white wings was the vanguard Irina. She was also shooting out a laser filled with the power of light. Next was Saji. He was making the enemies bathe inside the black flames which were hard to de-curse, the Blaze Black Flare.

“Just stay there all together!”

He covered several Magicians with a wall of black flames! Yeah, the black flames appeared from every direction and stopped the Magicians like a wall that surrounded them. The activation requirement would be fulfilled when they came within Saji’s range, and a wall of flame appeared around the place enemies were standing. One of the Vritra-type Sacred Gears, [Shadow Prison]. Vritra’s curse of fire swirled inside it, and they would have their movement sealed. It also made those who had been captured suffer gradually by the fire’s heat. On top of that, the Delete Field would be added onto it, and they would have their magical power taken away. Once you got captured within that prison, you would remain trapped until all of your power got taken away. Saji also sent many lines and connected them to the Magicians!

“I will transform all of your magical powers into demonic powers!”

Yeah, Saji’s original ability would play a big role in this. He originally connected the Absorption Line to his enemy, and absorbed their powers. He even absorbed their blood. There were already more than ten lines. The magical power flowed into Saji through the lines!

“Shit!”

“Something like this!”

The Magicians tried to cut the line attached to them with magic, but it didn’t have any effect. His line was tough after all. You wouldn’t be able to cut it so easily! Then, the black flame passed through the lines and attacked the Magicians! ...So, you would be out of options once you got caught by Saji, huh. The line and the prison, if you didn’t have the strength to slip out of it, then you were completely sealed. On top of these abilities, he still could transform into a Dragon King... He really was getting powerful as a technique-type, that guy Saji!

[Ise-kun, can you hear me? Please transfer your powers to Saji!]

Kaichou’s command! That’s what I had been waiting for!

“Roger!”

I was flying around in the air while holding onto Ryuuteimaru, and then I dropped down to where Saji was and transferred my multiplied power into the lines! Saji let go of the lines which were connected to him, and then connected them to the middle-guard Rossweisse-san! The lines were linked between the Magicians and Rossweisse-san!

[Transfer!!]

Several lines made a violent motion the moment I transferred my powers, and the Magicians’ magical powers flowed rapidly into Rossweisse-san! Magicians that had their magical powers absorbed fainted and just dropped to the floor! Instead, overwhelming aura was pouring out from Rossweisse-san’s body!

“W-Wow!”

When I got shocked by the way the lines were used, Kaichou said this.

[The lines’ ability to absorb magical powers has been enhanced. At the same time, the line will be connected to Rossweisse-san. We also have magic users on our side, so we should utilise this situation.]

She sure understood the traits of me, Saji and Rossweisse-san very well!

[Originally, the line could have also been connected to Gasper-kun. We could have absorbed the blood from the opponent by connecting the line to the opponent and Gasper-kun. After all, the line can also absorb blood. The opponent will suffer blood loss and Gasper-kun will power up by absorbing blood. There were also such methods as well. The problem will be Gasper-kun’s lung capacity...so I will ask him next time.]

Kaichou! Just how many ways to fight have you researched!? Weren’t you too good at using our group!?

“Nimura! I will leave my back to you!”

“Please leave it to me, Genshirou-senpai!”

Having Saji say that, the one who was using swift footwork to punch and kick the Magicians bare-handed was the middle-guard Pawn Nimura Ruroko-san. She moved in to support Saji.

Nimura-san had armour only on her legs, and a strong aura jetted out from there. It seemed like it was giving her incredible speed and kicks. An artificial Sacred Gear equipped on her legs! Nimura-san went within the enemies range and made a swift body movement. It was a dancing-like attack style!

“Chi! It’s harder than we thought!”

The Magicians were also astonished with the variety of Saji’s attacks, so they changed their target. The Magicians have directed their hands towards Xenovia, who was attacking heroically.

“Chimera!”

They summoned several Chimeras with summoning magic, and they started to attack Xenovia! The giant bird type Chimera which was flying in the air, and the snake type Chimera which was crawling on the ground! Xenovia made a stance with her Holy Sword and increased the holy aura. —Then, the third Chimera appeared by breaking through the floor! A turtle-like Chimera with a shell! Xenovia took down the turtle-type Chimera with an attack using Excalibur Destruction! However, its shell was harder than expected, and possibly because its shell was more complicated due to it being a Chimera, the sword was stabbed deep within and didn’t seem like it could be pulled from it anytime soon! She had her sword sealed! Then, the Chimera which was flying in the air and the Chimera which was crawling on the ground attacked her! Xenovia made the shape of Ex-Durandal change just before being hit! It was the power of Mimic! Xenovia swung the Holy Sword which was like a whip and cut the Chimera that was flying in half! The moment when it made an impact, a shock which felt like an additional destruction followed after it! But the snake-type Chimera was still remaining! Xenovia changed the blade from a whip to its original shape and increased the speed of her sword! She cut the snake-type Chimera in half with its incredible speed! It seemed like additional destruction was also added to that swing just now, and a crater was formed in the floor from the wave caused from her swing! A rapid succession of Mimic, Rapidly and Destruction. Xenovia had just used three of the characteristics of her Holy Sword. The Magicians were in shock after seeing that!

[She isn’t a power idiot!?!]

They shouted that at the same time! Xenovia, just how was she rated in the world of Magicians!? No, she was a power idiot! But even she was also growing!

“Ku! Then I will strike with magic!”

One of the Magicians created a fireball using magic and released many of them! The herd of fireballs was moving through the air freely as if it had a mind of its own! Xenovia tried to vaporise them with her Holy Sword, but the fireballs dodged just before being hit, so she couldn’t take them down. Ah, that was an attack type that Xenovia was weak against! Then, Kaichou gave her a command.

[Xenovia-san, use the power of Ruler.]

“But, Kaichou. I can’t activate the ability of Ruler that well. And what are you planning to do by controlling the Magicians?”

[No, you are wrong. Ruling doesn’t necessary mean that you can only control living things.]

...What did she mean? Even I didn’t get it! Kaichou said it to Xenovia, who looked like she would be hit by the fireballs which were flying in the air!

[Xenovia-san! Direct the ability of Ruler towards those magical fireballs! Think strongly that you want to stop those fireballs! If my prediction is right, the aspect of your sword will go one more rank up!]

“——!”

It seemed like Xenovia was concentrating on something as Kaichou commanded while putting on a serious expression! Then, the Holy Sword glowed as if it was responding to her! The next moment, the fireballs which were heading towards Xenovia stopped their movements and remained still in their position! ...Did she stop it with the power of the Holy Sword? She stopped it by ruling over the magic! Xenovia was also in shock with its result.

“...There is also a way to use the power of Ruler like this... Kaichou, what does this mean?”

[It’s just as I thought. Most likely, the things you can rule over aren’t just limited to living things. You were able to rule over the magic for a bit just now, but that isn’t the only thing that it is capable of. Depending on the way you use it,

you should be able to rule over any phenomenon. If that is hard, then at least think of controlling the attacks from your enemies. Or you can support your comrades when their attacks miss.]

“...So I can disturb the enemies’ attack with it, and also support my comrades.”

[Yes. Looking at the abilities straightforwardly is good. However, depending on how you use it, you can use it in many ways. The way you used the power of Ruler just now is a good example.]

...

I was still shocked at the way Sona-kaichou’s commands were working. You were amazing, Kaichou. She even thought up of a new move for our group. ...This battlefield, just what kind of imagination was she using inside her head?

“Target the leader of the Sitri!”

The Magicians concentrated their attacks on Kaichou! They were trying to take down the brain! However, around Kaichou, and also the other rearguards, a strong blue barrier came out. The one who activated that was Bishop Hanakai Momo-san!

“I won’t let you take down Kaichou and the rearguards.”

Bracelets appeared on both her arms. And those bracelets were emitting aura. A barrier-type artificial Sacred Gear! It seemed like it had a wide range since it could cover the whole group of our rearguards! So it meant the rearguards wouldn’t go down without a fight, huh. Haha, with this, the vanguards would be able to fight without any worries! But the Magicians didn’t care whether the barrier was up and resumed their attacks! Several Magicians appeared and disappeared instantly, and kept on using simple teleportation by appearing and disappearing! They went through our formation and closed the distance to Kaichou!

“Heh! Here, eat thiiiis!”

The magic circle appeared in the air upside down, and a giant rock appeared from it! It was huge! If something like that dropped on the rearguards, even Hanakai-san’s barrier wouldn’t last!

“Ara ara, I won’t allow that.”

While making a fearless laugh, that person shot demonic power towards the falling rocks... An enormous thunder and light attack in the shape of an eastern Dragon pierced the rocks! Flashes of lightning and the sound of an explosion occurred, and the rocks easily broke in every direction! A large fragment of rock was about to fall from above our head, but the Raikouryuu moved around the air as if it had its own mind, and it devoured the fragments into it! Akeno-san was smiling while having electricity running through her fingers! The things growing from her back were the six wings of a Fallen Angel. She had a golden bracelet with magical symbols equipped on both her arms.

“—Raikouryuu. Because I have been taking in Ise-kun’s ki with my own body, I have become able to use a special technique like this.”^[2]

Seriously!? So since you were sucking in a Dragon’s ki, the thunder and light changed to a Dragon!? And didn’t it just move as if it had its own thoughts!?

“That Queen has openings in her defence!”

The Magicians didn’t flinch even though the rocks had been destroyed, and they released their next attack! They shot out many lights in the shape of an arrow! Light was poisonous to Devils! And it seemed like the density of the lights was strong! Being directly hit by it was bad! Without any worries, Akeno-san defended...by activating a magic circle, and blocked all of the enemy attacks! Oh, instead of a magic circle made from demonic power, it was a magic circle with magical symbols and marks on it! Akeno-san used magic just now!

“Ufufu, it’s a defence spell taught directly from Rossweisse-san. I will enhance my trait as a Rook with this.”

So she increased her trait as a Rook like Rossweisse-san by having defensive magic spells. Normally, Devils that were Rooks increased their traits with demonic power and magic defence spells. Koneko-chan also had been defending by using demonic power, but since she hadn’t mastered those areas yet, she couldn’t make up for it that well. Akeno-san was the same, and since she was better in attacking, she found out that she lacked defence from her fights with strong foes. Akeno-san was Queen. She had the abilities of Rook, Knight and Bishop. However, a Queen would have their strong points and weak points when they were using the traits of the three pieces, and there seemed to be compatibility with them as well, so the ability they were good at using would differ by each person. For example, when I used Triana, Rook was the one with the best compatibility with me, while my compatibility with Bishop was

bad. That's why it turned out to be just a mere type which specialised in gunfire. This was also the same when I turned into True Queen. Akeno-san was the opposite of me and wasn't good with the trait of a Rook. For that reason, she had many disadvantages in terms of defence. Of course, the trait she was the best at using was the Bishop. But since we have had many battles with strong foes, she had started to overcome her weak points and had started to get stronger by learning defence-type magic! She made up for her lack of defensive demonic power by acquiring magical spells!

