

りゅうせんひろつぐ / 著

story by hirotsugu ryusen

GC NOVELS

藤ちよこ / イラスト

illustration by fuzichoco

賢者の弟子を  
名乗る賢者

She professed herself  
pupil of the wise man.

1



# She Professed Herself The Pupil Of The Wiseman

by Ryuusen Hirotsugu

[Novel Updates](#)

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# Volume 1 Illustrations

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GO NOVELS

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1





















## Volume 2 Illustrations

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Mira





## Emera & Takuto

Starting on the left side with males we have Cyril with red hair, Zef the big guy in the back, Asbel with greenish hair. In the center Emera holding onto Mira getting ready to punch Fricca



# 賢者の弟子を 名乗る賢者

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2



guild receptionist onesan and Mira



Alfina first being summoned





Fight with the demon on the 6th floor







Mira guided by the guard back to the inn

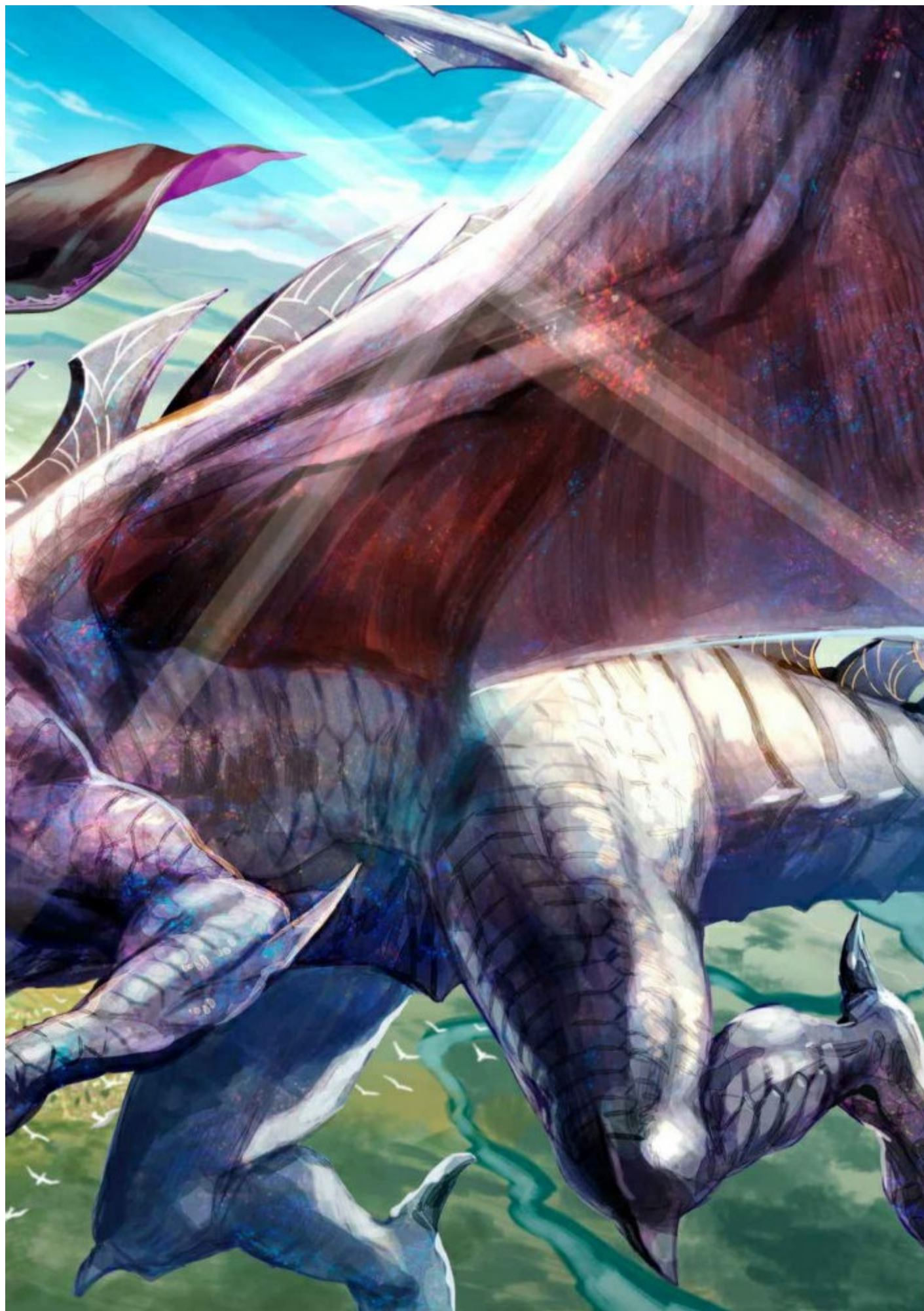




## Volume 3 Illustrations



Cover



Back





そこは水生生物に関する研究を収めた所のようだ。  
生い茂る草木にまみれながら、  
相変わらず高くまで積み上げられた棚に加え、  
そこかしこに巨大な水槽も並ぶ。

「水底に迷い込んだ気分じゃのう」

Mira, Hinata, Creos





???



First meeting with Hinata



Review Games



Review Games



# Prologue

<VR> virtual reality, It has been half a century since it has been completed. Now it has become an indispensable technology for the world economy.

School can be attended from home. At home classes can be attended using the internet from a personal computer. Without the danger from going to and from school, and with the cost of maintaining the school building, schools in real life were replaced.

In addition, businesses used virtual reality in order to greet customers. Also, since documents were replaced by electronic programs, there were no longer any costs. It was also better to rent a server for the company because the costs to maintain a server were overwhelming maintain than a building for headquarters.

With the exception of physical needs, Virtual reality technology could satisfy everything. As a result of this, virtual reality continued to evolve rapidly.

Certainly, there was no reason for the game industry to not keep an eye on this technology. Although it was fairly expensive, it nevertheless was necessary, so much so that it was often given as a present on a person's coming of age celebration to the extent that most households had one.

It was only a matter of time for VR-only games to be developed.

Sakimori Kagami was one such youth to be presented with VR equipment on his coming of age celebration.

He enrolled in a normal high school, graduated from a normal university, and worked in a normal company.

He worked from home using the VR equipment he received on his coming of age celebration. During his break, he ate food prepared by his mother and returned to work right after.

