

ラスボス の 向こう側

The other side beyond the last boss



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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAST BOSS

- Evil God -

- Volume 3 -

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CHAPTER 54

PROLOGUE

The Briton Kingdom's bank run was safely resolved.

Unlike after the demon invasion that happened before, as soon as the uproar finished, the city immediately returned to normal.

I'm drinking tea in an open cafe.

Accompanying me is Adrigori.

"That will be 10 Briton copper coins, or 7 Scottyard copper coins."

This is the line the clerk said to me while I was ordering my tea.

Even in the capital of the Briton Kingdom, Scottyard currency is being used.

At first glance, the city looks peaceful, but the after-effects are still there.

This is a serious problem.

However, to the end, this is matter is something that the country must solve itself.

I have my own problem.

In my hand was a newspaper.

On one side of the newspaper, the case with the Bank of Briton was written in detail.

Along with it, was my photo.

I thought it'd be fine even if I stood out a little back then.

However, as the information spread, I became a celebrity overnight.

“Fufufu. The humans seem to have finally understood the greatness of Ashtal-sama.”

Adrigori makes a satisfied face by reading the newspaper.

Well, that’s not as the Evil God, but an evaluation as a human though.

“It’s a problem that there’s no fear, but that’s a topic for the future.”

A large amount of newspapers were piled up in front of Adrigori.

“So, what’s with that mountain?”

“It’s so we can distribute them to our companions waiting at the Dark Temple. The evil gods in Rhodan all decided to buy them today’s newspaper.”

Adrigori speaks happily.

Well, I also wasn’t sure of how I felt about sending those masked people home, without giving them a chance to shine.

Thus, I gave them permission to go sightseeing, but what have they been doing?

“Hey hey, isn’t that guy in the open cafe Ashtal, the guy from the news?”

I heard two far away womens’ conversation.

I had opportunities like this many times today.

They must think that they’re having a secret conversation though.

However, we evil gods have good ears, so it gets heard.

It’s ‘cause we have our Evil Ears.

“Eh, where?”

“Look, right there.”

“You’re right. He’s the legendary banker who contained Rhodan’s riots.”

That was what was written in the newspaper's article.

Various newspapers used as much flowery language as possible, and spoke well of me.

A patriotic hero who saved them from a hopeless situation.

The finance magician.

The man who calls miracles.

Transcendently handsome banker.

Transcendently handsome?

Well, I guess it doesn't matter.

"Why legendary?"

"Read the article. He appeared gallantly, worked as the bank president for a day, then vanished. That's why they call him legendary."

"He's right there though."

Apparently only one person is in high spirits.

"Also, he's cool."

"Eh!? Isn't he sort of lacking?"

Hey, who're you calling lacking?

"It's written in the newspaper isn't it!? That he's transcendently handsome."

With idols, there are cases where you closely look at them, and they're not that handsome.

However, if they're pushed as an idol, people will see them as a handsome guy.

Such a phenomenon must be going on.

Of course, there are plenty of women who won't fall for that kind of thing though.

Those two left while having such a conversation.

Adrigori, who heard also that conversation, whispers into my ear.

"That reminds me, the other day, we went picking up chicks in this area, didn't we?"

"Ah, that's a memory I don't really want to remember that much."

"I feel like we'll be able to do it today. A favorable wind is blowing."

"No. It's too tiring mentally."

Things like this will pass.

After a while it'll calm down.

Until then it'll be noisy, but I just have to endure it.

"Ummm."

I suddenly hear a voice.

"Yes, what is it?"

"Pl,please give me your autograph!"

With a red face, a young girl hands me a colored paper to sign.

Au,autograph.....?

I've never even thought about this.

For the time being, just like I carved into Jamie's weapon, I made my characters subtly distorted

"Th,thank you."

The little girl hurriedly ran away.

Apparently she had friends around the corner.

I heard some voices say 'Kyaa' and 'That's nice...'"

"That autograph was nice. I want one too."

"I'm not giving you one. More importantly, let's go to a different place."

And it's such good weather too.

I wanted to relax in the open cafe, but I won't be able to calm down like this.

When we got up, a woman in a suit trotted over to us.

"Ah, there you were. I was looking for, president."

It's the Bank of Briton's new hire, Martha.

She was out of breath.

"I'm not the president anymore."

"Then, honorary president."

"Does that position even exist?"

I reply amazed, and Martha somewhat excitedly, mixing her movements and gestures, emphasizes.

"Anyways something serious occurred."

"What is it this time?"

"We were called by the royal castle. They said that His Majesty wanted to personally express his gratitude."

Martha seems to be impressed.

Well, I guess that's the normal reaction of a citizen, if someone is called by the king.

However, I'm not interested in the king.

"You could just let the president go."

"There's one more problem. They said that if you have that much money, they'd like you to lend it to the government. How should we explain this?"

Martha makes a troubled face.

Well you'd, just say 'We don't have that much money,' and that'd be it.

Will the king be disappointed by that explanation, or will he be furious?

I can't just force the responsibility of explaining that onto somebody else.

Also, this information needs to be handled carefully.

Especially in regards to the Briton government.

"I understand. I'll be there."

I responded like that, and headed for the Bank of Briton.

Since Adrigori went to deliver the newspapers, so he separated from us.

"Meeting His Majesty does make one nervous."

The president of the Bank of Briton Ben, was already waiting for me in formal attire.

He wipes the sweat from his nervousness with his handkerchief.

I'm also changing into formal clothes.

"You're the one who's safe. All you have to do is go *don* and act formal. In the first place, haven't you had connections with the royal family ever since your grandfather's generation?"

“Hahaha.....recently, that connection has been fading away.”

Ben makes bitter smile.

Well, his bank was on the decline, so it can't be helped.

I took Ben with me, and transferred to the Briton Kingdom's royal castle, Wolic.

CHAPTER 55

AUDIENCE

We transferred a little away from the royal castle's gate, so Ben and I began to walk towards the gate.

"I, if it isn't Ashtal-dono. Thank you for coming."

When the gatekeeper found us, they called out to us.
The gatekeeper easily let us pass.

If we go inside and walk straight, we'll enter to audience room.
In the passage, a red carpet was laid down.

While walking on the carpet, we advance.
To our left and right were huge pillars, and furniture items were also arranged.

"No no, as expected of the royal castle. No matter how many times I see it, it amazes me."

Ben raises a voice of praise.

However, I know.
That only one part of the castle is so luxurious.

The places that people often pass through, such as this passage and the audience room are considerably decorated.
However, the places that people rarely go to are plain.

They don't have enough money to make the castle so luxurious.
But as it's a large country, they can't make everything look modest.

As a result, it became like this.
It's just a display.

When we follow the red carpet, a wonderful large door comes into sight.
There's a gatekeeper, and we get our bodies checked.

Soon after, the door opens, and we enter inside.
There are many people on our left and right.
Many of them are wearing luxurious outfits, as expected of nobles.

Already, if we're having a conference with this many people, then we're just wasting our time.

I wonder if it's just there's a lot today?

There isn't a small number of people who just came to watch 'cause they were curious.

A few meters before the throne, we stop, bend onto one knee, and lower our heads.

"Raise your heads."

A voice comes from the person in front of me.

When I raise my head, I saw a man in the prime of his life wearing a golden crown.
To the back of him was a huge banner with the crest of the royal family on it.

His expression was that of a gentle mannered man, and he was full of dignity.
He also had plenty of whiskers.

Richard Arthur Plantagenet.

The current king of the Briton Kingdom.

The founding king was called King Richard I, and he's named King Richard II.

"Thanks to your work on this occasion, our country was able to escape its predicament. I thank you."

Richard II spoke majestically.

"I'll give you anything you want as a reward. Is there anything you wish for?"

"We have only fulfilled our duties as your retainers. Any rewards are unneeded,"

With a tense voice, Ben replies while trembling.

“If you didn’t wish for anything, it’d stain the face of the Kingdom.”

“In that case, how about one letter of recommendation. My grandfather Ben Springfield received a letter of recommendation from Richard I , and turned it into a treasure.”

“Understood.”

Richard II nods, and receives a piece of paper from one of his attendants.

He then handed it to Ben.

When he accepted it, Ben’s hand was shaking.

In the first place, there’s a connection between a country that is failing because it has no money and a bank that saved that country through money.

It’d be strange to receive money as a reward.

Because of that, he wanted something that related to credit. It’s only natural to receive that from an honorable person.

It’s common to distribute letters of recommendation if there’s no money.

The Founding King, Richard I also struggled with things like this.

Ben was covered in tears of gratitude.

He must’ve been just that happy from getting a letter of recommendation, just like his grandfather.

It seems that the exchange up to here was agreed on beforehand.

There’s no room for me to interrupt here.

“Now then, you were called Ashtal?”

“Yes.”

He talked to me from his side, so I answered him.

“In the castle and in the town, you’re a hot topic. Your background is unknown. This brings about rumors, such as you being the illegitimate child of a past hero.”

Actually, that guy is the descendant of a hero.

The masses love rumors like those.

Rumors like those are easy to spread.

“I’m not a great person like that. I’m just a bumpkin from a small country to the east, and very grateful for being able to attend Cantabridge Academy.”

I smile bitterly, and deny them.

I can’t tell them my true identity.

I don’t have the right to.

“I would like to give you a reward as well. What do you wish for?”

“No, as I mentioned earlier, being able to attend Cantabridge Academy is to me, the greatest reward of all. This is just something like repaying a debt.”

“Fumu. You’re an unselfish one.”

Richard II puts his hand onto his chin, and starts thinking.

“Your Majesty. The person himself has denied the reward, so isn’t this fine?”

The youth on the right in the front row expresses his opinion.

Judging by the luxury of his clothes, and how close he is to the king, he probably has quite the status.

“There is nothing to worry about. After seeing a letter of recommendation, the value of anything would seem to drop. For the likes of a commoner, meeting His Majesty is enough of a reward.”

He seems to be Theodoric, the eldest son of the Duke of Coldwell.

“In the first place, was there any need to call this person of doubtful origin here?”

“This person is the one who ended that mess, you know.”

Ben muttered under his breath.

Theodoric came out, and began to blame us.

“First, wasn’t the mess this time caused by the bank going bankrupt?”

“What did you say?”

“They shut out those who wanted to withdraw their money, and made it so that we couldn’t withdraw anything. That’s why it we came so close to rioting. This is the bank’s fault.”

Ben was told me something completely opposite his own thinking, and widened his eyes.

However, he regrouped and counter argued.

“Preserving the public order of the town is the role of the government. In addition to that, the original cause was that the government wasn’t trusted.”

“It’s only natural for the government to handle that. However, when the bank resolves a disturbance that was caused by their own failure, they get treated like a hero. Isn’t this your own fault?”

Ben’s face turned red, and he kept silent.

Accompanying an idiot like this is just a waste of time.

I hit Ben on the shoulder, and urge him to stop.

However, Ben shakes off my hand,

“Then what are you saying you did about it?”

“What?”

“I’m asking you what you did during this case. What unsightly jealousy. You just don’t like that Ashtal-dono, who’s the same generation as you is getting treated like a hero.”

Apparently that was on the point, because Theodoric became furious.

“Don’t speak of that lowly commoner as if he were someone great!”

Theodoric raised his hand, and struck Ben.

As expected, seeing that, the surrounding people come in and stop him.

“We’ve shown you something unsightly.”

Richard II voiced an apology.

The surroundings of the audience are still noisy.

The young nobles who thought the same as Theodoric got excited, and began to cause a clamor.

Before the commotion got worse, we bowed to Richard II, and left.

“Ah, there’s have something he’d like to consult with you later. It’s not something you can speak about in a place like this, so he’d like you to come to another room later.”

When we left the audience room, the soldiers who were standing by the door told us that.

It’s probably the matter about the loan.

Certainly, it’s not something you can speak about in a place like that.

We ended up waiting in the designated room

CHAPTER 56

DISCUSSION

We entered the room we were given.

“Are you okay?”

I offer him a handkerchief.

The place where the Duke of Coldwell’s son hit had turned red and swollen.

“Owowow. I’m okay.”

Ben wiped away his blood.

“I’m sorry.”

“You don’t have anything to apologize for.”

“Since he flared up at me, there was no reason for you go out there and do anything.”

“Wawawawa.....I lost my cool.”

That was the case before too.

I guess he just has that kind of personality.

At that time, the room was knocked.

When I say ‘Come in’, one girl came into the room.

“What? Yufilia?”

She’s not wearing her school uniform, or her battle clothes.

Yufilia was wearing a white dress.

“What is it?”

“When I got back to the castle, I heard you came over, so I came. Wait, that guy’s injured.”

Yufilia rushes over to Ben.

Casting 'Heal', she cured his wound.

"Thank you very much. I apologize for causing you such trouble, Your Highness."

Ben is feeling grateful.

"What happened?"

Since Yufilia asked, I explained the whole story to her.

"He did that.....that's a common personality among young nobles."

Yufilia spoke shamefully.

Briton is a country that formed by rebuilding land that was burned to the ground during the 6th demonic calamity.

It was founded a little more than 40 years ago.

The ones who became the nobles of this country were those with distinguished service, and were able to survive.

After that, with effort that made them bleed, they restored the land.

That generation, and the generation after that were poor, even though they were noblemen.

However, by the 3rd generation, they've become bastards who don't know of hardship.

Their sons were raised strictly, but their grandsons were spoiled, and it became a typical pattern and got even worse.

Thus, a son with that personality is formed. No, even better, a grandson.

"In 10 or 20 years, Briton's politics are certain to become fun."

"Stop predicting bad futures. Who do you think will have to deal with them then?"

Yufilia holds her head.

She's the second princess who defeated the Maou and became a hero.

From a common sense point of view, she'll probably get involved in politics in the future.

Thus, she'll spend her days being harassed by nobles of the same generation.

"So, why are you here?"

"Since I heard you'd be having an audience, I prepared myself, but I didn't make it."

Yufilia goes *kururi*, and rotates once.

Her dress has a beautiful flower pattern on it.

"Fufu, what do you think?"

When Yufilia asked me, I tilted my head.

"What do you mean?"

Hearing my reply, Yufilia gets disappointed.

"She's asking about her outfit. This is where you would compliment her."

Ben whispers into my ear.

"A, Ah, I think your dress is beautiful."

"It's really becoming of you."

Ben hurriedly covers for me.

"Haa.....I was an idiot for asking."

Yufilia got into a bad mood, and mutters.

"Oh well. Anyways, about this case....."

It's about what I did the other day.

I did say that I'd explain it at another date.

“I’ll have to explain that to His Majesty too, so come along then.”

It’s better to just explain it all at once.

Yufilia nods to my words.

“It’ll take some time for the other audiences to end, so would you like me to show you around the castle?”

Yufilia proposed that, but it didn’t happen.

When were chatting, people who seemed to be Imperial Guards showed up.

Faster than I thought it would take, we were taken to another room.

“Oh, thank you for visiting. Come come, please come in.”

The room’s guards were considerably kind when they let us through.

It must be a room used to talk to small numbers of people.

In it are a wonderful chair and table.

Paintings were hung on the walls.

“Mu, Yufilia. Why are you with these people?”

Her father, Richard II wonders, and voices his doubts.

“I think I told you this before, but I got a new party member. The one who was added recently is Ashtal.”

Richard II is greatly surprised by Yufilia’s words.

“Wh.....at.....?”

Richard hurriedly called for some people.

The one who came over was the knight order leader, Godref.

“Was that enough to make you call Godref-san? Well I mean, it’s true that the soldiers

over there won't be able oppose him."

Hearing Yufilia's words, I understand.

In other words, he's wary of me.

It'd be impossible for him to fully trust someone he just met for the first time.

Even though he thought of this hand, there'd be no end.

However, learning that I had some skills, there was a need to raise his level of security.

Well, it'd still be useless though.

In the first place, I don't feel like doing anything, and even if I thought to, this security is pointless.

In the room is the King Richard II, and the Treasury Secretary, Eldred. There are also a few security guards.

There's a lot of them.

"I think you already know what this story's about, but....."

Richard II begins to talk.

"There was that matter, but before that, I have to ask you for a favor."

I interrupt him, and make a proposal.

"What is it?"

"I need to tell you some things of the utmost secrecy, so can you please clear some of the people out of the room."

"These people are the core of the country. Of course, they'll keep it a secret."

Whether those words are true or not, I don't know.

Thus, I'd like to avoid taking unneeded risks.

"This is just to make sure, but if possible, I'd like to speak to only His Majesty."

"Do you intend to exclude us?"

The Treasury Secretary Eldred gets into a bad mood.

“We are the most familiar with the finances and budget of this country. We’ll participate in the negotiations.”

The government officials all nod to Eldred’s words.

“What I’m going to talk about isn’t related to that at all. If it is, His Majesty will tell you about it.”

They thought I was going to negotiate a huge loan with them.

In order to get it, they’d explain the country’s financial situation. It’d be about the prospects of them being able to pay us back and other stuff like that.

However, that’s not it.

“I guess there’s no choice. You guys leave your seats.”

Richard II ordered that.

Now that it’s come to this, they will obey.

In the end, the ones who remained in the room were the 5 of us: Me, Ben, Yufilia, Richard II, and Godref.

CHAPTER 57

COLLATERAL

“So, what is it that made you go this far to keep a secret?”

Asked by Richard II, I tell him the details of what happened.

About the speech the other.

And the fact that, I don't have money.

“Muu.....is that so?”

Richard II seems to have been taken aback.

“This sort of feels like your explaining a magic trick.”

Yufilia was a kill-joy.

“So, why did you treat this information so securely?”

Godref asks.

“As I just explained, the turmoil around the banks happened because people couldn't trust us. In other words, they were concerned that the government and banks didn't have any money. That's why they stopped when I showed them a large amount of money. What do you think will happen if the fact that this is a lie spreads?”

With my words, everyone understood.

“The riots would start up again.”

Yufilia knits her eyebrows.

“Of course, since the citizens already did that last time, they won't get hooked on to any rumors that easily.”

Even if they incite them in the same way again, the masses would just believe it was Scottyard's work.

They won't just fall for the same trick over and over again.

"However, if a new rumor circulates around, there's a high possibility they'll hook onto that."

"At that time, conversely there's the chance that this case would be used against us."

Richard II broods.

"Scottyard is also looking for these kinds of rumors, or maybe trying to make one, and spread it around."

It'd be ideal to end this problem before the opponent begins moving.

"If possible, please don't tell this story to anyone else."

"Eldred and the others too?"

"Yeah, because the information management in this country seems to be soft."

At my words, Yufilia and Richard II are taken aback.

I wonder if there's something they're specifically thinking of?

"Unfortunately, I don't have such convenient eyes that I can tell who's leaking information at a glance."

I shrugged my shoulders.

Who he'll tell this to, is up to Richard II.

Depending on the situation, there may be cases where he has no choice to explain too.

However, even if he leaks that information, it has nothing to do with me.

In that case, I can just do something myself.

I look at Godref.

"You can't trust me either?"

Godref seems to have taken that in a negative way.

“I can’t judge that.”

“This person is fine. I’ll guarantee the safety of his mouth. Although about my cheating..... never mind.”

I heard some dangerous words come from Richard II, but I’ll pretend I didn’t hear it. Since it was small voice, it seems Yufilia couldn’t hear it.

“Anyways, the amount of money you can loan us isn’t as much as we thought. How much is it exactly?”

I look over to Ben.

“About 42 million Scottyard pounds.”

“Still, if you could loan that I’d be grateful. With that, we have a way of repaying them for 1~2 months.”

When to return their debts seem to depend on the contract.

If it’s just an individual, it could be many months.

However, this government has borrowed from many places.

This week, they’ll repay the banks, and next week, they’ll repay Scottyard. In this manner, it seems they always repay their debts.

Previously, they were able to borrow again afterwards.

Since that’s impossible now, their funds are steadily being shaved away.

Since that’s the case, they want to raise funds, and don’t care where it’s from.

Regarding loans, I’m an amateur. This decision depends on the president.

Thus, I watch over the two’s exchange.

“As a bank, currently it’s dangerous to unconditionally lend money to the government.”

As the president, Ben states his theory based on common knowledge.

The money lent by the Bank of Briton before was used to repay their debt to Scottyard. After that, the government failed to return the money. Like that, the bank is just being played for a fool.

“Please do something about that.”

“Since we’ll be talking seriously, I think we should talk about financial conditions, your plan to repay us, and your prospects though.....”

“That would be impossible without talking to Eldred and the others. Although I’m the king, I don’t know about the details.”

“If we do that, there’s the problem of what to do about our previous discussion.”

It’s a somewhat complicated state of affairs.

Ah, right before before they started talking about something unrelated, suddenly Yufilia interrupted the conversation.

“Okay, then let’s add on collateral.”

“Collateral? We don’t have that kind of land in the government. As expected, we can’t hand out important facilities like the royal castle.”

Richard II gives a negative opinion.

In the first place, there aren’t many things that can be used as collateral for this much money.

“No, the collateral will be me.”

“””””What!?””””””

The remaining four of use are greatly surprised at Yufilia’s proposal.

“Wh,what are you saying!?”

Her father, Richard II gets furious.

“Dad, just think about it. At this rate, what will happen to me?”

“If we can’t pay back Scottyard, you’ll have no choice but to be engaged to Vincent.”

“If that happens, I’ll be accepted into their family. If they’re going to use such a forceful hand, I don’t mind anymore. We’ll call their mansion immediately, and tell them.”

Yufilia’s eyes are burning with rage.

“I don’t want that, even if I have to die. That’s why, it’d be better for me to become collateral to buy some time.”

“No, but.....”

Richard II makes a difficult expression.

“Although you are a princess, as a bank, we’re not sure on how to treat you. This is rude, but how much will you trade use for her?”

“You bastard! Don’t put someone’s daughter on the same level as money!”

“Sorry, sorry.”

Ben was baffled, and he said too much.

Hearing that, Richard II’s face turned red, and he yelled.

“No, that’ll work.”

When I said that, everyone looked at me.

“We’ll accept the princess as collateral. If you can’t return the money, we’ll sell her as a slave. Spread that around Scottyard.”

“What was that!?”

While soothing this idiotic parent king, I continue speaking.

“And if you can’t repay us, we’ll tell this to Scottyard. ‘You can buy the princess as a slave for 50 million pounds.’ If they don’t buy her, they won’t be able to achieve their true goal. We might be able get even more money.”

Like this, Bank of Briton won’t lose anything.

“In other words, it’s been decided that Yufilia will be given as collateral to the bank.”

“Well then, isn’t that fine?”

“Conversely, I’d like to know. Is okay with you?”

Honestly, I don’t even know.

“That’s fine with me. For now, I just need time.”

Yufilia’s resolve was real.

“Alright, this money was a deposit from Ashtal-sama anyways. I’ll follow the investor’s wishes and and loan it.”

Ben seemed to have thrown in the towel, and as if saying ‘Do as you please,’ he raised both of his hands.

“Gununununu. Is it fine to leave it like this?”

There is one person who isn’t convinced.

Godref was soothing him.

“I’m inexperienced, but please take care of me.” *(TLN: Often said from a wife to her husband.)*

Yufilia fell into a seiza, and politely lowered her head.

No, it’s not that kind of agreement though.

CHAPTER 58

A NEW RELATIONSHIP

For the time being, the excited king was annoying, so Ben and I left for the first room we were given.

“Can I leave the official contract to you?”

“Yeah, leave it to me.”

Ben nods with a serious expression.

“This case will be treated especially.”

Banks invest the money they're given and make a profit.

There's no difference if that money is received from A-san or anyone else. However, this time it's different.

This time, my money was treated as an investment rather than a deposit. It's something like making an investment into a subsidiary.

Invest my money the as instructed by me.

If they fail, only my money is lost.

There is no damage to other depositors.

In essence, this isn't even a relationship between a person and their bank.

Well, since only I gave out my money, there's also the opinion that it would have been better if I didn't hand it to the bank as an intermediary.

About that, I can only say that it was a natural flow of events.

After a while, Yufilia entered the room while sighing.

“If you really don't want to do it, you can still turn back soon.”

“That's not it, I'm just tired from convincing my dad.”

Apparently Richard has been difficult.

I'm not sure if we are able to sign this without the king being convinced. As long as he isn't convinced, we can't make the contract.

"But still, you said some bold things."

Ben speaks, praising her.

"The result hasn't changed, all we've done is bought some time."

At this time, Yufilia was embarrassed.

"What was with that greeting before?"

"Well, I'm becoming your collateral, so I did it."

I feel like there's something wrong with my recognition of collateral.

"What do think collateral is?"

"Something like a hostage. Sort of like how Scottyard has taken hostages from small countries to the east."

Scottyard has made the eastern countries around it into its subordinate countries. As a proof of subordination, they take one of their princes.

However, in this case, both Yufilia and I will live in Rhodan.

"Hou, and where is the hostaged princess planning on going?"

"It's not your house?"

"Wai."

That's in many ways, a problem.

I usually transfer back to the Dark Temple.

This is obvious, but I can't just take her to the Dark Temple.

I am technically renting out an apartment in this city.

In the documents I submitted to the apartment, that was listed as my address.

I also have furniture and household goods prepared there.

Since I haven't used them at all, there's no feeling of life there though.

“y めうむくあ z の m s m ふお、おん b こどろ g m もん j あ ヲい r せん

(Translation: That's not something a daughter should do before she gets married.)”

I seemed to be more upset than I thought, and the meaning of my words were lost.

“Ah, this person gets like this when he gets upset, and you stop being able to understand him.”

Seeing Ben tilt his head, Yufilia explains that to him.

While going *kusukusu* and laughing.

“It's surprising that you could speak in front of a crowd like that calmly, yet with that level of conversation you got like this.”

Ben was astonished.

At that time, the room was knocked.

“It's Adela right? You can enter.”

When Yufilia said that, one maid entered the room.

“Princess, I've finished the preparations.”

“What did you prepare for?”

I got a bad feeling, and asked.

“Preparations for a sleepover.”

I listened to Adela's answer, and held my head in my arm.

“Just wait a bit.”

“What?”

“Because a collateral is insurance, it’s different from a hostage.”

“Hostages are also a form of insurance.”

Yufilia rebuts my words, and I’m at a loss for words.

“The price of breaking the promise.....”

I stop in the middle of my sentence.

Hostages are like that too. If they betray you, they immediately get executed.

“A,anyways, Yufilia, you can still live in the royal castle just as usual.”

“Eh, is that okay?”

Yufilia was surprised, and widened her eyes.

“Leaving aside land, people can move freely. Isn’t that a problem for a hostage, and as collateral?”

“The world is big. If it’s someone as powerful as Yufilia-denka, they could escape whenever they want. You can use transfer magic after all.”

Ben voices his approval.

“Yeah, that’s why hostages would normally have this attached to them.”

Adela takes out a magic item.

It’s a collar.

“This is the same one as used on slaves. It has a function to tell you the wearer’s location. Of course, this collar has a fine design with rubies on it. It couldn’t look off even for royalty to wear it.”

A slave collar.

In case of a slave being rebellious, it shocks them.

If they try to attack their master, it explodes.

It's a convenient item with many functions like that.

Of course, it can't be removed by the wearer.

"Ah, there's also a seedy leather collar that's used for normal slaves."

"Why do have that item?"

I question her with my eyes half open, but Adela answered calmly.

"I thought an opportunity like this might appear."

What kind of opportunities are you hypothesizing about?

"Ah! I'm going to be treated me like a slave right?"

Yufilia anguishes.

"Please endure it. This is also for the sake of the country."

Adela *harahara* lets her tears fall.

"You're really bad at playing a tragic heroine, but anyways can we proceed with the discussion?"

I wonder if they like to act or something?

Maybe because of the situation, they got upset.

Or maybe, are they to divert my attention like this?

Anyways, there is no selection to put on the slave collar.

There isn't, right?

If she wears another expensive dress like today, that slave collar would feel really out of place.

Normally though, it wouldn't be paid that much attention to.

Since she'll be living in the royal castle from now on, the safe choice is this one.

"I guess this is fine."

I point at the elegant collar.

"Alright, then please put this on your arm please. With that, the slave contract will be complete."

No, she's not a slave though.

I retort in my heart, and receive the collar.

A click sounds, and the collar perfectly sticks to Yufilia's silky skin.

"Please take care of me from now on, master."

Like this, Yufilia and my relationship turned into something I don't really understand.

CHAPTER 59

EVIL GOD CONFERENCE ②

When I returned to the Dark Temple, I was exhausted.

It somehow turned into something I didn't understand.

Yufilia's attitude was strange too.

Well, I can just check it out later.

I shake my head, and switch moods.

Okay, let's organize the current situation.

—They don't have any money.

In a nutshell, that's the Briton Kingdom's current situation

If you don't have any money to pay us back with, send over the super beautiful hero and second princess! The one passionately yelling like this would be the Scottyard Kingdom.

I absolutely don't want that! The one firmly refusing like this is the person concerned, Yufilia.

Thus, they need to earn money.

Of course, there's no way they could earn national finance class money that easily.

However, the girls had one idea on how to.

"That would be this right here."

In front of my eyes, stacked in a mountain are gold and silver treasures.

I walked all the way to the Dark Temple's treasure room.

"Who are you talking to?"

The one who followed behind me was the old man, with a serious expression.

“If I had to say, then to this golem I guess.”

I look at the golem protecting this room.

The treasure room’s guardian golem won’t move an inch even if we walk into the room.

It doesn’t react to evil gods.

“So for our plan this time, should we let the heroes try to capture us?”