"Now then, I have to punish the children who have done naughty things!"

Akeno-san put on her sadistic face, and she defeated the bunch who tried to attack Kaichou by using fire and ice demonic powers! The fire and ice also had the shape of a dragon! So sucking in a Dragon's ki would give people such effects, huh! Or was it because it was Sekiryuutei's ki?

[Those Magicians are experts who were able to pass through our formation...but it seems Akeno has improved herself by using the experience of her losses in the Rating Game.]

Kaichou said. Yeah, Akeno-san worked so hard after all! Even her overall score in the Rating Game was rated quite badly, so she was feeling depressed. It seemed like she was thinking of ways to improve herself daily by discussing together with Rias. Kaichou then gave her command!

[—Oh, Ise-kun! The next step! Please transfer your powers to Rossweisse-san!]

"Yes!"

My role was to fly around in the battlefield by using Ryuuteimaru while Kaichou gave her command and transfer my power of Sekiryuutei to my comrades! Rossweisse-san released her Full Burst of magic the moment she received my powers! The Magicians in the front line were quite exhausted! We can pull this off!

"Aim for the Sekiryuutei!"

There were magical attacks that were released towards me, who was currently flying in the air. But many masks appeared and acted as a shield as if supporting me. There were many masks with different shapes floating in this whole space.

"Look, and then protect. That is my Sacred Gear."

The one who said that was the Bishop Kusaka Reya-san.

[Those masks that Reya is using is an artificial Sacred Gear that can be used for searching for the enemy, gathering information and acting as a shield.]

Kaichou gave an explanation like that. Oh, it felt like I could fly around the battlefield while feeling safe! More than that, the members of the Sitri group had quite the variety of abilities!

[Ise-kun, please transfer your powers to Tsubaki this time!]

I received the next order! I went flying towards Shinra-senpai! But a giant mass of ice which took up one third of this field got released from the enemy's side! When I saw the mirror that Shinra-senpai had activated, I understood what our next move would be. —A counter! Shinra-senpai's Sacred Gear could return the attack received by the enemy with double the impact!

[An enhancement of a counter. By having the power of Sekiryuutei added, it can even counter back that magical attack!]

I transferred my power to Shinra-senpai just like Kaichou commanded! The mirror of her Sacred Gear made a glow and changed its size enormously!

[Tsubaki! Please counter it back to them with an impact which won't affect this basement!]

"Yes, Kaichou!"

The huge iceberg collided with the mirror which had now become bigger! A huge explosive sound echoes throughout the battlefield, but the destructive power of the ice returned back to the Magicians right away! The mass of ice that had been shattered fell on top of the enemy's formation by turning into large fragments!

"Shit! The ice!"

"It's useless! They are piercing through the magical defence because the power has increased from the Sacred Gear's ability!"

There were many screams from the Magicians. All the fragments of ice falling down on them had Shinra-senpai's Sacred Gear ability applied onto it and the attack power of it had been increased. The group of Magicians were basically annihilated after receiving the counter attack just now. Many of them had been blown away towards the wall and floor, and they had become unconscious.

"Kaichou, it's completed!"

Saji shouted! What appeared from his right arm was a thick line.

[Well done, Saji. Connect it to Ise-kun and scatter them!]

Just like how Kaichou ordered him, Saji threw the line at me. It attached to my gauntlet, but what was he going to connect it with? The line connected to my gauntlet got disconnected from Saji.

"Scatter!"

It responded just like Saji ordered, and the thick line scattered into many lines! More than a dozen lines twitched as if they were alive and spread to every direction as if finding something to attach themselves to! The direction where the lines head towards was—all of my comrades in our formation! They connected with each and every one of them, and my gauntlet was connected to everyone through the lines! Kaichou then said.

[With this, Ise-kun's power to transfer can be passed to everyone through the lines. Ise-kun, please step back to the rear. Your last job is to transfer your powers to everyone once you have doubled your own powers.]

Gift using the line! T-This certainly would be easy! Since I was connected to them, I didn't have to move around anymore! Once I had finished doubling my power, I just had to flow it into them. It was alright for me to step back now! Kaichou continued.

[It would have been better if we used this method from the start...but it took time to make sure the line will be strong enough to receive the power of the Sekiryuutei, who is also going through evolution. If we make an unreliable line, there will be nothing left if your power explodes while transferring to everyone. The strength of the line has been shown when you transferred your powers to the line when it was connected to Rossweisse-san and the Magicians. And the only thing left was to make enough lines for everyone in our group.]

—Kaichou was coming to understand the way to use my powers! I became speechless, and Kaichou said it to me with a bright voice.

[The compatibility between Ise-kun and Saji is too good. It was really fun building tactics for it.]

Sona-kaichou, you are very reliable when you are on our side!

[Looks like it is our win for the first battle.]

Just like Kaichou said, the Magicians were almost annihilated with the first battle against us.

Part 3

"You will be okay with this!"

"Thank you very much, Argento-senpai."

Asia, who had finished healing Nimura-san, started to heal the next person! The battle was overwhelmingly in our favour. You could count the numbers of enemies who were still standing, and since we were at an advantage, we were moving into a phase where our injured comrades were getting healed. I was standing at the rear after that. I doubled my power while being in safety, and had transferred my powers through the lines.

"Let's go, Irina!"

"Yeah!"

Xenovia and Irina, who were the vanguards, weren't flinching even with their wounds, and were continuing to go on a rampage.

The Magicians couldn't stop Xenovia, who had learned how to use the traits of her Holy Sword. Irina was also fighting very well with her Holy Demonic Sword. From the strength of the wielder of that Holy Demonic Sword, it could have attributes added to it, just like Kiba. Maybe it was because Irina had come to master using it because she had been training with us, so she had attributes like fire, ice, lightning and such added on to her Holy Demonic Sword, and now she was fighting advantageously against the Magicians' magic.

“Ara, ara, even I strengthened many of my traits.”

“Well, this is still nothing.”

Then, Akeno-san’s demonic power attack and Rossweisse-san’s magical attack hit! An enormous explosion and bomb blast occurred, and it blasted away the defence magic circles and defence-type Golems!

“Leave the defence to me!”

Rook Yura of the Student Council also used that shield-type artificial Sacred Gear, and she was protecting her comrades by defending them from the enemies’ attacks! That shield could be released towards the enemies while spinning like a yo-yo. During then, it was also possible to have fire and lightning appear from the shield to do attacks with attributes. A yo-yo which had fire and lightning surrounding it! Kaichou, who had been looking at this, then muttered.

[...I see, no wonder I thought Rias’s tactics were naïve. The opponents we are fighting right now are a group of Magicians who are stronger than average Magicians...]

Kaichou breathed out.

[The Gremory group is too powerful. I came to realise this once again by commanding them. Rather than giving orders, your group is powerful enough where all of you can just charge forward. And normally, you who is in Balance Breaker state and Kiba-kun will be added to them, so it makes me think you don’t need tactics. It can’t be helped if Rias starts to think that it will be better to just charge forward.]

I’m sorry for being a muscle-brained team! Yes, we have been using simple power to charge forward! I thought we had become a bit better after learning some techniques, but it seems like we turned into a super-power team that knows some techniques!

[Being able to fight advantageously when you are not in Balance Breaker state, while the destructive force of Durandal can’t be used, and while Kiba-kun isn’t here... Like I thought, what is needed for the Devils from now on are the training of our servants. We will also increase the time needed for training.]

Ah, Kaichou’s glasses were glowing. Looks like harsh training would be waiting for the Sitri group!

“I don’t want to fight the Gremory group ever again.”

“Me too. We will die if we fight them again.”

Hanakai-san and Kusaka-san muttered such things! Kaichou also sighed hearing that. ...No, I don’t want to fight the Sitri group either. After all, I found out that Kaichou’s brain was like a mysterious zone for me. And this battle happened to end while obeying Kaichou’s commands... I think it was a huge feat of being able to use two different teams to their fullest! —! Then, the Magicians put their hands up as if they were giving up.

“...Alright, alright. It’s our loss. Rather, our leader is asking for you guys to come.”

The light appeared in the direction they were looking at, and a teleportation-type magic circle appeared.

“At the destination, the leader behind this assault and your juniors are waiting for you. Go already. Except, the leader is saying that Sekiryuutei, Vritra, the Durandal wielder, the Priestess of Thunder and Light, the Holy Woman of Healing, the Valkyrie and Michael’s Ace definitely have to come.”

The Magician said it while becoming sulky. ...They had such high spirits before the battle began, but what’s with that attitude...? Well, it was okay. Nothing would start even if I complained to them. Kaichou took the device out from her ear and activated a communication-type magic circle.

“We will call the people who are on standby above here and capture all of the Magicians.”

“Ge! You are trying to capture us!? I-It was just a joke! Just take the spellcasters of the Khaos Brigade!”

The Magicians were showing foolish behaviour. Was it the Stray Magician who just said that? ...No, we had casualties on our side. I couldn’t let it slip as just a joke! So they were telling me they assaulted us as if they were having a game...!? Saji grabbed onto the Magician who just said that by his collar. I remembered his face very well. It was one of the guys who assaulted me back at the academy. Saji gave an intense glare at him.

“...Don’t fool around! Our students went through hell because of you guys...”

Saji suddenly shook his head, and let go of the guy’s collar.

“...If I act like this, I will look uncool when I said that to Hyoudou earlier. But, but...”

Saji had his fist shaking with frustration. Before coming here, Saji told me calmly that, ‘Rather than thinking about the way the school is right now, you have to concentrate on rescuing Toujou-san’. However, Saji must have so much anger inside him as well. Yeah, this guy was also one of the Student Council members who were going around the school doing his best for other students. It was normal for him to love the school more than anyone. I rest my hand on Saji’s shoulder, smiled at him, and then punched the Magician who was released by Saji in the face.

“If you are after someone...then come after us! Normal students have nothing to do with this!”

The Magician guy was looking at me in confusion. Yeah, Sensei, looks like I couldn’t stay calm if my comrades got involved in it. ...I’m sorry. But this time, I felt a bit relieved. Saji made a bitter smile.

“...Hyoudou, you are such an idiot.”

“We both are, pal.”

Seriously, Kiba, Gasper, you, and I, should have a meeting with only the male Devils of Kuoh Academy. The ones who went through the new magic circle were the Gremory group, Irina, and Kaichou and Saji from the Sitri side. It was just like how they wanted. The Student Council members that remained were transporting the Magicians we caught together with the staff of the Three Great Powers that were on standby above. It seemed like a battle occurred above between the staff and the Magicians. It seemed like the witches were using teleportation magic circles to send rocks, earth Golems and the monsters they had summoned to the basement. Looks like the witches that avoided my ability were supporting the Magicians from the outside. Those witches were also defeated and caught. We were heading towards the so-called ‘leader’ while we stopped feeling gloomy. And what appeared in front of us after we passed through the magic circle they prepared was...a spacious white place. There was nothing, just a normal white space. It was a rectangle place where it was white above, below, left and right. ...The ceiling was quite high. It wasn’t big like the battlefield we used for our training, but it was spacious enough that we could fight quite recklessly here.