There was no commuting time to deal with and overtime was practically nonexistent in small businesses. He spent everyday without any particular complaints.

There was an online game called [Arch Earth Online].

The start of the game was very quiet and closed beta had finished before anyone had noticed.

Sakimori Kagami became aware of such a hidden online game after he had grown familiar with the workload and had time to spare. A commercial had aired at midnight.

The commercial had no sound or movement, with only an access code for VR that had been projected for fifteen seconds.

He had started the equipment out of curiosity, and a title named [ Arc Earth Online] floating in white appeared. There were only two lines after it.

Open Beta start

Download

Those were the only letters.

He did not dislike that attitude of no flattery. While thinking this, he selected the [yes] in order to start the download.

There was no texture for the background either, just a general character font, He did not know what sort of game this may be.

As though Kagami were attracted, he moved his right hand a short distance to play. If he was pushed to say exactly what it was, he would say that an invisible force had compelled him to move that short distance to play.

The installation was completed in 15 minutes. When he launched the game immediately, the background of the home screen appeared with CG comparable to that of the real world.

Kagami committed to memory the excitement he felt when he created his avatar.

Thus, Sakimori Kagami began his everyday addiction to [Arc Earth Online].

---

[Arch Earth Online], It had been four years since its official start. Advertising related to the game, even in game magazines and the net were practically non-existent. However, posts on the net spread news of the game and game had quite a few players, close to that of the leading online games. It was funny that

despite the number of players in-game it had yet to appear officially.

Kagami who had started from open beta was famous and regarded as a veteran player.

The content of the game was a standard fantasy setting. However, there was an overwhelming amount of freedom and it received a great deal of popularity.

There was only one mysterious point for an online game.

Its management.

The game was only updated two times out of the four years it has been in operation. The developer's identity was not known and there was no official homepage regarding its policy.

However, the game had an overwhelming charm to it. Various people were in agreement that it was better to leave it to its own course up until the management was made known. (not sure about the last sentence)

However, Kagami was one of the people who took an optimistic view. It was better that it had almost been complete from the beginning. It is not an exaggeration to say that bugs were nonexistent in this game. Rather it had been a good decision that unskilled people did not tamper with the game.