“In the first place, I intended to give the one who defeated the golem this treasure.”

“Well, okay. We don’t use them anyways. They have been left alone for over 1000 years after all.”

Can they beat this golem?

This silver shining golem is much stronger than an average Maou.

Well, with their current strength, it’d be impossible.

The other day, Yufilia and the others found this treasure room and challenged the golem to a fight.

Once they figured out they wouldn’t be able to manage it, it seems they ran though.

I haven’t issued an instruction to run after them in to this golem.

Thus, it’s not difficult to escape.

They’re going to train until they feel like they’ll die from now on.

Their time limit is when the Briton Kingdom goes bankrupt.

Before then, they have to challenge this golem to a fight.

“Well then, when they come in, should we leave this place unattended again?”

The first ones to come to the Dark Temple in 1000 years.

That would be Yufilia and the others.

At that time, there were various things going on, and there was nobody left to protect the temple.

“If I deployed you, in the first place they wouldn’t even be able to reach here.”

“Yeah, it’d turn out like that.”

There are many evil gods who are stronger than this golem.

If such people are wandering about, they won’t be able to reach this deep.

“However, has their fear of women healed?”

“They’re making an effort daily.”

Every evil god except for the old man is afraid of girls.

It’s a good opportunity to test how much they’ve grown.

“Let me think for a bit, there’s still some time left before they come here.”

“I understand.”

The old man and I walk, and *baan* open the door.

In the the conference room the army corps captains were standing upright, waiting for us.

It’s an evil god conference.

“As it is, people won’t come to the dungeon.”

With a serious expression, I light the fuse.

The evil gods began to manage a dungeon.

The current humanity is losing interest in dungeons.

In order to bring back humanity’s interest in dungeons, we placed treasure into a dungeon.

It’s a mechanism that restores the treasure after a certain period.

In the the treasure are things like what were in the treasure room earlier.

Thus, the room was losing weight.

Also, we released monsters. In the deepest part of the dungeon we placed a boss

monster.

“Unfortunately, since then no one has come to the dungeon.”

Gareth replied apologetically.

“Yeah, about that, I thought up a countermeasure.”

The old man had prepared a single sheet of paper.

Request

It seems that a monster has settled in the dungeon Kenjian.

I have something I need to do, so please investigate it.

Client

Earl Justin

Compensation

50 silver coins

“We’ll request this for all five of the dungeons we’re currently managing, Kenjian, Ipstar, Swans, Revapool, and Cheslo.”

Listening to the old man’s explanation, I read the application form.

“50 silver coins.....isn’t that too little?”

I wonder if it was because the scale of money I’ve been talking about recently has changed.

At the small reward, I became uneasy.

“To the end, the goal is to raise the awareness of dungeons. In the beginning weak adventurers will come, in order to exterminate small monsters.”

They’ll meet something terrible at the dungeon, and go home.

After that, a first-class adventurer will come to capture it.

“By doing this, we’ll properly be able to raise awareness of dungeons, because there will be multiple witnesses.”

The request also involves the Adventurer’s Guild.

As expected, once it comes to this I won’t be able hid through it.

Hearing the old man’s explanation, I am convinced.

“That’s fine and all, but who’s Earl Justin?”

“He doesn’t exist, but since we’ll give the reward to the Adventurer’s Guild in advance, they’ll properly process the requests. Aretta should be cooperating too, so it’s alright.”

Even if it’s from an unknown person, as long as they have money, the guild will accept their request.

If they didn’t it cause problems with their trust.

“Why is the fake name Justin?”

When I voice my doubts, Gareth answered with a serious face.

“Try saying it over and over again, rapidly.”

“JustinJustinJustinJustin.....”

Just as I was told, I repeated it over and over again.

Then Gareth, nodded, satisfied.

“It sounds like you’re saying evil god.” (*TLN: ‘evil god’ is spelled and read as ‘jashin’.*)

“Guhoatu!”

I hit Gareth.

He flew all the way to the wall, and is *pikupiku* twitching.

“Why.....”

Adrigori lost his cool.

“It was so stupid that I went *iratu* and hit him. Who’s responsible for this?”

“Gareth-dono is.”

Adrigori pointed at Gareth who was lying in the corner of the room.

“If this is considered violating the rule, the curse might come, but endure it.”

I guess it’s fine. I’ll just leave Gareth here like this.

I wonder if dungeons will finally spread like this?

I’ll figure it out in the near future.

CHAPTER 60

AN UPROAR, EVEN AT SCHOOL

Recently, there were lots of strife in the Briton Kingdom's capital, Rhodan. As a result, Cantabridge Academy had been forced to close down on countless occasions.

Because it will reopen today, I headed to school. When I enter the classroom, it becomes noisy at once.

"Oh, the hero-sama's here."

Around me, a crowd forms. Looking closer, people from other classes came too.

"Exactly who are you?" "Why can you do things like that?", Questions like these were thrown at me.

Most of what happened was written in the newspapers. Of course, I can't tell them my true identity.

"Hey hey, are you free today?"

One of the girls from class grabs onto my right arm.

"What do you think you're doing, trying to keep him all to yourself?"

Another girl grabs my left arm, and pulls. What is it? What is it?

"On his first day here, you called him 'normal' didn't you. I understood it. That he was an amazing person."

If my memory is right, I think she evaluated me as 'above average'.

But I'd like them to stop fighting with me in the middle.

“ちよ、くおつぽ r ん k はやえて (*Translation: Wai, please stop fighting.*)”

Why am I upset?

“Yeah yeah, I'm going to stop you there.”

Tiraiza but in, and took me.

“Tiraiza, he's with you usually, so let him be with us for now at least!”

The girls from class attack Tiraiza.

“I'd leave him here if he could deal with this by himself, but look, he's like this.”

Tiraiza calmly turned aside the girls' protests.

“Why is that you were fine with that large crowd, but just from a little skinship from girls and you're already upset?”

Tiraiza was astounded.

“You saved me.”

I thank Tiraiza.

“Also, I'm coming to school to train myself.”

“Houhou, training with skinship from girls, must be for your nice social status.”

At my words, Tiraiza lets out sarcasm.

“Even though I have to train really hard from now on.”

Iris is also dissatisfied, and is inflating her cheeks.

“So, are you going to come with us?”

Yufilia might be thinking that I’m going to fight with them.

However, it’d be weird for me to defeat the golem at the Dark Temple.

That treasure is something that Yufilia and the others have to win by themselves.

“I have to take care of the cleanup this time, so I won’t be able to do anything for a while.”

Thus, I decided to be busy with bank related matters.

“Okay, that can’t be helped. We were saved plenty of times by you already, so we’ll do something about this.”

Yufilia retreated easily.

I *chirari* look at Yufilia’s head.

She was wearing the necklace that serves as proof of the contract.

However, her attitude was the same as normal.

“I won’t say it’ll be a replacement for me, but I have a present I’ll give you later.”

I said that, and took my seat.

It’s time for homeroom.

When class ended, we gathered in the magic laboratory as usual.

I brought the rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and other accessories with me.

“Oh, magic items.”

Jamie carelessly equipped one.

“Gegetu. What’s with this performance?”

Jamie was surprised, and her opened mouth isn't closing.

That's an item that raises all her abilities by 15%.

Iris also equipped one, and her mouth is going *pakupaku*.

It seems her voice isn't coming out.

Yufilia and Tiraiza are cautious, and don't try to equip any.

"Hey, do you two feel anything wrong?"

Yufilia asked Jamie and Iris.

"No, not at all."

"There's nothing particularly unusual."

Hearing their answers, Yufilia and Tiraiza finally put on the accessories.

"Was there a problem or something?"

"We have a little trauma with accessories."

"We've had a bad experience with a magic item in the laboratory....."

The two of them began to look over here with half open eyes.

I don't think they should know that I was the one who made that though.

So that nothing like that will happen this time, they've properly been tested.

"Putting that aside, these are amazing items aren't they?"

Contrary to her words, Tiraiza doesn't seem to be as excited as the other 3.

I indirectly ask her why.

"Well, there's not really much of a need to raise all our abilities."

Depending on the class, there are only two or three really important statuses.

There isn't really any point to raising statuses other than those.

Even if a warrior raised their MP or INT, there wouldn't be any meaning. On the contrary, it'd be pointless for magicians to raise their STR or DEX.

And there are two items that raise them.

Accessories can be equipped on someone's fingers, arms, ears and neck.

In other words, items that raise all statuses aren't necessarily needed.

"Above all, effects don't overlap. For example, with a ring and a bracelet that raise INT, only the one with the better effect is effective."

For those reasons she wasn't very grateful.

"There are very few classes that make full use of all their abilities. A hero would definitely be one though."

"That's true. For me, these are items I'm really grateful for."

The hero, Yufilia looked happy.

"That's why, if you brought earrings that raised INT or CHR from the beginning, I'd be about half as happy. No, even below.....eh!?"

Suddenly, a wild voice came from Tiraiza, who was indifferently explaining that.

"No way.....the effects are overlapping?"

"You're kidding, right?"

Surprised, Yufilia also tried on an earring.

"What? The effects aren't overlapping."

Yufilia tilted her head.

I tried some things out, and learned the following:

There's no overlap if 2 accessories for the same status, for example STR, are put on. That's what I already knew.

There is also no overlap effect when wearing two accessories that raise all abilities. However, if you wear an accessory that raises all abilities and one that raises STR, the STR raising effects overlap.

“In other words, the all abilities up is recognized as a separate effect?”

I understand, and nod.

“Why didn’t the owner know that beforehand?”

Iris retorts.

“Because I never conducted that kind of test on them.”

In the first place, evil gods have no culture of using accessories to raise their abilities.

“Well then, each of us can take an item that we like.”

Tiraiza said that, and took a ring.

Of course, there will be problems if what they want overlap with each other though.

“I’ll have anything other than a necklace I guess.....”

Yufilia mutters quietly.

“Now that I think about it, you’re wearing an expensive seeming choker.”

Tiraiza noticed the choker, and pointed it out.

“Eh, ah, yeah. Some stuff happened, I have to wear this for a while.”

Yufilia is in a hurry.

That matter still hasn’t been announced yet.

I think it’ll be exposed eventually, but she must be trying to keep it a secret for now.

Yufilia and the others said thank you, and left for training.

CHAPTER 61

TO BECOME STRONGER

What should you do to become stronger?

General training.

Muscle training, practice swinging, and practice battles can help you gradually become stronger.

However, the stronger you grow, the harder it becomes to get stronger.

There is such a thing as a talent limit, and one common opinion is that it growing gets harder as you approach it.

At that time, what should you do?

The answer is simple.

You just need to defeat a strong enemy.

Real battles help you grow much faster than training.

Of course, it won't be helpful if your enemy is too weak.

In that case, you wouldn't get any experience points.

Yufilia and Tiraiza somehow managed to defeat a Maou while still imperfect.

Jamie and Iris possess skills that aren't inferior to them.

There aren't many enemies that will help them grow.

If you ask them to think of a strong enemy, humanity will first think of demons.

Demons are the long time enemies of humans.

They're their archenemy, and they won't stop fighting until the other doesn't exist anymore.

The cycle at which the Maou is born is random.

It can range anywhere from half a year to decades after the last one was defeated.

Since the last Maou was defeated, it's been about a year.

Although it's not like it definitely won't reappear, the chances of a new one being born

again in such a short period is low.

Therefore, it won't be possible for them to raise their levels with demons.

Of course, there are surviving demons.

However, it won't be easy to find them.

Besides them, other strong enemies would be dragons.

However, there are few survivors of the Dragon race.

In addition to that, they have a friendly relationship with humans.

If someone tried to hunt them, it'd turn into an international problem.

"Fumu. They seem to be doing a considerably harsh training."

Jeko and the old man get close to me.

From the roof of the school building, I looked down at the people training.

I can see Yufilia and the others.

"Ah, but when humans get to their level of strength, their growth slows down. At this rate they won't make it."

"They need a strong enemy. However, enemies like those are hard to find."

To the old man's words, I float a smile.

"Yeah, that's true. Now that I think about it, there seem to be many strong enemies in a number of dungeons."

When I say that unnaturally, Jeko opens his eyes.

"Oh! That dungeon will be the perfect training spot for them. As expected of Ashtal-sama."

Jeko raises a voice of praise.

We evil gods are currently managing 5 dungeons.

The difficulty of each of the dungeons are different.

The monsters, and the strength of the boss are of course, different

Within them is the most difficult dungeon.

The Kenjian dungeon currently has a high level of difficulty, so much that even Yufilia and the others would have trouble with it.

“We’re not doing that.”

However, the old man instantly denied it.

“Eh?”

I tilt my head.

“It might be perfect for them right now, but once they grow a bit stronger there’s a need to make it stronger, or else they’ll find it lacking. In order to adapt to them, we’d have to gradually release stronger and stronger monsters.”

“Can’t we just do that?”

To Jeko’s question, the old man shakes his head to the side.

“It is possible, but that dungeon doesn’t exist just to train them.”

The old man is strict.

“Changing levels to match you, a convenient dungeon like that would be thought of as strange. You aren’t saying that we should do that are you?”

The old man *zuitu* brings his face closer to me.

“N,n,n,n,o way.”

When I panic and deny him, the old man made a satisfied expression.

“You seem to have helped them out on various occasions, but remember that we’re are trying to get people to come to dungeons. Our ultimate goal is for people to come to

the Dark Temple.”

The old man looks down at Yufilia and the others.

“Whether or not his country collapses is up to them. I’m not sure how I feel about spoiling too much.”

“I don’t think I’ve been spoiling them though.”

I go *mu* and argue.

“That’s fine. We’ve lent humanity our help on multiple occasions, but only when it seemed they were about to be destroyed. We’ve been doing too much lately.”

“But at this rate they won’t make it.”

When I mention my concerns, the old man nodded with a composed expression.

“They know that too. However, take a look at their faces, do they look like they in despair?”

Told by the old man, I take another look at the 4 of them.

In Yufilia’s emerald green eyes, I her strength of will seems to be there as usual. It’s not the expression of someone in despair.

Tiraiza’s amber eyes were filled with motivation.

With her purple ponytail shaking around, Jamie was having a practice battle with Yufilia.

If anything, she’s smiling and doesn’t look cornered at all.

Iris was *mokumoku* casting magic.

From her blue eyes, I couldn’t feel her normal air headedness, and she was fired up.

“Rather, they look really hopeful?”

I give my frank opinion.

“They have the objective of getting stronger. They also have an idea of where they can find a strong enemy.”

“Hou, they had that idea?”

“Yes. Let’s try going there.”

The old man says casually.

“Us?”

“Before they get permission to use that place, we need to go there and make sure there aren’t any problems. The current administrator of that place is the director, Serena.”

While we were having that conversation, Serena appeared on the roof with a huge key that couldn’t fit in her hand.

“Sorry I made you wait.”

Serena reverently greeted us.

The key in her hands is decorated with a dragon design.

I was familiar with that key.

“Well then, let’s go to the last legacy of the ancient empire, its only facility that’s still active, the Crystal Tower.”

CHAPTER 62

CRYSTAL TOWER

The ancient empire.

A country that was said to have existed a few thousand years ago.

The age of myths—the era in which the gods were said to exist.

There were many gods, but all of them were said to have been destroyed in a conflict between gods.

Humanity, who obeyed the gods, were almost destroyed.

Over the years, the few survivors revived the population.

However, in the process, all of the technology and techniques of the ancient empire were lost.

Their, culture, and history along with it.

What happened at that time?

What kind of people were there?

There are almost no remaining documents about that.

I've lived for 1000 years, but it's from even older than that.

Of course, I don't know the details either.

If it's the old man, then he might be somewhat familiar with it, but he didn't tell me much about it.

Without knowing any of that, I can still use him.

There are many things that are said to be legacies of the ancient empire.

There are no buildings left standing on the ground.

Everything was blown away.

It's evidence that the war was just that intense.

What's left over is just the underground stuff.

Those are what are called dungeons.

Other things left over are buildings in subspaces.

We were in a certain subspace.

What's here is a giant tower that raises up to the sky.

It's the Crystal Tower.

"Come to think of it, this was here wasn't it?"

I look up at the huge tower.

As usual, the material of building is still unknown.

The techniques of the ancient empire are of course unknown to humans, but they're unknown to the evil gods as well.

The entire building was shining lightly, and it was obvious that some sort of power was exerted on it.

"The ancient empire didn't particularly make this place for the sake of training, but it has a function to prevent people from going deep inside it. Furthermore, it's strong, and perfect for training."

The old man explains.

"It's customary for those who challenge the Maou to train up here. 50 years ago, I cleared up to the tenth floor here."

Serena spoke respectfully.

For a weak Maou, clear about 5 floors.

For average~strong, you should aim for about 10 floors.

400 years ago, the seven heroes, the Seven Stars were have said to have cleared up to the 15th floor.

“How many floors are there?”

“I don’t know. The current record is 15 floors, but we don’t know how high up the 15th floor is.”

The old man took a pose of giving up all hope.

This tower is large, even on just the 1st floor.

There is an elevator like device, but we don’t know how high up it takes you.

Yufilia and the others will probably aim for the 10th floor or so.

Their objective is to check if there have been any major changes.

I look backwards.

The old man, Jeko, Serena.

Just that much is fine.

“Why are you coming along?”

I ask Adrigori.

“You’re going to the Crystal Tower, and since I know up to the 15th floor, I thought I’d guide you.”

I couldn’t go out for 1000 years.

However, my men are different.

There were times when they went outside.

At one of those times, he must’ve had an opportunity to come to this tower.

“I don’t need you to guide me. If I have to do this anyways, I’m going to while having fun.”

“Yeah yeah, plus we came here 400 years ago. I don’t even remember the inside.”

“That’s because you’re an idiot.”

To Jeko’s words, Adrigori retorts.

The two of them are silently glaring at each other, but of course, I ignore it.

“400 years ago.....15 layers?”

Serena knits her eyebrows, and voices her doubts.

“And Jeko.....no, that one is a common name.”

“The number of people named Jeko in the current time period aren’t small in number.”

The old man nods.

“This may be rude, but what is your name?”

“My name is Adrigori.”

Adrigori bows politely.

“Eh.....that’s a lie right!?”

Serena is dumbfounded.

“I don’t think this is the case, but did you visit here 400 years ago with 7 people?”

“Fumu. As expected, since you’re revealing this much information, it seems you’re aware.”

The old man smiles bitterly.

“I,I knew it, you’re the Seven Stars!”

The fourth demonic disaster that happened 500 years ago.

Humanity was taken over by the demons.

That state continued for 100 years.

There were those who rose, and stood against the demons’ rule.

They were later called the seven heroes—the Seven Stars.

They are famous along with the dragon princess for being the first to stand up against the demons.

Within them, there were two mysterious people.

They were the two who were called warriors of light.
Adrigori and Jeko.

Yeah, they're these two.

At the time, I said the same thing.
However, I want to say this one more time.
How did this happen?

"I'm sorry for not knowing that."

Serena hurriedly lowered her head.

"Right now they're just normal people. Don't worry about it."

The old man says with an unconcerned expression.

"Just like I helped you 50 years ago, Adrigori and Jeko helped humans during the fourth demonic disaster. That's all it was."

As evil gods, we don't wish for the destruction of humans.
The fourth demonic calamity's Maou was not trying to destroy humanity.

That's why we just watched it at first.
However, a world that doesn't change for 100 years is boring.

Thus, I thought we should help out humanity a little.
I gave humans what are now called the legendary sacred treasures.

We gathered those good prospects, and trained them.
The ones who were responsible for doing that were Adrigori and Jeko.

After everything was finished, they could still hide their identities, and be treated as mysterious figures.
However, I don't know what they were thinking, and they stood out in many ways.

As a result, they ended up joining the seven heroes.

“We, well, it was because Jeko was being an idiot.....”

Adrigori tries his best to make an excuse.

“Ha!? You were the one who happily went and destroyed a group of demons alone!”

“If someone asks you to help them right in front of them, of course I have to help them!”

“It’s been 400 years, quit it with the excuses!”

When I say that, disgusted, their quarrel “pishari* stops.

“Since 400 years have passed, only people like her who have access to a considerable amount of information would realize it, so there isn’t that much of a problem.”

The old man coolly answered.

Although they were people with unknown identities, nobody would think that they’d live for hundreds of years.

Since the fourth demonic calamity, names such as Adrigori and Jeko came to be used frequently.

It’s not uncommon for a child to be named after a hero.

That’s why, even if they name themselves by those names now, nobody will notice.

Serena has just now finally realized it.

As time passes, it will be forgotten.

I judged that at the time, and in reality it went exactly as I thought it would.

As expected, I told them not to be rampage too much.

I told them not to beat the top executives or higher.

Ah, also after everything was over I punished them.

“Wha, yeah.”

Since she was taken aback, Serena can only respond like that.

“Don’t mind it let’s move on.”

When the old man said that, he opened a huge door tens of meters long with the huge key.

CHAPTER 63

CRYSTAL TOWER CAPTURING ①

The huge tower's passages, and everything arranged in it were all huge.

I *zukazuka* walk in the front.

"Ah."

Adrigori's voice leaks.

"Nn?"

I turn around.

"Dowaa!"

I receive the chop attack of the statue beside me.

"Well, if you're not careful, that'd be a death trap, but since it's Ashtal-sama, you'll be fine."

The old man said that like it was nothing.

Sanctuary

Well, in reality since I have my omnipotent barrier, I didn't sustain any damage.

Since I'm in the front, I'm the one who discovers the traps.

Well, I guess it's fine.

When I don't mind it and proceed, several tens of monsters became visible in the distance.

No, they're not monsters.

It'd be more correct to call them robots.

“Those are the soldiers of the ancient empire. They're something called an armor species.”

The old man explains.

Their two arms are something like gatling guns.

Each gatling gun has 4 gunports.

Their lower bodies are caterpillars. Their upper bodies are humanoid robots.

On their shoulders, they have 2 gun barrels.

“Hou hou.”

“However, since this is the first floor, these are small fry right?”

Anyways, let's try it.

When I get a little closer to them, a beep sounds, and an armor species attacked me.

Gagagagatu!

Their gatling gun arms spin, and magic bullets come to me.

They come in four colors of red, blue, yellow, and green.

They probably correspond with fire, water, earth, and wind respectively.

Dondontu!

White and black magic bullets come from the tank type armor species.

They were the attacks of the light and dark attribute.

“I see, so we're being attacked by all the attributes.”

While analyzing that, I received a magic bullet.

To be precise, I'm repelling it with my barrier though.

I punched one of them.

It broke easily.

Fire Ball

"Ball of fire"

When I casted that magic, a number of fireballs with a diameter of a few meters were formed.

I release them all at the armor species.

Even the armor species that didn't get directly hit were destroyed by the shock wave.

"Oh, brilliant."

Adrigori is clapping with a serious face.

"Mu. The floor of this building didn't break."

It was unscratched, even with that magic.

I was surprised by that.

"This building is dreadfully sturdy. Of course, if Ashtal-sama were to try his best, it might be possible to break it, but we'd be troubled if you destroyed the entire tower."

"I know, I'm not going to do that."

I lightly wave at Adrigori, and answer.

The wreckage of the destroyed armor species moved to the edge, as if to draw us in.

Then, the floor at the edge *patto* opened, and the wreckage recovered.

The old man points at that.

“The Crystal Tower seems to have been automatically working like this. It’s been thousands of years after all, it must self support its own energy.”

“It’s masters, the ancient people have already been destroyed, but they must have been conscientiousness.”

It seems that the restored wreckage is reprocessed, and another armor species is made.

After a while, it’ll be rearranged into the formation.

While receiving that explanation, I move forward.

In the back, there was an elevator-like something.

We got on it, and moved to a higher floor.

“However, they were small fries.”

Adrigori reacts to my honest impressions.

“It’s because it was still the first floor. Although, even at the 15th floor which I’ve been to, there weren’t any enemies that could threaten us, let alone you.”

“No, the armor species’ attacks seemed like they’d be pretty painful though. Your weak attributes are always included in them, so.”

Serena is somewhat amazed by our inhuman conversation.

“We don’t have a weak attribute.”

Evil gods all have the evil attribute.

It’s not one of the four attributes of fire, water, earth or wind.

It’s neither light nor dark.

It's the seventh attribute.

The evil attribute is a flat attribute with no attribute it's weak against, but also without an attribute it's strong against.

"The first floor is something like a test floor. From the second floor on, each floor has it's own gimmick."

"That sounds fun."

I got thrilled, just like I would before a game.

Second floor.

A large room where six hexahedral panels are spread on top of the floor.

"It's a damage floor! Damage from poison, flames, thunder, etc will randomly come, so you need to avoid it while fighting."

Serena and the old man weren't participating, and were advising us from afar.

"Okay."

"Hou."

"I see."

The three people on the panels.

Adrigori, Jeko, and I state our thoughts.

Poison doesn't work on evil gods.

We'll immediately recover from slight damage.

Ah, before that, I have a barrier too.

It's a floor of 0 damage.

The enemy armor species were fighter aircrafts that flew through the sky, and were helicopter-like enemies.

When I *peshipeshi* shot them down, it ended.

Third floor.

“When the boss’ HP is cut by half, it’ll call more armor species. You can beat the small fries first, but when their numbers increase even more, it becomes more difficult to take care of them. You can leave someone in charge of taking care of the small fries and attack the boss, or you can clean up all of the small fries. Your tactics are challenged here.”

“Ah, sorry, the boss instantly died when I hit it.”

“.....”

Serena was taken aback, and didn’t close her opened mouth.

The gimmick misfired.

Fourth floor.

There were two large humanoid armor species.

The one on the left had a sword, and the one on the right had a shield.

“Of course, the left side has high attack power and the right side has high defensive power. Common sense tells us that the left side can be easily defeated, but if you attack and defeat the left one, the right one will explode. Its power depends on the remaining HP of the right one, so if defeat in full condition, it’s dreadfully powerful.”

“I see.”

I nodded, and struck the left one.

A *bubuu* sound echoed as if to tell us it was the wrong choice, and the right armor species was wrapped in light.

Dogooooooooon!

A large explosion occurs.

“Gehotu! Stop being so sudden!”

I ignore Adrigori’s protests.

“Eh, we’ll be okay, but we have Serena-dono with us.”

“Ah.”

I realized it when Adrigori pointed it out to me.

When I hurry up and look over to her, the old man had protected her, so she was unharmed.

“I’m sorry.”

I apologized, but Serena wasn’t even looking at me.

“No, since Julius-sama protected me I was okay, it’s fine.”

Serena was just holding onto the old man.

“As long as you’re fine.”

“No no, no thank you, but umm.....can I stay like this for a while?”

Somehow, they went into a world just for the two of them, so I hurriedly rushed forward.

It’s my fault, so I can’t complain about it.

Fifth floor.

One huge turtle-like armor species was waiting for us.

“Its main body is protected by a super strong shell, so it’s near invincible. When you

begin to attack it, a few smaller turtles will appear. You should weaken and capture them. When the main body gets closer to you, it'll stick out its head, so attack that."

Serena explained that, but she was somewhat negligent.

"Okay, it's coming."

I perform a suicide attack towards the main body.

Then, I hit the boss.

"Mu, it's hard."

It didn't even give an inch from my attack.

"Ah, finally the gimmick worked."

For some reason, Serena was relieved.

"In that case!"

I remove the ring that was suppressing my jaki.

"Haaaaa!"

I build up my jaki, and hit it.

A *barin!* sound was made, and the shell broke.

"Hoatatatatata!"

I continued to hit it, and destroyed its main body.

"I don't even want to deal with these guys anymore."

Serena let out a sigh.

"The only one rampaging as he likes is Ashtal-sama though."

Adrigori calmly retorted.

Then, we went forward

CHAPTER 64

CRYSTAL TOWER CAPTURING ②

We head for an elevator that will take us up to the sixth floor.

“You may have noticed this, but the location of this elevator is the same as on the first floor. You can use this to return to the first floor.”

The old man explains.

“There is also a place that records your biometric data. If you register, you become able to go anywhere from the first floor to the sixth floor.”

It seems safe to recognize that the 10th floor will have the same structure, and that shortcuts will appear every 5 layers.

I register my data, and move on.

Then, the same enemies as from the first floor become visible.

“What? Has the pattern been broken already?”

“Eh? No, that’s not it.”

Serena hurriedly denies me.

“Or rather, how many enemies do you see?”

“About 40, I guess.”

I make a strange face.

“I can only see 5. The others must be invisible or something.”

At Serena’s words, I look at the old man and the others.

“So you can’t see them.”

“It was like this 400 years ago too. Human’s eyes are really inconvenient.”

Jeko shrugs his shoulders.

Our Evil Eyes work on invisible things.

The gimmick has misfired.

“By the way, about the method to make release their invisibility—”

“I don’t need to hear it.”

“I knew it.”

Did she predict my response? Serena replied immediately.

Like that, we cleared up to the 10th floor.

The 10th floor’s gimmick was that if you don’t beat the boss within a certain time limit, the devices in the room would explode, and blow up.

When we were listening to the explanation, the boss had already died.

“There don’t seem to be any problems. Well, it’s been here for a few thousand years, so things won’t change that suddenly I guess.”

The old man concluded so.

The checking of the tower is over.

“What should we do now? Go home?”

Asked by Adrigori, I think for a bit.

“Since this is a place where I can rampage without holding back, I’ll play around here for a while. You guys can go home though.”

“In that case, I’ll go with you. Well, I’ll mainly just be watching though.”

In terms of time, it’d be a pain to go home now too.

Let’s go up to the 16th floor.