“This place is a ‘factory’ that we made in the Dimensional Gap. It’s a technique adapted from what Devils use for the battlefield in the Rating Game.”

—! A sudden new voice. When I looked that way... A shadow which wasn’t there when I looked around this space before was present. There was someone wearing a silver robe with detailed accessories while being away from us. The voice belonged to a young man. He was also quite tall. I couldn’t tell what he looked like because he was wearing his hood. ...Judging from his appearance, was he a Magician? While I paid attention to his move—

“Ise-sama!”

This time, it was Ravel’s voice! When I looked towards the direction where the voice came from, Ravel and Koneko-chan were standing in the far right side of us! ...Koneko-chan was carrying Gasper! He seemed to be down, and it was obvious they did something to him. Ravel and Koneko-chan weren’t held captive or anything, and they were still wearing the same Kuoh Academy uniform when they were kidnapped. ...Besides Gasper, there weren’t any visible wounds from one look at them.

“You can have them back.”

The man in the robe said that. While paying attention to him, we waved our hands to Koneko-chan and Ravel, and urged them to come to us. The man wearing the robe didn’t do anything while we reunited with these three.

“Ise-sama...”

Ravel had teary eyes.

“Ravel, did they do something to you? I heard they are searching about the Phoenix...”

When I asked, Ravel’s body shook silently. I could see that instead of physical damage, she had received emotional damage. Koneko-chan dropped down Gasper whom she was carrying, and left it to Asia to cure him. Koneko-chan bit her lips with frustration.

“...Ravel, Gya-kun and I had ourselves checked for something with a magic circle. They didn’t do anything that much to our body. Except, Gya-kun...”

Gasper had his face beaten so much that it was swollen. It was swollen in blue colour, and I couldn’t see that adorable face of his...

“...Gya-kun tried to protect us and...”

Koneko-chan made teary eyes. Seeing Gasper's swollen face... The man wearing a robe said it.

"It was our mistake regarding that boy. Since he stood in front of us to protect those two, it seems like my underlings used their fists instead. Other than that, we treated them well."

...I see, so Gasper was trying to protect Koneko-chan and Ravel. You did show how much of a man you really were. Everyone in our group, including me, changed the density of the aura around our bodies after seeing Gasper's appearance. They turned our adorable junior into this state, so we couldn't let them get away with it...! Sona-kaichou stopped me, who was emitting an aura of rage, using her hand, and then she spoke.

"Are you the mastermind behind this incident?"

"Yes, I am."

He answered immediately to Kaichou's question. Like I thought, this man was the 'leader' that the Magicians were talking about. Kaichou asked once again.

"Are you part of the Khaos Brigade? Then, what are your reasons for these assaults?"

"Yes, I had myself become part of the Khaos Brigade right now. There are several reasons for our assaults. The reason why the Magicians assaulted all of you is because of their curiosity. The ones who originally belong to the Khaos Brigade—."

Kaichou continued after the man.

"They made an alliance with the groups of Stray Magicians, correct? Those Magicians from before are a team made up of a mixture of the Magicians who were exiled from the association and the Magicians that belong to the Khaos Brigade. After all, the spells they used had identical symbols on their magic circle with those Magicians who interfered in the peace meeting of the Three Great Powers."

"Yes, it seems like they were interacting with each other quite often."

"Does the assault also have to do with the ratings of the youth Devils that the association announced? I hear that the Magicians that assaulted Hyoudou Issei-kun were attacking him while referring to the rankings, and they were also taking great interest in our powers in the group battle just now."

"Fufufu, looks like I don't have to explain myself. Yes, that is correct. It seems like they were interested in the rankings that the association announced for the young Devils, and it seems like they wanted to test whether their powers will work against you all."

The ratings given by the association where Mephisto Pheles-san was working as their chairman. So they assaulted us because they became interested in it... I know it was too late for me to say this, but they were too selfish! The man continued.

"Since there are many young Magicians on our side, they can't control themselves that well."

Kaichou agreed by saying, 'Ah, I see'.

"The Old Maou Faction was the biggest faction within the Khaos Brigade, and the Hero Faction that stood at the top after them. With these two great factions now gone, the organisation structure fell into a mess, and it became easier for their opinions to go through, correct?"

"Yes, that is correct. Now that Shalba Beelzebub and Cao Cao, who had influence and power, are gone, I am leading one part of their organisation...but this is quite difficult. So this incident occurred because we allowed their selfishness. It's also because there were many comments from the top where they said 'First of all, let them do what they like'."

...That was the reason!? So we were dragged into the Magicians' fuss? This wasn't a joke! ...Wait, the top? I see, so there was a person who the man in front of me was obeying. So was that the person that was leading the remnants of the Khaos Brigade that Sensei spoke of? The man continued to talk.

"That is one of the reasons for this assault, and the second reason is this."

The man clicked his fingers. Then, the wall at the right side moved and sank down. I could see the other side of the wall. What's over there was...a scenery which looked like an experiment room where there were many capsules. The many capsules were connected to a device. And inside...there was something. Ravel looked away. When we observed inside...it was filled with liquids, and was that a person which was floating inside...? We found it suspicious. The man then said.

“Do you know the methods of how Phoenix Tears are produced? The Pure-Bloods from the House of Phoenix go inside the magic circle which went through a special ritual, they also prepare a cup which went through a special ritual, and they drop their own tear inside that cup which is filled with water. The water inside the cup which has the teardrop added turns into Phoenix Tears. During that procedure, they say that it won't become a Phoenix Tear if it isn't a tear shed while having an empty mind. It seems like tears with emotions are 'that person's own tears'. So there won't be any effects if it's tears they shed for themselves or others.”

The man pointed at the capsules.

“The reason why I said this place is a 'factory' is because the magicians were mass-producing them. They created many clones of the High-class Devils Phoenix, and they produce Phoenix Tears inside the capsules. Since it's planned for this 'factory' to be abandoned, those inside have stopped functioning.”

The ones inside were the clones of High-class Devil Phoenix!? Hey, hey, what kind of things did you guys make!? The fake Tears, they were produced by using these clones! So Ravel was shown this! That's why she looked so depressed! She was the daughter of the House of Phoenix, you know!? And you guys abandoned it...! Of course she would be depressed after seeing this...! Kaichou narrowed her eyes and spoke with disgust.

“...So they have been sending the things they have produced here to the black market to gather enormous funds. The idea itself is repulsive. So the reason why your people were laying your hands on those from the House of Phoenix was to improve the accuracy of its production, correct?”

“It's helpful that you can understand the situation quickly, heiress of the House of Sitri. It seems like there are limits of copying the traits of the Phoenix even with use of the Magicians' studies, so they used the last resort of kidnapping those related to the Phoenix and taking the information directly from them. In the end, it seems like there were things they can only obtain directly from those carrying the blood of Phoenix, so that's why they kidnapped Ravel Phoenix. Ah, you don't have to worry. We didn't do anything to Ravel Phoenix's body. We only took detailed data of her demonic power to improve the accuracy of the Tears.”

But these guys hurt Ravel's heart...!

“...It's horrible... It's so horrible... Why...why did you make something like clones...?”

Ravel, who was staring at the capsule, was shedding tears while looking sad. ...Seriously, what on earth had they done.....!? So the guys who had been getting Tears in the shadows had started researching on their own because the distribution of them was stopped. The man then spoke in a disinterested tone.

“The information regarding Gasper Vladi was something we didn't expect.”

His words had been bland since before. Even though he talked long about it, there was no emotion in his words. He was speaking as though it wasn't his problem. The man wearing the robe turned around, and said it with a different vibe.

“Now, for the last demand we are seeking from all of you. There is a certain someone that wishes to fight strong people like you, so can you become his opponent? The truth is, this is the main objective for this assault. The reason why I granted the wish of the Magicians was just an extra for this.”

The man who just said that created a gigantic circle between us. The light run through the floor, and it glowed while forming a circle. Wait, our opponent? Who was he trying to make us fight? And this was their main objective... So the reason why he made us come here was mainly for this! ...Rather, that magic circle, I had seen it before. Yeah, it was identical to the thing we used to summon the gigantic Dragon King, Midgardsormr. Saji muttered.

“...The Dragon Gate?”

Yeah, it was the Dragon Gate! The one which called the powerful Dragons! When I remained in the Dimensional Gap, I was originally meant to be summoned through this! The Dragon Gate was emitting a green colour. Didn't the Dragon Gate give out the colour of the Dragon which was being summoned? I heard that Ddraig was red, Albion was white, Vritra was black, Fafnir was gold, Yu-Long was green, Midgardsormr was grey, Tiamat was blue, and old man Tannin was purple.

“...Ehm, green? If I remember right, the Dragon that governs green is one of the Five Great Dragons, Yu-Long! Why is Yu-Long here!?”

The easy-going Dragon King that I met in Kyoto! The aura around him was green! Then, the one who was going to appear from there was Yu-Long? W-Why? I became suspicious, but Kaichou shook her head.

“...No, that colour isn't green... It's a darker...green colour...”

It certainly was dark. It was dark green. ...It wasn't Yu-Long?

“Was there a Dragon that governs dark green...?”

Irina muttered.

“There was. In the past, there was a Dragon which represented dark green.”

The man wearing the silver robe said that. Then, the glow from the Dragon Gate got brighter, and then spread!

Guooo!!

The sound, a roar, which shook the whole white field came out from the mouth of the thing. What appeared in front of us was a gigantic monster with darkish scales which was standing on two legs. Thick arms and legs. Sharp claws, fangs and horns. It was spreading its enormously large wings, and it had a thick and long tail. Maybe it was more accurate to say that it was a giant which had the features of a Dragon. A form which was close to a human. But it had wings, a tail, and its head was completely that of a Dragon.

“—The legendary Dragon, Crime Force Dragon Grendel.”

The man wearing the robe said that, and the giant Dragon with sharp fangs opened its jaw. Its eyes glowing in silver colour were bright and sharp, and they were filled with hostility and killing intent.

[Guhahahaha. It's been a while since going through the Dragon Gate! So, who is my opponent? He's here, right? The insanely strong guy that I love so much!]

We became speechless at the sudden appearance of the mysterious Dragon. The size of its body rivaled that of old man Tannin. Except, there was a major difference with old man Tannin. It wasn't about its appearance. The quality of the aura around its body was very ominous. It had a black aura where you could see its evilness from just one look. A human-size black snake, Vritra, appeared from Saji's shadow. Vritra made the brightness of its iris darker, and released a shocking voice.

[...! Grendel...!?!]

Yeah, I remembered now. Sensei spoke of this guy few days ago. B-But...I was told that he was already terminated...! What's going on...? Vritra continued.

[...Impossible. This guy was terminated by the first Beowulf where there was nothing left after ending its tyranny.]