That day, Kagami was to subjugate a crowd of monsters that had appeared near the border to the country he had belonged to. Such a subjugation mission was a common thing, the country had a turn system where Kagami and other players taking their turn.

This time, it was Kagami's turn.

Using a tower as a base he lazily leaves for the national border. In the real world a ringing sound from a call is heard. At the same time, his little sister's high-pitched voice is heard. In fact, this sound was to inform him that it was time for dinner.

Logging off temporarily to eat dinner, he once again places the VR equipment on his head and dives into virtual reality again.

After trying to start the game from the home screen, he noticed that there was an incoming mail.

He opened the mail and examined its contents. The VR money he had bought



for Arc Earth Online was about to expire.

When he began the game he had purchased 1,000 yen, incidentally one month after that he had bought an additional 2,000 yen.

Arch Earth Online, just like other online games had billing items. Although it is like that, there are no items and armor that can be used in the game. There are however, support items that one can be obsessed over.

One such item, [Vanity Case] can be used to change the appearance one's avatar. It is not an exaggeration that all players buy this item. Naturally Kagami had also bought this.

One [Vanity Case] cost 500 yen, yet it was only something you use to reset the appearance of an avatar. The reason for the popularity of this item was the abundance of options to choose from.

Officially in the beginning of the game there were thousands of choices to choose from, however using a [Vanity Case] to reset had tens of thousands of choices to choose from. All players now logged in with a shoddy avatar and used a [Vanity Case] to reset their appearance. It was to the extent that it was now common sense to do so.

The avatar which Kagami had made was the figure of a magician which exuded dignity. He had white hair with a white beard that had a close resemblance to an experienced magician. Obsessed, Kagami spent no less than one day creating it in the guise of that figure.

And the name of the avatar, the first name turned out to be the same as a much loved headmaster magician appearing in a world famous movie; an adventure starring a magician returning a ring.

The name was Dunbalf.

The class was a summoner.

In open beta by the way he had chosen a magician, however it was impossible to learn magic skills. At the beginning one only learned [Magic: Flame]. Later, you could only hit with a cane.

However much one raised your level, magic skills were not learned. There were no instructions or tutorials to coddle players.

You were suddenly introduced to the world and completely left alone; his was normally unheard of in a game. You were left to investigate on your own, however it was fun. However long he searched for the method to learn magic skills, in the end he was unable to do so.

Because of that, he reset to another magic class at the start of the official game.

Summoning expert techniques become available when you enslave the soul of a killed enemy with a contract. Summoning techniques became possible after completing a class exclusive quest. The difficulty of the class exclusive quest was high, however Kagami was able to understand it because the method was posted on a bulletin board.

Because of that, he became a summoning expert.

When the game officially started, there was a lot of complaints regarding the lack of description. However, a player by chance shakes the game by becoming an emperor.

That is, a player can found a nation if the conditions are met.

To become a king, develop a town, and raise an army. To invade foreign lands, to construct forts for defense, to hire mercenaries and other similar things. Players were excited by the fact that they could create their own stories with their own hands.

In addition, major events caused by players will be added to the arc chronology that can be browsed from the menu.

After this happened, people were able to enjoy a variety of play styles. There were those who burned with ambition to found a nation, those that longed for government positions, those who loved freedom and adventure, those who founded secret societies, and those who became merchants and assassins. Because of this, complaints gradually subsided.

Furthermore, the degree of freedom was not limited by [level]. For example, there were many kinds of items such as weapons and armor, and medicine that even included legendary class. It was also possible to create totally new items depending on the creativity of the player. They were even able to create things beyond legendary level.

You could say that you could do anything in game that you could do in reality.

Some players were totally addicted to the role of blacksmith, all players would know the name of a skillful craftsman. For example, one sword had been traded for millions.

For those who chose to do carpentry, some players developed building technology and some had built castles as well.

Those players who were obsessed with digging discovered hot springs, and are now managers of hot-spring resorts.

A friend of Kagami's thought of teaching fencing and opened up a dojo in order to teach.