If we bring Adrigori or Jeko, we can take a shortcut up to floors 11~15.

“I understand, I’ll go with you up to the 16th floor.”

Adrigori replies.

“I can’t do it.”

Jeko says nonchalantly.

“Didn’t you clear up to the 15th floor too?”

“I thought I’d never come here again, and didn’t register.”

Jeko isn’t shy about it at all.

Well, it’d be a mistake to expect that from him anyways.

When Adrigori operated the equipment, the elevator took us up.

The 16th floor had the same enemies as the 1st floor, 4 of them.

There was also one close combat type with a sword.

However, I felt an aura I’ve never felt from an enemy before.

“Mu, what’s this aura?”

“It’s the type of ki released by armor species. I guess we should call it kiki.”

The old man arbitrarily named it.

Well, since no one else knows of this aura, the one who wins is the one who names it first.

“Even though they’re not alive, machines can still release ki?”

“The ancient empire’s magic science made even that possible. It can’t be anything else.”

It doesn’t change what I’m going to do.

The enemy’s level rose, and the kiki it was releasing became stronger.

How much will it rise?

First, I’ll try to scout it out.

I approach the enemy's range, lower the power of my barrier, and receive a magic bullet.

The magic bullet was stronger than I thought, and it split my barrier and grazed my arm.

"Chi, that's pretty powerful."

I look at my injured arm.

It was bleeding.

Of course, it immediately healed though.

"If you clear the 15th floor, then you have enough power to slay the Maou of a demonic calamity. This is more than that."

The old man moves Serena behind him.

"Not only that, since we got on the 16th floor, the enemy's strength has immediately risen."

Jeko makes a conjecture.

There's a possibility that there's a gimmick too.

However, there's nobody who has ever cleared this, so unfortunately it's impossible to get any information on it.

"I'm going to take Serena-jou with me to a place a little far off from here."

The old man said that, and took some distance.

This isn't even a place where humans should be anymore.

It might have been better if we had her go home before us.

Although, she was the one who said she wanted to come along.

I take a katana from Jeko, and run towards the enemy.

The armor species separate into all directions, and fire in all directions.

To run, I'd have to go up or down.

I have to choose to fly or bend over.

The armored species with the sword is waiting for my movement.

In that case—

I slide, and head for the armored species with the sword.

Zashutu

I don't know if my movements were unexpected or not, but the armored species' movement was a bit delayed, and I cut it in half.

The remaining 4 try to surround me again, but I expected that.

I turn to the side of my opponents, and cut them down one by one.

“Oh, brilliant.”

Adrigori again applauds with a serious face.

“These ones are probably small fries too, so this strength is terrifying.”

“This was one of the most important facilities, even in the ancient empire. That's why the guards are so strong.”

“Let's go seriously from now on. Apparently this is that kind of place.”

I take off the ring suppressing my jaki.

Although they've gotten somewhat stronger, they're not an enemy of me now that I've released my jaki.

The 17~19th floors had no gimmicks, and we passed through them without any problems.

When we entered the 20th floor, an aura I've never felt before came.

“What’s this aura?”

I knit my eyebrows.

“We don’t know. It’s an aura even we’ve never felt before.”

Since the old man doesn’t know about it, it must be something substantial.
We moved towards the aura.

What came into sight was a huge flying dragon
In a horribly wide space, there was a dragon.

“Is it one.....but this isn’t the aura of the dragon race. What is it?”

“No way.....”

The old man makes a surprised expression.

“Do you have an idea of what it is?”

“The ancient empire had an army of armored species. If that’s the case, then what did they fight? Wouldn’t that be this dragon?”

Long ago. A long time before I reincarnated.
The age in which the gods were said to have existed.

Under the protection of the gods, humanity prospered.

During that era, there was a single country.
The ancient Ulugu Empire.

This Crystal Tower was one of that ancient Ulugu Empire’s facilities.
The armored species were the soldiers of the ancient Ulugu Empire.

If so, what did the ancient Ulugu Empire fight against?
Even that hasn’t been transmitted to the present.

The war of that era. The war that ended that era.

It was much too intense.

However, if it's this dragon, which even the evil gods have never met, it could be the case.

"That's a weird hypothesis. Why would the enemy who fought the ancient Ulugu Empire be in one of their most important facilities?"

"They must have captured and used it for something. Look over there."

When I asked him, the old man pointed to the dragon.

There were restraints on the dragon's head and legs.

"It was probably caught by the ancient empire, and forced to be this place's guardian."

"Would that mean that the ancient Ulugu Empire was victorious in the ancient war?"

"Now, I don't know about that."

The old man shrugged his shoulders as if he didn't know.

Whether they won or lost, they'd still have to deal with prisoners of war.

"This is just by feeling, but that dragon's aura feels close to those of demons."

"I thought so too."

Adrigori agrees with him.

"In that case.....lets call it a demon, no, a demonic dragon."

The old man named it as soon as he could.

"What should we do?"

Jeko asks for my decision.

I don't feel any intelligence from it.

It'd probably be pointless to talk to it.

In the first place, it was somehow placed under the control of the ancient Ulugu

Empire.

“For now, we can only try it.”

I responded like that, and entered a combat stance.

CHAPTER 65

VS DEMONIC DRAGON

Goaaaaaaaatu!

When we got into its sight, the demonic dragon raised a cry.

We might be its first visitors ever.

The demonic dragon gazes over here with belligerent eyes.

Then it flew up, and rotated in the air.

When it built up its maki and cried, two smaller dragons were summoned.

“Did it call its family? I’ll leave them to you.”

To my words, Adrigori and Jeko silently raise their weapons.

The demonic dragon looks here, and releases firebreath from its mouth.

Adrigori and Jeko flew to the sides, avoided it, and they both began to fight with its family members respectively.

I hold out my hand, and receive the breath.

Sanctuary

My omnipotent barrier activates, and repels the breath.

The demonic dragon sharply nosedived, and swings its arm at me.

I receive it, and grab the demonic dragon.

“Gaaaaaa!”

The demonic dragon roars.

However, it can’t get away from me.

“Deeeeeei!”

Like that, I threw it.

When the demonic dragon gets back into its stance, it tries to fly again.

Then, Adrigori and Jeko slash at it.

Their enemies don't seem to have been that big of a deal.

They cut off both legs of the demonic dragon.

Restraints and all, its legs fall.

"Gyaaaaaaaaa!"

The demonic dragon released a cry of agony.

The demonic dragon that fly up looks down on us from above.

While it was watching us, its legs seem to have regenerated.

"It has a considerably high regeneration speed."

Adrigori states composedly.

"Its family members were small fries. We can beat it without any problems."

Jeko is the same as him.

However, that leeway disappeared in the next moment.

"What!? Its ki is expanding."

Ki flowed powerfully from the demonic dragon.

"The restraints huh. They must have kept its power to below half."

Adrigori picks up the restraints.

A mysterious tool made through magic science.

It was round, and glowing a bluish white color.

The demonic dragon stored up power.

“It’s coming.”

Without my needing to warn them, Adrigori and Jeko entered a defensive stance with all their power.

The power of darkness emanates from the demonic dragon.

Shadow Explosion.

As expected, it uses the same magic as demons.

Goooooooooooootu!

A huge explosion of the dark attribute occurs, and Jeko was showily blown away.

Blood is spilling from his whole body.

On the other hand, Adrigori was fine.

“It’s these restraints! Even though it was taken off, its effect of weakening the opponent’s power is still there. Jeko, take it.”

Adrigori threw one of the restraints to Jeko.

“I won’t thank you.”

“Fuun.”

When Adrigori made that sound from his nose, he took the other restraint and looked to me.

“I don’t need it.”

Sanctuary

I canceled my omnipotent barrier.

The first magic was blocked by my barrier, but I’ll purposely take the second one.

“A,Ashtal-sama, what are you doing!?”

Adrigori fell into a panic.
Why are you panicking?
While we had that exchange, the second magic activated.

Goooooooooooootu!

I raise my guard and accept it.
My clothes tore, and I was hurt here and there.
It broke through my guard of jaki.

“You’re not bad!”

I gladly look above me.

The demonic dragon tried to release its third magic explosion.
I won’t let it.

I kick off the floor and jump.

“Evil Blade.”

When I cast my magic, I sword made of an evil aura appeared in my right hand.

It *zubazubatu* slices through the demonic dragon’s wings.
The demonic dragon began to fall down.

“Uooo!”

Adrigori and Jeko slashed at the falling demonic dragon.

“Gaaaaaaaaa!”

The demonic dragon writhes in pain.
Falling from the sky, I stab it with my Evil Blade.
Like that, I went on and cut it into pieces.

The demonic dragon is still breathing, but it has already stopped moving.

“Fuu.”

I look at the demonic dragon.

It seems to be gradual, but it's begun regenerating.

It has considerable vitality.

If we could talk to it, I'd like to ask it about a bunch of things.

However, I can't feel any intelligence from the demonic dragon.

I couldn't believe it'd be able to speak.

Do I have no choice but to deal the finishing blow?

When I thought that, the old man and Serena came around.

“The demonic dragon species. It seems to be quite a powerful existence.”

The old man must've concluded that based on our clothes.

Serena too.

When I was looking at Serena, the demonic dragon mustered its strength, and tried to get up.

“Gaaaaaatu!”

Then, it releases firebreath at Serena.

“That's dangerous.”

The old man formed a barrier and repelled it.

The eyes of the demonic dragon become bloodshot, and it faces us with enough hatred to make you think it could kill you with just its gaze.

I don't know whether that last attack exhausted all its power or not, but the demonic dragon stopped moving.

Just to be safe, I dealt it a finishing blow.

“It held an extraordinary hatred for humans. It seemed to be even more intense than that of demons.”

Adrigori analyzes.

“It also used the same magic as demons. Well, the power was on a whole different level though.”

However I think about it, it can't be unrelated to demons.
It should be okay to call that demonic dragon's ki as maki.

“I guess we should go on then.”

In order to investigate this, I proposed that.
We registered at the 20th floor, and got onto the elevator.

There weren't any enemies on the 21st floor.
There were various rooms, SF computers, monitors, and other things like that.

However, we couldn't move them.
We could activate them, but then a password was needed, and we couldn't go any further.

“This isn't working.”

The old man seems to have given up as well.
I give up, and move on.

“Wha!? This is!”

I raise a surprised voice, and everyone gathered.

Beyond that, there was a wide space, and within it were countless large water tanks.
They were all systematically arranged, and were connected by thick wires.

Inside one of the tanks was a dragon.
Probably, it's a demonic dragon.

"That's ridiculous.....the demonic dragon in this tank is alive."

Adrigori approached the tank, and examined it.
It didn't seem to be conscious, but it occasionally moved slightly.
There was no doubt that it was still alive.

"This tank must have a life support function. It doesn't seem to just be for preserving corpses."

I state my conjecture.

"The problem is, what is this?"

The old man is absorbed in thought.

"Is it a substitute for a prison?"

Jeko answered while looking around.

"The Crystal Tower has been running for a few thousand years. It might be using these guys as sources of energy. This pipe would be the path for that energy."

These guys are the power supply.
It's only natural to think so.

"Is that possible?"

To my words, Adrigori tilts his head, as if he couldn't understand.

"If it's the ancient Ulugu Empire, it'd be possible."

The magic science of the ancient Ulugu Empire.
It's a technology that far surpasses our imagination.

“If that’s the case, we can understand why the demonic dragon showed so much hostility towards humans.”

The old man looks at Serena.
Serena’s face went a little pale.

Is it the fear of having come all the way to this place?
Is she shocked by the actions of the past humanity.

“Ah, that wouldn’t be so strange if was treated like this.”

I nod.

Who laid a hand on the other first?
Did the conflict happen because the humans captured the dragon and treat it that way?
Or, did the dragon attack humans, and they did this as a countermeasure?

For now, we don’t know.
I wonder if that answer is ahead of us?
We headed for the 22nd floor.

The 22nd floor. Adrigori, Jeko and I proceed even deeper.
Since it would be more dangerous after this, the old man and Serena decided to wait at the elevator.

I confirm the figure of an enemy.
After, I look to Adrigori and Jeko.

The two of them nod silently.
Apparently it was unanimous.
We turned back to where the old man was.

“How was it? Were there no enemies this time too?”
“No, time is time. I thought it’d be fine to end here for today.”

The old man is suspicious of my answer.

“Yeah, in terms of time, going another 4 floors would be sort of reckless.”

“Yeah yeah yeah yeah, that’s right.”

Adrigori and Jeko agree with me.

“I see.....”

The old man was discerning, and instantly saw through us.

“So the enemy was a humanoid woman.”

Silently, we all averted our eyes from the old man.

I don’t know what that was, but it looked like a human woman.

We decided to go again another time.

CHAPTER 66

A CERTAIN HERO'S CRYSTAL TOWER CAPTURING

Yufilia, Tiraiza, Jamie, and Iris came to the Crystal Tower.

It was for training.

“Yufi and I have already cleared up to the 5th floor, so we can start from the 6th floor.”

Tiraiza explains that to Jamie and Iris, who haven't yet experienced the Crystal Tower.

“Our objective is to raise our levels. Since we have some first-timers with us, it'd be fine to start from the 1st floor.”

Tiraiza doesn't have any objections to Yufilia's idea.

“The defense mechanisms of the ancient Ulugu Empire huh? Sounds interesting.”

Jamie *pan* slams her fist into the palm of her hand.

“Since the enemies will be coming to kill us, I can't really get into that mood.....”

Iris *kyorokyoro* looks around at her surroundings, as if she can't calm down.

“It's exactly as Iris said. If we let our guards down, we'll die.”

Tiraiza *kotsukotsu* strikes the ground with her staff.

To a certain extent, it's a habit of hers that she does when nervous.

“Well then, I'm opening it.”

The director of Cantabridge Academy Serena opens the door.

“Ooh~”

Jamie goes in.

“The first floor’s enemies are in the back, so don’t go too far ahead.”

While taken aback, Tiraiza advises.

“I know that—Gyoheeeaaa!”

Jamie was crushed flat by the chop of a nearby statue in the passage.

“Aaaaaah, we need to hurry and heal her!”

Yufilia hurriedly ran up to her.

“Heal. Heal. Heal.”

Iris desperately casted healing magic, and Jamie regained consciousness.

“I warned you too.....”

Tiraiza complains to Jamie, who just regained consciousness.

“If there’s a trap, tell me first!”

Yufilia lightly apologizes to Jamie’s protests.

“Sorry, I forgot there was a trap there until just before.”

“I didn’t think there would be a trap in a wide passage like this.”

Jamie hits her cheeks, and fires up again.

“Well, these kind of traps will only be found here. It’s a substitute greeting that says that those who can’t endure this aren’t welcome here.”

Tiraiza speaks indifferently.

While having that conversation, they moved on.

Then, they got all the way to the first floor’s boss.

There are dozens of armored species.

“Anyways, it’s fine to just beat them up right?”

These enemies have no traps or gimmicks.

Hearing that, Jamie prepares her specialized weapon Ragnarok, and charged in. The armored species shoot all attributes of bullets one after the other.

“Uoryaaaaaaaa!”

Seeing that, Jamie leaps and avoids them.

Then she swung Ragnarok, and the armored species were easily destroyed. Yufilia, who charged in a little later was surprised.

“Eh? It broke that easily?”

“It wouldn’t break that easily even with Ridiru, would it?”

Tiraiza also tilts her head.

Ragnarok has a particularly efficacy on inanimate objects.

As armored species are of course inanimate objects, the damage was double it would normally be.

“Heavy Swing!”

When Jamie swings her ax, the armored species were destroyed one by one. With Jamie’s great efforts, they cleared the 1st floor.

“Isn’t that ax amazing?”

Iris asks Jamie while healing her.

“Certainly, orihalcon is amazing.”

Jamie answered while looking at Ragnarok.

“That’s not all though,”

Julius cuts into the conversation.

Julius and Jeko came along with them as supervisors.

If you asked Yufilia and the others, they had doubts on why these two were chosen though.

However, they weren’t large enough to ask them.

“As weapons and armor can be strengthened with magic, it might be given effects through endowment magic (enchant).”

“Legendary weapons also seem to be particularly effective against demons. Ridiru is like that too.”

Yufilia grabbed Ridiru that was hanging on her back.

“That ax must have a special effect that increases its effectiveness on things such as armored species. You could also call it a special effectiveness on inanimate objects.”

Julius had watched the scene of Ashtal giving the ax endowments(Enchants).

Of course, he couldn’t just say that, so he told them as if it were his speculations.

“I,it has that kind of effect?”

Yufilia took a good look at Ragnarok.

“Wouldn’t that effect help us with the golem at the Dark Temple?”

To Tiraiza’s inquiry, Julius nodded.

“He thought that far ahead when he made this for me.....”

Jamie was deeply impressed, and looked at the ax.

“Eh, by chance did he fall in love with you?”

Tiraiza makes fun of her.

“D,d,d,d,don’t say stupid things. In the first place, since I’m so big, there’s no way he would.”

“I don’t know about that. He seems sort of easy, so you might be able to make him fall for you?”

“Yeah yeah, don’t say such stupid things, let’s go on ahead.”

Yufilia tries to end their conversation.

Tiraiza had noticed that Yufilia’s voice was stronger than normal.

However, without saying anything, they walked to the elevator.

Serena, who heard their conversation was smiling.

When she took some distance from them, she began to talk secretly.

“Ashtal-sama seems to be quite popular.”

“Unfortunately, he seems to be unable to take advantage of that at all though.....”

Julius makes a bitter smile.

Ashtal is weak with women.

Furthermore, there’s also the problem of evil gods not having any sexual desires.

Right now, Ashtal is a celebrity, and his popularity with women is high.

If it weren’t for such problems, he’d be in a position where he could pick and choose, but,

“If he improves his condition, I wonder if he’d make a harem or something?”

Serena suddenly voiced her doubts.

“Are you saying that all the girls in the world should become Ashtal-sama’s?”

To that, Jeko said that as if it were only natural.

“As expected, that would be physically impossible.”

Julius seriously denied him.

“Yeah, plus I belong to Julius-sama.”

Serena grabs Julius’ arm and brings her body closer to his.

“Muu.”

“This is a relationship Ashtal-sama has authorized.”

“In that case, there aren’t any problems.”

Since Serena said that, Jeko had no choice but to approve of it.

Jamie who was in high spirits for the 1st floor, was puzzled by the 2nd floor.

“Wai, what is this?”

“I already explained this didn’t I? After the panels shine, you get randomly attacked by the floor.”

Tiraiza dexterously moves from the floor, and casts magic.

“Lightning.”

When it got directly struck by the lightning, the armored species fell to the ground. If the floor shone when she was casting magic, she’d cancel her magic and move.

“Gehogegehotu! Achichichi! Ababababababa!”

Jamie brilliantly continues to be damaged by the floor.

“Cure. Heal. Heal. Cure.”

While avoiding the shining floor panels, Iris was healing Jamie.

Yufilia was *mokumoku* defeating the enemy.

“Hey, you’re the warrior, so you protect us. Everyone else is coming over here though.”

“Abababababababa. Okay, I’ll protect you if you get behind me.”

“If I do that, I’ll get shocked by electricity though.”

As Tiraiza sighed, she was running around the field while skillfully avoiding enemies. While she was doing that, Yufilia would finish them.

The 3 supervisors were watching that from the distance.

“I see, so they’re doing that to capture this floor.”

Jeko was impressed.

“No, this is a bad example.”

Serena was taken aback.

Was that because of the disgraceful sight the party in front of her was showing?
Or was it because Jeko’s sensitivity was so inhuman?

“Yeah, since the shield isn’t functioning properly, the attacker is receiving the attacks. Well, those girls have some leeway level wise, so they’ll somehow be fine though.”

Julius agreed with her.

“Hou. So it’s fine to leave them alone?”

Jeko puts a hand on his katana.

“Nothing will come of it if you save them, and they won’t be killed by this, so you can leave them alone.”

After a while, they were finally able to clear the 2nd floor.

CHAPTER 67

PREPARATION

I sat on the throne in the Dark Temple, and aimlessly started thinking deeply. Soon after, the old man and Jeko came back.

“How was it?”

“They didn’t want to take too many risks, so they ended at the 6th floor today.”

To my inquiry, the old man answered gently.

“They’ll probably train for a while on the 6~7th floor. Then, once they judge they’ve gotten stronger, they’ll go to a higher floor.”

Jeko makes a bored face.

He must be tired of just watching humans fight.

“If so, there isn’t a need to supervise with 3 people is there?”

“Yeah, it’d be fine with just me and Serena-dono.”

When the old man nodded, Jeko spoke as if he’d been waiting for this.

“Well then, I’ll stay by your side.”

“There isn’t much to do here though.”

“What are planning on doing?”

Without answering Jeko’s question, I look to the old man.

“So, does it look like they’ll be on time?”

The old man wrinkles his eyebrows, and thinks.

“Honestly, I don’t know much about humans’ growth speeds, but I think they’ll just barely make it.”

“I see. As I thought, we might need to move.”

I get up from my throne.

“What are you planning on doing?”

Jeko asks.

“What’s Yufilia and the others’ objective?”

“It’s to earn enough money to return their debt.”

“How?”

“They’re planning on stealing from the Dark Temple’s treasury.”

“Well, if you look at it from our perspective, that’s right.”

I smile bitterly at Jeko’s answer.

“What’s inside the treasury?”

“That would be gold and silver treasures.”

“What do they plan on doing with them?”

“It’d be fine if they just paid with those.”

“That’s only if Scottyard accepts those treasures as payment.”

Scottyard wants Briton to succumb to them.

If we tried to pay them with treasure, and they said they wouldn’t accept it, we’d lose.

In the first place, the values of those treasures isn’t their market price.

No matter how much we believe it’s worth, we should first think they won’t take it.

“If so, they should just convert it.”

“Where?”

“In Scottyard. They’re going to pay in Scottyard pounds anyways.”

It seems he knew that.

However, there’s one problem.

The treasure is too vast.

It'd be impossible to sell this much treasure at once.

If you tried to, it be bought pretty cheaply.

Prices are determined by supply and demand.

If the supply temporarily increases, naturally the price will fall.

It's like getting 99 gold in a game.

If you bring it all to a shop, you won't sell it all at a fixed price.

You have to break it up, and distribute it in small amounts.

"That will take some time."

Listening to my explanation, the old man makes a grim face.

"If that's so, then they're already stuck. Even if they defeat the golem before the time limit, they still won't have enough time to convert the treasure."

Jeko reaches this conclusion.

"Ah, so you were thinking of converting it beforehand."

"You're going to change the gold and silver treasures in the treasury into Scottyard pounds?"

"Are you stupid?"

Nobody has come for 1000 years, this is the highest difficulty dungeon.

The treasury of the Dark Temple.

It'd be strange if there was Scottyard gold coins and white gold coins in there.

"I guess that's true. What should we do now though?"

"There are more treasures in other places, so I'm going to exchange those."

I stuffed some treasure into a leather bag, and flew to Scottyard's capital, Graggo.

The business I came to was the place where I sold the accessories before.

When I entered the shop, I was promptly brought to another room without having to tell them of my business.

“.....I should’ve told you I never wanted to see you again though?”

While sighing, Valef entered the room.

“Unfortunately, I’m a customer, so.”

“Merchants have the right to choose their customers.”

Although Valef said that, he doesn’t seem to intend to kick me out immediately.

“There’s something I want you to buy.”

I *panpan* grab the filled leather bags.

“If that happens to be a magic item, I’m sorry but I can’t buy it.”

Valef takes out a sheet of paper.

“What you did has been spreading around even in Scottyard.”

The paper was a cut-out of a newspaper.

With a picture of me during my speech, the story from then was written.

“I somehow didn’t let them know you came here, but since there was a stupid company, the government already knows that you sold those magic items.”

“Even though I wouldn’t have done anything to you even if you had talked.”

“They must’ve thought they’d gain their gratitude. However, the government seems to have gotten enraged, and restrained them from going outside.”

Valef laughed.

“I’d like to sell this today.”

I open the leather bag.

“Hooou. Where did you find this much treasure?”

After Valef asked, he scratches his head.

“I guess it’s useless even if I ask. Hmmm.....”

He takes out a magnifying glass, and examines each and every one.

“They seem to be items from the period of the ancient Ulugu Empire.”

“Looks like it.”

The treasures in the Dark Temple’s treasury are from the period of the ancient Ulugu Empire.

Why are things from the ancient empire in the Dark Temple?

Well, there’s no point in thinking about it.

Even when he spoke, Valef didn’t stop working.

He immersed himself in work for a bit.

He took notes on each and every one of them.

When he finished working, he showed me the paper he wrote.

“Fuu.....the total would be something like this.”

The amount he presented was about 3 million pounds.

Well, I guess that’s fair.

“Will you buy it?”

“I’m struggling with that. We’ve already told you we won’t be buying magic items, but these are treasures.”

Valef spoke brazenly.

“You’re commercial spirit is strong.”

“It’s because I’m a Scottyard merchant.”

Valef stuck his chest out in pride.

“I want to confirm one thing, naturally, there are more treasures, right?”

“Yeah.”

That would be expected. Thus, I honestly nodded.

“Are you going to sell them to various shops again?”

“No, there’s no point in doing that this time.”

Restricted to here, there wasn’t any point last time either.

It’s a pain in the ass to trade with Scottyard merchants.

“Then what are you planning on doing this time?”

“If possible, I’d like to steadily sell more here.”

At my request, Valef wrinkles his eyebrows.

“You say difficult things. I remember telling you I never want to get involved with you again though?”

“I’ll just bring the treasures to another person next time.”

“About how much do you need?”

When he asked that, I think for a bit.

I wonder how much is necessary?

Well, a rough estimate is fine.

I told him the amount of money.

“Th,that much?”

Nn? Was it too much?

“Even just with what you sold me this time, I can’t pay you immediately.”

“The limit is in about a month. It might be about a month and a half though.”

“I see.....it’s the Briton Kingdom’s X day.”

Just by this exchange alone, Valef recognized it.
My objective.

“If that’s the case, I might be able to get it done. Of course, don’t get mad at me if I can’t
though.”

“I won’t get angry.”

In the first place, I’m not assuming this will work out.

“Why is a person such as you supporting the Briton Kingdom? Even if the Briton
Kingdom collapses, you can still do whatever you want to.”

Asked that, I think.

Why am I going so far?

For a moment, Yufilia’s face comes to mind.

I shook my head.

“I don’t know. I’m just doing what I want to.”

Saying that, I left the store behind.

CHAPTER 68

DAY OF DESTINY ①

“Fufufufufu. This day has finally come.”

The first prince of the Scottyard Kingdom was in a good mood.
About a month and a half have passed they’ve tried to cut off Briton’s funds.

—Today, Briton runs out of funds.

No, this expression is not accurate.
Today they had to pay a large sum.
The Briton Kingdom couldn’t prepare that much money.

“They lasted longer than I thought. However, that ends now.”

Although Scottyard’s first scheme ended in failure, they’ve used many tricks since then.

The first one was a brilliant scheme, and like a body blow, it pushed Briton into a corner.

According to the information providers in Briton, they’re already in a hopeless situation.

Even if they tried their best, today’s repayment amount won’t come out.

“Let me give you your last prayers.”

Vincent was supposed to be present at today’s negotiation.
His escort is Edgar, and bringing along a few officials, they headed for the Briton Kingdom’s royal castle, Wolic.

When Vincent arrived at the royal castle, he was lead to the drawing room.
Immediately the treasury secretary Eldred came over, and got onto his knees.

“If it isn’t Vincent-denka. Today—-”

“Your flattery is unnecessary.”

Vincent interrupts the other party’s words.

Regarding this matter, Eldred wouldn’t serve any purpose.

It’s not like Vincent to be amiable to someone like that.

“Ab,about today’s matter.....”

“Don’t tell me everything. If His Majesty gets pushed into corner, I won’t do anything bad to you.”

“Yufilia-denka hasn’t returned to the castle in the past few days. She hasn’t been going to school either.”

“What.....?”

Vincent glares at Eldred.

She threw away her family, country, and everything else and ran away.

He hadn’t thought of the possibility of her taking that course of action.

Anyways, she was a girl with a high ability to take action.

That aspect of her was something that Vincent liked.

“According to His Majesty, there was something she had to do, so I don’t need to worry about her.”

“Hmph.”

He was still uneasy, but there was no point in pressing Eldred.

Vincent though that, and coldly drove Eldred out of the room.

“If it isn’t Prince Vincent. I apologize for making you wait.”

Richard II apologizes, and enters the room.

“I don’t have any problem with waiting personally, but unfortunately the repayment date can’t wait.”

Vincent sticks out his chest.

“Let me check with you first, is it possible for you to pay the 50 million pounds that are due today?”

Vincent was convinced that it was impossible.

He was told that this amount of money had been piled up for this day since long ago.

Instead of returning a fixed amount every time, they were building up the reimbursement amount steadily.

If it was managed badly, it wouldn't be possible.

It was arranged like that.

This was something that had been prepared years ago.

Although, whether it succeeded or not was dependant on the Briton Kingdom.

Because the Briton Kingdom was stubborn, they had to turn to this.

The fault is on the side of Briton.

Vincent thought that.

“A,about that.....”

Richard II was sweating, as if it were something difficult to say.

“Explain it clearly! I'm going to hear it eventually anyways!”

Vincent raises his voice.

This situation is the result of recent years, no, of the activities of the last half century. It can't be overturned with just one month.

By now, the results are clear.

In the first place, what was the point of holding out until today?