The giant Dragon, Grendel, looked at me and Vritra.

[—! This is interesting. The Heavenly Dragon, the red one! Vritra is also here! What's with that look?]

The Dragon narrowed its silver eyes while taking interest.

“The Two Heavenly Dragons have already been terminated, and are now sealed into the Sacred Gears.”

Hearing the words of the man wearing the robe, the Dragon laughed loudly.

[Guhahahahahaha! What the, so you guys were taken down as well! Pitiful! Pitiful indeed! Heavenly Dragons, my ass! You guys were also terminated! Oh well, this certainly is it! An opponent who is good for my awakening!]

The Dragon spread its wings to the side after making a laugh and lowered its posture! H-He was coming...! This was bad! The quality of its aura was that of a Dragon with quite a threat! I wasn't in my usual state, and we didn't have all our members here! Xenovia and Irina made a stance with their swords.

“...Are we fighting him?”

“B-But, it's my first time fighting a legendary Dragon!”

“It's the same for me. I fought against those fake Midgardsormrs and baby Fenrirs in the battle against Loki...but no matter how you look at him, he is Dragon King-class or higher!”

Yeah, it was exactly like what Xenovia said. This Dragon, it was emitting an aura of a Dragon King or higher. The man wearing the robe said it under this tense atmosphere.

“...Sekiryuutei, are you not going to wear your armour?”

“Sorry. I'm not feeling well.”

“...This is a problem. One of the main objectives is the battle between you and Grendel.”

E-Even if you say that... I also want to use it if I can! No, I should try call calling Ddraig again.

“...Ddraig. Can you hear me, Ddraig? It seems like we have a little problem here. The Dragon called Grendel is our opponent. Hey, Ddraig!”

I shouted towards the jewel. ...There was no response. Was he still sleeping? When I thought like that—

[...]

Oh, somehow, it seemed like there was a response.

“Ddraig, hey, what’s wrong?”

I asked once again. And then—

[...Onii-chan, who are you?]

...Huh? I thought I heard a weird phrase with Ddraig’s voice...

“...D-Ddraig-san...?”

I asked once again. Then, he replied like this.

[Yup, my name is Ddraig. I’m a baby Dragon.]

...

Eh.

“Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!?”

My eyes popped out, and I could only scream at this! What’s with the ‘My name is Ddraig, I’m a baby Dragon’!? What happened!? What occurred!? Kaichou then said it to me who was confused. Ah, so everyone heard what Ddraig said just now.

“...Perhaps.”

“Sona-kaichou, do you know what’s happening?”

Sona-kaichou answered Akeno-san’s question.

“...This is just my assumption, but Sekiryuutei Ddraig was mentally cornered by the influence of Ise-kun’s Oppai Dragon and things related to it. On top of that, Ddraig used his power to resurrect Ise-kun back in the incident with monsters, and therefore has started to sleep more often. As the result of using too much of his powers, he hasn’t healed completely, and therefore might have reverted back to being a child.”

Reverted back to being a child...!? Was that those things which come up quite often in manga and television!? Koneko-chan then said.

“...It seems like he simply reverted back to being a child because of the oppai-related things of Ise-senpai...”

Seriously!? So Ddraig, who was all worn-out because of my Oppai Dragon thing...made his mentality go back to that of a child? Suddenly, Ddraig made a shivering sound.

[...Oppai...oppai, I’m so scared...]

—He’s scared of the keyword Oppai! How can this be!? That much!? Do you hate oppai that much!? Did you run away from reality because you hate oppai!? I say it to calm him down.

“Ddraig! No, Ddraig-kun! Oppai aren’t scary! Oppai are something which is very soft and good!”

Yes, Oppai were miracles! Yeah, we were saved many times thanks to them!

[...Zoom zoom iyaan, that phrase is burned deep into my heart...]

It was horrible! His trauma was too horrible! Something outrageous was going on!

“The Heavenly Dragon reverted back to being a child!? What the heck does that mean!? Just what do you have to do in order to corner the legendary Dragon to that state!?”

It seemed like Saji was in shock. No, I was the one who wanted to ask him that! What was this!? What was I supposed to do!?

“Vritra, can you do something about it?”

Saji asked. The black Dragon King answered like this.

[If there was another Dragon King, then we might be able to bring Ddraig’s consciousness back.]

Another Dragon King? There was the guy in front of us who seemed to be in the same level, but he didn’t seem like he would help us.

[Hey, I still can’t fight? Rather, what happened to that shit, Ddraig?]

Grendel asked the man wearing the robe.

“Heavenly Dragons must also feel difficulty at living sometimes. Let’s see how it will go for now.”

Heavenly Dragons feeling difficulty to continue living! Don’t take it like that! It’s all my fault!

“Please leave it to me!”

We were all puzzled, but someone unexpected stepped forward. It was Asia. Kaichou said it while looking at Asia, who seemed to have made up her mind.

“Looks like Asia-san’s preparations are all set. Then, I will leave it to you, Asia-san.”

...What did she mean? Asia, did she learn something? While I was finding this suspicious, Asia started to make powerful chants! A golden magic circle appeared in front of Asia!

“—Answer my voice, Golden King. Crawl on the ground, and you shall receive my reward.”

With that chant, the golden magic circle glowed even stronger! The Dragon Gate opened once again. I had seen that golden glow before!

“Please come out! Gigantis Dragon! Fafnir-san!”

The moment Asia finished her chants, the one who responded to her call appeared! The one who appeared from the golden magic circle was...a giant four-legged Dragon with golden scales. It was emitting a magnificent aura from its body. This one here was also more than ten meters tall, just like Grendel. It was a Dragon without any wings. ...There was something which looked like a cloth wrapped around its horn... Was it some kind of charm? ...Wait, Fafnir!? Fafnir, you mean that Dragon King who was one of the Five Great Dragon Kings who made a pact with Sensei and had the form of an armour!? It was natural for me to be familiar with that golden glow! Kaichou explained it to me, who was in shock.

“Azazel-sensei did step back from the front lines after all. It seems like he cancelled his pact with the Dragon King. Except, he thought it would be a waste, so he urged a pact with Asia-san.”

...I did hear about Sensei stepping back from the front lines. But I never thought he would hand Fafnir to Asia! I see, Sensei did certainly pay attention to Asia’s talent as a monster tamer. He did give her advice to make a pact with legendary creatures. He said she should prepare someone to act as her shield, so it would be okay even if she was to be targeted by the enemy when she is healing. But a Dragon King!? Kaichou continued.

“Just like what I heard from Rias, it seems like she was able to make a pact. I can understand why she got a blessing from the Dragon God Ophis as well.”

“...Ophis’s blessing? Ah! Sensei did say that before leaving!”

Yeah, Sensei certainly said something like that to Asia and Ophis! So, this was the reason why Asia had been talking to Ophis in secret lately! Kaichou shook her head.

“It seems like Asia-san’s aura has started to show Ophis’s divine power. After checking her, she didn’t have any direct enhancement of her ability, but her luck and compatibility with Dragons has increased greatly because of the blessing. It seems like Ophis herself doesn’t notice that she gave her blessing to her, so she must have sent her gratitude to Asia-san without realising it. Likewise, Irina-san is also receiving a blessing from her.”

“My luck has increased! Last time, I got the second prize in a lottery!”

Irina put her thumb up! The second prize was kinda awkward!

“Kaichou, do I also have a blessing from Ophis...? Isn't she giving me one even though she always follows behind me?”

“...In your case, it would be more accurate to say that you have been possessed. Most likely, you have shouldered a karma that no God can purify.”

So it went past her being attached to me, to the point that I was possessed!? And even a God couldn't purify it!

“With Ophis acting as the mediator, Fafnir made a pact with Asia-san. He's a legendary Dragon that has been gathering treasures from the world for his collection. Asia-san needed to prepare a treasure which was enough to satisfy him to complete the pact. ...It seems the price she paid was great.”

“What did she have to pay in order to complete the pact?”

“...T-That is... It's a bit too strong for me to say...”

Kaichou became hesitant to say it when I asked her. W-Why? Was it something she couldn't say?

“No, I'm worried about it! I want to know what my important family member had to sacrifice to make a pact with a Dragon King! I must ask her!”

You know she's my important Asia, right? What did Asia have to give in order to make herself stronger!? Since she was my family, I had to ask! Kaichou muttered it embarrassingly while making her cheek go red.

“...nties...”

I couldn't hear her! I asked her once again.

“Eh? I can't hear you! Please say it more clearly!”

Then, Asia shouted very embarrassingly!

“My panties!”

...

...Whaaat!? I immediately realised what the cloth wrapped around its horn was! Those were panties! A girl's panties! Fafnir opened its heavy jaw.

[—Treasure, O-panties, I have received. I, panties, happy.]

—O-panties. ...Ah, how could this be? This guy was a perv...! A Dragon King that responded to a pact by having panties as a price!? Hold on! Then, what kind of pact did Sensei have in order to make a pact with this O-pantsu Dragon!? Pants!? Did Sensei also bring some panties from somewhere?

“I think Sensei gave him a proper treasure.”

Kaichou said it as if she guessed my suspicions. I-I see~! So that made me an idiot for thinking that it had to be panties! My impression of Fafnir was horrible! He turned into Sensei's cool looking armour, but he happened to be like this...! While enduring embarrassment, Asia asked the Panties Dragon King.

“Fafnir-san! Ddraig-san's mentality is weakening! As the fellow legendary Dragon King, is there any way for you to help him!?”

[...I can.]

Oh, seriously? Asia begged.

“—! Is that true!? Please! Please return Ddraig-san back to normal!”

[Treasure, give me.]

—! He started begging for it!

“...I-I understand. It's the price for the pact...”

While enduring such embarrassment, Asia took out a cute-looking light blue-coloured panty from her pocket. Seeing that, Xenovia and Irina shouted!

“T-That is Asia's favourite panty!”

“Asia-san, you are going to give that to him!?”

It seemed like it was her favourite one!

“Stop, Asia! There’s no reason for you to go that far! Hey, Dragon King! What do you want panties for!?”

I asked! He answered without changing his expression.

[O-panties, treasure.]

—I know that! It certainly is treasure! It’s too much of a treasure!

“Hey, Vritra! You are the same Dragon King as him! Do something! Persuade this guy!”

Vritra-san! Please do something about this panties bastard!

[Not my problem.]

You will just ignore it!? Xenovia shouted.

“Wait! There’s no reason for Asia to give him that! I will give you mine!”

Irina tried to stop Xenovia.

“What are you saying, Xenovia!? You aren’t wear any panties under that battle costume!”

“Ku...! Fafnir! Is my battle costume not enough!?”

Xenovia was trying to take her battle costume off! Xenovia’s friendship towards Asia was great! She must be thinking it was better than having Asia give her panties to this Dragon.

[I, prefer blonde beauty’s panties. I want the treasure of Panties Sister.]

“Our Asia-chan isn’t a Panties Sister!”