What kind of skills are possible? What kind of things possible? Players challenged a variety of things, anyone could become successful. People said that there were no limits to the system in sight.

People were able to invent new sports, people were able to realize their romantic dreams of pirates, there were people who collected information single-handedly, and there were those who sold information that walked on a tightrope of danger.

Also, there was a person who created lists of skills that were divided by classification. They visited players who created original skills and summarized it in a book for those who wished to learn details of their skills. The book was published as a skill list book, and it became a huge bestseller and he amassed a great amount of wealth.

As a matter of fact Dunbalf is a great man who developed some special techniques as well. One is a technique that he made from trial and error to make up for the weaknesses of a magic job.

What is the technique? It is a second class. Kagami's main class is summoning expert, in addition to that, he has another magician class that is called the xian expert. This was a close quarters expert. In order to acquire the class, various training methods were used.

By being struck by a waterfall, hanging upside down from trees for a day, walking against a storm and other various things.

By the way, one month since the game had started someone was able to find a way to acquire magic skills. A magic catalyst was paired up with a piece of magic paper with a magic circle drawn on it. Then, magic experts had to use [Magic: Flame] to burn it. The problem was that many catalysts were needed and the paper itself hardly appears.

It was eventually found in the end, It was not simple to learn after all.

In addition to the vanity case, another billing item that Kagami has purchased was a [Floating Continent]. It was the size of a schoolyard with a track that stretched to be about a hundred meters for one lap. He built a house and cultivated a field and made a manufacturing facility. It was a convenient item that be used for most things. Because it was possible to travel by flying through the sky, it was used as a vehicle which ignored the geography of the land. Kagami built a cheap residence and used it as a warehouse.

This [Floating Continent] cost 2,000 yen. This meant that he had 500 yen remaining which was about to expire. Kagami only bought a “Vanity Case” and a “Floating Continent” from the beginning but because money could only be bought for every 1,000 yen 500 yen would remain,

As is expected, due to the fact that it was 500 yen from four years ago, there was not a great deal of regret for Kagami. Kagami nevertheless had a tendency to be frugal and felt that it would be wasteful so he opened the billing item list. [Advanced Smithy], [Advanced Alchemy Room], [Advanced Sewing Room], [Advanced Craftsman Room], [Advanced Kitchen], [Advanced Woodworking Room].

Exclusive room for convenient tool making for 1,000 yen.

[Floating Continent], [Golem Fort], Swan Lake], [House of Brick], [House with Butler], [House with Maid], [Old Castle], [Noble Mansion A], [Noble Mansion B], [Spiral Tower], [Rich Field].

Terrain building features and etc. for 2,000 yen.

The only other thing in this line up was [Vanity Case].

There was no other choice than the [Vanity Case]. You must charge a minimum of 1,000 yen. This is the world of adults. The adult world is dirty.

Kagami felt that it was wasteful to just let the money expire so he purchased a

[Vanity Case]. VR money balance became 0.

In order to accomplish his subjugation mission, Kagami logged in. He opened the item column by operating his bracelet type terminal. It contained the [Vanity Case] that he had purchased earlier.

Incidentally, this bracelet type terminal was one of the first additional items that was included in the two updates of the game.

Up until then, menu manipulation was done with keys that floating in mid air. Suddenly raising a hand in town or during combat turns off the feeling of the scene as if it were hollow. It was invisible to others but your world view is blocked. Many players hoped it would be changed and it was done. (trouble with the latter half of this)

[Vanity Case] it had been four years since he had last used one. It was a small box that had the appearance of a lacquered casket. Kagami stared at the small box as he recalled those days in nostalgia. At the start of open beta, it was not possible to create an avatar that matched his tastes. It was already a distant memory of soot of brown haired young men who overcame open beta. (trouble with the last sentence)

You can choose from nearly ten times the amount of options as compared to the start of the game by using the billing item [Vanity Case]. The moment he saw the comment on that he hastily bought the [Vanity Case].

Kagami immediately used the [Vanity Case] and exclaimed with joy in virtual reality. This was because he was able to use all the components he wanted. He produced the best avatar by paying particular attention to detail.

And thus he created [Dunbalf].

Kagami at that time, had only been able think of creating the best avatar he could create in his head. He could not remember now what other features there were.