Even though the amount of foreign currency that Briton holds is low.

Vincent waited for the obvious answer.

As if he were groaning, Richard II answered.

“I apologize. We don’t have the funds to repay your country. I can’t return today’s money.”

“Houhouhouhou!”

Vincent stopped holding back on the expression he’d been suppressing until then, and let out a victorious expression.

“That’s really troubling for me~. You have to properly stick to the contract!”

Vincent kicks his chair and stands.

“Well then, what does the Briton Kingdom intend to do about it? You aren’t telling me that I should give up and accept that, are you?”

Vincent walks close to Richard II.

“Of course not, my country isn’t an oni. I’ve been thinking that our relationship has been getting a little cold lately, but don’t you think we can restore it?”

He brings his face closer to Richard II.

“Yes! However, I believe that we need proof that our relationship has been restored. By the way, where’s Yufilia-denka?”

“Since it might be her last few days like this, she said she wanted to be free for her last few days, and hasn’t come back.”

“It’s not like I can’t understand your thoughts as a parent, but it’s not like she’ll just not come back like this, is it?”

When Vincent asked that, the one who answered was not Richard.

Ban! The door opened, and Yufilia entered the drawing room.

“There’s no way I’d do that, Vincent.”

With provocative eyes, Yufilia looked at Vincent.

However, Vincent who was convinced of his victory, didn't care.

"It's been a while, Yufilia. I'm glad to see you."

"I didn't particularly want to see you."

"We'll be seeing each other often from now on. Ah, there was also the case of that choker, wasn't there?"

On Yufilia's neck was a choker that let her become the collateral of the Bank of Briton.

"Really, you made me do some extra work. However, Scottyard can do anything. Of course, I might just change the contract but keep the choker."

In pure power, Vincent can't match Yufilia.

He needs to have insurance.

"Well then, Your Majesty, will you acknowledge it here? Our families will make peace. As proof of that, Yufilia and I will become engaged."

Just as Vincent was immersed in the echo of his words, he started to talk again.

Then, he took confirmation.

"You're fine with this, right?"

Richard II looked at Yufilia.

Yufilia nodded solemnly.

Seeing that, Vincent broke out into a full faced smile.

He judged that Yufilia had accepted it.

—-However, that was wrong.

Yufilia nodding was proof that everything went well.

"But I refuse!"

Richard II shouted powerfully.

CHAPTER 69

DAY OF DESTINY ②

Hearing that response, Vincent was puzzled.
Then, he shook his head as if he couldn't understand.

“What are you saying? You don't know when to give up. Are you going to choose the path of national bankruptcy?”

If the state fails, they'll fall into a state of confusion even worse than the mess the other day.

Vincent knew that Richard II doted on Yufilia, and that he didn't like her engagement. However, at this stage it's unthinkable for the king who has been left with the responsibility of a country to prioritize his self-interests.

“There's no way we're doing that! It means this!”

At Yufilia's signal, Tiraiza, Jamie, and Iris came in carrying several large bags. In those leather bags were large amounts of Scottyard gold coins.

“Hmph.”

Seeing that, Vincent attitude still hasn't changed.

“That trick is the same one as from the Bank of Briton. I'm different from the fools in Briton. I'm sure it's just bogus. Hey, check it.”

Vincent orders the officials he brought with him.
The officials look inside the bags.
While examining them, the officials' face colors change.

“This is ridiculous.....these are without a doubt Scottyard coins.”
“What?”

Vincent's composure disappears.

"That's impossible. From last time, I told you to be wary of magic items."

Scottyard investigated why the Bank of Briton was able to prepare their funds.

They found out that Ashtal and the others sold a new magic item, and earned the money.

That's why, they ordered them not to buy them anymore.

Of course, they gave out many more instructions in addition to that.

"There's no way that Briton could raise this much Scottyard currency! Even exchanging currencies has a limit on it now!"

Vincent couldn't understand it, and got irritated.

"Yeah, that's definitely weird. You must be cheating us, that's it, isn't it!"

"Sorry. This is undoubtedly Scottyard currency, Your Highness Vincent."

Tiraiza takes out a gold coin, and shows it to Vincent.

"Please check it with your own eyes."

Since he was pushed, Vincent accepted the coin, but he is unable to determine whether it's real or not.

"D,Do you think I'll approve of this!?"

"Oya. Why are you so flustered?"

Tiraiza asks a malicious question.

From Vincent's attitude, it was obvious that Scottyard didn't have any cards up their sleeve left.

"This country still has a lot of debt left, which they have to return over these next few decades."

"T,that's right, Vincent-denka. Even if they survived this time, they shouldn't be able

to next time.”

The officials that came with him attempted to calm Vincent down.

“The same thing was said last time! Why did this happen twice? Try to explain that to me,”

Vincent screams at them.

It was impossible for the officials to answer him.

“Thank you for worrying about the Briton Kingdom.”

Yufilia graciously bowed, and said that sarcastically.

“If you’re so worried about us, would you like us to return the payment from this year right now too?”

“Wh.....at?”

It was an enormous amount, much more than this repayment amount.

“That’s ridiculous.....there’s no way that’s possible. Haha, what a good joke.”

However, Vincent’s smile disappeared when one male entered the room.



At the timing of my choosing, I brought a number of leather bags with me, and enter the room.

“Why is a bastard like you here!”

Vincent yells.

I ignore it, and throw a bag at him.

“What are you doing so suddenly?”

While raising a protest, Vincent opened the bag.

“Hiiiiiiii!”

Inside the bag were Scottyard gold coins and white gold coins.

“That’s stuppiidddd! What the hell is going on?! What’s happening!?”

Vincent shouts.

“This is different from the plan!”

“Different from the plan? No no, I repaid you according to the contract though? What is this ‘plan’ you speak of?”

The inner circumstances of Briton were being leaked to Scottyard.

Of course, they were things that everyone knew about anyways.

However, it’s not like I would say them in a place like this.

The more I confessed to him, the more upset Vincent became.

“Is it you!? Is this your doing!?”

Vincent looks at me with the expression of an oni.

“Well, I have no idea what you’re talking about.”

I play dumb.

“Only you……I absolutely won’t forgive only you!”

Vincent’s eyes turned bloodshot.

He *gata* rises, and approaches me.

At that time, Edgar who was standing behind him suddenly moved.

He struck the back of Vincent’s head, and knocked him out.

“Edgar-dono! What are you doing?”

The officials lose their presence of mind, but Edgar didn't mind it and returned to his seat.

“As his substitute, I'll sign the document.”

Edgar said only that.

He must be a measure for when Vincent goes out of control.

Probably, he's here on the orders of the Scottyard King.

The officials properly counted the money, and made sure there were no problems. Then, Edgar gave his signature.

“Well then, with this we've completed the payments for this time, and for this year.”

Edgar silently nodded to Richard II's words.

“Well then, we'll excuse ourselves with this.”

Edgar didn't speak, so one of the attending officials gave a farewell greeting, and left.

Richard II sighed heavily.

Then, he looked to Yufilia and the others.

“To think you really prepared it.....”

“I didn't have any confidence we'd succeed.”

I don't know if the Yufilia's thread of tension was cut, but she fell back into a chair.

“Exactly how'd you do it?”

“You promised you wouldn't ask that.”

“That's true.”

Richard II scratches his head.

“If we return this much just for the advance payment, everyone will think that Briton is okay for a while.”

I look at everyone.

Of course, there are still many problems that need to be solved.

If we can't rely on Scottyard from now on, then you can't call us stable.

However, for the moment the falling currency and the lack of trust should lessen.

“Umm...”

Timidly, Eldred entered the room.

“What is it?”

Richard II suddenly switched into a bad mood.

“You've finished talking with Scottyard right? Is it alright to call the next person?”

“The next person? Who is it?”

Richard II asks curiously.

I wonder if it's someone who didn't have an appointment.

The one who appeared after was the Bank of Briton president, Ben Springfield.

CHAPTER 70

DAY OF DESTINY ③

“It’s been a while, Your Majesty.”

Ben respectfully lowered his head.

“I was taken care of you the other day. So, what business do you have today?”

“It’s about the loan from the other day.”

A month ago, Bank of Briton made a 400 million pound loan with the government.

This was a short term loan.

This was about the first payment.

“If it’s that case, I’ve heard we’ve already finished though?”

Richard II made a suspicious face.

“About that, actually we were unable to pay them back, and we had them wait for a few days. I told them we’d pay them back today.”

Ashamed, Eldred responded.

I see.

Eldred and the others didn’t know of Yufilia and the others’ movements.

That’s why they thought the Briton’s side would lower their heads at today’s meeting.

In other words, Eldred’s line of thought went something like this:

Today Briton will lower its head to Scottyard, and Vincent and Yufilia will get engaged.

If that happened, their problems would be solved.

They could ask them for loans just like before.

They could use that money to pay back the Bank of Briton.

Or rather, would buy their claim and all.

In that case, they'd be able to do everything at once, today.

That's why he had the repayment delayed, and called Ben over here.

"Wait a bit, we'll put everything into order now."

Yufilia is 'uun' moaning.

Or rather, even they say that suddenly, we're troubled.

This is a huge problem.

Yufilia must know that too.

She's in a hurry, and is thinking while walking around the room.

In the meantime, I explained the situation to those 3.

That Yufilia became collateral.

As soon as they heard that, the eyes of those 3 turned cold.

"Hououu. You wanted the princess as a slave, did you?"

Tiraiza's eyes become filled with scorn.

"Pervert."

Iris gets angry and inflates her cheeks.

"Uwaa....."

Jamie was drawing away from me, and it seems no words came out.

"Just wait a bit. It seems you're having a huge misunderstanding."

I object with all my might, but they don't listen.

It's not something I wished for, and it's not like I had any intentions of making her a slave.

“Umm. Eldred-san?”

“What is it, Yufilia-denka?”

“So, do we currently have the money to return to Bank of Briton?”

To her question, Eldred averted his face.

“If it’s in Briton currency. However, we are almost empty of Scottyard currency.”

The loan was made in Scottyard currency.

Naturally, the repayment should be the same.

“Is that not the default?” *(TLN: ‘Default’ was in English.)*

Tiraiza says a brief comment that shouldn’t be said.

“The messengers from Scottyard couldn’t have gone that far, so how about you ask them to return some?”

Jamie suggests an idea that came to mind.

“We can’t do something that embarrassing. If we did that, they’d start suspecting our financial strength again.”

Richard II denies it.

“Isn’t this better than default?”

“This case is different from a normal loan to the government. Because it has the worst collateral, once it’s passed onto them, everything’s over. If this was kept a secret from society, the problem would be solved.”

To Ben’s explanation, the room froze over.

Then the eyes looking at me become more severe.

“No way.....was this all planned out!?”

Tiraiza eyes become those used when looking at trash.

“What plan?”

“Ben-san’s behavior is exactly as you directed him, isn’t it?”

Iris’ eyes also become cold.

“Come to think of it, I remember you suggesting to President Ben to wait a little on the repayments.”

Eldred says something unnecessary.

“Was the reason you said you were busy lately to proceed with this plan?”

Jamie mutters.

“You bastard.....did you pretend to cooperate with the Briton Kingdom just to get to my daughter!?”

Richard II gets agitated, and his face turns red.

“I’m never going to forgive you! It doesn’t need to be said that Vincent is impossible, but I won’t give my daughter to someone with doubtful origins!”

“No, calm down and listen to me.”

I try to soothe him, but Richard II shows no signs of calming down.

“Hey Ben, Properly explain it to them, that I haven’t given you any orders.”

“Indeed, I haven’t received any orders from Ashtal-sama.”

Ben shook his head up and down.

Fuu, they should calm down somewhat with this.

“But, Ashtal-sama must have anticipated all my actions. I’m sure everyone has just been dancing on the palm of his hand.”

“Eh?”

“It’s too perfect. Since that day, was everything planned?”

No, you’re just overestimating me.

“Even more than Vincent.....yeah, that’s right?”

Yufilia who seemed to be worrying about various things, made a face as if she prepared her resolve.

“Yufi?”

Tiraiza seems to be puzzled.

“It’s alright.”

“What’s alright?”

I get a bad feeling, and ask.

“We don’t have the money to return. Let’s proceed according to the contract.”

“Fa!?”

“Ah, you’re going to do it already?”

Tiraiza sighed, as if she gave up.

“Are there any other hands we can do?”

“I think there are still plenty, but if she’s already decided then there’s no point. She won’t listen to other people’s opinions anyways.”

“おmgくあ、なんふおbrしをぽttぬるmd *(Translation: You guys, what are you talking about?)*”

As a result of my extreme discomposure, my usual mysterious language came out.

“Again and again~. You keep saying you don’t know what’s happening, but you got like that exactly because you know what’s happening.”

Tiraiza makes fun of me.

“Basically, the 40 million pound debt will disappear, and Yufilia-denka will, according to the contract, become Ashtal-sama’s slave.”

Ben takes confirmation again.

“ぽっちよむ t く あ (*Translation: Just wait for a bit.*)”

“In the beginning, we were planning to sell her to Scottyard and get our money back.”

Ben asked just in case.

“I don’t think that will happen. Right?”

Asked by Tiraiza, I *kokukoku* nod.

From the beginning, I never planned on doing that.

“I knew it.....you were aiming for Yufilia since the beginning.”

Richard II was making an angry expression.

“No, I’d like you to listen to me.”

It’s a wonder that I can talk normally to men.

“I definitely won’t approve of this!”

“However, it’s a contract. Also, there’s.....”

Tiraiza took Richard II, and moved a little bit away.

They started speaking quietly so as not to be heard by me, but I heard them with my Evil Ears.

“Regarding Your Majesty’s fears this time, for the meantime it’ll be fine.”

“What will be?”

“Yufilia’s chastity, and things like that.”

“Why can you be so certain about that?”

Because Richard II raised his voice, everyone would have been able to hear this:

“This is from just a while ago, but a certain small, slender, super beautiful girl approached him by hugging him. Then he fell into a panicked, said something I couldn’t understand, and ran away. He seems to be that useless.”

I wonder exactly who she means by ‘small, slender, super beautiful girl’?

“That’s why it’ll be safe for a while.”

“For a while, you say.....”

“It seems he’s attending the academy in order to resolve that weakness.”

“He doesn’t have to solve it, though.”

Richard II uttered that from the bottom of his heart.

I’d be troubled by that though.

“That’s why it’s fine for him to accept her here, right?”

“Gunununu.....”

“Well, please think of countermeasures from now on.”

Richard II grudgingly withdrew.

“I’m inexperienced, but please take care of me.”

When the discussion was finished, Yufilia politely lowered her head.

She did this before too.

I didn’t expect for this to actually happen.

At any rate, everyone’s gazes are cold.

All I could do was escape the spot with full power.

CHAPTER 71

THOSE WHO GO STEPPING ON MINES

The hero, Fiona Spencer, was for the first time in a while, called by the king.

The turmoil of Briton and Scottyard is nearly over.

By repaying their large debt, Briton managed to survive.

The world judged so.

About this matter, Fiona didn't know anything.

There was nothing she could do.

As soon as she felt a sense of security, she was hurriedly called.

She knocked on the door of the king's office, waited for the signal, and entered inside.

"You called for me?"

Reflected in Fiona's eyes is an irritated Richard II.

He was walking around the room.

"Is there a problem?"

"Yeah, but that's my problem."

In order to calm down, Richard II took a deep breath.

"I am sorry I couldn't be of any help to you during the mess this time."

"You are a fighter. There were no places for fighters during the mess this time."

"So, what business do you have for me?"

When Fiona asked him again, Richard II said:

"It's about the matter from the other day....."

"Which one?"

Fiona tilts her head.

“The one about this man.”

What Richard II showed her was a newspaper article.
On it is Ashtal.

“About this man.....”

Fiona knits her eyebrows.
Richard II felt a connection.
However, he didn't ask her about it.

“As it was a secret investigation, you didn't proceed much, but I'd like you to do a full-fledged investigation.”

“This is becoming a repeat of the last discussion, but—”

Richard II interrupted Fiona's introduction.

“I know. I'm telling you this well aware of the risks.”

“I understand. I'll perform a serious investigation.”

Until this discussion today, Fiona had already mostly forgotten about this case.
As Fiona is also active within the academy, there are times when she sees Ashtal.
Currently, she can't see any problematic behavior.
On the contrary, he's saved the country on multiple occasions.

It's true that there's a problem with his identity being unknown.
Still, she thought there wasn't a need to investigate until she offended the other party.

However, since she clearly received an order from the king, she has no choice.
While paying attention to the changes in the king's mental state, Fiona acknowledged her orders.

Vincent woke up in his room in the royal castle.

“Why am I here?”

Vincent wipes off his night sweat.

He put some of the water from the jug by his side into a cup, and drank it at once.

“However, I saw a bad dream. Even though Briton should be unable to prepare today’s money.....”

Then, when he got outside of his room, he realized.

Why is he in the Scottyard Castle, not in his mansion in Briton?

Then, he understood.

That what happened was not just a dream.

He quickly walked around the castle, and went looking for the officials that accompanied him.

Hearing what happened, he asked for Edgar’s whereabouts, and learned he was in the king’s office.

Thinking it was perfect timing, he left for the king’s office.

“Father, I have something I need to discuss with you.”

As soon as he knocked, Vincent entered the room without waiting for a reply.

Inside was the king of the Scottyard Kingdom, King George III, and the hero Edgar.

There was also one more person.

They had a pitch black cloak that covered their whole body, even their head.

Their face was covered with a mask, and they didn’t showed any parts of their body.

They were wearing gloves, so naturally you couldn’t see their hands either.

However, the way those gloves bulged was unnatural.

It was obvious that what they were covering were not the hands of human.

“Who is this?”

Vincent asked, stunned by the man with the suspicious atmosphere.
Until just before, he was releasing his rage.

“My name is Neville. I’m pleased to make your acquaintance.”

Neville replied with a low, clunky voice.

“Neville-dono is cooperating with us for a certain plan.”

George III said only that.

Vincent didn’t ask for any more.

He’ll tell me if it’s necessary. It’s unnecessary, he won’t.
George III was a thorough person.

“Well then, I’ll leave now.”

Neville read the atmosphere, and retreated.

“What do you think of him?”

“He’s not a human.”

“Ah, I guess that’s true.”

“Since he’s always suppressing his aura, we don’t know what race he is.”

Edgar humbly added that.

There are various monsters with intelligence.

However, Neville seemed to be different from them.

“His aura is suppressed, and his figure is hidden. He’s too suspicious. Why are we forming friendly relations with something like that.”

“Because he brings about many things.”

George III only answered like that.

There will be no further explanation.

Therefore, Vincent changed the subject.

“This is about the matter with Briton, but.”

“I heard the report. I’ve put you through some trouble.”

Although he said that, George III’s voice was cold.

Although it was a situation which far surpassed his imagination, he received a report that Vincent showed some disgraceful behavior, so it’s only natural.

“We can’t withdraw like this.”

When the story switched to this topic, Vincent’s rage was reignited.

“I understand. However, this scheme was a failure.”

Even if they continued like this, nothing would come of it.

If they continued with this plan, it’s possible to make their opponent suffer.

However, by the time they go through with it, Scottyard will have lost one effective hand.

They should worry about regaining their money, and think of shaking them again in 10, or 20 years.

Many thoughts revolved in George III’s head.

“Anyways, wait for a bit. Until we use our next hand.”

Although he was told until the next hand, Vincent couldn’t imagine it.

There’s no way he was going to use military force.

Like this, he’d just have shamed himself, and it’d be over.

While grasping his hands into fists, Vincent left.

“Hurry up and get it over with!”

With an angry expression, Vincent walked through the corridor.

In order not to scare them, he avoided the maids' sight.

What is Vincent able to do?

However, he doesn't know Ashtal very well.

Does he have a weak point?

While thinking that, he suddenly remembered.

That in the first place, he disliked having his identity investigated.

In that case, investigating it would be the greatest form of harassment.

Vincent ordered his servants, and transferred away.

Hamilton Fortress.

A fortress near the border between the Scottyard Kingdom and the Briton Kingdom.

In the southern part of the fortress, there is a wide plain.

Kan Punoo Plain.

The land of the final decisive battle of the 6th demonic calamity.

Hamilton Fortress is the strongest fortress that Scottyard has invested the most funds in.

It was applied with all and every kinds of defensive magic, and had become the last fortress of humanity.

It's a fortress with perfect preparations for fighting against demons and opponents who fly through the sky.

Many anti-air weapons, such as ballisters, and other huge weapons were arranged around the fortress.

Currently the Scottyard Kingdom's 3rd Knight Order is stationed here.

They were deployed in order to respond to the war with Fumeless from the other day. After that, the situation progressed, and they waited in preparation for the riots in Briton.

"Vincent-denka. What are you doing in an unsightly place such as here?"

When he heard that Vincent was coming to visit the fortress, the 3rd Knight Order Leader Curtis hurriedly welcomed him.

He was a warrior with a fearless face in his 50s.

“There’s something I want you do for me.”

It was an investigation of Ashtal.

The organizations with investigative abilities that Vincent can move at present is only the 3rd Knight Order.

“Hou. The person who’s become a hot topic?”

Curtis knew of the name.

Vincent taught Curtis all he knows about Ashtal.

It’s doubtful whether his true identity is human or not.

“He looks perfectly human. Why is that being doubted?”

“He normally never releases any ninki(jinki). I’ve seen him bring it out to battle once, but it was suspicious.”

It’s unnatural to not release ninki(jinki) usually.

It’s possible he did some kind of trick at that time.

It’s easier to think that.

“I see. But if he’s not a human, then what is he?”

“Finding that out is part of the mission. His true objective is a mystery, but he’s afraid of having his identity revealed. Since that’s the case, we just have to expose him.

“But, is that our mission?”

By all rights, this is something that the Special Intelligence Troops should do.

“The anti-Briton spies are getting reorganized right now.”

“That’s true.....then I’ll send out some people. By the way, does His Majesty know about this?”

To Curtis' question, Vincent's face color changes.
It was obvious that he was moving alone.

"Since the other day, I have command over the 3rd Knight Order."

This was from the war with Fumeless.
Since then, his command hasn't been released.

Although it's not wartime, George III hasn't forgotten about this matter, and has been showing glimpses of neglecting the military.

"For now, follow my orders. It's just an investigation, it's not I'm starting a war by myself."

"Roger that."

When Curtis lowered his head, Vincent was satisfied, and left.

"Oh boy, Vincent-denka is really troublesome."

An old man came near Curtis while scratching his bald head.

"Adviser Renard."

It was an old, retired general.

After retirement, he worked as an adviser, and traveled together with the 3rd Knight Order.

"Well, what will you do Curtis?"

"Would you like to ask His Majesty, or just go along with it?"

"His Majesty the king makes light of warriors. We're never given much information, and we're always just waiting for orders."

If their power is neglected, the warriors will build up dissatisfaction.

"That was something necessary to prepare for the riots in Briton."

"This fortress is the best fortress in the world, built to fight against demons. It won't

fall to humans.”

Renard has a distant gaze.

He seemed to be remembering the 6th demonic calamity.

Curtis knew that the person in front of his eyes was a survivor of the 6th demonic calamity.

“At that time, I was nothing but a commanding officer. I only became a general because I survived. Since it was peaceful after that, the fact that I don’t have any ability was able to pass unnoticed.”

Renard laughed casually.

The two of them look out the window.

In front of them was the Kan Punoo Plain.

Over there was a huge crater.

It was said to be the aftermath of a magic that the great magician Serena used during the 6th demonic calamity.

While looking at that, Curtis came to a decision.

“We should buy a favor from Vincent-denka here. His Majesty won’t get angry just from an investigation.”

What kind of results would come from this decision, they didn’t yet know.

CHAPTER 72

WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE?

With the problem solved, the town and our lives returned to normal.
I head to the academy that I haven't been to in several days.

In order to overcome my weakness, I began to attend the academy.
However, there have been many times when the school was temporarily on holiday
and times where I couldn't go to school.
Problems were commonly occurring.

Well, if you call it like an adventurer then it might be like an adventurer though.

What with being worried about or praised at school, my mornings was busy.
When classes ended, the five of us gathered in the laboratory as usual.

"Haa~."

Yufilia sighed.

"As expected, since we were so busy recently, I just want to relax."

Jamie deeply sits the chair, and hits her shoulder.

"It's because we tried our best."

Iris made tea, and handed it out to everyone.

"You guys can just rest."

I finish drinking my tea, and stand up.

"Where are you going?"

Tiraiza asks.

“My goal has only been one thing from the beginning. I did go off my path on the way though.”

“Ah, you were going to make a harem right?”

“That’s not it.”

Even though I retorted, Tiraiza wasn’t perturbed.

Tiraiza looked over at Yufilia. Mainly at her neck area.

“Yeah, you’re right. Specifically, you’re making a slave harem. How dirty.”

“Master, thank you for this time.”

Yufilia bows politely.

“Yufi, you’re overdoing it. I don’t think that’s good though.”

Tiraiza looked at Yufilia, amazed.

Yufilia stuck out her tongue, and *tehe* knocked her head.

“So, what are going to do?”

When Iris asked me that, I reach a loss of words.

I don’t have any concrete plans.

I don’t have any idea of how I could cure this constitution.

“Are you going to pick up chicks again?”

“That would really damage me, mentally. Honestly, I don’t want to.”

“They say it’s easier to grow with harsh training.”

Just like a Shinto priest, Iris preached to me.

“You’ve pretty much gotten able to talk to us at a normal level.”

Jamie slips in her opinion.

“That’s proof of my growth. However, if I get a little upset, it all falls apart.”

To my words, Tiraiza responded.

“Hou, then you want to do something erotic that will get you upset?”

“Pervert.”

Iris follows after her lead.

No matter what I do, it ends up like this.

I’m already getting used to it.

“Yeah, that’s true. I’ll cooperate with you.”

Yufilia declares so.

“Ah. Th,that’s not it! I didn’t mean I was going to do those kinds of things!”

After that, seeing the 3 people’s’ faces, she hurriedly denied it while swinging her hands.

“Fuun.”

Tiraiza’s eyes start going *jii*.

She seems to be pretty suspicious.

“Well then, what are you going to do?”

“It’d be fine to be in a situation that’s different than normal right?”

“Well, I guess that’d be fine.”

Everyone thought about it, but no good ideas came up.

“Wouldn’t it be fine to go to another town, and just play around?”

Jamie easily abandoned what she was thinking, and said something she just thought of.

Yufilia gave her approval.

“That surprisingly might be a good idea.”

“Isn’t that just a date.....”

It seems that nobody heard what Tiraiza just murmured.

“We can just transfer to any other town anyways.”

Yufilia stood up with the intention to do this quickly.

However, Tiraiza stopped her.

“Please wait.”

“What?”

“Only one of us should go.”

“Yeah, then I’ll go.”

Yufilia stated that as if it were only natural.

“We’re going to decide who will go right now.”

After Tiraiza said that, the atmosphere in the room changed.

Yufilia gets sullen.

“Oh, so Til wants to somewhere with Ashtal with just the two of you?”

“Th,that’s not it. Please quit it with that odd suspicion. I just thought to go somewhere to relax, and this is just right.”

Tiraiza hurriedly denied her.

“There can only be one winner.”

Iris muttered.

“There’s a fight here that I can’t afford to lose.”

For some reason Jamie is burning with fighting spirit.

The 4 people's gaze somehow all managed to meet.

For some reason, there seem to be sparks between the 4 of them.

Let's put the situation into order.

I want to overcome my weak point of women.

To do that, I'm going to actually do things with a woman as training.

They are going to help me with that training.

There are no problems up to here.

Then they began to fight over who's going to go.

No, I guess it's different from a fight.

The atmosphere is heavy.

How did it turn to this?

"It's a slave's duty to help Ash.....her master."

"Don't take advantage of that."

"The one he helped this time was me, so I should return the favor here."

"If it's that, then he made me an amazing ax too. Honestly I was wondering if it was fine to just accept it, so I'll go."

Unusually, Jamie is saying something logical, and interrupted.

"Gununununu....."

Yufilia moans.

"Wai,wait a moment, this isn't something to fight over....."

It seemed like a scary atmosphere was forming, so before that happened I tried to calm them down.

However, 4 people glare at me and I don't finish my sentence.

"Ashtal, don't butt in."

“Be quiet for a while.”

“This is our problem.”

“You’ll make the situation worse.”

“Yeah. I’m sorry.”

Being told in such a strong tone, I withdraw.

“Wo,wouldn’t it be fine if everyone went?”

Iris who hates conflict presented a compromise.

If they think carefully, they’ll find it to be fine.

“That wouldn’t be that much different from when we bring everyone along to a dungeon. As expected, to do something different from usual we should do this one on one.”

Tiraiza refuted it, and Iris went silent.

“After all, I should do this to return the favor.”

“On the contrary, we also have favors we need to return. Yufi, shouldn’t you withdraw here?”

“He,here, shouldn’t we have the person himself decide?”

Even if she debated this with Tiraiza, she’d have no chance of winning.

Yufilia who realized that suggested this.

No one seemed to have objections, and they turn and look at me.

Are you serious?

But, calm down.

In my past life, I was an oni of choices.

I played a lot of games where a girl would get hurt just by choosing someone.

From Yufilia, I can feel the confidence in her eyes.

There’s no way that someone other than myself would be chosen.

She’s probably thinking that.

From Tiraiza, her gaze is interesting.
She doesn't want anyone to know about her true feelings.
However, she had a large impact on getting the situation to fall to here.
In other words, does this mean that Tiraiza is actually really eager?