I approached Fafnir and smacked his head! Though he didn’t flinch! I couldn’t forgive this Dragon King! He called our Asia-chan a Panties Sister! Shit! Rias was the Switch Princess, and Asia was the Panties Sister! What the hell!? The giant Dragon asked the man wearing the robe.

[Hey, what’s going on? Is Fafnir my opponent? Can I start my attack now?]

“No, please wait a bit. The Two Heavenly Dragons and their comrades go through irregular evolution with woman’s breasts and buttocks. They have entered their preparation phase. The real battle starts from here.”

Don’t answer him so seriously! What’s with that phrase filled with anticipation!? Rather, the Vali Team are thought to be the same as us! Please don’t bully Albion as well!

“I will give it to you!”

Asia’s face became red, and she put the light blue-coloured panties on the horn located on the Dragon’s nose.





Upon seeing that, her best friends, Xenovia and Irina, cried.

“Uu, Asia! What amazing resolution...!”

“Ah, lord! Please give your blessing to Asia-san who has sacrificed herself!”

While having her best friends watch over her, the ritual of handing out the offering ended. At that moment...the golden Dragon expanded its nostrils and breathed in! Was it trying to release its Dragon’s power by taking a breath...!? While watching him with anticipation, the golden Dragon King——

[Asia-tan’s panties, sniff sniff.]

It started to sniff hard on the smell of the panties...

“Don’t sniff sniiiiiiiiiff!”

I said it back to him! It was my second time talking back to this Dragon King! And you can’t call her ‘Asia-tan’~! This guy was really enjoying Asia’s panties which were on its horn! He was greatly enjoying the smell of it! What a Dragon! What a perverted bastard!

“I can’t become a bride anymore!”

Asia, who couldn’t endure this embarrassment, could only scream by covering her face with both her hands.

[O-panties, I have received. Ddraig, heal!]

Fafnir released a golden aura towards my gauntlet.

[Ku! Such embarrassment!]

Responding to Fafnir’s aura, Vritra also released its black aura to my gauntlet while complaining. After a pause, my gauntlet started to emit the usual red glow.

[——! ...Huh! W-What was I doing!? Ah, partner!]

Aaaaaaah, it’s Ddraig! The usual Ddraig has returned!

“Uu, I’m so glad you came back, Ddraig... The sacrifice we paid in order to bring you back was too great...!”

Asia...lost her panties and something important...! You came back from the power of her panties! But I couldn’t tell that to the delicate Ddraig! I couldn’t tell him that at all! I shouted towards Asia!

“Asiiiiiii! It’s not like you can’t become a bride anymore! I will take full responsibility, so rest assured!”

Asia cried out while putting her hand on her mouth.

“Uu, Ise-san! I’m inexperienced, but please take care of me!”

“Yeah, leave it to me! God damn it! It’s such a cruel destiny!”

[Sniff sniff.]

Damn Panties Dragon, he was still enjoying the smell!

“I keep on telling you, stop sniffing, you perverted Draaaaaagon!”

Now, let’s start since I was back to my usual self.

“I won’t let Asia’s sacrifice be in vain! Balance Break!”

[Welsh Dragon Balance Breaker!!!!!!!]

The red aura that was wrapped around my body shaped into armour! ——! I realised it after doing Balance Break. I could Balance Break without any countdown! ...Was it the influence of Great Red and Ophis? Well, it was okay. This was good. I could fight without any time loss! I stood in front of the giant Dragon, Grendel, while wearing my armour.

[——! Grendel...? What’s going on? This guy was supposed to have been terminated before I was.]

Ddraig made a shocked voice.

[Guhahaha, man, you look awful. Well, it’s okay. Ou! Come, Ddraig. Shall we start a fight to the death again?]

The Dragon lifted its mouth while making a fearless smile. Ddraig asked.

[It seems like you weren't sealed into a Sacred Gear like I was... ..How did you come back to this world?]

[Let's leave the simple matter aside. The thing is, there is the strong me, and there is the strong you. Then, let's start killing each other!]

It lowered its posture once again, and Grendel was now set on attacking me.

[Partner, that guy is an insane Dragon that only thinks of going wild. ...If you are going to do it, go through it to the end. Don't feel even a bit of sympathy.]

I never thought Ddraig would say this. So it means he was that much of a crazy Dragon, huh. Hearing Ddraig's words, Grendel said it with joy.

[You sure can say it, you sure can say it indeed! Being called a Heavenly Dragon! There isn't Heaven, God or Truth among Dragons!]

Oh, scary. He had such an amazing intensity and pressure. It was different to the magnificent aura of old man Tannin.

[That's right. This will be the first time for you to be fighting a legendary-class Dragon for real.]

Yeah, I had a survival camp with old man Tannin, but I never had a real battle with him putting our life on the line. It was just training. Grendel then said.

[Hey, all of you, I changed my mind. Let me fight Ddraig one on one.]

...So that's how you wanted to play. But that would be good for me. I also...had something built up in me...! I could release it since I could finally wear this armour. The thing about Ravel, the thing about the assault at Kuoh Academy, I've already had enough!

"That's alright with me. Everyone, can you leave this to me?"

I asked everyone. Kaichou smiled.

"You are our greatest force. May I say it on behalf of Rias? ——Do it, Ise-kun!"

That's the best word for sending me off, Sona-kaichou! For this incident, you guided us on behalf of Rias! So please watch over me till the end over there! I will finish this! I spread my Dragon wings and went forward!

[Jet!!]

I went straight ahead at high speed. Grendel smiled happily when he saw me.

[Oho! That's iiiiiiit! Head on, huh! Yeah, that's what I want!]

Grendel's enormous fist came flying at me! I could feel an aura which seemed like it would crush me down if I got hit by it! I wouldn't get hit with it! I changed my direction in the air and dodged his punch! Even though he had a huge fist, it was fast! So being Dragon King-class wasn't a joke, huh! I went within his range, and then changed the Evil Piece inside me!

[Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost!]

[Welsh Dragonic Rook!]

[Change Solid Impact!!!!]

The shape of my armour fattened and thickened, and the form of both my arms changed into something which specialised in both attacking and defending. I nailed my fist, which had increased its size, towards his face! Grendel got thrown back and was about to fall down, but he managed to stay on his feet! At the same time I landed on the ground, I deactivated Triana Rook to return my armour to the normal state and stepped back. Grendel, who was punched in his face from the front, stroke his cheek.

[...What was that? Hey, hey, hey.]

"——!?"

I was in shock. That was Triana Rook which specialised in attacking, you know? He got hit by it directly, but he seemed as if nothing happened. The only change was that there was a bit of his blue-coloured blood coming out from his mouth. That was the only damage I gave him? Grendel breathed violently from his nose, and then complained.

[Is this it? Isn't your host too weak? You were crazy strong before, Ddraig. Seriously, pitiful!]

...Oh man. So Triana won't work.

[Partner, let's transform into True Queen. I also can't ignore the words he said just now.]

Yeah, Ddraig. You are right. I still hadn't punched enough for Gasper, Ravel and Koneko-chan's sake! I then recited a powerful chant.

"...I, who is about to awaken, am the Sekiryuutei who holds the truth of King up high! Holding the infinite hopes and unbreakable dreams and walking the path of righteousness! I will become an Emperor of the Crimson dragon—"

If I lost here, I wouldn't be able to face my seniors who have perished! I couldn't continue to be beaten like this!

"And I will lead you to the path of Heaven glowing in deep crimson light!"

[Cardinal Crimson Full Drive!!!!]

Bright crimson aura enveloped my body, and it dyed my armour a deep crimson colour! Seeing the change in my armour, Grendel laughed once again.

[Crimson? What the? Interesting! That's really interesting, Ddraaaaig! You are clearly stronger than before!]

Grendel jumped forward! Fast! It didn't seem like he had a huge body at all! He shortened the distance between us immediately, and slashed down with his claws! I flied and dodged it at high-speed, and nailed my right fist into his face as a counter! ...Shit! I also felt it before, but... The hit just now was perfect in terms of its impact and timing. However, it was heavy! It was thick! It was hard! What was it with this guy's defence...!? I didn't have any sensation where I could hit him away when my punch landed on him! It was thick and heavy! It made me think what his scales and skin were made from.

[Grendel had the hardest scales among the extinct Dragons. A half-hearted attack won't work, partner.]

"But on the other hand, we can't use Dragon Blaster or Crimson Blaster here."

They had high attack power, but they were attacks which could also blow away the surroundings right away. I wouldn't be able to shoot them here since I didn't know how strong this place is built. If I shot them without thinking, this field might perish.

[I'm sorry, but right now, you wouldn't be able to use them anyway. They may explode since I got my consciousness back.]

After all, the True Queen was still unstable to begin with. But I was in a situation where I wanted one powerful attack.

[Partner, what is installed in your left gauntlet?]

Having Ddraig say it, I remembered about that. ...Yeah, I had this. It was something too good for me, but it wouldn't be a waste to use it here!

[Here I coooome! Ddraig-chaaaaan!]

When Grendel shouted that out, his stomach fattened! He was trying to spit out something! What Grendel spat out was—a huge fireball! Fire was a Dragon's special attack after all! I dodged it by spreading my wings and moving to the sides...but Grendel, who had moved to that spot out of nowhere, was present! This Dragon moved too fast! ...So the fireball was a bluff, huh! He put his fist towards me! And I didn't have the time to dodge it!

GOSU!

The strike from his giant fist hit my whole body! And the shock passed through my whole body...! Shit...what insane attack power...! It was just a normal punch, but it carried more power than Sairaorg-san when he was wearing the lion's armour...! I lost my balance up in the air, and Grendel swung his hand down to slam me to the ground! I got hit by it directly from my back, and I got slammed to the ground violently!

...Gaha...!

Because of the motion and force of being slammed down, I coughed blood from my helmet! Intense pain run throughout my body! ...Like I thought, his power was insane! T-This guy's strength wasn't just that of a Dragon King...!

[Guhahahahaha! Get squashed!]

I then saw a giant foot that was coming down at me! I would get squashed! I couldn't let that happen! I rolled my body to the side to avoid being stomped by the enemy, and fix my posture right away. The stomp from the giant body

missed and cracked the ground, which then shook the whole field! I flew up to the sky immediately! Along with flying up to the sky, I kicked towards the enemy's jaw!

[Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost!]

I kicked Grendel's jaw really hard! It was a clean hit, and I felt some resistance. ...But the sensation I felt was hard and thick! He was so heavy that it was impossible to kick him away! This wasn't only because he was big! His defence is really high! And he had quick movements...!

[Dragons are the strongest creatures. Among them, the Dragon Kings and those in classes which surpass them are such powerful foes that they will become a threat. Don't forget that. ...Especially the Evil Dragons and those close to it are violent as well as being tough!]

Yeah, I really do think that is the case here, Ddraig!