Kagami with a little interest now used the [Vanity Case] to open the avatar creation screen.

As for the components, it was possible to narrow down the search by searching for impression categories such as [Lively], [Reserved], [Confident], [Timid] and other various impression categories as such as [Mysterious],

[Solemnity], [Melancholy], [Cheerful] and the like. As expected, if one were to go down one by one, it would take you all day.

While Kagami was looking at the parts list, he felt the renewed conviction that [Danbalf] was still the best after all.

There was probably no one that could exceed this avatar. After all he created his ideal male image.

While Kagami was gazing at his former achievement of manliness in great satisfaction, he noticed one character displayed on the menu.

Male

It was a character that showed the avatar's gender.

Then suddenly a thought appeared in his mind. That is he was able to perfectly reproduce his ideal male image.

Then, how about his ideal image of a woman?

When he changed the sex from a man to a woman, [Danbalf] changed to a girl.

A small feeling of embarrassment was felt. Although it was just a game, he stared fixedly at his female appearance and was unable to say he was not ashamed.

With an effort to contain his slight feeling of shame or rather excitement, he chose parts one by one.

One by one he examined the parts sorted in [Confident]. At this point Kagami's preference was greatly revealed.

How much time has passed since he had begun creating his ideal female image? When Kagami stared at the avatar which he had just finished satisfactorily, a call from his younger sister alerted him to breakfast.

When he operated the bracelet terminal menu to confirm the time, it showed that it was 9 o'clock in the morning. Thinking that there was no problem because it was Sunday today, Kagami immediately afterwards was attacked by an intense feeling of sleepiness.

When he tried to touch the menu for the purpose of logging out, the world blacked out for him and Kagami fell asleep.

---

# Chapter 1: The beginning of summoning

Oh that's right. I fell asleep before logging out.

Organizing the thoughts in his head, Kagami recalled having slept after the breakfast call. And then Kagami pinched his forehead while looking up at the sky.

He did not know how long he had slept. However, he judged that it was unlikely to have been a long time because his little sister had not woken him up.

Shutting his eyes and then opening them widely to clear away strong feeling of sleepiness, he finds himself in the middle of a meadow enclosed by a forest. Here and there unknown flowers were scattered, and over in the distance, a magnificent mountain range could be seen. And now among the mountains dully shining silver towers could be seen peeking through.

The scene was an already familiar one inside the game. Standing still in the meadow and placing a hand on his jaw, a question came to mind. He did not notice the sense of incongruity at this time.

For one thing, [falling asleep] in an online game was a famous saying. It is a saying that indicates that an avatar that falls asleep during the so-called game will not show any reaction.

Currently, after coming back from falling asleep to the present conditions, the expectation is that there was a problem with the system.

VR equipment, was designed to automatically shutdown when falling asleep and to cut off the power.

However, the [Linked Silver Towers] were visible among the mountains, no matter how you looked at it. There is no way for Kagami to have been mistaken, because out of the nine towers one of them is his base.

Was there a bug? While falling asleep may be an unusual event, he decided to stop thinking about it.

It was because there was another mysterious point, his body. If anything, this was more important.

There was a fragrance. Whenever the wind blew, a grassy-smell crossed

under his nose giving off a sense of incongruity.

Although VR technology has advanced, so that the sense of touch has been reproduced as such, neither taste nor smell has been reproduced on a practical level. Yet clearly, his brain recognizes the scent when he breathes through his nose.

Then he attempts to tear off the grass at his feet and chews it. Then, the bitter and astringent taste spread throughout his mouth warping his expression. He spit it out along with a large amount of saliva and wiped it with the back of his hand.

The tongue is stimulated by the sense of taste, even saliva is carefully reproduced. While thinking that he could not understand herbivores, he raised his head to examine the surroundings. In the vicinity of the enclosure, there were creatures that looked like children with blue ears and noses that held dull shining knives. They were not blue faced but rather had an actual blue face.

Oh that's right,

He remembered that he had come to subjugate a hoard of monsters near the national border. Thinking that he had nothing better to do, he was quite amenable to cleaning them up. Its appearance has been seen many times since his beginner days a standard monster called a [Goblin]. It can't be helped that they were not a formidable enemy, but because it was his turn, he focused on the enemy.