From Jamie, I have a look filled with expectation.
Her pure expectations are heavy.

Iris was putting her hands together and seemed to be praying.
I'm not God, so stop it.
No, I am the Evil God though.

Huh?
Like this, no matter who I choose things definitely won't go well.
It'd just get a later development after.

This is bad.
I *jirijiri* retreat.

"You're not trying to take the pathetic option of running away without choosing anyone, are you?"

Tiraiza blocks my path of retreat.

"I, in order please."

While my eyes turn white, saying that took all of me.

To my answer, they all let out a sigh, and *gakkuri* started to rub their shoulders.
In the end, it was decided that I'd go with Yufilia to the capital of the Island Kingdom, Dubram.

CHAPTER 73

EVIL GOD CONVENTION

I thought we would just go like that, but apparently it was bad to just go in our uniforms.

We decided to where meet again later, and parted.

Is there a need to meet up again in a different place? To my question, all of the girls were shocked.

According to them, it's basic, and I don't understand women's hearts.

We decided to meet in the outskirts of Rhodan in an hour.

I returned to the Dark Temple to change my clothes.

When I started to do a bunch of activities outside a while ago, I bought a lot of clothes. Thus, I can choose whatever I want.

Well.

“Do you have something on your mind?”

It's rare for me to struggle on which clothes to wear.

Adrigori, who felt something strange about that, called out to me.

“Not anything big. Yufilia and I are just going to play for a bit in Dubram.”

Adrigori froze up to my words.

“Th,that is.....”

Adrigori gets flustered.

“Isn't that the legendary 'date'?”

“It's legendary?”

“It can't be anything other than this.”

Adrigori hurriedly began to run.

Then, it somehow turned out like this.

It's an emergency evil god conference.

No, since there's already a large number of people gathered by my throne who aren't corps captains, it's already an evil god convention.

"Since I was suddenly called, I was wondering what had happened."

The old man came back from the school.

He might be shocked by this silly topic.

"This is the biggest topic in 1000 years."

Adrigori himself is dead serious.

"Is this that important?"

"Yes. The first time is the most important one. Let's start with your clothes."

Getting overwhelmed by the atmosphere, I started to get a little nervous.

Being told to that they're clothes for a date, it's not so easy to decide.

"Well, between this clothes and these clothes, which do you think is better?"

I choose two, and show them to Adrigori.

"Both of them fit you well."

"Hmm, with that answer, you're disqualified."

Hearing Adrigori's answer, Jeko slipped in his opinion.

"What?"

Adrigori glares at Jeko.

“You should never give a reply that can be translated into ‘I don’t care’. They’d think you don’t care.”

Being told that by Jeko, Adrigori gets shocked.

“Ce,certainly, that was written in the date manual. To have forgotten that, what a blunder.”

“I’m surprised you know things like that.”

I curiously look at Jeko.

“Julius-sama wrote that on a memo pad right here.”

Jeko handed me a paper.

“Hou hou. As expected of the old man. So, what clothes do you think will be best?”

“Since it’s Ashtal-sama, anything will fit you.”

“Isn’t that answer the same as before?”

These guys are useless.

In the end, I ended up in my normal jeans and black shirt.

I also put on sunglasses as a disguise.

Currently, I’m somewhat famous.

Yufilia’s also the princess of another country.

We can’t just stand out.

“But, why did it end up in this huge uproar?”

I look at my surroundings.

Everyone was talking seriously.

“In case of an emergency, the 8th Corps’ First Platoon will stand by in the middle of Dubram. In the worst case, they’ll take control of the area.”

The 8th Corps Captain Morgan gives his instructions, and the First Platoon salutes.

“I reject that. Dismiss.”

I give out a command to dismiss the platoon.

“Why?”

Morgan objects.

“In the first place, what kind of situation would require you to deploy the First Platoon?”

“A huge monster attacking the city or something.”

Morgan suddenly *pan* strikes his hand.

“How about we have an Evil Dragon attack the town, and have the hero Ashtal-sama defeat it? Her affection for you will go up.”

“I refuse. By the way, my affection for you has been falling for a while now.”

Well, Morgan scolds a lot, so my affection for him was already low.

“Why?”

“In the first place, don't follow us. I'll get distracted.”

I chased the 8th Corps away.

“This is the biggest event in 1000 years. Everyone's filled with motivation.”

Adrigori himself had an expression filled with motivation.

“Even if It is the biggest event in 1000 years, you guys are too motivated.”

“It's necessary to build a through support system. Mistakes will not be allowed. If you fail the first time, a second chance will never come.”

That's only for when you're hanging out with someone you're not really friendly with.

This time, I think things will be fine even if I mess up a few times.

Even while having that conversation, a serious discussion was being held in the center.

“There’s 30 minutes remaining. We have to think up a perfect date plan.”

Receiving orders from Gareth, his subordinates open up a map of Dubram, and speak.

“The city of Dubram faces the ocean. I don’t think anything will go wrong if they go to the beach. It’s ideal for swimsuit events.”

That’s up to the other party, so we can’t decide though.

“Choose a good sweets store. That’ll definitely increase a woman’s affection.”

“Understood.”

“Dinner will be at the Dubram Prince Hotel’s Restaurant. They’ll have dinner while watching the night view. Then they’ll stay at the hotel.”

We won’t stay.

“Let me confirm one thing. How many of you have experience with dates?”

I couldn’t leave the Dark Temple for 1000 years.

However, my subordinates could.

There are some who have worked outside here for long periods of time.

In the meantime, some of them should have experienced a date.

I just have to listen to their opinion.

To my question, everyone’s exchanges glances.

Some are obviously feeling shaken. Some’s eyes swim. Some starting sweating waterfalls.

No way, these guys.....

“Those with experience dating stay. The rest, leave.”

When I ordered that, everyone *tobotobo* stumbled away.

The only one who remained was the old man.

Aren't those guys useless?

"What useless people. Is this what they call an empty theory?"

"It's because of Ashtal-sama's influence."

"You have experience?"

"Not that much, but I went to lunch with Serena-dono the other day."

"I see. Go explode."

The old man wasn't perturbed by my words.

"More importantly, there isn't much time left. You should probably head out now."

"Yeah, I can't be late for this."

I finished my preparations, and transferred to the meeting place.

CHAPTER 74

FIRST DATE

I arrived at the meeting place, but Yufilia hadn't arrived yet.

I waited for her while fidgeting.
What is it, this restless feeling?

I met her just a while ago, and I see her on a regular basis.
Yet, I still turned out like this.
Is this the magic of a date? How terrifying.

Before long, one girl came.
Naturally, it was Yufilia.
She was wearing a white dress and a felt hat.

"Pu."

As soon as she saw me, Yufilia burst into laughter.

"Is something wrong?"

I look at my clothes.

"I told you to bring a disguise, and you wore sunglasses, so I was thinking it was a little cliched."

"Your hat isn't being much of a disguise either."

"It's fine like this."

Yufilia took her hat and put it on again.

"How is it?"

"It really fits you."

"Oh, so you've become able to give flattery now?"

Yufilia lightly laughed.
Still, she looks happy.

I'm getting used to this little by little.
I've heard of the model answers from the old man.

"Well then, let's go."

Yufilia stuck out her hand.
I *doki* stiffen up.

"What's wrong? We're going to transfer."

We could just both transfer separately, but we'd get separated if we didn't have the same destination.
That's why it's better to hold hands to transfer together.

That's all it is.
I experienced this many times before.

Why did my heart skip a beat?

"Ah, sorry."

I grab Yufilia's hand.

When Yufilia casted the transfer magic, our vision changed immediately.
The Island Kingdom's capital, Dubram.
We were near its center.

I can smell salt.
Its proof that we're near the ocean.

"Well then, where should we go?"

I decided to go without a plan just before.

However, we can only start with this.

“For now, should we have a late meal?”

“I agree. But where should we go? I’m not too familiar with this area.”

“Since we came to Dubram, how about we get seafood? Leave choosing the store to me.”

“Eh? Really?”

Yufilia seems to be surprised.

“It’s alright, there aren’t any problems.”

That’s because my men investigated.

I said that, and took Yufilia to the store.

“Huh, it looks like a slightly fancy restaurant.”

I ordered a pasta with plenty of seafood, and Yufilia ordered paella.

“This is delicious.”

As soon as our food arrived, Yufilia smacked her lips and tasted her food.

“That’s good.”

Apparently the investigation team was competent.

“But, I’m surprised you knew of this place.”

“I did some research.”

My subordinates were the ones who did it though.

“Fuun.”

However, Yufilia looked at me suspiciously.

“So you picked some chicks up and brought them here?”

Yufilia *bishi* points her finger at me.

“Th,that’s wrong.”

“It was a joke. Fufu.”

When I hurriedly denied it, Yufilia smiled.

“I guess for just this, your words won’t change anymore. Of course, since I can understand you anyways, it wouldn’t matter that much though.”

“I,I guess I’m still okay.”

Apparently she was trying to upset me.

I eat my pasta too. The shrimp and squid go well with the tomato sauce.

“Yours seems delicious too.”

“At times like these, the other person’s food always seems delicious.”

I look at her paella.

In the first place, I’m Japanese.

I thought that I should’ve chosen rice.

Sensing that, Yufilia brought her spoon to my mouth.

“Here. Aahn.”

“c く お。 d おれ h ヴ い t なん ご m (*Wai, that’s a little.*)”

“Oh, but this is training. You have to get used to things like this too.”

Yufilia has a charming smile.

I was attracted by it, and opened my mouth.

“Delicious.”

“Fufu. Then this time let me try of pasta.”

“Wai.”

Yufilia looked at me with a face filled with expectations.

With my heart beating quickly, I wrap some pasta around my fork and bring it closer to Yufilia’s mouth.

Churun The pasta was sucked into her charming mouth.

“This is good too.”

Eh? Isn’t this that indirect kiss thing?

Yufilia seems to be the type who doesn’t mind those kinds of things.

However, my heart is beating quickly.

If I speak now, I’d definitely get out.

Thus, I silently ate my pasta.

Pay the bill, then go outside.

“Well then, what should we do now?”

“Do you have anywhere you want to go?”

“This city is stylish, unlike Graggo.”

Graggo is the largest city in the world. It also has the largest population.

Thus, it has a urban structure that emphasizes function.

You could call it an inorganic town.

Dubram is unlike that, and had an elegant, beautiful landscape.

“Anyways, how about we drop by that store?”

It was a boutique.

Yufilia was looking for things while humming a tune.

I watch over her.

While she was doing that, it seems she found something she liked.
However, there were 2 things.

“Hey hey, which one do you think suits me better?”

Here it comes.

This is the situation I predicted.

Yufilia brought over 2 blouses with different colors and designs.
I can't say that either one is fine, or that they both suit her.

Eh? Then what's the right answer?

I have 2 options. There's a 50% chance I'll get the correct answer.
What a terrifying selection.

“Yo, you don't need to think that seriously about it though.”

When I was comparing the 2 of them, Yufilia made a troubled face.

“Th, this one I guess? I think it's cute, so how about this one?”

“Oh, I see, thank you.”

Yufilia said that, but she returned both of them.

Apparently I was wrong.

Yufilia went back to looking at clothes.

When Yufilia stopped looking over here, I looked at the memopad.

‘Which one suits her?’ How to cope when asked this.

By the time a woman asks you this question, she's already decided which one she likes.

There are few cases where they're actually worrying about it.

You may think, ‘Then why does she ask you each time?’

They want you to confirm it for them.

They want a push on their back.

“I think this is good, you do too right?”

That is the real question.

In addition to this, there also exists the purpose of enjoying communication while shopping.

Well then, about the solution, you don't need to find the right answer.

This is because it's just a means to enjoy shopping.

There isn't even any need to assert that one is good.

If you praise both, the person will eventually come to their own conclusion.

It's also possible to conversely ask her, 'Which one do you think is better?'

Since her answer is already decided, she'll answer saying, 'I think this one is nice.'

Then, she will praise those clothes.

Yep. This is a pain in the ass.

I'm supposed to understand this?

After that I was asked similar questions, but since I mastered what was in the manual, I finished it without any waste.

After that, we went to the sandy beach.

The wind is a bit strong.

We watched the ocean for a bit while listening to the sound of the waves.

“Ashtal, you grew up in the mountains right?”

That was my setting. I'm supposed to be from the countryside in eastern part of the continent.

I nod.

“In that case, you didn't have many chances to see the ocean right?”

“It's been awhile I guess. Well, I could always come over here by transferring though.”

“Then let’s come again.”

“Yeah.”

“This was fun. Ah, but this was training. I guess this wasn’t really training though.”

Yufilia uneasily looked at me.

“Nah, I had fun too, so there’s no problem.”

So far as it goes, I think this was training.

To my answer, Yufilia made a serious expression and came closer to me.

The smell of salt mixed in with Yufilia’s sweet smell.

Chu.

Yufilia kissed my cheek.

“◦▼※△☆▲※◎ ! *(Not able to be translated.)*”

I panic.

Yufilia’s cheeks turned red.

“As expected, even I don’t know what you just said. But, I guess it went well.”

Yufilia made the face of a devil.

I calm my heart, and ask.

“い、う z が う い n g お *(Translation: What are you doing so suddenly?)*”

“Trai,training, it’s training. Since I made you get upset, it’s my win.”

Yufilia makes a victorious face.

In that match, I have no chance of victory though.

“Also an expression of gratitude, I guess.”

“みよれい ? *(Translation: Expression of gratitude?)*”

“I’ve been taken care of you lately. That’s why—-”

At that moment, there was a sudden gust, and Yufilia's skirt flew up.
I can see shorts with a little pink fabric.
It had frills, and one portion of it was see-through, and sexy styled.

Yufilia turned red, and hurriedly pushed her skirt down.

"Di,di,di,did you see?"

"I,I didn't see anything."

It somehow turned into an answer that neither of us could understand.

"Th,that's not it. Adela handed me these just in case....."

Adela was Yufilia's maid, right?

"Just in case?"

I didn't really understand, and tilted my head.

"I,if you don't understand it's fine. I don't wear these normally anyways."

I felt uneasy, but still sent Yufilia, who was saying something I couldn't understand, home.

CHAPTER 75

INVESTIGATION

The next day in the classroom, Yufilia was spacing out. Occasionally she would remember something and laugh, or her face would turn red.

“Uwaa.....”

Seeing that, Tiraiza and the others drew back a little.

“What happened, to make her get like that.”

Tiraiza looked curiously at Yufilia, but Yufilia was absent minded and didn't give any reaction.

“There was an opinion that there wouldn't be that much of a difference from normal because they're together usually, but being alone together must have been amazing.”

“Eh? The 2 of them did something amazing?”

“Lecher. What are you imagining?”

Iris scolds Jamie.

“As I thought, there's no choice but to ask her. Yufi.”

Just by being spoken to, Yufilia won't react.

Tiraiza *yusayusa* swings her shoulders.

As expected, since she went that far Yufilia returned to reality.

“What?”

“What happened yesterday?”

“Wh,what do you mean? The 2 of us just went to Dubram.”

“Hou hou. And what did you do?”

Tiraiza asked for the details.

“No, not much. We just ate, went shopping, and looked at the ocean.”

“But he’s supposed to be training. Did you do something lewd?”

Under the pretext of Ashtal’s training, they went to Dubram.

Conversely it’d be strange for them to have not done anything.

Asked that, Yufilia’s face turned red, and she averted her face.

“W, we didn’t do anything like that. Yeah, I just made him go ‘Aan’, that’s it.”

“You suddenly jumped into an advanced play.....”

Iris’ face suddenly cramps up.

“That’s it? That can’t be all right?”

When Tiraiza asked her in a strong voice, Yufilia reached a loss of words.

Although it was on his cheek, it’s hard for her to say that she kissed him.

“Of course that’s all!”

Yufilia declares.

However, the 3 of them don’t believe her.

“It’s strange that you’re so spaced out just from that.”

“There was definitely something else that happened.”

“There was something.”

“Uu.”

Having the 3 of them perceive her lie, she spoke about how the wind lifted her skirt.

“Ho. Using even the wind, what a wonderful plan.”

Despite giving such comments, Tiraiza was rather relieved.

Like this, it didn’t seem that anything big happened.

She felt so.

“What plan?”

“But still, is having your panties seen something that you’d try and conceal.....?”

But then, Tiraiza came to a sudden realization.

Timidly, she asked.

“No way—you were wearing your victory panties!?”

“Giku.”

Yufilia’s face stiffened up.

“Ueeeeee.”

Jamie gets surprised and draws back.

“To wear those on your first date, that’s really loose.”

Even Iris presented her complaints.

“No, that’s not it, it’s because Adela said to put them on.....”

“Isn’t that breaking the agreement?”

The agreement Tiraiza spoke of is something that was decided on right before the date.

Since they were going in turns, it became forbidden for one person to get ahead of the rest.

Even so, the date is still happening for the sake of Ashtal’s training.

As long as that’s true, they have to lead him astray.

The agreement had been made on that ambiguous line.

“Also, I think that speaking from common sense, her panties shouldn’t have had a turn to shine. Seriously trying to seduce him is forbidden.”

“But still, if he comes onto us from his side, isn’t it better to be prepared?”

“Just refuse him princess.”

Jamie was taken aback, and retorted.

“If he was able to do that in the first place, he wouldn’t need training.”

Iris was convinced.

After that, the 3 of them scolded her.

When their discussion calmed down and came to an end, Yufilia moved onto the next topic.

“So, who’s going to go next?”

Yufilia said that as if it was someone else’s business.

The person himself was already satisfied after just going once.

“Then, I’ll go.”

While Jamie and Iris were hesitating, Tiraiza raised her hand.

“Oh, Tiraiza, you’re so passionate. I thought you didn’t have any interest in men?”

Jami *nishishishi* laughed with her hand over her mouth.

“I,I’m not that interested. I’m just going along with his training.”

While cringing, Tiraiza answered.

At that time, the person who was the topic of their conversation entered the classroom.



I enter the classroom, and sit at my seat.

Tiraiza came over to me as fast as she could.

“It’s about today’s plan, but.”

“Nn?”

“You sent out with Yufilia yesterday, so you’re going with me today. Please take care of me.”

Tiraiza bowed politely.

“Ah, wait a bit.”

“Eh?”

When I stopped her, Tiraiza made an uneasy face.

“As expected, doing that everyday is a little.”

“Th,that’s right, doing it with someone like me wouldn’t be any fun right? I’m sorry.”

I wonder if she thought I refused her, but Tiraiza was upset.

“No, that’s not it.”

“After all, it’s not good unless my boobs and butt are big. I knew that.”

I chop Tiraiza’s head.

“Ouch.”

“Listen to me speak.”

“What is it, boob alien-san?”

“Who are you calling a boob alien?”

Apparently Tiraiza has a complex around that area.

“It’d be a little hard to go under trials like these everyday, so let’s do it at a later day.”

“Eh? Is it that hard?”

“Well, it’s because my body won’t last.”

Or rather, my mind won’t.

There was considerable mental fatigue.

It’s hard to overcome your weaknesses.

Doing this everyday would be impossible.

“You’re body won’t last.....did you do that intense of a play?”

“What play?”

I retort with at full power.

“No way, you did it all night?”

“We split up at night.”

I respond to Jamie who was narrowing her eyes.

“Why didn’t Yufi say anything about that?”

For some reason, Yufilia was pressing her hands to her cheeks.

Iris muttered while looking at her.

“Haa, no, really nothing happened.”

Receiving everyone’s suspicious gazes, she hurriedly shook her hands in panic.

Although everyone suspected something, they didn’t investigate any further due to the chime.

CHAPTER 76

ADDITIONAL RULE

The Briton Kingdom's capital Rhodan is one of the foremost big cities of humanity. It's located in the middle of the continent, and is a key point of the exchange of ideas and cultures.

It's blessed with a warm climate, and rain falls as well. Therefore, Briton had the largest granary area on the continent.

Thus, even though it was destroyed many times due to demonic calamities, the city was always reconstructed.

I was leisurely walking through said city. For 1000 years, I've been watching the entire world. However, that is exactly like watching something on TV.

The wind flowing through the town. Receiving that wind, my clothes flutter. My hair does so too. The smells of various dishes that waft through the air.

This isn't something I'm looking at through a screen. It made me realize these are all undoubtedly here.

Although my hobby is observing, doing that for 1000 years is too long. Right now, I'm enjoying my current life.

"Oh, how about one?"

An old man with a good physique on running a food cart calls out to me. He's selling frankfurters. I decided to have one. I paid him with a copper coin, and stuffed my cheeks.

When I walk on like that, I notice something off.

—-I'm being followed.

Again?

I've been followed a lot recently.

Jeko and the old man said that they were the same.

The other party is cautious, and won't follow us all the way to places where there's not many people.

As expected, they won't follow us to school either.

Honestly it's be annoying to be investigated, and it's not like they'll get that much information just by following us.

As for us, we pretend to not have noticed, and decided to leave them alone.

That's because it won't end just by taking care of the person who's currently following us.

Some country. Probably an intelligence officer from Scottyard.

The next spy will come unless we do something about their root.

However, the solution would be to oppose the Scottyard Kingdom.

Just them sniffing around a little wouldn't make us do that.

Thus, we're ignoring them.

Even on the off chance they attack us, we can just deal with them ourselves.

After walking through the town for a bit, I went into the back side of an alley.

When I approach the alley with no people, the presence of the one following me disappeared.

After confirming that, I transferred back to the Dark Temple.

When I return to the Dark Temple, everyone around comes over to me.

"You came home early today."

Adrigori respectfully fell onto one knee.

“Since I did a lot yesterday, I thought I’d just relax today.”

“As expected, it’s the aftereffects of the [date]. [Dates], how frightening.”

Adrigori *gakugaku* began trembling.

“Fuu. To be frightened by the likes of [dates], Adrigori-dono, you still have much more ahead of you.”

Gareth came over here while tottering.

“Your knees are trembling and you can’t even walk properly.”

I sit on my throne, and rest my chin in my hands.

“Don’t worry about it. I’m just trembling with excitement.”

“Hou.”

I narrow my eyes.

I want to say ‘Well then, go pick up someone and go on a date’.

But to this man with a rough beard, they’d just be horrified if he called out to them.

We can’t just bother the people of Rhodan.

However, Gareth calmly received my gaze.

“As expected, it seems I have to prove it.”

“What?”

“Would it be fine for me to call out to someone, and go on this [date]?”

“Gareth, are you serious? If you do this poorly you’ll die.”

Adrigori gets upset, and his sweat falls like a waterfall.

No, no matter how he goes about this he won’t die though.

“Well then, I’ll show you. I’ll be waiting in Rhodan in an hour.”

Gareth transferred to Rhodan.

“What you think?”

I didn't understand anything, and asked the surroundings.

“He was really confident. It seems he has some kind of secret trick up his sleeve.”

“Hmph. Then let's go see him.”

An hour later, I flew to Rhodan.

I brought Adrigori to accompany me, and we walked down Rhodan's downtown area.

“Well then, where is he?”

“If his picking up of women went well, he'd be in the open cafe, but if it didn't he might've run away.”

For the time being, we head for the open cafe.

When we came close to the point we could see the open cafe, we saw Gareth sitting with somebody else.

“Seriously?”

I was surprised, but I looked at the situation.

They both had their straws in one big glass, and were drinking it together.
His level's high.

Well, if I was to say there was a problem, it'd be the other party.

Tight trousers and a tank top. Large and muscular, a short haired man.

No matter how you look at him, he's gay.

Really, thank you.

“Fufu. When I first saw you, I got interested. I didn't think that you'd call out to me.”

Anyway you looked at him, that man was a maiden.
No, he's still a man if you look at him though.
However, you can only express him as such.

"If you want to, would you like to go to the park after this? I know of a good place."
"The park.....? What would we do there?"
"Ufu. Something really nice."

My body shivered with fear.
I felt a different kind of fear than from going on a date with a woman.
Honestly, I'm wondering on leaving this as if I never saw it.

"By the way, which are you?"

By that, he means either dominant or submissive.
However, Gareth seemed to be unaware of that, and tilted his neck.

"Are you the type who's fine with either? Anyways, let's go."
"Oh."
"Don't go!"

I blew Gareth away with all my power.
Kiraan Gareth disappeared like a star.

"Namu."

Adrigori prays for his soul.

"I apologize for that idiot."

I apologized to the gay person, and returned to the Dark Temple.

"What were you thinking?"

It's preaching time.

Gareth was feeling despondent as he sat in seiza.

“I only intended to go as I promised, and pick someone up and go on a [date] with them.”

“That’s limited to girls, unless you’re gay.”

“That reminds me, he never said he was going to call out to a woman.”

Adrigori nodded while remembering the exchange from before.

“You’d know that through common sense though.....”

To my natural retort, my subordinates all scratched their heads.

“Well, isn’t it still a [date] even if it’s between men?”

Consciousness of human rights isn’t as advanced here as it was in my past life in the 21st century.

Same sex love is allowed in this period.

I don’t understand it very well, but more than women which he’s weak at, it’d be easier to aim at men.

In the first place, this Dark Temple was a paradise filled with men for the past 1000 years.

Besides, evil gods can’t do anything sexual.

In other words, there’s no problem with men.

Was Gareth thinking somewhere along these lines?

No, wait a second.

It’s feasible if the other party is human.

“No.”

I stand up from my throne.

“Human men are bad. I won’t admit it. They won’t count as dates.”

In order to eliminate this horrifying possibility, I ordered them with a strong tone. Like that, the rules of the evil gods increased by one.

CHAPTER 77

DUNGEON MANAGEMENT ④

“By the way,”

After we reached a place where we could pause the conversation, I changed the subject.

“What happened to the dungeons we worked on? It doesn’t seem like they’ve spread in the human world though.”

At my question, everyone obviously felt shaken.

“Was there another problem?”

“Nothing large enough to call a problem. Kenjian, Ipstar, Swans, Revapool, and Cheslo. The investigation teams went to all the dungeons.”

As a result of being pressed by a number of people’s gazes, Adrigori took a step forward and spoke.

“And all of the adventurers were wiped out.”

“Huh?”

We’ve been running a few dungeons, but those dungeons’ monsters were those we took away from other places.

We just released them, and didn’t order them to not kill the adventurers who come. In the first place, you can’t give instructions to beasts with low intelligence anyways.

“No no, aren’t those adventurers too incompetent?”

“The ones who came were failing adventurers. They didn’t have enough power to survive in the dungeons.”

“There were also dungeons for beginners though.”

“Cheslo is like that. They could have turned back on the way, but they decided to

continue on and were wiped out.”

Are they idiots?

Make your strategy ‘life is important’.

“Since they were wiped out, they couldn’t go home and spread the information about the dungeons.”

The dead can’t speak.

“Since they didn’t return, they were treated as missing people. Once again, the dungeon investigation team had to depart. We had Aretta move for us in various ways.”

“I see.”

There’s no way for others to know what happened to the adventurers who received the request.

If they don’t come back in a while, they’ll judge that something happened and they died.

After that, they conduct a new investigation.

In other words, it takes time.

Of course, Earl Justin went in to request an investigation too.

Who is he, Earl Justin?

“The second investigation team visited the dungeon the other day, and splendidly ran away. That should have been reported to various Adventurers’ Guilds. In the near future, a serious subjugation unit should be organized.”

For the time being, it seems like we’re making progress.

Receiving that report, I was satisfied and decided to rest.

A few days later, that information reached the newspaper, and some people got noisy about it.

Unnatural monsters settled in various dungeons.

If that was all, it'd just end with us saying 'Adventurer-san, good luck with subjugating it'.

However, the Briton Kingdom didn't let it end with that.

Kenjian had already become the trigger for a big mess before.

Therefore hurriedly, a subjugation team was created.

The captain is the hero, Fiona Spencer.

"That's why, we were invited by that lady."

After classes in the laboratory, Jamie was saying 'yareyare', and hitting herself on the shoulder.

"It can't be helped, the citizens have become uneasy because of what happened last time. We have to do this in a hurry."

Tiraiza gave a supplementary explanation.

"If you're free, I'd like you to come though."

Yufilia invites me.

But, that's a dungeon that we evil gods are managing.

Of course, I don't feel like following them there.

"Ah, it's fine if you have something to do. This time other people will come, so it's not like we're low on people."

When I was wondering on how to refuse her, Yufilia withdrew easily.

I guess it means that she just asked me anyways.

Since we're companions, it'd be rude to just leave without saying anything.

"Well then, what are you going to do?"

Tiraiza asked me curiously.

Even if she asks that, I don't have any plans though.

Well, even if I say that I'll just be asked to join the subjugation team, so I'll stay quiet about that though.

"That reminds me, we had a promise to go out with just the two us."

When I mutter that, Tiraiza got surprised.

"Eh...with who?"

"No, it's with you though."

"Ah that one?"

To my words, she obviously felt relieved.

Then, she separated from Yufilia and the others and came to my side.

"Well then, do your best everyone."

When Tiraiza waved her hand at them and smiled, the 3 of them got angry with blue veins appearing on their foreheads.

Jamie took Tiraiza's hand, and drew her away from me.

"Wa,wait! I have plans now! Please let go of me."

"You can do your plans later. No, it'd be fine even if you cancel them."

"I will never cancel them."

"How much are you looking forward to them!?"

"Haa~? Th,that's not it."

Tiraiza is noisily struggling, but as a sage, she can't stand up to a warrior's ridiculous strength.

"In the first place, it's rare for me to refuse going to the dungeon."

"That's true. But this time we can't let you do that. Absolutely."