Even after being hit on his jaw, Grendel continued to throw his punches normally! I blocked them by thickening the armour on my arms to the state of Welsh Dragonic Rook...but the force of his punches was overwhelming, and I got smashed to the wall! ...The damage on my back! Because of the pain of clashing to the wall, it was hard to breathe! Rather, I had been receiving insane shock even through the armour!

[His attack power and defence are insanely high!]

You are exactly right, Ddraig...

Grendel and I then started a fist fight! This Dragon threw swift punches and kicks which you couldn't believe were coming from someone with a huge body! I couldn't let my guard down since he would attack me from the blind spot with his tail when he saw the chance! ...So being a giant-type Dragon allowed him to have this many movements, huh! There was an overwhelming difference in terms of our body size! Being hit by his heavy blow made me fall down like a fly being smacked down with a fly swatter! ...I could feel dull pain every time that happens.

[I'm enjoying this! You can exchange hits with me despite being small! I can't get enough of thiiiiis!]

Having the expression of ecstasy on his huge face, he started to attack happily! ...I was attacking him with my best punches, kicks and Dragon Shots, but he was still coming ahead to me without feeling a thing!

[The damage is definitely going through to him, partner! However, that guy...was originally a broken Dragon who had nails missing in his head from the beginning. He even enjoys receiving damage!]

...It only makes me feel chills and creepiness, Ddraig...!

The one who fought equally against this armour was Sairaorg-san. The one who surpassed it was Cao Cao. This Grendel...I wonder how his power would rank. A bit higher rather than being equal to me, huh. He was more troublesome than Cao Cao in a different way. Rather than Cao Cao, who would go down after being hit, I started to get tired fighting this guy who seemed like he wouldn't be going down no matter how much I hit him... But I will return a hit which is strengthened to the max back to you. I can't be getting cornered one-sidedly after all! After taking a breath, I shortened the distance to Grendel! At the same time, I gather the Dragon's aura to the Ascalon that was installed in the left gauntlet! Dragon Slayer... No Dragon could withstand this! If it hit, then it was my win! Grendel repeatedly released the fireballs to me! Three shots! I dodged the first shot in the air, and I evaded the second one by flying in a low altitude close to the ground! The third one—

[Guhahahahaha! Here I come, Ddraig!]

He appeared before the third shot came at me, and he was flying above me. He also released flames from above me! A wide-range flame from above! And the third shot of the fireball which he released before was coming at me from the front! I put strength into my right arm, and shot out a large block of demonic power! Dragon Shot! The flames from above...seems like I had to fly into them! I would charge forward within the flames...and then defeat him! After my Dragon Shot cancelled the fireball which was coming from the front, I went flying above like that! I jumped into the flames which were coming from above me! A huge amount of flames burned me without mercy! Hoooooot! I would have turned into dust if I didn't wear my armour!

[It's clearly more powerful than the one Grendel breathed out in the past!]

However, Ddraig! I just need to overcome this!

Grendel got happy from the bottom of his heart when he saw me charging forward within his flames!

[For real!? You, you really are the beeeest! I love idiots like yooooou!]

I passed through the flames!

"I will pay back the debts of my juniors to yooooou!"

[Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost! Boost!]

I nailed my right fist, which had the power of Ascalon's Dragon Slayer ability working on it, to the stomach of Grendel, who had an expression of ecstasy on his face!

[Solid Impact Booster!!!!]

DOGON!

A low-ditch sound came from my heavy blow! That blow created a sound of collision which echoed throughout the field. Grendel, who received the blow directly, coughed a lot of blue blood from his mouth while falling on the ground. The whole field shook by the impact of having a giant body fall. ...I felt that the attack went through. I also used the ability of Dragon Slayer on it. With this... ..But an unbelievable thing happened before my eyes. —Grendel started to stand up. After taking a breath, he spat his blood on the ground, and then moved his neck while making noise. My blow of Welsh Dragonic Rook that had the power of Ascalon's Dragon Slayer...didn't have that much effect on him!? Grendel gave an evil smile to me, who was in shock.

[That hurts! It hurts to the maaaax! But, that was a good punch! Guhahahahaha! Interesting, it sure is interesting! This pain makes me realise that I am alive! The real thing will start from here! Fine! Fight to the death, fight to death I tell ya! You and I! Let's fight until one of us dies by having our body shattered! Ddraaaaaaaaig!]

...So this guy was this tough, huh...! Even I started to have sweat coming out from me. His toughness surpassed the word of being 'tough'...! Just how much did I have to do in order to defeat him!?

[He still stands with joy even with that damage he got right now!? Damn crazy Dragon...!]

Ddraig also said it with disgust. Then, Grendel made his stomach three times bigger! Another fireball! I became cautious, but the giant Dragon changed the direction of his body and—

[But before that, there's a change of plans! All of you, it's decided all of you will die!]

He shot several fireballs towards my comrades! Bastard! Wasn't this supposed to be one on one!?

"Ku!"

"I won't let you!"

Rosswisse-san stood at the front and made lots of defence-type magic-circles appear! Akeno-san also had the wings of a Fallen Angel appear, and created the thunder and light that had the shape of a Dragon!

"—Water."

Kaichou enveloped a silent, but a strong blue-coloured aura around her. Water appeared and gathers around her! Enormous amounts of water that Kaichou was controlling with her demonic power acted as a wall and covered our comrades. The fireball released by Grendel got stopped by Rosswisse-san's defence magic circle, and then got erased by Akeno-san's Raikouryuu! The explosion and heat spread throughout the field, but the wall of water that Sona-kaichou created blocked them! —! There were still two fireballs left! The giant fireballs were heading towards my comrades once again!

"—Alright, let's begin! You will be fighting as well, Fafnir!"

Saji made a magic circle made from black flames appear in front of him that captured Grendel's fireball once it went into it!

"Vanish!"

He started to trim away the power of the fireball with Vritra's ability. The black flame was eating away Grendel's fireball and was trying to weaken its impact.

[Asia-tan, protect.]

Fafnir released a block of aura shining in gold from his mouth, and he completely erased Grendel's fireball that Saji was stopping! Wow, a combination attack between Dragon Kings! It was a bit regretful that I was feeling it was okay to leave Asia in Fafnir's hands who had just done a job which was worth the price! And, for the last fireball, the duo of Xenovia and Irina—

“I will cut it down with Durandal!”

She cut the Dragon’s fireball with a single slash by combining the power of Destruction and Rapidly which enhanced its speed and power! She then continued to cut the fireball into pieces. Despite being cut into pieces, the force acting on Grendel’s fireball hadn’t died!

“Looks like I will be the one to finish it!”

To finish it, Irina used the mass-produced Holy Demonic Sword, which seemed to have the element of ice added to it, to freeze all of the fireball which had been cut into pieces. All of Grendel’s fireballs which went heading towards my comrades have perished! He did take us by surprise, but he shouldn’t look down on my comrades! But the action right now was such a cowardly act!

“You! You said this was a one on one! Why did you attack my comrades!?”

I punched his face while shouting that out, but he wiped the blood from his nose with his ,and then put on an evil grin.

[My bad, I just like killing after all. I can’t maintain my tension if I don’t kill every now and then. But, it looks like I failed. They are strong, your comrades that is. So I will kill all of you! Hit! Torment! Stomp! Bite! Then I will make all of you into asssssshes!]

...He was pissed to the max! His silver eyes were glowing so brutally with hostility and killing intent! Grendel’s hostility was directed towards me and my comrades.

“Hyoudou-kun! We don’t have to tag along with fighting him one-on-one anymore! Let’s attack him together!”

It was just like Kaichou said. It was a different story if that guy didn’t want to fight one-on-one. We would beat him together!

“Roger!”

...Even though I said that, I was at my limit at maintaining this crimson armour. It was a form where it was hard to stabilise its power to begin with. And since Ddraig had just come back, it seemed like it wouldn’t last long...!

[Then let’s start the second round, the red one. No, the crimson Ryuutei-chaaaaaan!]

It happened when Grendel spread his wings and was about to come at me. His body stopped. We came to know that reason right away. —That’s because something that looked like a black shadow was wrapping itself around Grendel’s foot. I became suspicious, and then I looked towards the shadow, no, I looked towards the place where the darkness was coming from. ...Gasper, who had creepy shadows appearing around him, was standing there. He had his red eyes glow bewitchingly, and his body looked powerless. The darkness wriggled and was heading towards Grendel. ...So that was Gasper’s hidden power... He was emitting a very terrifying aura. The darkness spread even further, and it seemed like it was trying to devour this whole space.

[...What is that? Never mind. Is it okay for me to kill that as well? It’s okay, right!? There are so many strong shitty brats here! This is a good era! It’s worth destroying it!]

Grendel was taking this situation with great joy! Shit! Damn battle maniac! I won’t let you lay a finger on my junior! It happened when I tried to get Grendel’s attention back to me.

“—No, Grendel. Please stop right there. It seems the experiment has been a success. We could have had a better investigation if Kiba Yuuto was also here, but this should be enough.”

The man wearing the robe stopped Grendel. Grendel then made a shout of dissatisfaction.

[Don’t stop me! It starts from here! I will slaughter them all! The real thing starts when both sides become high to the max! Let me battle them! I’m going to discard my regret from back then! This time, I will finally eat, get eaten, break, get broken, and kill!]

...He really was brutal. So there was a Dragon like him, huh. It was my first time seeing a Dragon who was attached to battling this much. It made Vali look innocent instead! Not just to me, but he was also giving out hostility and killing intents to both his enemies and ally.

The man wearing the robe then said it to Grendel with cold words.

“Do you want to return to being a corpse? You are still in the tuning stage. If you overdo it...”

Grendel made a noise with his tongue when he heard that, and he put his fist down.

[...Chi, damn, can't help it then. Since you brought that up, then I only have the option to stop.]

...He put his fist down. ...'Corpse'? What did that mean? Tuning stage? There were so many questions... A communication-type magic circle appeared immediately near the ear of the man wearing the robe. The man listened to it, and then nodded his head.

"...Good news, Grendel. It seems like they are having a really tough time against the white one. Let's go to their side this time."

[Oho! So it's Albion this time! I can't get enough of this!]

Hearing the man wearing the robe, Grendel put on a grin.

Albion? White one? It's Vali! Don't tell me the reason why Kuroka wasn't at my house was because... Grendel pointed at me.

[Ddraig the shit, Vritra the gloomy, and the panty bastard. My playtime with you will be on hold. Next time. Next time, it's that. I will kill you all. I will kill all three of you together, okay? Guhahaha!]

The Dragon Gate opened, and it envelops Grendel while having the circle emit dark green colour. When the light stopped...the giant Dragon was gone. Confirming that, the man wearing the robe took off his hood.

The one who appeared under it was a youth with silver hair. However, the youth's face looked familiar. ...It seemed like I saw him somewhere before... I then remembered the face of the strongest Queen who always takes care of me. The silver-haired man then said.

"I am Lucifuge. Euclid Lucifuge."

——!

L-L-Lucifuge...!? What was that supposed to mean!? No, that was right! It was natural for him to look similar! He looked like Grayfia-san!