[Summoning Magic: Dark Knight]

It was one of the first summoning skills he learned, and it was also his favorite armor spirit summoning.

Summoners used artificial spirits that dwelled in objects created by people and natural spirits that came from the natural world.

Although natural spirits were the stronger of them, artificial spirits which dwelled in man-made objects were easier to use and get closer to. [The Dark Knight] he had summoned earlier was the soul of a soldier that had died in the battlefield which was now dwelling in suit of armor.

The spirits who stayed in armor that had been used by a person who fought for



themselves became [Dark Knights] while those spirits that dwelled in armor used by those to protect others were called [Holy Knights].

Armor spirits belong to the lower class summoning category. However the Dark Knight that had been continued to be used for convenience gained strength to be comparable to that of a higher class summon.

The grassy place concealed the shining hole, and a knight with a large build gradually rose from it. The jet black armor radiated a cold chill, which shook the body with such an effect as that of a sinister black flame. There was no face, only two red lights which floated in a black space. If one were to look back at night and see such an intimidating thing, a man would scream out and run away.

The sudden materialization of the unfamiliar knight caused the goblins to stop and raise their voice to intimidate it. Here, a sense of incongruity is born again. For a goblin, to act in such a way should not be possible. Goblins had always been brave, not knowing their place they would rush to kill whomever approached. Now no matter how you look at it the goblins in front of him were feeling [fear].

However, it was no use worrying about it now, so he gave a cleaning command to the Dark Knight. And that place in the next instant was turned into a slaughter.

Each time the black long sword flew, a storm was stirred and five to six goblins were reduced to chunks of meat scattered about here and there.

The goblin voices of intimidation gradually transformed into shrieks of despair. Though some began to run from this hell, the Black Knight showed no mercy and completed the order for extermination.

The affair lasted for no more than two or three minutes. The wind gently blew over meadow that was now dyed in the blood of monsters, No one would think that the scene stretched before them of the massacre was an illusion.

Were there about 100 goblin corpses scattered about? Little by little, he composed himself in the midst of the scene and reconsidered everything that had caught his attention.

The taste and smell, and then the memory of the goblin's actions. Is this perhaps.....

He arrived at one answer.

Did it finally come?

The third update!

Indeed, I can not believe it immediately in order to reproduce the five senses, research was being carried out on the world-wide level. Though it is unbelievable that such technology would leap ahead to be used in a game, there was no other explanation that made sense.

As one would expect, AEO Arch Earth Online management always surpasses expectations. Most likely, the reason that [falling asleep] did not activate shutdown was because of the version update.

After coming to an understanding, he turns his gaze to the sign that something is approaching the meadow from deep within the forest. He was able to roughly grasp the direction and number because of a skill from his second job [Biological Sensing]. The problem was that it could not distinguish between allies or enemies.

The number which approached numbered around 50. He expected that it was goblin reinforcements.

The Dark Knight stood silently next to Kagami, surrounded by 100 silent bodies. Even 50 goblins from the famous elite unit [Goblin Lance Company] would not be a problem. It was expected that the Nine sages who studied the art of summons thoroughly were hiding their true capabilities.

Gradually the signs grew louder, and the sounds of marching are heard clearly. Goblins do not march in groups and would probably not march in order. If that was true, the possibility that this was not a sign of goblins was true.

Since the subjugation of the demons near the area of the national border was complete, he returned the Dark Knight. At the same time, the vanguard appeared from within the forest.

It was an order of knights. Engraved on their shields was their national coat of arms which showed a large tree with a moon that signaled that they belonged

to the [Arkite Kingdom].

It was the Arkite magic knights. They had those characteristic features on their armor and shields.

The armor reflects light like that of a mirror which blended in with the views of the surroundings. The shield boasts a high defense against the breath of monsters. Although it was an elite order among the knights who belonged to the Arkite kingdom, he wondered why they would be this close to the border.

There was little doubt that the person at the head of the vanguard was the Knight commander. The following knights were held back with one hand and he took a step forward. The Knight Commander's hair was in a swept back style that had a small quantity of white hairs mixed among the black. The many scars on his visage were evidence of his long military service. The red mantle he wore around his back was proof of a commander. He was an austere handsome man.