Jamie replied with a firm will.

“Kunu. Kunu.”

“Till, with your power you won’t be able to break free. Give up and come with us on the investigation.”

Yufilia spoke coldly, and took Tiraiza along with her while transferring.

“They get along well~.”

I gave my impressions, and left the empty laboratory behind me.



“Please release me now.”

When they transferred right in front of Kenjian, Tiraiza rampaged again. Thinking it was fine, Jamie released her.

“Haa, haa. Wasn’t that mean?”

“In that situation saying that you’re going on a date, even God wouldn’t forgive you.”

Iris inflates her cheeks and gets angry.

“God is that narrow minded.....”

Tiraiza retorts in small voice.

“What are you guys doing?”

With a puzzled face, Fiona approached Yufilia and the others.

“Ah, that’s just an unrelated conversation.”

Yufilia panicked and answered.

“Fuun.....it’s a man isn’t it!”

Bishi! Fiona points her finger at Yufilia and the others.

Since the 4 of them panicked and their faces turned red, Fiona realized that she hit the mark.

“Yo, you understood?”

“It’s because I’m you senior as a hero, as an adventurer, and as a woman.”

Fiona laughed happily.

“Well, if you adventure together and get through life and death situations together, it’s not strange for relationships to evolve like this.”

“Well then lady, you’re the same?”

Jamie stares at Fiona.

“My party was made of 3 men and 1 woman.”

“That reminds me, it wasn’t it?”

Yufilia responded.

“During the war with Lamelept 4 years ago, we had an ‘if this war finishes.....’ kind of talk a few times.”

“Ooooh.”

“But that.....”

Tiraiza timidly tried to retort.

“Yeah, the 2 who said that to me died in the war.”

“I knew it.”

That was the number 1 line you should never say.

It was a death flag.

“The remaining 1 man confessed to me after the war too, but it was awkward and the party ended up completely dissolving.”

“After all, would it become awkward?”

“Well, yeah.”

To Fiona’s words, the 4 of them all looked to each other.

Then, they each nodded.

While they were talking about such things, the Briton Kingdom’s Knight Leader Godref came over.

“I apologize for interrupting now that you’ve gotten excited, but we’re ready to break in now.”

The camp is made of 20 people, and unit that’s breaking in are the elites.

If the breaking in unit doesn’t return, they’ll immediately report it to the country, and they’ll have to suppress it with the army.

Because of what happened last time, this became quite important.

However, a large army hiding in the dungeon, something like that won’t happen.

This has the highest difficulty among the 5 dungeons.

But it was still only to the level where they could easily clear it if there were heroes with them.

The monsters of the dungeon were cleaned up that day.

However, in the next few days the same enemies and treasure boxes showed up, confusing the people.

CHAPTER 78

FAIRY-SAN

People finally noticed the unusual phenomena occurring in dungeons.

If you think about it through the perspective of common sense, it was a strange phenomena.

Why were monsters coming into the dungeon one after the other?

Why did this suddenly start occurring?

The suspicions are countless.

Therefore, various discussions took place.

A prominent theory said that it was through the same system as demons.

They don't know why demons appear.

However, there's no doubt that they appear from nothing.

Even though it's not like they were summoned by anybody, they suddenly emerge.

The theory says that this is the same.

This is the same as actually not clarifying anything.

However, since it stated that this was the same phenomenon as something that actually occurs, it was persuasive.

While there are some people who like to argue against this, there are also those who don't think too deeply about it and accept it.

Even if you don't understand the reasons, as long as there's profit in it, that's fine.

Treasure boxes regularly appear in the dungeon.

This is also strange, but let's omit the argument.

Of course there are misses, but most of the time they have treasures or magic items contained in them.

Treasures are also quite the harvest, but the magic items are even more extraordinary.

This was because they were at a performance that couldn't be made by humanity.

The adventurers who get their hands on them first use them for themselves, so they're not often put up for sale.

Although their value might fall as the days go by, they're currently sold for a high price.

Dreaming of making a quick fortune, everyone rushed to the dungeon.

Indeed, the world is now in the great dungeon era.

(TLN: Ashtal's speaking here using 'boku'.)↴

There was also a period when I thought that would happen.

In reality, it's not that popular.

"Well, isn't it somewhat popular?"

Jeko speaks as if he doesn't have even a speck of interest.

We were chatting in a room in the Dark Temple.

"In the first place, we'd be troubled if it was that popular. If a large amount of people jump into the dungeon, there'd be nothing we could do."

The old man is reading the newspaper.

Even if it's to get rich easily, they'd still be risking their lives.

There's no way that there'd be that many reckless people.

It's not like they'd be fine even if they fail multiple times, like in a game.

In reality, they'd lose their lives.

"For the time being, we've succeeded in making them turn their eyes to dungeons. Also, humanity's equipment will be strengthened."

"You should be content with that."

Adrigori agreed.

"By the way, there's one problem."

The old man changed the talk.

“Since people often go to the dungeons, the subordinates working behind the scenes have found it harder to work.”

“It’d be a huge problem in the off chance that they were seen.”

“That’s why, I’ve come up with a plan.”

The old man handed me a piece of paper.

Why did treasure chests begin appearing in dungeons?

I have succeeded in finding out the cause.

This is because of fairy-san.

Fairy-san is working hard behind the scenes, in places that people don’t see.

After the treasure boxes have been emptied, they’ll refill them.

If we run out of monsters, they’ll do their best to capture and bring some more.

The boss at the back of the dungeon is something that Fairy-san gave their best and summoned.

Fairy-san dislikes being seen by people.

Therefore, please don’t stay in the dungeons all day.

If that happens, nothing will be replenished.

Also, Fairy-san gets angry if someone that’s far passed the suitable level for the dungeon damages it.

Please be prepared to be harmed.

Earl Justin.

With dead eyes, I gazed at the newspaper article galley.

“This article will be published in newspapers all around the world.”

“Again, who’s Earl Justin?”

The old man makes a bitter smile at my retort.

“That person doesn’t exist. At first, he might be hard to believe in, but they’ll understand eventually. Just like this.”

If so, they’ll have no choice but to follow these rules.

“However, since we’ve gone this far, we might need someone to be responsible for playing that role.”

“No, if he doesn’t exist, he doesn’t exist. There’s nothing really wrong with that.....”

“Of course, Jeko, Adrigori, and Gareth who’ve recently been undertaking activities outside can’t do it.”

“Let’s have someone else do it.”

Without responding to my muttering, Adrigori and the others kept speaking happily.

“By the way, what happened to Gareth?”

“He should be in the town of Rhodan.”

“Fumu.”

Well, it’s fine for him to go out in his free time.

There’s also a theory that states that the evil gods have too much free time that they don’t know what to do with it though.

“He said he’d go meet an acquaintance.”

“Was there a woman who he got along with?”

“It’s probably not a woman.....”

Adrigori was puzzled.

“Wh.....at?”

I get stunned, and open my eyes.

Certainly, it’d be weird for an evil god to go out of their way to meet a woman.

No way, that guy.....

“I should have forbidden men though!”

“About that.....even if you said ‘forbidden’, you didn’t really tell us what was bad and what was okay.”

I see. It’s because these guys don’t have that kind of knowledge.

Of course, what’s forbidden is that.

It’s embarrassing to say it.

“It’d be impossible to say that just meeting them is forbidden. As long as we’re active in Rhodan, no matter what we do we’re going to have contact with men.”

The old man seriously spoke.

“It’s obvious that I meant that act which is embarrassing even to just say.”

“Okay.....is there an act in this world that would make us evil gods hesitate just to say?”

“There is. I’ll explain it to you eventually.”

I abandoned explaining it, as I was completely exhausted.

CHAPTER 79

TURBULENT SHADOW

The Prince of Scottyard, Vincent visited Hamilton Fortress again.
He came to hear their report.

Curtis, the captain of the 3rd Knight Order welcomed him at a drawing room.
The adviser of the 3rd Knight Order Renard was also present.

“How far have you progressed?”

Reclining on a fancy sofa, Vincent immediately stated his business.

Feeling ashamed, Curtis gave his report, and made Vincent get into a bad mood.

They haven't succeeded in tailing anyone.
They haven't gained much information.

There are no traces of him visiting his home in Rhodan, so he must have a residence somewhere else.

With transfer magic, if you look at the moment when the magic is used, you can pretty much tell where they're going.

Of course, that's only for someone who can analyze their magic formation.

However, since Ashtal and the others transferred after they shook their pursuers, they were unable to see that moment.

“In other words, they've even noticed that they're being followed?”

As predicted, Vincent gets into a bad mood and raises his voice.

“That's a possibility.”

Or it's also possible that they normally prepare against being followed.

Of course, Vincent decided that it was the former, so there was no need to take that into account.

“Well then that means they don’t think that much of it even if we follow them, don’t fuck with me!”

Vincent got into worse and worse of a mood.

“No matter what, we must make them annoyed.”

“Haa.....”

Curtis had no choice but to give an ambiguous response.

He guessed there must be some connection between them, but there wouldn’t be any good in asking that.

That much even a rough warrior could perceive.

“Is there no way you can do something through force?”

“We can’t dispatch our army to the capital of another country, so it’d become an attack by a few elites.”

“Is that possible?”

“If something goes wrong, there’s the possibility of it becoming a diplomatic issue.”

Curtis voiced his concerns.

However, Vincent concluded that it wasn’t a big deal.

“Since the cancellation of the loans, the relationship between our countries has been on bad terms. It won’t that much worse from just this much.”

“But he’s from an unknown race, and pretty strong right? Also, didn’t he have terrifying power or something?”

“He shouldn’t be able to use that power for a while. Taking that away, we can infer that his power is on the same level as a hero. I’ve heard that he lost to Fiona Spencer.”

Vincent underestimated Ashtal’s power.

There’s a possibility of him having terrifying power.

However, he thought that there was considerable limit on his power.

If he had such power, what need was there for him to live so secretly?
That was behavior that Vincent couldn't understand.
If it was him, he'd immediately take control of the world, and do as he pleased.

That's why, he could only exert his power under a certain condition.
He judged that it was the type of power that could only be used once in awhile.

"I see. In that case, Edgar-dono may be able to defeat him."
"He won't move without my father's orders. We can't use him this time."
"Is that right....."

Curtis puts his chin on this hand, and thinks with a difficult expression.
Vincent lightly stated that he had the same power as a hero, but even that is high above humans.
Even if they were told to beat him with a few people, it wouldn't be possible.

"As long as they're working in the human world, they must have cooperators. Those people might know a little about their identities."

Renard slipped in his words.

"Certainly. However, one of their powerful cooperators is the hero of the 6th demonic calamity, the great magician Serena. We can't carelessly put our hands on her."

Curtis voiced his disapproval.

"There must be a bunch other than her."
"Other than that, there's the people from Yufilia-denka's party."
"Don't put your hands on Yufilia."

Vincent has yet to give up on Yufilia.
In a strong tone of voice, he expressed his refusal.

"In the first place, are Yufilia and her party even aware that he might not be human?"
"I don't know. I don't think that the king would let him be near his daughter if he was aware of that though."

“That’s true. In the first place, my engagement didn’t go well because of his stubbornness.”

In that case, they may be able to cooperate with Briton for this case. Vincent considered that possibility at his convenience.

“Are there any other candidates?”

“Ashtal’s range of activities includes the academy, the Adventurer’s Guild, and the Bank of Briton.”

They know that by following him.

Curtis placed his report on the table.

“Then did you investigate the Adventurer’s Guild and the bank?”

“Of course. We’ve pretended to be depositors and investigated the bank, and the young woman who managed the window just kept talking.”

“Hou.”

“She spoke plenty about the day the riots almost broke out around the bank.”

“I don’t want to hear that.”

Vincent unpleasantly clicked his tongue.

What the banker Martha proudly spoke of was a humiliating story for Scottyard.

“According to that woman, the ones that Ashtal is close to in the bank are her and the president.”

“Hou Hou.”

While looking over the report, Vincent nodded.

“On the other hand, he’s not close to many people at the Adventurer’s Guild, but.....”

Curtis took out another report.

“There was one testimony that said he was close to a receptionist. The person herself said that they just normally come into contact though.”

“Fumu.....”

Vincent thinks over that.

Was the witness' testimony incorrect, or was the receptionist trying to hide that she was close to him?

If it's the latter, then they don't want others to know they're close.

Is this not proof that they have found some information?

"Give priority those whose names come up. Depending on the situation, it's fine for you to abduct them."

"Do you mean to kidnap and torture them?"

"Yeah."

"If they're from the countryside and they don't have a family register, then it wouldn't be a problem even if they suddenly disappeared, but this would be dangerous, since they're from the capital."

Renard tried to chide the young prince.

"Then make it as unnoticeable as possible, and aim for the people below them."

"I understand."

He felt it was impossible to change his mind.

Curtis respectfully lowered his head, and gave the order.

CHAPTER 80

BATHING IN THE SEA

Today is a day off.

I was pestered by Tiraiza, so we ended up going out today.

We'll meet a little before noon.

When I headed to the meeting place, Tiraiza was already waiting there for me. She's fidgeting a lot.

I raise my hand from the distance, and call out to her.

But before that, a frivolous looking guy called out to her.

"Hey, you seem free. Wanna get some tea with me?"

"Eh, what is it? I'm waiting for someone."

"But you've been waiting for around an hour right? You were stood up right?"

"Th,that's not it. Ah."

At that time, Tiraiza found me and ran up to me.

Seeing that, the man clicked his tongue and left.

"Sorry, I guess I kept you waiting."

"It still hasn't reached the meeting time, so it's fine."

But still, to wait for an hour—"

When I pointed that out, Tiraiza panicked and denied it while shaking her hands.

"Th,that didn't happen. That guy's sense of time is just weird, that's all."

Tiraiza was in a black dress with frills and laces on it.

I wonder if this is what's called gothic loli style?

And for some reason, there was an eyepatch over her right eye.

It had the design of a black umbrella.

“What’s with the eyepatch?”

“It’s fashion.”

Tiraiza answered my question seriously.

“You don’t normally wear it right?”

“Well, I’d have to be an idiot to wear this for battle. It’d ruin my sight.”

“Well, that’s true.”

When I try to remove it and reach out, Tiraiza quickly took distance, and ran away.

“What are you doing?”

“Er, I just wondered what’d happen if I took it.”

Being rejected even more than I’d thought, I answered apologetically.

“Not today. My right eye is dangerous.”

“I always see it though.”

“Today is different. It’s a dangerous day. My right eye is an evil eye today.”

“What!?”

I get surprised and stiffen up.

“Fu, do you understand? Today I’m a little different.”

I wonder if it’s because she was put into a good mood by my being surprised, but Tiraiza made a prideful face.

“My eyes are Evil Eyes too.”

I never thought that Tiraiza would have such eyes too.

“Evil Eyes. That’s a cool way of calling them. I like it.”

She might have an eye from a different type as us.

I don’t really understand.

“But why do you need to hide it?”

“My right eye seems to be of a different rank than yours. The ones I see with this eye die.”

“Th,the effect goes that far.”

What terrifying eyes.

She holds eyes much superior to us evil gods.

“Anyways, please don’t be concerned with this eye.”

Since Tiraiza said all that, I could only nod.

It’s not something I be unreserved about.

“Well, where should we go?”

When I held out my hand, she jerked a little.

“Ah, aah, we’re transferring, right.”

Tiraiza timidly stuck out her hand.

Then, I transferred to the Island Kingdom’s capital, Dubram.

“I see. The wind is strong.”

As soon as we arrived in Dubram, Tiraiza seemed convinced somehow.

“It’s because the ocean’s near here.”

When I agreed with her, Tiraiza looked at me as if she was looking at someone suspicious.

“Well then, how about we just hang around?”

I took Tiraiza shopping, and then we had lunch.

“Muu.....”

We should have been proceeding without any problems, but for some reason Tiraiza was in a bad mood.

“Is there something you’re dissatisfied with?”

“If I had to say something, that this is proceeding smoothly.”

“Is there something wrong with that?”

“It’s unpleasant seeing that you’re used to these kinds of things.”

“You’re denying my entire goal!?”

That’s equivalent to telling me never overcome this problem.

“Also, this isn’t becoming training for you.”

“That might be true, but that’s not something that’d make you frustrated.”

“That’s why, let’s move.”

Tiraiza suddenly used transfer magic.

Huh? Where are we going?

This is completely in the direction of the sea.

My sight was blurred, and when it returned to normal we were on a small island.

“This is an uninhabited island.”

“I see.”

I’m convinced.

So, what are we going to do here? As I thought that, Tiraiza suddenly started taking off her clothes.

“にゆえ、いぐまにくあむ (Translation: Nu,a, what are you doing so suddenly?)”

I hurriedly avert my eyes.

“I’m not a slut, so it’s not like I’m going to get naked. I’m wearing a swimsuit.”

When I looked back, Tiraiza was staring at me, taken aback.
Apparently she planned this all along.
She was wearing a swimsuit under her clothes.

It was a separated-type white bikini.
She usually wears a loose robe, so it's hard to see her body shape.

Since something that's usually hidden was revealed, for some reason I became curious.
Her body was small, and so were her breasts.
When compared to that, her butt was slightly bigger.

A beautiful girl who exposed her skin was standing, embarrassed.

"Hey, whatever the circumstances are, you're looking too much."

Tiraiza covered her body with her arms.

"Even though you stripped yourself."

"It's in order to enter the ocean."

"Even if you suddenly do this, I don't have a swimsuit though."

"Men can just wear anything, right?"

Well, it's just like that.

I guess it's fine if I just take off my upper half of clothes.

It's not like I have to seriously swim.

We enter the ocean.

It had already entered fall, but this is a subtropical island.

It's possible to enter the ocean for most of the year.

For a while, the two of us played in the water.

After a while, when I was being careless, Tiraiza took an action that I couldn't predict.

"Ei."

Tiraiza suddenly hugged me from behind.

“ぢご。まふいヴお(Translation: Wai, what are you doing?)”

“You can’t be careless. Your back is open.”

She must be making a triumphant face from being able to upset me.

In that case, take this.

I grabbed Tiraiza’s hand, and threw her over my shoulder.

“Hiyaaaa!”

Zabaan She fell into the ocean.

“Wh,what are you doing?”

Tiraiza stood up, and voiced her complaints.

However, suddenly she stopped her movements.

She might’ve noticed an unpleasant feeling, and looked down.

The top of her swimsuit had come untied, and *pukapuka* was floating in the ocean.

Her small, cute, slightly swelling chest.

I could clearly see her bumps.

“Aaaaaaaaaah!”

She panicked and turned to the other direction, and excitedly put her swimsuit back on.

Then, she faced me.

Her face had become dark red.

Was that because of embarrassment, or because of anger?

“ごつ、くおゝはごくらあ(Translation: Wait, this was an accident.)”

“Pervert!”

The sage’s punch exploded on me.

Her face is still red, but now that things have calmed down, I timidly spoke to Tiraiza.

“Hey.....”

“I know. That was an accident.”

Tiraiza looked at me.

“But I won’t forgive you. This was an accidental, fatal sin.”

“Those are the words you use when you kill someone.”

I just made a mistake, it’s not like I need to die.

“That was my weak point, something can’t absolutely can’t be seen.”

“Then hide yourself more.”

In the first place, their size was obvious by the time she wore her swimsuit.

However, Tiraiza didn’t listen to me.

“Take responsibility—-please make them bigger.”

While fidgeting, she said that.

Wait a bit.

I feel like I had a dangerous exchange like this before.

Well last time it was much more straight though.

“How?”

“Just like Yufi and the others always say, massage them to make them bigger.”

They always say that?

Regardless of my will, I ended up having to massage them.

“Nn, right there.”

When I timidly massaged her, Tiraiza let out a charming voice.

“It’s amazing right there.....just keep going there.”

Just as I was told, I put more power into that spot.

“Stronger.....yeah, it feels good. Haa, haa.....”

Tiraiza’s breathing gets rough.

“Nn.....Nn.....Aaaaah!”

Yes. I’m massaging her shoulders.

Why am I massaging her shoulders?

Woman with large breasts often massage their shoulders.

Apparently they get stiff because they’re large.

That’s why, Yufilia and other others seem to massage their shoulders often.

There’s also a superstition that massaging your chest makes it bigger.

This is the result of mixing it up with that.

Tiraiza-san seems to think that massaging your shoulders makes your boobs grow.

Well, I guess it’s okay.

If I can be forgiven with this.

When I finished massaging her, she was lying on the sandy beach with a trance-like expression.

It seems she has been satisfied.

“Haa.....I’ll be looking forward to continued support.”

It seems like once wasn’t enough.

“Ah, also keep this a secret. It’s embarrassing.”

“Since it’s just massaging your shoulders, I think it be fine even if you soon about it though.”

I retorted, but kept it a secret just as Tiraiza told me too.

CHAPTER 81

ATTACK

Fiona frequently met with the Adventurer's Guild receptionist, Aurette. She had a reason for that.

Aurette had some kind of connection with Ashtal and the others. That's what the results of her investigation showed.

For Fiona, this was a report she didn't want to believe. What was written in the report was just the testimony that she had met with Ashtal and the others on many occasions.

It can't be concluded that she was suspicious with just that much. In the beginning, she wasn't that suspicious of her. However, as soon as she heard more, her suspicions deepened.

Of course, she couldn't do something as foolish as directly asking her what her relationship with Ashtal was. She'd only been using 'How have you been recently?' and other common phrases. In their discussion, Aurette didn't even mention them. Even when she asked about her life in the guild.

Fiona felt that she was hiding something about them. In other words, that means that she had something she didn't want Fiona to know.

"What's wrong, Fiona?"

It seemed that she'd been spacing out while thinking. Seeing that, Aurette called out to her, worried.

"No, it's nothing."

Fiona saw Aurette home.

She's not very high ranked, but she's still a noble.
Her house was in the high class residential area.

Auretta's house is on the way there.
Thus, it was just fine for her to see her home.

Of course, at Fiona's class, she could just use transfer magic to return her immediately though.
Thus, that was just an excuse.

They walked on a side road away from the main street for a bit.
As they approached Auretta's home, Fiona placed her hand on her sword, and put up her guard.

"Wh,what's wrong?"

Auretta lost her presence of mind at Fiona's abnormal condition.

She felt signs of hostility in her surroundings.
Their numbers exceed 10.

Even when Fiona put her guard up, the suspicious people showed no signs of withdrawing.
Do they not know of Fiona, or are they making light of her?

Whichever it is, she has to figure that out with her body.
Fiona pulled her sword from her waist.

A man wearing a mask and hiding face came out from the shadows without making any sound.
However, once he was at a certain distance, he stopped coming closer.

When Fiona took a step forward, he took a step back.
When she went even farther ahead, more enemies appeared from behind her and headed to Auretta.

Since she anticipated that, Fiona quickly turned around and cut up her enemies.

One swing of the Divine Sword Krau Solas.

The enemies were easily sliced, and stopped moving.

Her enemy saw that and without getting upset at all, just maintained his distance.

Her enemy's objective was, as expected, Aretta.

Fiona understood that, and decided to retreat immediately.

Fiona wouldn't lose to enemies of this level.

However, it'd be risky to do that while protecting a civilian.

If one of her enemies was a transfer magic user, they could kidnap her in a moment's gap.

Therefore, Fiona tried to immediately use transfer magic.

"Like I'd let you run."

There was one person who noticed her transfer magic.

They readied their sword, and charged at Fiona.

The moment their sword hit Fiona's abdomen, she transferred away.

By the next moment, the two of them had transferred into Fiona's house.

"Ar,are you alright?"

Aretta was anxious of her, and Fiona nodded coolly.

With that assailant's attacks, she wouldn't be hurt very badly.

She applied healing magic, and healed her wound.

"Haa, now I just have to ask, don't I?"

Fiona sighed.

"Aretta, the people from just now were aiming for you."

Hearing that, Aretta tilted her head.

“For me.....? For what purpose?”

“If you’re seriously asking that, then I guess I can rest assured.”

Fiona offered Aretta to sit in a chair.

The two sat opposite of each other at the table, and continued their discussion.

“The truth is, you’re being suspected right now.”

Aretta’s complexion changed a little.

Fiona who saw that, said ‘Ah, I knew it’, and confirmed her suspicions.

“It’s not that big of a deal. Honestly, I think it’d be fine even if we leave you alone.”

“Then—-”

“But this is the king’s order. Plus, now that you’ve gotten involved in this, I can’t just leave you alone.”

Interrupting Aretta’s words, Fiona spoke with a firm tone.

“It’s about that a certain guy who’s become a popular topic recently, and his comrades. We don’t know their true identities, and they’re a little suspicious.”

To Aretta, who she was referring to was obvious.

“You have information about these people. Right?”

“.....”

Aretta doesn’t answer.

She’s not allowed to answer.

A curse that will kill her if she answers was casted on Aretta.

She had no intentions of speaking to anyone.

That’s why, even she doesn’t know how much she’s allowed to speak of.

However, since she's in this situation, she's regretting not asking. Because if she asked, she might be able to reveal some of their circumstances, and been able to relieve the friend in front of her.

"Today's attack was either to seal your mouth, or to abduct you and make you talk. I wonder which one it was?"

Under whose influence were they ordered to attack them?
They don't have any information, so they can't judge that.

"It couldn't have been to seal my mouth."

Auretta declared.
However, Fiona doubtfully asked her.

"How can you be so sure? Are they people who you can trust that much?"

As expected, it seems that even the hero doesn't know of curse magic.
Auretta once again realized that her master was on an entirely different dimension.

"You can think of it that way."

That was all Auretta could say.

It'd be pointless for people to try and get information out of her.
This is because as long as she's cursed, she'll die if she tries to talk.
Although, it may be possible to get a few words out of her.

"Anyways, stay here tonight. Rather than just today, it might be longer than that though."

Fiona can't trust her with just her words.
Since it's come to this, she has to bring this to an end quickly.
Fiona resolved herself to do that.

CHAPTER 82

EVIL GOD VS FIONA

When classes finished, I was spacing out in the classroom, and a unexpected person showed up in the classroom.

Fiona Spencer.

It's Yufilia's senior hero.

Last time, I screwed up a bit, and we haven't had a proper conversation since. She seemed to be avoiding me a bit, and I never called out to her.

"Can I have a little of your time?"

She must have business with Yufilia and the others again.

Thinking that, I placed my chin in my hands and let my guard down, and she called out to me.

"Eh?"

Surprised, I look at Fiona.

Fiona's eyes are serious.

This doesn't seem like a trivial matter.

When I acknowledged her, Fiona took my hand and transferred.

This direction is.....the castle?

The place where we transferred to was the castle's outdoors training ground.

There's nobody in the surroundings.

"I have an important discussion."

With a grim look, Fiona looked over here.

"What is it?"

“Please tell me your identity.”

It was an amazingly direct request.

“Have you got tired of following me?”

“We’re not following you that often. Right now, many other organizations are watching you.”

“Well, it can’t be helped. I stood out a little too much.”

“That was for the sake of this country.”

To be exact, that’s wrong. It was for Yufilia.

However, it’d be a little embarrassing to say that, so I decided to keep quiet.

“Therefore, depending on this conversation, our country may try to help you out.”

“Huh.”

I narrow my eyes.

Certainly, I’ve helped out this country before, so it wouldn’t be strange for them to have good will towards me.

But—

“Is it possible for this country to stop other countries?”

“Uu.”

To my question, Fiona was at a loss of words.

The Briton Kingdom doesn’t have the power to stop the Island Kingdom or the Scottyard Kingdom of the 3 major powers.

In the first place, they’re feigning ignorance of their spy activities.

If they were told to stop the spy activities, they’d respond that there are no spy activities.

“It doesn’t seem like I can expect anything.”

“In the first place, why do you guys not want your identities to be known?”

It’s something like a rule.

They can do whatever they want to find information, but we can’t give it out so easily.

Normally, that is.

“If you’re not even going to answer that, then it doesn’t seem like there’s any room for negotiations.”

“Either way, I can’t answer though.”

“You can’t?”

Fiona seems to be curious about my words.

“I see. You guys are bound by rules or something.”

“Good guess.”

I praise Fiona’s insight.

“Then why does Aurette know?”

Was Fiona Aurette’s acquaintance?

Well then, are her actions taken because of Aurette, or because of something behind the scenes?

“She only knows a part of the surface. Even if you ask her, it’s pretty pointless.”

In the beginning, I didn’t want to stand out this much.

That’s why I limited Aurette so that she couldn’t give out information.

However, we moved too much after that.

By this point, the value of Aurette’s information isn’t very high.

Rather than that, there was one thing I was interested in.

“Is she safe?”

“What do you mean?”

“She’ll die if she gives out any information regarding us.”

“What.....?”

When she heard my words, Fiona’s expression became angry.

“By chance, are you binding her with magic or something?”

She doesn't know of the existence of evil magic.

However, this is easy to guess.

“I can't forgive you.....it seems it was a mistake to think we could talk this over.”

Fiona readied her sword.

Divine Sword Krau Solas.

I also put up my guard.

Without using jaki, she's a rather bothersome opponent.

Taking my vitality into account, there won't be any problems no matter how many times she cuts me though.

“You seem to have some leeway, but I know your weakness!”

She suddenly attacked me, but my omnipotent barrier(Sanctuary) repelled her. It was in good condition, and I was able to repel her without any problems.

“Fuu. If you thought I'd just leave that weak point alone, then you're mistaken.”

Previously, I'd be in disorder just by confronting a woman, and my fighting ability fell greatly.

However, I underwent strict training and grew.