"You aren't their boss, right? Then, who is unifying the remnants of the Khaos Brigade!?"

Saji asked. The man just narrowed his eyes.

"You will come to know the identity of the current boss of the Khaos Brigade very soon."

It seemed like Kaichou realised something after hearing the man, Euclid.

"...I see, so the one who intruded into this town and brought the Magicians inside is you, correct? If it's someone with the same aura as Grayfia-sama, then it may not be weird for you to pass through the barrier."

Hearing that, Euclid said it with a cold voice.

"Please tell this to my elder sister, Grayfia Lucifuge, who went so low as to become a servant of the Gremory. 'If you are living as you like by abandoning the role of Lucifuge, then I also have the same right to do so'."

...Elder sister...? T-Then, this guy was... The man who named himself as Euclid Lucifuge disappeared within the teleportation magic circle. At the same time, this field started to collapse as if it had fulfilled its duty. The space crumbled as if a piece in a puzzle was missing. The kaleidoscope view which was a trait of the Dimensional Gap became visible. This place wouldn't last long. Gasper, who unleashed his mysterious power, had collapsed on the floor.

"It looks like this place will collapse! Let's evacuate through the teleportation magic circle!"

Under Sona-kaichou's command, Akeno-san activated a magic circle which would let us return to that underground space. Everyone gathered at the centre of the magic circle after retrieving Gasper. Then, Ravel activated a small magic circle in her hand and released it towards the capsule. The magic circle which was released hit the capsule, and then disappeared after making a single glow.

"...I will at least have myself do this."

She muttered something which I couldn't understand.

"I see. So that's what you mean."

It seemed like Kaichou noticed something when she saw that. She also did the same and released the magic circle towards the capsule. While finding their action suspicious, I also couldn't hide myself being disturbed at the identity of

the man wearing the robe. ...Grayfia-san's brother and a Dragon that was supposed to be terminated. ...What was going on? What was about to happen, Grayfia-san...Sirzechs-sama...?

New Life

It was almost sunrise. Having finished the battle, we returned from that field after retrieving Ravel and the others. We went back up, and were resting in the station. I was dead tired after using Gift several times, promoting to True Queen, and also from fighting Grendel. I went to sit on the chair alone at the resting area of the station after receiving treatment from Asia. Kaichou and the others left the station to give a report about the matter, and were speaking to the staff. Gasper was taken away by the rescue team. Asia and the others went with him. It seemed like Gasper wasn't in a life-threatening situation...but the hidden power within him that I'd witnessed for the first time was creepy. Just what on earth was happening inside Gya-suke's body? ...But, the defence of that Grendel. The Dragon Slayer was supposed to have worked. Kaichou did say this.

"...I don't know the truth about their experiment, but that Grendel...withstood a Dragon Slayer. There's no doubt that his defence is exceptional. But it's certain that he has some kind of power added to him. Receiving so little damage from the crimson armour state Ise-kun with a Dragon Slayer is impossible."

Did he attain a resistance to Dragon Slayers? Was such thing even possible? Ddraig had come back, so there wouldn't be any downsides to start developing a Dragon Blaster and Crimson Blaster with the Dragon Slayer ability from Ascalon added, which was suggested by Rias and Kiba... I would need a technique which could take down that brutal Dragon... But, their 'experiments'. The thing about the Phoenix was just the sub-experiment, and their true purpose was to have Grendel clash against us. And the one who brought that Dragon was...Lucifuge. He introduced himself as Grayfia-san's younger brother. ...There certainly were some similarities. The aura he emitted after taking off his hood was the same as hers. With that aura, he could intrude here, and it might be possible for him to let the Magicians do so as well. In the end, we couldn't retrieve the interior of the thing which produced the fake Phoenix Tears. It looked like we had to get information from the Magicians we caught. ...Unbelievable things certainly have occurred during Rias's absence. And the things about the Vampires and the pact with Magicians were still waiting for us... So the Khaos Brigade would be standing in our way once again, huh... I looked up at the ceiling. Shalba, Cao Cao...and this time, it was Lucifuge and the Dragon that was supposed to have been exterminated.

"Ise-sama...I have brought your tea."

Ravel handed me a can of tea which seemed to have been bought through a vending machine. Koneko-chan was also next to her. I took it from her. Ravel and Koneko-chan sat next to me. A moment of silence. A bit later, Ravel said.

"...I, won't forgive them."

She said it clearly. Ravel's eyes were glowing so strongly that I couldn't believe she was crying a moment ago when she saw the factory made by the Magicians.

"I won't forgive an act like that."

Koneko-chan took Ravel's hand.

"...Me too. That's why, be strong, Ravel."

Koneko-chan said that while putting on a smile, and then left.

Ravel suddenly blushed.

"...Ise-sama, can I talk a bit about something which happened a long time ago?"

She then said it as if she had made up her mind.

"I had my heart shaking with excitement when my butler told me a story about heroes. I had my young heart filled with the dream of wanting to become a woman who can support such a hero. But as I gradually got older, I forgot about it without realising it..."

Ravel then looked straight at me.

"But that dream came back naturally. His master...seeing Ise-sama who fought Riser onii-sama for the sake of the woman he likes, the dream that I had when I was young came back to me gradually...and when I realised it, I was researching every single piece of information about Ise-sama. You are very straight-forward, curious about girls, and are very honest about your own desires. But you are passionate, very thoughtful of your comrades, and keep on walking forward to pursue your dream. That shine is something which isn't present around me in the upper echelons of society."

I...was shining? Ravel continued.

"I want to stand beside and watch over Ise-sama's dream. That's the dream I started to have from a single thought. My selfish illusion... The reason why I came here is because of my own selfish thoughts... But, I was really happy when I was appointed Ise-sama's manager... And I also hope that I can remain working beside you from now on as well..."

But I wasn't able to protect this girl back at Kuoh Academy...

"...I wasn't able to protect you at Kuoh Academy."

I shook my fist with frustration. Ravel shook her head.

"You did come to rescue me. Ise-sama, you came to rescue us, even going so far as to fight that enormous Dragon. I am safe. I am alive. I believed in you."

Ravel took my hand, and showed me her bright smile.

"I believed that my hero would come to rescue me. I was very happy. I just wanted to tell you this..."

...Ravel. You believed in me that much... It made me happy. Seriously. I was starting to think how wonderful it would be if she continued to come with me. If she remained my manager, I couldn't tell how helpful that would be. I said this with a different attitude.

"Ravel, I will get even stronger. ...Looks like my objective is getting bigger again. If it's okay with you, will you continue to be my manager from now on as well?"

"I also have the ambition of wanting to stir up the heat with you as well!"

She really knew how to say it. That was why she felt reliable, this small-built Ojou-sama that is.

"Yeah, I got it. It will be helpful if you can support my brain, which is quite lacking. But first, we need to beat up those guys who made a fool out of the Phoenix! A factory like that isn't allowed to exist!"

"Yes! I won't stand down without doing anything!"

Ravel took out a single sheet of paper from her pocket. There were several magic circles and magical symbols written there.

"These are the symbols that were on the capsules and the devices in that field, and the shape and symbol of the magic circle they activated to investigate about me. I also have confirmed this with Koneko-san, so there is no mistake."

...Every little detail such as the magical symbols for the spells were written on it. So Ravel memorised this much just by seeing it once. Ravel said this while putting on a strong smile.

"I have already informed the staff of the Underworld and Heaven about these magical symbols and magic circles. I'm also planning to send this back to the House of Phoenix. We can find out quite a lot from this information. We, the House of Phoenix, will be pursuing what they are trying to do with these fake Phoenix tears! In addition, things like those capsules may be floating within the Dimensional Gap after the destruction of that field. Also Sona-sama and I put a marking on them with our demonic powers at the very end, so if they are still safe, then I'm sure they can find it by relying on the demonic powers of the Sitri and I. I have informed the research team of the Underworld about this. Even if it takes time, we will retrieve as much information about them as we can. I will make them realise that it's the end of their luck by capturing me!"

So those small magic circles that Ravel and Sona-kaichou released at the end had the role of acting as a marking, huh. This girl and Sona-kaichou sure were shrewd! The Khaos Brigade and the Stray Magicians still didn't know about this. This girl was the immortal Phoenix. Even her mentality was getting stronger, just like her immortality. Looks like having captured Ravel would return back to them big time. After a while, Riser showed up.

"Ravel! Are you okay!? It took me some time coming here, but I came to aid all of you while bringing my servants and...eh, what!? I-It already ended!?"

It seemed like he was worried about Ravel after hearing the report. Man, Ravel sure had a good brother!

Romania

The territory of the Vampires. I, Azazel, had entered there. We borrowed a car when we arrived in Romania, and were progressing through the mountain road. The road without any surface was bumpy, and the car had jumped several times. The fog was quite thick. We did receive a map from the Vampire who belonged to the Carmilla Faction just in case. It was planned for me to separate from Rias and Kiba, who were also riding in the car with me. I would be going to Carmilla. Rias and Kiba would be going to the House of Tepes. We would be moving there together, and I would join back with them after talking to Carmilla. I hope it didn't turn into a situation where we had to call Ise and the others... Now then, I wondered what Asia was doing with Fafnir, whom she was looking after. Even if Ophis acted as the mediator, her talent to make a pact with monsters, no, Dragons and make them obey her was terrifying. ...Rassei, Ophis and Fafnir. I could only think that she was born with something which allowed her to grasp hold of Dragons. It might have been unavoidable for her to meet Ise as soon as she entered Japan. —Then, I caught sight of Rias, who was thinking about something, in the mirror. I spoke to Rias, who was sitting in the back seat.

“Are you worried about your boyfriend whom you left in Japan?”

“...I would be lying if I say that I'm not. He...no, those girls who love him have a more daring approach than me.”

“It seems like your husband will bring more storms from now on as well.”

“I am prepared. Since I decided to love that person, I will accept everything.”

I teased her, but Rias answered normally. Oho, your dignity as the legal wife sure was showing up. She didn't panic even though I said the word husband. There was no doubt. They were a husband and wife that looked good together like the people around them said.

“...Looks like we will be arriving at the area where the local staff from the Vampires' side are waiting for us.”

Kiba, who was sitting in the passenger seat, had the map opened, and was staring at the compass used by Devils. Rias then asked.

“What happened to Cao Cao? You did receive a call yesterday, correct?”

Ah, that. I received the report of the aftermath from that bastard Śakra.

“It seems like Indra punished all of the Longinus possessors from the Hero Faction. That includes Cao Cao, Georg, and Leonardo. But according to Indra, he confiscated the spear and sent those three to Hades.”

Though, he didn't hand us the Holy Spear. That bastard Śakra is probably in possession of Dimension Lost and Annihilation Maker as well. It would make him look like the one who finished off the Hero Faction. Even though he lent his strength to them. He used them to the very end, and he attained a reason for being in possession of the Longinus.