Don't think I'm the same as I was before.

“Chi, Yufilia and the others did something unnecessary.”

Fiona clicked her tongue.

“I have no choice. I have to use my trump card.”

She 'fuu', exhaled, and walked closer to me.

Even when she came into the distance where she could attack me with her sword,

there was no sign of her trying to attack.

What's she thinking.....?

I suspiciously wait for my opponent's move.

Then, Fiona moved her left hand.
She grabbed her own skirt, and raised it.

“Wai, what are you doing!?”

Fiona's slender, beautiful thighs come into sight.

“What, you can put up with my thighs?”

Fiona received a shock.
Apparently she doesn't like that I didn't fall into disorder.

“Do, don't think that I'll lose to temptation on that level.”
“Your voice is trembling.”

Fiona made her resolution, and pulled up her skirt even more.
What was inside there, which should never been seen, was visible.

They were snow white panties with frills.

“mmみわあ t t ぐびゃー*(Translation: What are you doing?)*”

Crap.
I couldn't win against her panties.....

“An opening.”

Fiona swung down Krau Solas.

“Gyaaaaa!”

My body was cut up, and my blood danced about.

“This is my win.”

Well, this wound will regenerate immediately though.

If I were a human, it wouldn't be strange for me to die immediately when cut by Krau Solas.

She must be convinced of victory from the feeling of giving adequate damage.

Since my barrier disappeared, and I'm not moving, she might feel that didn't lose.

“s k やとど g j あげ f く あ、ま r m ヲ いすむむ t お m g r s (*Translation: Raising your skirt and stuff, I think things like that are too shameless.*)”

“I don't know what you're saying, but I know what you mean.”

With a triumphant face, Fiona pushed her skirt down again.

“You know, these are showing panties.”

Showing panties.

Panties that are fine to show to people.

Does that mean that any panties other than those are bad to show? That doubt rises up, but I ignore it.

It's something like putting panties on top of your panties.

They have many designs, and many of them can't be distinguished from normal panties.

Well then aren't they just panties too? That opinion also exists.

Since their panties, even if they're showing panties, most people would rejoice at seeing them.

“Fufufu.....it seems like you can't even move anymore.”

Fiona stuck the sword in her right hand to my face.

“Well then, what should I do?”

It seems that the blood rushed to her head, and she started a battle, but she didn't think about what to do afterwards.

“For now, how about you release the magic you casted on Aurette? Also, with a definite promise that you won't harm us, you can keep living as usual, just under some surveillance.”

Fiona was convinced of her victory, and let her guard down.
However, that was a mistake.

I *niyari* grin, and with lightning speed, I knock away Krau Solas.

“What? You shouldn't have been able to move.”

Afraid of me pursuing her, Fiona took a step back.

“You've made one grave mistake.”

“What was that?”

“You shouldn't have said that they were showing panties. If they were genuine, I would have bent in front of their power.”

In actuality, I fell into disorder, and my barrier didn't activate.
Furthermore, my movements became dull.

“However, do you think a man will rejoice when at seeing what's okay to look at!?”

Those were words that should never be said.

It's exciting to look at things that are hidden.

If you're told that you can look as much as you want, you'd lose interest.

“Sh,shit.”

“I won't forgive you since you acted like a slut, now the tables have turned.”

I pick up Krau Solas, which had fallen to the ground.
Without this weapon, her attack power drastically decreases.

There's also her magic, but if she used that here, the facilities would be destroyed.
With this, the match is settled.

Well then, how should I return her hostility?

"E,excuse me."

Suddenly, the entrance door opened, and a man walked towards us.

"I should have told you to not come in arbitrarily though?"

Fiona harshly spoke.

While being surprised by our battle, the man gave a pressing report.

"I apologize, but it's an emergency. Aurette-sama was attacked during a momentary gap, and was taken away."

CHAPTER 83

INFORMATION GATHERING

Auretta was taken away.

Hearing that, both Fiona and I could only be surprised.

It wasn't the time to continue the battle.

I throw Krau Solas back to Fiona.

"Is that okay?"

"It's not the time right now."

Fiona seemed dissatisfied with discontinuing the battle, but she put away her weapon.

"Explain what happened."

Ordered by Fiona, the man spoke of the situation.

Although, he didn't know much about the situation.

Just in case, Fiona had an escort assigned to Auretta.

However, it's not like were by her side continuously.

That by itself is strange.

They strictly guarded her when going and returning from work, but in the Adventurer's Guild, they only watched over her from afar.

In order to have a late lunch, Auretta went into the back of the guild.

Her guards didn't think that she'd be abducted inside the guild.

Since she didn't return even when it was time, they went looking for her, and couldn't find her anywhere.

There was something a note left on her boss' desk, and it stated that she felt sick and was going to leave early.

However, Auretta isn't the kind of person to do that and leave without telling anyone.

“They must have hidden their auras, waited until she was alone, put her to sleep and transferred away.”

I state my opinion.

“It’s not just any facility, it’s the Adventurer’s Guild. Is it possible to do that without anyone noticing?”

Fiona offered her doubts.

“Most of the people in the guild are useless anyways. The facility is wide, so there are a few places with without any people. If they researched her behavioral patterns it’d be pretty simple.”

“That reminds me, Aurette told me that she always eats alone.....she said that she approached by men when there’s people around.”

“They probably had that information.”

“In other words, they just needed to hide in the back.”

I change the discussion there.

“The problem is, who took her away?”

“Naturally, it wasn’t Briton. There’s no way they’d abduct their own citizens.”

Fiona anticipated a doubt, and denied it.

As expected, I don’t suspect them.

“On the other hand, the countries that would so obviously abduct someone from the Briton Kingdom are limited.”

“It’s either the Scottyard Kingdom, or the Island Kingdom.”

“Even if we limited ourselves to those 2 countries, we still don’t know where they took her.”

The world is wide.

My Evil Eyes can see anything in the world, but that just like moving a camera at best. Even I search for her, I won’t be able to find her that easily.

“If we protest through an official diplomatic route.....it’d still be pointless.”

“There’s no way they’d admit to spy activities like abduction or assassination. Even if we have evidence, they’ll make a story and deny it.”

I shook my head to the side.

“Besides, we don’t have the time to do that. We only have a few hours until the limit. That’s our current situation.”

“.....? They kidnapped her in order to question her. There’s no way they’d kill her so quickly.”

“If they go about this normally, that is. They’d start with interrogating her.”

The reason they left a letter behind was because they were considering the possibility of sending her home afterwards.

If she talks, they’ll release her soon.

They were considering letting her go back to her normal life.

“After the interrogation, they’ll start torture. Even if she confesses, they’ll suspect she might know more. That’s why they won’t kill her so soon.”

“But with Aurette, if she confesses—-”

“Ah.”

Fiona’s complexion changed.

If Aurette speaks about the information they want, she’ll die.

“Ca, cancel it now! Hurry!”

Fiona grabbed my chest and shook me around.

“Even if you tell me that, I can’t release it unless she’s right in front of me.”

“Wh, what should we do? It’s impossible to find someone who might be anywhere in the world in a few hours.”

“We’ll do it somehow.”

When I answered her, Fiona *jii* stared at me.

“What, if you have an idea then say it.”

You said it already. The only ones who would do this would be Scottyard or Island.”

“Even so, we don’t know where she is in those countries.”

“We’ll investigate that, even if we have to use brute force.”

Fiona knit her eyebrows to my words.

“If you go from the front and ask a national opponent, you’ll be a wanted man.”

“I’ve already been doing things like that. Half of them would make me wanted too.”

“Even so.....”

Interrupting Fiona who kept trying to warn me, I continued talking.

“Also, Aurette is part of my family, she’s my servant. What happens if they lay a hand on her, they need to understand.”

Probably feeling creeped out by my words, Fiona was a little frightened.

While looking at her from the side, I transferred away.

The place is a luxurious residential district.

When transferring, you can only go to places that you can properly imagine.

I have never been to that house. I headed there from a little far away—to Vincent’s mansion.

Of course, its lord isn’t there right now.

I enter without knocking on the door.

“Who the hell are you?”

I hurriedly hit the man who seemed like a guard, and knocked him unconscious.

My target man has already been locked on with my Evil Sight.

I climbed the stairs, and opened the door.

“Wh,who are you!?”

An elderly man wearing a tuxedo.

He's the head butler of this mansion, but in reality, he's involved with many other things.

Seeing that the other guards who came were defeated one after the other, the head butler lost power in his legs.

I grab the nape of his neck, and push him to the wall to talk.

"Recently a Briton woman was abducted. Do you have any idea where she is?"

"I, I don't know. What are you—gyaaaaaaa!"

I break the pinky on his left hand.

"I don't have time for your bullshit. I know that you're an important person to Scottyard."

"Still, I don't know what I don't know."

"The criminal skillfully abducted her without anyone seeing. They're also a user of transfer magic. They're a first rate spy from some country."

The head butler kept silent.

"If you're not going to answer, shall I break another one?"

"Please wait, I really, really, don't know!"

With a desperate expression, the head butler really didn't seem to be lying.

"Since the city's spies are still being reorganized, we're not in any state to do that kind of activity."

"Do you know who I am?"

Being asked that, the head butler finally noticed me.

"You are....."

"You gave the order to follow me. Aren't you doing those activities just fine?"

"Th,that wasn't us."

To his words, I narrow my eyes.
Realizing his mistake, the head butler panicked.

“Hou, then whose work is it?”
“Th,that’s not it-Gaaaaaaaaa!”

I break the left ring finger.
Even while pouring sweat, the head butler’s mouth doesn’t break.
He’s pretty stubborn.

“Are you saying that other than you, there’s another intelligence organization in this city?”

Since he didn’t answer, I slowly moved my hand to break a third finger.

“Th,that’s right. We’re not related to this, so forgive us.”
“If you properly speak, I won’t do any more.”
“Scottyard’s 3rd Knight Order is moving.”

I was surprised by his answer.
Although it wasn’t directly, it’s pretty important that the Knight Order was moving.

“The Knight Order? What do you mean?”
“I don’t know that. I was just told to keep it a secret that they’re secretly moving.”
“If they were to take someone away, where would they take her?”

As expected, it was hard to answer that question, so the head butler was quiet for awhile.

Bakii Along with that sound, the head butler’s left arm bent in a strange direction.

“Giiiyaaaaaaa!”

The head butler’s scream echoed throughout the mansion.
There are people other than the head butler in the mansion, but they just wait and see

from outside the room.

“I’ll break the right arm next.”

“I understand! I’ll tell you, I’ll tell you, so please stop already!”

When I declared that in a cold voice, the head butler resigned himself.

“Right now, they’re based in Hamilton Fortress. Naturally, they also have a building in the capital, but if they’re working in secret, it’d be from the fortress.”

Hearing that answer, I released him.

“I’ve bothered you.”

“Are you intending to march into the fortress? That’s humanity’s strongest defensive point. That’s not sane.”

“It’s the opposite. The ones who aren’t sane are you guys.”

I have to make them understand.

I transferred to Hamilton Fortress.

CHAPTER 84

TORTURE

Underground Hamilton Fortress.

Auretta was fastened in a room filled with torturing tools.

Both her hands were fixed to handcuffs on the walls.

When Auretta woke up, she wondered why she was in such a place.

The last thing she remembered was being in the Adventurer's Guild.

Her memory cuts off there.

She was probably put to sleep with magic or something.

Since there are no windows, she doesn't know where she is.

"Did you wake up?"

A person sitting in the chair in front of her called out to her.

He was the captain of Scottyard's 3rd Knight Order, Curtis.

Of course, he was wearing a mask so she couldn't see his face though.

Therefore, Auretta didn't know who he was.

"And you are?"

Auretta, who's still not fully awake, asked that.

"I apologize, but I can't name myself. You understand what that means, right?"

Unable to understand what he meant, Auretta tilted her neck.

"It means, that if you answer our questions honestly, you'll be able to safely return home."

Curtis smiled bitterly, and gave a quick explanation.

“We need information on a certain person. He’s a mysterious person called Ashtal.”

Hearing that, Aretta’s face stiffened up.

“You have information on him. I’d like for you to tell us that.”

“I refuse.”

Aretta replied immediately.

Ever since she found out she was being targeted, she knew that a situation like this might happen.

Aretta’s reply had already been set in stone.

Curtis was surprised that he was refused immediately.

“In that case, we’ll have to resort to torture.”

Biku To his words, Aretta trembled.

“You’re just a citizen who’s never received any training. It’d be foolish to run, and I don’t believe that you’ll be able to endure torture.”

Saying that, he beckoned a men.

They were muscular men whose upper bodies were naked. They was the torturer. The torturers had whips, and had a vulgar smiles on their faces.

“This is your last chance. If you don’t want to be hurt, then talk. These men are pros at torturing. They excel at making you suffer without killing you.”

Threatening her, he asked her.

However, Aretta didn’t answer.

She can’t answer.

“—Do it.”

Curtis sighed, and gave the orders to the torturers.

Then, he left the room behind him.

“Gehehehehe. You made a pretty stupid decision.”

Jirojiro The torturers looked at Aurette.

“Well, I’ll be affectionate with you. Women aren’t my hobby, but you’ll break soon anyways.”

“Pu.”

Aurette spit at one of the torturers’.

A torturer hit Aurette’s cheek.

“You seem to be pretty energetic.”

The torturer put a gag on Aurette, and beat her with his whip.

How much time had passed?

Aurette’s consciousness was dim.

Every part of her body was swollen and red, and bleeding.

Her clothes were also drenched.

Help won’t come immediately.

No, in the first place, will help even come?

After all, she was at most, that person’s pawn.

In that case, it might be better to get this over with.

Normally, she wouldn’t have any ways to kill herself.

However, Aurette is different.

If she talks, she should die from the curse.

She was hesitant to speak about anything that might become a disadvantage to Ashtal.

However, if she were to speak about information that isn’t important, it will be fine.

Aurette thought like that.

“How are you? Do you feel like talking yet?”

Looking at her weak figure, the torturer gently spoke to her.

“Haa, haa.....if I say anything, I’ll die.”

“It’s the opposite, if you speak you’ll be saved.”

The torturer whispered sweetly. It’s a torture technique.

He skillfully guided her to a way to escape easily.

“If I speak about that person, I’ll die. That kind of magic was cast on me.”

To Aurette’s words, the torturer laughed from his nose.

“I’m not too well informed about magic, but if that magic existed, I’d be put out of work. No magic like that exists.”

This time, Aurette laughed.

“Then I’ll tell you what I know. That person isn’t human.”

“That seems so. I could guess that much.”

“That person’s aura is of a different nature than humans’. Just by releasing it, many people fainted.”

It was about the first day Aurette met Ashtal.

“Is it worse than demons’?”

“I don’t know. But, the adventurers at the guild said that it was on a different level than the Maou.”

“Fumu. So, what is that guy?”

“I haven’t heard of his species. Even if I were told, it’d probably be a race that humanity’s never heard of.”

“Nevertheless, we need to have a name for them. That’s important. Do others know?”

Irritated, the torturer changed the subject.

Aurette found it strange that her curse wasn’t activating, but continued to speak.

“The place they live in. I was transferred there so I don’t where it is, but it was a really

huge castle.”

“There’s no way that castle exists. How do they hide it?”

Citizens don’t even know of the existence of subspaces.

Therefore, to the torturer, it was something incredibly unbelievable.

“I don’t know.....there’s no way I would.”

“Their numbers are?”

“I don’t even know of 10 of them. Still, there’s no way they’d only have that many.”

The torturer clicked his tongue.

From his many years of experience as a torturer, he was convinced that Aurette wasn’t lying.

In addition to that, he didn’t feel that she was hiding any important information.

He was disappointed, because he felt that he’d get some more profound information.

For the time being, should he report this to his boss, Curtis?

When he was about to do that, he felt a change in Aurette.

Around Aurette’s body, a magic formation formed.

“What’s that?”

The torturer looked at his surroundings, but other than them, there was nobody around.

“This activated much later than I thought it would.”

Aurette closed her eyes. The curse will activate, and she’ll die.

Since she began to talk, she had been prepared for it.

However, that magic formation stayed as it was, and nothing happened.

“Huh? What does this mean?”

“What’s this?”

The torturer reached out to the magic formation, but his hand was repelled.
It was the same even when he tried to hit it with his whip.

“No way, is this magic formed to protect her?”

“Correct.”

The voice of someone who shouldn't have been there echoed through the room.

CHAPTER 85

RESCUE

I was looking down on Hamilton Fortress from the sky.

I can't transfer to places that I've never been to.

Since I started moving freely, not much time has passed.

That's why, the places I can transfer too are basically just the skies.

Ever since I left, I've been freely soaring through the skies with levitation(flight) magic.

It seems that since I was flying at an amazing speed, I was observed as a mysterious phenomenon all across the world, however.

Using Evil Sight, I looked inside Hamilton Fortress.

Probably, she'd be in a place where nobody would see her, underground.

I easily saw the scene of Aurette was being tortured.

I instantly release my curse magic.

Fuu. With this, I've averted the crisis of Aurette's life ending.

However, Aurette's torture continued.

I'm not so kind as to forgive him.

Leaving myself to anger, I was about to charge in there, but I stopped myself.

It'd be easy to break in there, and save Aurette.

But what would I do after that?

Unless I do something about the Scottyard Kingdom, this problem doesn't seem like it will be solved.

They've already put their eyes on me.

However, I still don't know about going that far.

It's not like I want to conquer the world or anything.

When I was thinking that, the old man and Serena transferred next to me.

“What’s that?”

I look at the two of them, taken aback.

Serena was being princess carried by the old man.

“I knew that you were in the sky, so.”

The old man said that, and let Serena down.

Of course, Serena also uses floating magic(levitation), and stood in the sky.

“We’ve also heard of what happened. We hurriedly came to support you.”

“Right now she’s being tortured.”

Auretta couldn’t endure the torture, and began to speak.

“Can you see inside? Hamilton Fortress has the best defense magic casted on it. Naturally, detection magic should also be prevented, but.....”

“Our magic won’t be stopped by something like that.”

Without delay, the old man answered Serena’s question.

“Putting that aside, if we leave this alone, the problem will become even bigger.”

“Yeah, I was just worrying about that.”

“We need to prepare for urgent situations.”

“But, there’s no time to talk about it. I’ll be back.”

I can’t just leave Auretta in that state.

Thinking that, I used magic.

It’s a defense magic around Auretta.

Auretta seems to think that it’s the curse activating, but that’s not it.

Usually the magic formation would disappear immediately, but I made it stay visible.

That was make them aware that I had cast a defense magic.

Then, I released my floating magic(levitation), and dropped down.

Hamilton Fortress is different from a normal castle or fortified city.

A normal structure would have weak protection against enemies flying from the sky. If they can easily invade from the sky, then there'd be no point in holding the castle.

Thus, the whole surface of the castle is covered in hard materials.

Of course, it isn't a square.

There are several protrusions, and a portion is made to open and close.

It seems that since it's not currently wartime, there are openings too.

I landed on the southwest rooftop.

There are no guards.

“Correct.”

I answered the panicking torturer.

Naturally, I'm using magic to project my voice.

Auretta is in the cellar right beneath me.

This fortress' walls seem to have the best defense magic casted on them, but that doesn't matter to me.

I build up my jaki in my leg, and trample on the floor.

Bikubikubiku The floor cracks.

It's harder than I thought it would be.

I jump up, build up even more power, and kick the floor.

I knock down the rooftop, and all the buildings under it.

Then, I descend on the stairs, and reach the cellar.

“Ashtal-sama!”

Auretta saw me, and was surprised.

I blew one of the torturers in the room away.

The man stopped moving.

“Ar,are you Ashtal?”

The other torturer must be trying to use Aurette as a hostage.

He approached Aurette, but was repelled by the barrier.

“Geeeeeee!”

Without me having to do anything, the torturer fell down in front of my eyes.

I stabbed his hand with a large metal needle that was in the room.

“Gyaaaaaaaa!”

I took the key that was on the torturer’s waist, and released Aurette’s handcuffs.

Aurette, who was exhausted from the torture, fell into me.

I held her in my arms.

“Ah, I didn’t think you’d come so quickly.”

“Sorry, I was a little late.”

“No, I spoke about your secret. I apologize.”

“That information already has no value. There’s no problem.”

Aurette must think it’s strange that the curse didn’t activate even though she spoke.

I explained the reason to her.

I told her that right before she did, I cancelled the magic.

Then, the old man and Serena came in.

I left her treatment to Serena, and looked down at the torturer.

“Pl,please forgive me. I only did it ‘cause I was ordered!”

I pull out the metal needle, grab the torturer, and push him against the wall.

“Who ordered you?”

“It’s Captain Curtis, who’s in the fortress now. That’s why.....”

“Hou, I see. So you were just following orders right?”

I narrow my eyes.

“That’s right.”

“In that case, this isn’t your fault, right?”

To those words, the torturer showed a happy expression.

“Well then, will you overlo———ugyaaaaaaaa!”

I blow away his right arm.

“Wh,why!?”

“Still, I won’t forgive you.”

“Even though it’s not my fault.”

“Yeah, this is the fault of the person responsible. I’ll send him to hell later, so ready your complaints and wait for him there.”

That was a death sentence.

I found something interesting among the torture tools.

It’s something like a coffin with countless needles attached to the lid.

I stick the torturer in there, and try to close the lid.

“This one is appropriate for you.”

“Wait a second, if you close that lid, I’ll really die!”

“Then why is something like this here?”

“It’s used to threaten people. We don’t actually close the lid.”

“Well then, I’ll teach you how to use it correctly.”

“NOOOooooo!”

I close the lid, and build up some power to keep it shut.

Along with the screams and agony of the torturer, blood overflowed from the coffin.

“Should I have made him suffer more?”

When I looked to Aurette, she shook her head.

“Ashtal-sama, you don’t need to waste any of your time on things like this.”

I looked at the old man, and he looked like he wanted to say something.

“If you have something to say, let it out.”

“I thought up some countermeasures, but if you’re going to rampage like this then I won’t use them.”

I look to Aurette.

I looked at her wounded figure.

“That’s not a choice.”

I have something I need to show to the people who did this.

“Think up something else to do.”

“Yes, my God.”

The old man made a bitter smile while saying that, and took Aurette and transferred away.

I headed above ground, and climbed the stairs.

CHAPTER 86

CATASTROPHE

After Aurette left, I took my ring off.

It's the ring that limits my power.

It seems that a large amount of soldiers were gathering around the half-destroyed building.

"What happened?"

"This fortress' walls are broken."

It seems the unit leaders are coming.

However, I'm puzzled on what to do in this situation because it was out of my expectations.

If I kill them all, then I won't really need to worry about being seen.

No, it'd be impossible for them to see through my true nature just by me seeing once.

That's why, it's pretty much fine even if I'm seen, but I decided to hide my figure anyways.

"Total Darkness."

I create a completely dark space that doesn't let light pass through at all.

The soldiers get noisy, but I ignore them and head for the Knight Captain, who's in the large middle building.

The jaki I'm releasing right now is about 10 meters in diameter.

The people who enter that range faint one after the other.

For the likes of normal soldiers, they won't be able to stay conscious just by receiving my jaki.

"What is this? What's going on?"

Even in the dark, you can figure out positions by sounds and auras.

Sensing that their comrades were falling down one after the other, the soldiers began to panic.

It seems that they're running around at random.

With their clatter as BGM, I headed to the Knight Captain.

In the reception hall of the center fortress. There was Curtis, Scottyard's 3rd Knight Order's captain.

Several tens of knights were waiting for me.

When I entered and approached Curtis, the knights surrounded me.

This is pointless.

Curtis earnestly endured my jaki, and looked over here.

"Who are you?"

"The one you wanted to know about."

When we release our jaki, we seem to be completely different people.

They must not be able to comprehend existences that are too big.

"Are you saying that you're Ashtal? What's with that figure, and that aura?"

"It's our aura. You didn't think we were human, did you?"

"No. But this is way too different. Monsters, dragons, and demons. You're different

from all of them.”

Receiving my jaki from the front, Curtis was sweating like a waterfall.

“That’s natural. We’re not of any of those races.”

“Then, exactly what are you?”

He returned to the first question.

However, I can’t answer that question.

I don’t have the right to answer it.

“I can’t answer that.”

“Did you come all the way here to mess with us?”

“We only need power to prove exactly we who we are.— That’s why, this is my answer.”

I stick my hand forward.

“Haaaaaaaaaaa!”

Jet black wings emerge from my back.

That’s proof that I’m giving this all my effort.

Multiple magic formations activate.

On the palm of my hand, countless magic formations were made.

The countless magic formations spin together and make one three-dimensional object—a small sphere.

It was a ball that emitted an intense bluish white light.

From the bottom part heading upwards, it was gradually created.

Inside it, a complex three-dimensional magic formation was formed.

It was exactly like a precise electric circuit.

It wasn't huge, like Apocalypse, or Million Dollars.

However, the power built up in the magic formation is equal to those, or even greater.

I emitted a terrifying amount of jaki.

“Th,that light is.....”

An old man in the back of the room half opened his eyes.

“This is bad. Everyone, evacuate.”

To the old man's orders, some of the people outside the room asked about the situation, and took action.

Not long after the bell rung, and I heard an order to hurry up and evacuate the fortress.

I don't need to follow after them.

My objective is only the person in front of me.

“Adviser Renard. Do you know what this is?”

“I've seen that same light before, 50 years ago.”

The magic that erased most of the demons along with the Maou during the sixth demonic calamity.

The maximum destruction bomb used by the great magician Serena.

“But, that's supposed to be the light of hope that saved us!”

“With power, there are no friends or enemies. This magic equally destroys both demons and humans.”

I laugh with my nose.

In the last decisive battle, the demons were destroyed, but the human side suffered enormous casualties.

This isn't a convenient magic that only damages you enemies.

"Then why are you being hostile to us now!?"

Renard was angry with the fact that the magic that saved him from a crisis 50 years ago was now being pointed towards him.

"You were the ones who put a hand on us first."

"That woman is just a human. Just a commoner."

"Now she's my precious subordinate. I won't forgive you two, who didn't realize that!"

My magic is complete.

"Don't use that."

Curtis pulled out his sword, and poked at my abdomen.

The knights also pulled out their spears and swords, and attacked me one by one.

However, they're all repelled by my omnipotent ^{Sanctuary} barrier. They kept attacking me.

"You damn monster. You guys pull back, this guy isn't normal!"

Curtis gave up, and gave them the order to retreat.

His subordinates hesitate.

Leaving only their lord and running away is a misconduct on their chivalry.

That's because they're different from normal soldiers.

“It’s too late.”

I cruelly inform them.

“What is?”

Curtis was unable to understand, and questioned me.

Without my having to reply, the result began to be visible.

The knights who were surrounding me began to tumble down one after the other.

“The power of this magic is on an entirely different level, so it’s harmful to humans. It seems like the only one who is able to endure that and shape it into a ball is Serenadono.”

Renard is passed out on the ground.

He was done in by the high concentration of jaki.

Putting aside normal jaki, humans can’t handle the high concentration of jaki contained in this small sphere.

This light undermines even life.

“50 years ago, we suppressed this influence with a charm, so other than the user, it wouldn’t put other people in danger.”

“To know that.....as I thought, you are...”

“The time to talk ends here.”

My three-dimensional magic formation is finished.

Now, I just have to say the word, and this magic will activate.

“If you activate that here, you’ll get wrapped up in it too.”

“There’s no way I would do as something stupid as dying by my own magic.”

I’ll be fine if my defensive performance is in perfect condition.

It’s also possible for me to transfer at the moment I activate it.

It’s fine already.

The soldiers have already gotten far away from the fort.

There were the ones who heard of the situation, and ran.

There were those who stopped their training, and ran.

This something that separates light and darkness.

Regardless of those in the center of the explosion, those on the outside might survive.

I don’t have the motivation to wait until everyone has escaped to a safe place.

If they’re lucky, they’ll be saved.

That’s all it is.

“Catastrophe.”

When I spoke those words, the magic ball emitted a bright light.

Then, the evil sphere caused a huge explosion.

It’s not fire. It’s not water. It’s not earth or wind. It’s an attribute unknown to humanity.

It’s not light. It’s not darkness. The power of the attribute that’s surpassed humanity.

The explosion blew down the structure of Hamilton Fortress, walls and all.

The explosion created a mushroom cloud tens of thousands of meters tall.

On that day, Hamilton Fortress was completely destroyed.

CHAPTER 87

AGITATED PEOPLE ①

Because Catastrophe was so huge in scale, you could even see it from the distance.

Of course, there are many areas where you couldn't see it.

However, those who saw it immediately spread it, and the world fell into a panic.

“What is that light!? What's that huge cloud!?”

It's figure was clearly visible from the office of Scottyard's King, George III.

The distance between Hamilton Fortress and the capital Graggo is 100 kilometers.

Since the weather was clear today, you could Hamilton from Graggo.

George III, who was born after the sixth demonic calamity, didn't understand what was going on.

He listened to the story of a maid who knew of 50 years ago, and understood.

According to the old woman, this light was the light of salvation that saved humanity 50 years ago.

However, George III could only feel a bad premonition.

To sum things up, the terrifying magic from 50 years ago had been used again.

“Even if it is a light of salvation, such a thing isn't necessary for our current peaceful world.”

What on earth happened?

The source of this is in the southern direction from the Scottyard capital, Graggo.

George III gave his vassals the order to investigate it.

The result was something surprising.

Humanity's strongest fortress had been annihilated.

The impregnable fortress that was to be the hope of humanity for the next demonic calamity.

The fortress that Scottyard are unrestrainedly poured funds into had been lost without even being used in war with the demons.

“Why did something like this happen.....?”

It's unknown whose work this is.

The fortress' soldiers had enough time to escape, and it seems that quite a few of them survived.

However, the people who were at the center of it including the 3rd Knight Order's Captain died, so there was nobody who could explain what happened.

If this was the same as 50 years ago, then one likely perpetrator comes to mind. The hero of the 6th demonic calamity, the great magician Serena.

But why would she need to do this?

Does she plan to stop remaining in obscurity, and conquer the world?

While George III was thinking, his son, Vincent hurriedly came into the room.

“What do you need? I don't have any time to speak with you right now.”

George III didn't have any composure, and was a little blunt with his son.

Vincent sensed that, and faltered for a moment.

However when he regrouped himself, he spoke to his father, as if complaining to him.

“Father, this is a matter of the utmost importance!”

“I don't need you to tell me.”

“More importantly, you need to fortify our defenses. They might attack here too.”

“That possibility certainly does exist.”

George III wrinkled his eyebrows.

If that happens, then he won't have any cards to play.

This has surpassed the dimension where they can do something by fortifying their defenses.

Of course, it's not like they can use that power inexhaustibly though.

If they possessed that much power, then even destroying the world would be simple.

If such a person existed, there's no way that the world would exist until now.

At least, if that plan makes it in time.....

Thinking that, he looked at Vincent, who was more frightened than he needed to be.

"Calm down. It hasn't been decided that the enemy will come immediately."

Nobody has seen him yet, but someone who stands above others shouldn't show others their uneasiness.

They ought to be composed at all times.

"No, that man will surely come!"

"Un.....?"

George III was curious that Vincent recognized this differently.

Serena and the mysterious people surrounding her.

This may be their work, but how can he be so sure?

Why did he conclude that there was a high probability of them coming?

"He will surely come. We have to hurriedly fix our defenses."

Apparently Vincent is a little confused.

Realizing that, George III soothed Vincent, and had him explain the situation.

George III was taken aback by his explanation.

He was flustered, and there were many mistakes and parts Vincent was hiding.

But, there's no doubt that he made them angry.

Thus, it's highly likely that they would begin to retaliate with their power.

When he sent a messenger to Rhodan to confirm this, he received a report that Vincent's mansion was attacked.

It seems there was no mistake that it was the work of the person, Ashtal.

No, the expression 'person' isn't correct.

He's definitely not a human.

The general story was transmitted.

However, there were no countermeasures to the current situation.

While doing that, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came into the room.

"Umm.....a messenger has come from Rhodan."

"What's their business?"

"It's open having an anti-demon conference. It's top priority, so they're asking you to come now."

George III listened to his explanation, and thought over it.

There's no way that the Maou appeared with this timing.

In that case, this conference must be about the annihilation of Hamilton Fortress.

Although it's completely unrelated, there are no other meetings where all the countries meet up in one place.

Of course, he could also choose to refuse to meet with them.

"It seems to be pretty important if they're asking as to go immediately. This matter isn't so big."

Vincent spits out.

"In the first place, is this not a trap? Aren't they drawing us in in order to kill us?"

"Are you saying they moved Briton? That's not possible."

George III expressed his negative opinion.

"No, um....."

The reporting official tried to speak reservedly.

“The original proposer of the conference is the great magician Serena.”

“What? This is the first time I’ve heard that she had the authority to call for an anti-demon conference.”

Vincent said ironically.

“No.....she does.”

George III denied him.

“What?”

“She has the authority to call for one and participate in them. She’s never used it before though.”

What did they call this meeting for?

“We have no choice but to go. If they only held hostility for us, then there would be no point in calling for a conference.”

Either way, they didn’t need to bother to call for a meeting.

Scottyard had no choice but to go along with them.

They have a weakness too.

The fact that they’re trying to conceal their existence.

The fact that they’re trying to do something to humanity with that power.

If we target that well, it’d be possible to reverse the situation.

George III formed a strategy to lead the flow of the meeting, and headed for Rhodan.

CHAPTER 88

AGITATED PEOPLE ②

The moment Fiona heard the news, she was assaulted by a terrifying shivering fit.

To Fiona, it was obvious who did this.

He is in the shape of a human, but he's an existence on an entirely different dimension.

A race that is far stronger than others such as demons and dragons exists.

It's something like a new race that's one rank above the others.

At least Ashtal has weak points, and it's possible to deal with him.

She wondered whether they had something like that too.

"This is bad.....I took hostile actions against him."

She was careless.

Won't this city of Rhodan vanish, just like Hamilton Fortress?

She thought that for a moment, but judging from their actions up until now, she thought that wouldn't be possible.

At the very least, he wouldn't think to blow it away, his acquaintances and all.

However for herself, and for the Briton Kingdom, there is no doubt that they're in a dangerous situation.

In order to speak with King Richard II, Fiona speeded through the hallways of Wolic Castle.

Richard II was speaking with his retainers in the council room.

Fiona didn't think that this outspoken conference was very beneficial for them.

The room was so loud that even when Fiona walked into the room, nobody noticed her for a while.

"Can't we say that annihilating Hamilton Fortress was their way of saying 'serves you right'?"

"Certainly, it gives you a sour stomach, but where will they blow away next?"

"Please stop with the scary stories."

"Even if you say to investigate, it's in a different country. Also, we can't examine it because it's vanished."

"How has the Scottyard Kingdom moved?"

"They haven't. Has Scottyard even realized it yet?"

The officials were having a conversation with no benefits.

Fiona waited a while, and approached Richard II.

Noticing Fiona, Richard II ordered them to continue gathering information and moved to a different room.

"For this matter, you are the most informed."

"Yes, I have to report many things to you."

Fiona told him what happened, without hiding anything.

Ashtal said he would teach them what happens when you lay a hand on them, and transferred away.

The result of that is this.

"By this point, it's already confirmed that he did it."

“Yes. Even if someone else did it, there’s no mistaking that they would be someone he can order around.”

“That means that both 50 years ago and Demon General Fumeless from the other day were both done in by them.”

“Since they have that much power, I believe they’d have no difficulties doing that.”

Fiona was convinced, and agreed.

“If so, would it be fine to think that they’re not the enemies of humanity?”

“Since we’ve never spoken with them, I don’t know for sure, but I don’t believe that they’re our clear adversaries like demons are.”

“But if we anger them, things like this will happen.”

Fiona heard that, and trembled.

“I was also hostile to him.”

“That’s true, but you’re safe and the fortress was destroyed. There must be a line that he doesn’t allow us to cross. For example, directly harming them or something.”

“I completely burned him with Flare.”

“Nn?”

“After, I slashed him at full strength with Krau Solas.....Your Majesty?”

Richard II was drawing back.

“You’ve already crossed the line you should never cross.....”

“I feel that way too.”

Fiona dropped sweat from her forehead.

“We, well, putting that aside,”

Richard II cleared his throat, and changed the subject.

“Still, this is troubling. Such an existence exists in the world. How to handle this, I don’t have the slightest clue.”

“If you look throughout history, there are man phenomena and events that we don’t clearly understand. At very least, there’s no doubt that they’ve been intervening with history for a while.”

“Do you think it was their work?”

“Probably.”

In the past, humanity is said to have had 6 cases of near destruction.

It was indeed unnatural to have greatly reversed the situation in all of them.

Rather, if someone lent them a hand, it’d be easier to understand.

“We can’t meet the same fate as Scottyard. Right now I want to learn their things like their rules and characteristics.”

“However, it’d be pointless to hide and investigate them. Also, with their rules, we can’t directly ask them.”

“Hou. They’re also bound by rules.”

Richard II narrowed his eyes.

“We might be able to find common ground with them if we learn their rules.....”

“Unfortunately, we can’t speak about that.”

At that time, a voice sounded from the window.

It was the voice of a man.

“Who are you?”

Fiona put her hand on her sword.

The man easily broke the window.

Naturally, the castle’s windows were strengthened by magic.

Richard II panicked at the fact that he was able to break those windows so easily.

The ones who came inside were Julius and Serena.

“Serena-sama!?”

Fiona raised a hysteric voice.

However, she put her guard up again the next moment.

That person is no longer an ally of humanity.

“Ara ara. I’m not recognized as being an ally of humanity anymore.”

Serena floated a suspicious smile.

“I apologize for making you have such a difficult life.”

Julius apologized.

“No, it’s fine because I’m enjoying it. Besides since it’s come to this, I’m—no, humanity is ruined anyways.”

“I’d like you to speak so we could understand too please.”

Richard II interrupted their conversation.

“Unfortunately, I can’t explain about us.”

“The same answer as that boy. Like that, we won’t be able to negotiate.”

“No, these are negotiations. We’re troubled right now.”

They can’t come to learn about the evil gods.

Ashtal, Julius’ lord wishes to live in the human world.

However, like this information about Ashtal will spread.

If that happens, Ashtal will be unable to live in the human world.

If he retreats to the Dark Temple and waits for a few hundred years, the humans will forget all about this.

But he doesn’t want to stay secluded for another long period of time.

“Thus, we’re willing to negotiate. What you people want isn’t information, it’s the confirmation of your safety.”

“Hou. Can you guarantee that you’ll never harm humanity ever again?”

“If you want to negotiate that, then there’s one thing we want you to do. We want you to open an anti-demon conference.”

Richard II couldn’t guess Julius’ true intentions, and asked him back.

“An anti-demon conference? Even though the Maou hasn’t appeared?”

“It’s because that’s the only method to gather people from different countries.”

“Well, there have been instances in the past where we didn’t follow the regulations.”

“I don’t mind if you gather them under my name, because I’ll lead the discussion.”

Serena said that, and Richard II had a strange idea.

Serena hasn’t stubbornly tried to involve herself like this before.

This problem isn’t a matter that could be solved by Briton alone.

Richard II nodded, and each country was informed of the anti-demon conference.

CHAPTER 89

ANTI-DEMON CONFERENCE, AGAIN

As a result of another anti-demon conference being held, the representatives of various countries again met in Rhodan.

Moreover, they were impatiently asked to come immediately.

Everyone understands the seriousness of the situation.

They hurried up and gathered.

“Even though you must be busy, thank you for gathering here.”

First, the king of Briton, King Richard II gave a greeting.

“So, exactly what is it?”

The king of Scottyard, King George III asked affected.

The surrounding countries just curiously watched the 2 of them.

“I think you already know, but.....”

Richard gave an explanation about the previously confirmed destruction of Hamilton Fortress.

“That’s something we’re interested in too. Exactly what was this?”

From the eastern countries, the king of the Oldcastle Kingdom questioned.

The Oldcastle Kingdom had become a vassal nation of the Scottyard Kingdom.

“Well, calm down. Serena-dono will give you an explanation.”

“In the first place, this meeting was called by Serena-sama. Where is the person herself?”

“Serena-dono doesn’t like going out in front of people. She said she’d come here once everyone is gathered. We’ve reported to her, so she should come soon.”

“You’re treating her as if she was an executive.”

George III spoke some abusive language.

Not long after, Serena appeared in the assembly hall.

Just from her appearance, everyone got noisy.

The hero of the sixth demonic calamity.

The savior of humanity.

One of the participants of the conference, an old king over 70 from one of the eastern countries deeply lowered his head.

You can tell just how adored she is by people of that generation.

Serena saw that, and brought down the corner of her eye.

Immediately after that, she returned to a serious face and began to explain.

“I’ve kept you waiting. I believe that you already know of the matter of Hamilton Fortress. However, there’s no need to worry. They are willing to negotiate.”

“Even if you tell us not to worry, that’s not something we can do.”

The Oldcastle King voiced his negative opinion.

“They are a much more long lived race than us. However, they have never done any harm to people until now.”

“So there’s no mistaking that they were hostile to us this time. No, it’s suspicious that they haven’t harmed us yet. They might have at least done assassination in the past.”

George III showed his agreement with his vassal nation’s king.

It was obvious to everyone’s eyes that they arranged this.

“That’s something we have no way of investigating.”

“But this time it’s different. We should unite and deal with the people who have done this.”

“Hou.....”

Richard II narrows his eyebrows.

“We should unite, you say?”

“This is a crisis for humanity. If we don’t do something, then we may be attacked by these mysterious people and destroyed. This anti-demon conference is a conference to unite in face of crises for humanity, is it not?”

Richard II applauded.

“No no, you’re exactly right.”

He spoke in a tone as if he wasn’t putting his heart into it at all.

“If so——”

“However, it seems that you don’t remember the last meeting. In the old pact, the Magna Carta, it is written that we should unite when the Maou appears.

“That’s,”

“Is the opponent this time a Maou?”

“You’ve already said that we don’t know their identities!”

George III, who was poked in a painful place, raised his voice.

“In that case, we don’t meet the conditions of the Magna Carta.”

“This is a disaster that can’t even be compared with the Maou you know!?”

“That’s true. After all, it’s the user of a magic that can extinguish a Maou in a single attack.”

Richard II looked over everyone.

“But unlike with the Maou and the demons, it’s dubious to say whether or not they have clear hostility towards humanity.”

“They blew away humanity’s strongest fortress. That fortress was supposed to play a central role in the demonic calamity.”

“That was only made for Scottyard right? If you really meant to use it as a countermeasure for the demons, you should have built it in the south of the continent.”

If the demon army comes all the way to Hamilton Fortress, then it means that they

destroyed all the countries up until that point.

Even if you're told that the strongest fortress is in such a place, then the southern countries can only smile bitterly.

"Well, there's no point in speaking of fortresses that don't exist anymore."

Nobody cares about the fortress.
Like that, he changed the subject.

"Let's move onto a more concrete discussion."

Richard II looked to Serena.

"They have said that they're ready to comprise. However, I have thought of something that we need to do that."

"That is?"

"I propose one thing. It is to add one clause to the Magna Carta."

"A revision of the Magna Carta?"

George III was surprised, and stood up.

The participants all made an uproar.

"Certainly, the Magna Carta can be revised, but there are no instances of that ever happening."

"However, the Magna Carta only covers things about the Maou and demons."

That opinion came out.

Serena carefully answered them, and made them consent.

"Why do we need to revise the Magna Carta?"

"Just as the Maou will appear from now on, this might be a pending problem for humanity far into the future."

Serena turned to Richard II, and answered.

"If we just agree now, then we will forget this in the future and something similar will

happen again. This is to avoid that.”

“I see.....”

Richard II nodded.

“Exactly what kind of clause?”

“It will recognize that there are unidentified races living in this world, hiding among humans, and prevent people from overly investigating them.”

It is an extremely ambiguous clause.

However, there are many laws like that as well.

Therefore, sometimes there are disputes of their meanings.

“We’ll leave what to do with the writing to an official who specializes in that sort of thing.”

“Will these people stay quiet if we follow that condition?”

“It’s been like that since the beginning. Since ancient times, they’ve occasionally lived in the human world.”

When Serena finished talking, she ‘fuu’, released her breath.

It had been a while since she had spoke in a place like this.

She was pretty nervous.

In general, the reactions of each country was favorable.

From the start they were outsiders, so they were content as long as their safety was guaranteed.

In the end, it was up to this man to decide the trend of the meeting.

Feeling everyone’s gazes, George III spoke.

“Wait a moment.”

Everyone was surprised to hear negative speech and conduct come from George III.

“I think the compromise is good. However, humanity has sustained damage. We just slightly investigated them, so they blew away a fortress. Hundreds of people have died

from this. Are you going to just ignore this?"

For Scottyard, they can't just say they understand and leave this like it is. Their prestige as the world's leading power hangs on this.

"The one who sustained damage is humanity. Before we compromise, we need to settle this with money."

Oldcastle's king followed after him.

The representatives from other countries just wrinkle their eyebrows, or close their eyes and think.

They had nothing to object to.

They didn't even have a fragment of will to oppose the evil gods.

However, most of the countries didn't have the courage to oppose Scottyard.

George III snickered in his heart.

He didn't think that they'd come at him with that card first.

They don't know of diplomacy.

Currently, Scottyard is in a predicament.

There's no doubt about that.

Since they proposed to negotiate, he thought he'd be faced with some difficult problems.

From George III's senses, an unconditional compromise is impossible.

For them, being known is something fatal.

That side has a weak point, and is also in a troubling situation.

It's the same as saying that.

Of course, in the end they'll end up accepting the compromise.

However that will be after shaking them, and gaining useable information from them.

George III thought so.

At that time, a voice filled with wrath came from one man.

“Can you hurry up with this?”

CHAPTER 90

SETTLEMENT

“Can you hurry up with this?”

The one who spoke with a rage filled voice was the Eastam King, Alastar.

He is an old aged king who has passed 70.

The Eastam is one of the eastern kingdoms, a small country in the mountains.

“What?”

With a surprised face, George III looked to the Eastam King.

Up until now, the eastern countries hadn't defied Scottyard.

“At this time, I'd like for you to stop quibbling with just one country.”

“You bastard, you say a lot. Are you making light of Scottyard?”

Anger seemed to be flowing out of George III, and his face turned red.

He glared at Alastar, but the old king from the remote region calmly received his gaze.

“It's the other way around.....this is why people born after the war are so troubling.

You don't know of the sixth demonic calamity, or the despair from that time.”

Alastar sighed as if he was taken aback.

“In the first place, thanks to whom did your country thrive after the war? It's thanks to Serena!”

“That's not true. There were some circumstances behind the scenes.”

“Such a thing.”

Alastar laughed with his nose.

“Even though someone else may have made that terrifying magic, the only one who could use it was Serena-sama. That is an unshakable fact.”

Therefore 50 years ago, people gave the title of hero to Serena, who miraculously survived.

“The 7 heroes of the 4th demonic calamity are the Seven Stars. The 3 heroes from the 5th demonic calamity are the Big Three. Then what would the hero from the 6th demonic calamity be?”

To those words, George III was overpowered.

A king who has no practical experience, and a king who survived a demonic calamity. It's natural that their dignities were different.

“Sp,Special One.”

“Yeah. The hero who saved the world alone——Special One. Is it possible to refuse such a person's proposal!?”

George III was told that, and suddenly realized.

He remembered something about Serena from when he took the throne from his predecessor.

He couldn't remember everything, like a promise to a phantom like person who has never come out on the stage.

“It seems like you're not as senile as me.”

That was a small thanks to the hero who bet her life to save the world.

George III certainly had a pledge he took over from his father.

“I can't refuse the request of the Special One.”

“Yeah. The one who made that promise was your grandfather.”

Why did the Scottyard King make that promise for the far future?

It was because Serena's reputation was overwhelming.

In the first place, after the demonic calamity, the world was in the middle of chaos.

There were many lands without rulers.

Thus, often in the past heroes would build countries in those areas.

After the sixth demonic calamity, the Island Kingdom and Briton Kingdom rose to power.

However, although she worked hard to restore them, Serena never chose to raise a country.

The people wished for Serena to raise a country.

Even in Scottyard, there weren't few voices who wanted Serena to be king. *(TLN: Yes, king, not queen.)*

At that time, the kings of the major powers including Scottyard didn't know what to do with Serena.

They wanted to give her a suitable leisure job to calm the people. They thought that.

Thus, Serena was given the post of the highest advisor for the anti-demon conferences. Although, she didn't participate, and never participated in any meetings until today.

Furthermore when Serena said she wanted to make a school in Rhodan, each nation happily cooperated.

It's common for retired adventurers to become mentors for others.

It was convenient for each country to hold Serena down as it's director.

Therefore, they promised that they would help her if she was ever troubled.

They even instructed their children that they [can't refuse the request of the Special One.]

"Scottyard King. Anymore than this is in vain."

With a 'Good Heavens!' face, Richard II advised him.

Even the small eastern countries rebelled.

That impact was great.

George III looked at the attendees, and noticed a certain change.

The Scottyard Kingdom isn't a humane country that's liked by other countries.

What they have is a sense of fright.

For the successive generations of kings, that wasn't a problem.

But what about their gazes now?

Of course, there's still a sense of fear.

However, George III was sensitive to the fact that there were also other emotions included there.

Scottyard specializes in the realm of the circulation of money, and most of its important military bases have disappeared.

In the international conference, it was obvious to everyone's eyes that Scottyard had lost its position.

"Y,you bastards.....don't think it'll end like this."

He stopped being a poor loser here.

George III had no choice but to accept the proposal, and the conference ended.



So as not to be noticed, I was standing by in front of the door to the conference room. I looked into the conference with Evil Sight.

As expected, the king of Scottyard is still making this difficult.

This was expected.

Here I'll gallantly march into the conference, and defeat him in an argument.

All according to plan.

——Well then, let's go.

I place my hand on the door——

"Can you hurry up with this?"

The old king of the eastern country broke there.

Like that, he blamed King George III.

Huh?

I missed the timing to enter.

George III was left isolated at the conference, and the pact was successfully made.

Pokaan I stood in front of the door.

Soon, I will return to myself.

Conversely, I think.

I didn't even need to go out.

I could already see a shadow on Scottyard's influence.

With the anti-demon conference this time, they'll have no choice but to stay quiet for a while.

"There's no point in staying here, so I guess I'll go home."

I regain my senses, and transferred to a hospital in the city.
It's the hospital where Aurette was hospitalized at.

In a dreary room, there was one bed.
Aurette was asleep.

There was one more person in the room.
Adrigori was guarding her in the room.
With his mouth like an '∩', he was upright and immovable.

"There were no abnormalities."

"Well, that's what I thought. It was just in case, so you don't need to be so stiff."

"As long as I'm guarding her, it's my mistake if anything happens."

Regardless of what we can't see, there's nobody who can do such things right in front of us.

I smile bitterly at Adrigori's seriousness, and looked at Aurette.

"The pact was concluded."

"Then she's already safe."

“Yeah. I’ll do the rest, so you can go home.”

Adrigori bowed once, and transferred.
He said that Aretta had fallen asleep earlier.

“Huh?”

However, as soon as Adrigori left, Aretta opened her eyes.
Then she raised her body.

“Being watched like that, there was no way I’d be able to sleep.”
“Sorry about that.”

I apologize to Aretta.
On the other hand, apparently she could calm down.
It was a completely wrong selection of personnel.

“No, thank you for your concern.”

After that, Aretta showed a sleepy expression.
Her physical strength was drained as a result of the torture, so it can’t be helped.

“If you’re sleepy, you can sleep. You won’t be attacked anymore.”
“Um.....”

Aretta timidly looked over here.

“What is it?”
“If you don’t mind, can you hold my hand for a while?”

Aretta appealed to me with an anxious expression.
She must’ve been scared today.
If this will eliminate her uneasiness, then there’s only one thing I can do.
I nodded with a smile, moved to the chair by her bed, and sat down.

When I held her hand, probably relieved, Aretta fell asleep soon.

I continued holding her hand until dawn.

CHAPTER 91

EPILOGUE

The discussion of the anti-demon conference would never be leaked.

It's a confidential matter.

But, they couldn't hide the matter of Hamilton Fortress being destroyed.

On that matter, the whole world wondered why they were given an explanation.

Exactly who did this, and how?

Why would they do such a thing?

However, this situation had far surpassed the people's imaginations.

As expected, only outrageous arguments came out.

Then, about the revision of the Magna Carta.

[There are many mysteries in the world. We should be prudent about clarifying them. When looking into the abyss, the abyss looks back at you.]

This mysterious section was added.

This is a section that can't be understood by those who don't know the situation.

The royal families of each country each told the specifics.

That information will be passed down from this generation.

Of course that's taking into account that the nations won't suddenly collapse or anything.

There may also be a few new nations that will not know of this matter too.

In that case, they'll be invited to an anti-demon conference and be given an explanation.

As expected, there won't be any countries that will not comply with the Magna Carta and won't participate in the conference.

That is, unless there's a country with a very strange head.

Even though the governments believed this discussion to be over, the people didn't think so.

There was a huge labyrinth in the basement of Hamilton Fortress.

In its deepest parts there was a horrifying monster, and we touched it's inverse scale.
(TLN: Means they pissed it off.)

Such an opinion appeared.

As expected, they couldn't stay calm without having an easy-to-understand answer.

Apparently the governments got many complaints.

Saying that leaving that alone would be a problem, that person stood up.

Just as there's a fairy in the dungeon, there are also some in the human world.

Although their numbers are extremely small, they live inconspicuously.

They are unusually afraid of people knowing their true identities.

It's dangerous to try and reveal their identities.

They must not be angered.

Hamilton Fortress served as evidence for that.

Everybody should keep their curiosity in check.

Professor Justin.

“Again, who is Professor Justin?”

I say that to myself while reading the newspaper.

It's the usual strategy to mislead public opinion.

Morning, a few days after the anti-demon conference.

I was drinking black tea in a coffee shop.

To celebrate her release from the hospital, I was spending my time with Aurette.

It was something she requested for.

“Huh? You don't know?”

Aurette made a surprised face.

“Eh, know what?”

“He's the same guy as Earl Justin.”

“No, that's not what I wanted to know.....”

“He's come to the Adventurer's Guild many times, so I know his face.”

When we requested the Adventurer's Guild, Aurette dealt with us.

“But, since he just calls himself Earl Justin, even if you ask me who he is.....”

Well, some evil god is just playing that role, so I'll ignore it.

“Sorry for today. On top of helping me, I also had you go along with me.”

Aurette seemed to be sorry.

“It was our fault that you were abducted. I thought I should make up for it, so this was

just right. Rather, are you okay with this?"

"I haven't had many chances to see you recently, so this is fine."

Auretta seemed to be happy.

"By the way.....there's someone who wants to meet you."

Auretta spoke timidly.

"Nn, if it's a weird guy or some pain in the ass then I refuse."

Auretta smiled bitterly at my rude response.

"P,probably, I think they're okay. They should be within the realm of common sense."

The person Auretta was speaking of came shortly.

It was the hero, Fiona Spencer.

Is this within the realm of common sense?

"Y,yo."

Fiona made an awkward smile.

"Why are you so nervous?"

Auretta curiously looked at Fiona.

"That reminds me, you two knew each other."

Fiona sat at our table.

She ordered a drink and a shortcake, then became silent.

"Didn't you want to speak about something?"

When I urged her, Fiona scratched her head and answered.

“No, I think we had a few misunderstandings.”

“It’s not like we really talked over them either though.”

“Whenever we talked it pretty turned into a fight.”

The first time was just a test of skill, so there wasn’t a problem.

Last time it felt like it happened due to fate or something.

“Things like that happen.”

“But still, we settled everything at the conference, so I thought you and I should make up too.”

“That was included in the settlement. In the first place, we didn’t fight that much.”

To my words, Fiona gave a sigh of relief.

“Also, that time you were mad about Aurette.”

“Oh, do you care that much for me?”

Aurette teased her.

“Since those were your reasons, I’m not really planning on doing anything.”

“I, I guess that’s true. I didn’t need to mind it that much.”

I see. Did she think I’d bear a grudge against her?

“Besides, it was a good test for me.”

“A good test?”

“Do you know my objective?”

“Ah, about you being weak to women. That weak point wasn’t just a lie?”

Fiona sent a suspicious gaze over here.

“What would I do by telling that lie?”

“Well, it seems like there’d be a lot of merits.”

“There aren’t any. I want to hurry up and get better.”

I sighed.

“Afterwards I won’t have any reason to go to school.”

“That’s your reason for going to school.....”

Fiona looked like she wanted to say something, but she kept silent.

“That being the case, I’d like it if you challenge me again.”

Fiona came to attention at my words.

“It’d be fine if we just fight normally, but what should I do if I want to beat you?”

“Oh yeah.....think about it yourself, I guess?”

“No. I can’t do anymore than that.”

“What did you do before.....?”

Auretta was taken aback.

Umu.

At this rate, a convenient opponent will escape.

“Are you going to run?”

“Mu?”

Fiona got into a bad mood.

As I thought, it's easy to make her lose her cool.

In that case, agitating her is the correct answer.

It seems like the time to reconcile has finished.

"Last time we were interrupted, but I held the advantage."

"That's true, but I won't feel bitter about it even if I lose to a creature like you."

That's troubling for me.

"In that case, I'll use my rights as the victor."

"Wh,what are you going to do?"

"I'll be calling you with a disgraceful nickname, are you fine with that?"

"Fuun, like 'dejected loser'? Call me whatever you want, an adult woman won't ride on your cheap provocation."

Fiona averted her chest.

I inform her of her nickname.

"Old lady with showing panties."

The moment I said that, Aretta couldn't bear it, and burst out into laughter.

On the other hand, Fiona's face turned red and she got angry.

"Who are you calling an old lady with showing panties!?"

She drew Krau Solas, and slashed at me.

Naturally, I easily stop the blow with my ^{Sanctuary} omnipotent barrier.

Due to the strong powers colliding with each other, light was emitted.

Shock waves spring forth, and the store's glasses broke.

"Hey, two ridiculous people have started a fight you know?"

"RUUUNN!"

The people in our surroundings saw that, and ran about trying to escape.

"Don't do this here please."

Auretta timidly called out to us, but she was unable to stop the battle.

When we both take distance from each other, Fiona, who calmed down a bit sheathed her sword.

"Crap. We were supposed to making up too."

"Doesn't this mean that we're close enough to fight?"

"It doesn't seem like I'll be able to get along with you."

Fiona looked up to the sky.

"Well, for now let's go to another store."

We apologized for the mess, payed the bill to fix the place, and left the store.

After that, we ate at a high class restaurant, and bought things that Auretta liked.

Auretta happily walked through Rhodan right when fall was intensifying.

Seeing her like that, I felt content that we were able to make a settlement.



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