[It can't be helped for Śakra, who punished the Hero Faction, to be in possession of the Longinus for a temporary time.]

He attained a very good excuse. So we were in a situation where it was hard for us to complain. Heracles and Jeanne that we captured had given up their connection with Śakra...but I wondered how deep they were connected with that cunning Śakra. ...Damn, the one who defeated them were the young Devils, you know? He stole the good parts at the very end!

“...For him who was aiming to become the poison against supernatural beings.”

Kiba muttered. Indra's voice came back to my mind. He did speak about Cao Cao.

[Hahaha, that brat moved around without thinking about what he wanted to become. That's why he failed. If he wanted to become strong as a human, then he shouldn't have relied on Medusa's eye. Since he spoke of being a hero while being half-assed, that made him fail. As the result, that eye became fatal. Laughable, right? Laugh at him. At the end, he turned into a clown.]

Yeah, if he had continued to fight as a simple human, then the Holy Spear would have lent its strength to his will.

So it ended for him because the 'will of the God from the Bible' determined that 'Rather than the ambition of the host, the dream of the Sekiryuutei who is a Devil and a Dragon is better', huh.

[—The ones who will hunt monsters are human heroes. So there was nothing that the shitty brat who went beyond a human to become a snob could do.]

Regarding that, I agreed. Having Indra say that was the end for him. But, just like Ise, there was a young side to Cao Cao. Wanting to become someone was the part of being young. And wasn't the one who put such ambition in that youth of wanting to become a hero you, eh, Śakra-sama? Śakra said this to me after that.

[Well, to me, the Oppai Dragon, who is a Devil and is calling himself a hero, is also quite a clown, you know? What's the point of a Devil being a hero? Isn't it the desire of the Devils to deceive humans and control them from the shadows? No matter how much he lives on by saying innocent things, the group of those young Devils on your side are also evil and vicious Devils that live on by using humans, you know? No matter how far he goes, he is still far off from being a real hero. It's just child's play.]

...I wouldn't deny all of that. But the Devils, the Underworld was changing as well. That was why they would collapse if they continued to have the old structure of the world of Devils. ...But forcing him to become a hero, huh. Was I doing the same as well...? Rias then asked.

"What is Śakra trying to do? The God of War who let Cao Cao loose, who taunted Hades indirectly, and who brought chaos to each faction. Azazel, did you ask about his true ambition?"

"Yeah, that guy wants to create people who can oppose the God of Destruction, Shiva. He believes that wars will give birth to strong people."

...Though I didn't know how much of that was the truth... It seemed like Indra would do anything in order to win against Shiva.

—Then a communication-type magic circle came to me. It appeared automatically next to my ear. I then received a call from the other side. This was just a call I received at fixed times. I would communicate with them directly afterwards. —! ...I couldn't believe my own ears at the information I was getting.

"...Grendel...and Lucifuge...?"

...W-What was going on...? So something insane was going on in Japan again! Grendel!? Shouldn't that guy have already been eliminated!? And the Khaos Brigade? This matter went around inside my head. The Vampires that got possession of the Holy Grail, Stray Magicians, the Khaos Brigade that was reorganising itself, the members of the Khaos Brigade that were appearing at the places Vali was investigating, the survivor from Lucifuge, and the appearance of the legendary Dragon that was supposed to have been eliminated. ...Maybe they were all connected? The timing was too perfect. A situation which made me think that it was something that couldn't be avoided. If everything tied into one thing...then there wasn't anything more dangerous...!

And Euclid Lucifuge... I had browsed through a bit of data about him before. The rebellion that happened between the Devils in the past, the internal conflict between the old government and the anti-government which had Sirzechs as their ace. Grayfia's real brother's living or dead status became unknown during that time. That was Euclid Lucifuge. Officially, he was said to be dead, and I had heard that Grayfia said that she didn't think her brother was alive. He happened to be alive, and he was the one who was leading the organisation...? No, even if he had the strength to do so, there was something missing from him which would allow him to become the head of those crazy bastards. That was charisma. Even if they weren't as famous as Ophis, they still needed a person who deserved the place of being a Boss. It was the Lucifuge who had been standing next to those who stood at the very top since their birth. So I couldn't think that Euclid was the new Boss.

...So who was the mastermind behind it? Who was the core member that brought the Khaos Brigade together within this short time...? Did they make a new Ophis from the power of Ophis that they stole? That's possible, but that would mean they needed someone very strong who could manipulate the new Ophis. The strong person, that was the new Boss. Hades and Śakra...no, they couldn't be. The former would definitely get exiled by the Chief God Zeus if he caused another stir. The latter...Indra's main objective was the battle against Shiva. Even if they were plotting something between them, there would be no merit for them to become the Boss of the terrorists. The Khaos Brigade that was hated by each faction, and was the gathering of the hated ones from each faction... The one who would be at the top was either someone strong who was turned into a puppet, or simply a bastard who was insanely crazy. I hit my own knee to release the ill feelings that I was carrying. Khaos Brigade... The organisation of terrorists that had gathered those who were dissatisfied with the current structure of each faction. The Bosses who had actually been controlling them had changed several times. Shalba Beelzebub from the Old Maou Faction, and Cao Cao from the Hero Faction. They were still active even after losing Ophis. No matter how it changed inside, the existence of the Khaos Brigade was going to stand in our way. The organisation itself would continue to be active, no matter how many times we crushed them...

"Rias, Kiba looks like something troublesome is going to happen."

While driving through the mists which you couldn't see through, I started my discussion with them about what happened in Japan, and how we would be coping with it from now on...

Afterword

It's been awhile. While I was writing this, I had been going through the constant experience of suffering due to my throat being sick and having caused inflammation→hitting my shoulder really hard on the door of the train and having a crack on my collarbone→and having a stop call from my doctor because of herpes zoster. ...I really went through a lot.

So the fourth story arc has started! Since it's a new expansion, I have used Volume 14 as a start. Like always, it has that passionate shounen manga taste to it. Since Volume 12 had intense development, the first half of this volume was the daily life of the characters while digging into the setting and explanation of the world, and the second half became the usual battle part. The fourth story arc that started to explain about Magicians and Vampires. Since I didn't touch about Magicians and Vampires until now, I had myself explain it in this volume. But Ise and others received a shock they didn't anticipate. Looks like the enemy force this time will also be troublesome. Having lost their leader several times, the Khaos Brigade started going wild because they couldn't control the lower members. The new leader is...I will be introducing that person next time.

This was a story where the female members of the Gremory group and the Sitri group played a big role. I also couldn't make the Occult Research Club become active in the last volume, so I made it turn out like this because I wanted them to team up with the Sitri group. And I wanted to use Sona as King since I don't have that much occasion to do it. So the active role of Rias and Koneko will be showing up next time. In this volume, she was experimenting on her special move, so I'm hoping I can show that soon. For this fourth story arc, I'm thinking of digging into more depth about the heroines such as Xenovia, Irina, Ravel and Rossweisse, who didn't get that much spotlight. For the start, it was Ravel. It seems like the story ended where they promised each other about their future, so I'm sure Ise and Ravel will become good partners. However, Ravel sure is a strong girl. Now then, I'm thinking of making Xenovia and others take the main role after this, but I'm thinking of having Gasper take the main part next time. Kiba also had the main role in Volume 3, so I will be using this opportunity to talk about his story since it will be unfair if Gya-suke doesn't have one as well.

And about the other settings.

- The Rook and Knight that have been newly added to the Sitri group! Those two will also become sub-characters just like the other Sitri members, but please love them as well. They will be showing up every now and then with the rest of the Student Council members. And about that Rook, I'm sure people who know what his name means will know what his identity is.

- A loli girl Grim Reaper Bennia has appeared on the Sitri side! Possibly because of the Warlock from Mobile Suit Gundam Wing, something has happened inside me.

- I will now be introducing the artificial Sacred Gears of the Sitri group which didn't get their names revealed during the story here. Bishop Hanakai-san's barrier-type Sacred Gear is [Applause Wall], which activates an enclosed barrier immediately. Kusaka-san, who is also a Bishop, has the Sacred Gear [Scouting Persona] which gathers information and searches for enemies. And Pawn Nimura-san has the equipment-type Sacred Gear [Procellarum Phantom] which is used for close-range battles. Since all of these are artificial Sacred Gears, the one who gave them their names was Azazel-sensei.

- Near the end of the battle, Saji's lines were connected to Ise and the rest of the other members that were battling, and I am sure all of you are thinking that 'Won't the lines tangle with each other when everyone moves around during the battle?', but at times like this, the lines won't interfere even if they touch each other. That's the excuse I came up with.

- The O-panty Dragon also known as Fafnir makes his appearance! The Dragon King who has been following Azazel silently makes his formal appearance by making a pact with Asia. When Sensei wears his armour during the anime, I will be very happy if you say, 'Ah, it's the PANTSU Armour!'

- Next is Ophis. She hides in the closet quite often since she is a mascot.

- We have found out that the former Dragon King Tannin is Mephisto Pheles's Queen, but since Mephisto doesn't have that much interest in how much the pieces are worth and the Evil Pieces themselves, he gives his pieces as he feels. I think it's his small joke of making the grand Dragon King into a Queen.

- Something like an Evil Dragon smells like they were added in quite late! Maybe you might be thinking like that when you were reading it, but I just used the secret setting which I thought I wasn't going to use. That's because I didn't expect it to continue this far... But please rest assured. Even if the Shiva arc doesn't become possible, the fourth story

arc will end properly like how it should. I have already decided on the last part of the fourth story arc. If I was able to write the Shiva arc, please think of it as the extra stage. At the end, it will depend on the support of all of you...so I will continue to write.

●I have been writing a poor piece of writing like this for every afterword, but are all of you enjoying it?

Now for the thanks. Miyama Zero-sama, Supervisor H-sama, I am always under both of your cares!

And! The second season of the anime has been decided! It has been decided because the first season had favourable reputation from the light novel fans and the new fans. Finally, Xenovia and Gya-suke will be making their appearance! The staff will be the same as the one in season 1, so please rest assured. It may be insolent for me to do it, but I am also participating in their meeting just like how I did for season 1. Thanks to that, I have so much work! But I will be working hard to please as many fans as possible! Also, I think the manga version will have Xenovia and others appear first. Please support the manga as well.

Next volume is Gasper's story! That's what I would like to say, but it has been decided that we will be introducing the story which hasn't been explained yet for Volume 15. When I discussed it with the supervisor editor, he said 'Since it's a good opportunity, we should explain about it around here'. Rather, in terms of timing, this is the only part where we can put this in. There is a limited edition prepared for Volume 15 which includes episode 14 of the anime. Anime episode 14 will be written by me, just like episode 13.

That's how it is, so please look forward to the fourth story arc of the main story and second season of the anime!

Translator's Notes and References

1. [Jump up↑](#) Manjū: traditional Japanese confection(confection: dish or delicacy made with sweet ingredients.)
2. [Jump up↑](#) Raikouryuu - Translates to "Thunder and Light Dragon"

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