"This was..... a fierce battle. What on earth happened here? Or did the ojouchan not see anything?

.....?

.....

The commander spoke those words while watching him. From the contents of his speech, and by looking around at the surroundings, he determined that the words were directed at himself.

However the problem was that he was unable to see the spirit. The magician class was able to see spirits, the warrior class was able to see fighting spirit. Even though he was very much a magic knight, a knight was still a knight. It was a warrior class. Danbalf was an elder of the silver linked towers and a summon master; there should not have been a spirit visible to a warrior class that was invisible to him.

"It must have been scary for an ojouchan to be in such a place as this. It is safe now."

While saying that, the commander places his hand gently on Kagami's head.

"Relax, we magic knights have arrived we will ensure your safety."

.....!?

(What.....?)

Kagami was astonished. Danbalf was created by himself to be a solemn man of about the height of 190 cm. There was no more humiliation than to be treated as a child and comforted.

More than anything, he could not hide his surprise that he was looking up at the commander. When subtracting Danbalf's height, Is this commander a giant or something? He thought that there was enough of a difference in height to seem so.

And just now, to call Danbalf an ojou-chan.

With a manner full of dignity, he shook off the hand placed on his head and glared at the knight.

“What ojou-chan?, What fool do ..... you.....”

“He looked around for the bell-like voice.” Including the captain in front of him, there was no one around that could have sounded like..... a girl.

“You seem to be upset. Ojou-chan, here have some water. Can you drink?”

Once again saying ojou-chan, the commander held out a leather bag which contained water. His facial expression mirrored the concern Kagami felt in his heart.

No matter how you look at it, to refer to Kagami as an ojou-chan, in addition to commander not seeming to be the type to utter jokes while smiling. Based on the above thinking Kagami lowered his gaze. His eyes were glued to the armor of the commander at the same time.

“This.....!”

Again a pretty voice reached his ears.

What kind of joke is this.

The order of magic knights' official equipment, the clear mirror armor. The surface reflected light like a mirror, it could be said it was already a mirror in itself. His appearance was reflected, when his right hand moved the left hand moved as well. There was no confusion, the girl that was reflected on the armor of the commander matched his actions. It could no longer be called imitation,

but the same body.

And that girl had a familiar appearance as well.

The silver hair that came down to her waist, the [strong-willed eyes], the look of innocence about her face and those slightly red cheeks and that tiny nose. Only the equipment that Danbalf was wearing at the time was intact, clearly only the contents had changed.

It was the girl he had built as his ideal woman using the [Vanity Case].

---

## Chapter 2: A hobby full of disaster

Why did this happen.

In Kagami's head, in order to fully recall the memory he had before he had awoken, he went at full throttle. Meanwhile, the commander who was distracted by the girl's confused appearance, summons together his subordinates. He split several of his subordinates up into groups to search for and to exterminate the remnants of this terrible spectacle. He also directed a search for an acquaintance of the girl.

The appearance that Kagami saw, was that of his ideal female image that he had created at the time.

What on earth is this? Thinking back on his memory, he was sure that when he completed his ideal female image that he did not save it.

He had canceled it and then logged out.

He could not recall anything more. He felt that he did it before he logged out. He had a hunch that he had canceled it before he had slept. Furthermore he was sure that he had canceled it.

He remembered that he had been called to breakfast, but from then on his memory grew hazy.

Kagami made up his mind to open up the status screen by operating the bracelet terminal menu.

At the bottom of the display various information about the avatar was displayed.

Name: Danbalf Gandadore

Class: Summoning Expert / Xian Expert

Affiliation: Arkite Kingdom

Job: Silver Linked Tower Elder (Summoner)

HP: 1210 / 1210

MP: 4390 / 4390

Strength: 5 + 20

Stamina: 6 + 15

Mana: 51 + 10

Dexterity: 7 + 15

Agility: 6 + 37

There did not seem to be any problems. He had not vanished, nor had he logged in with a different avatar. It was the status of Danbalf that he had had for over four years,

Although the numerical values might look low compared to other games, there is a large difference between one point of status in this game. The general strength and stamina of an adult male is 4. That is, when the strength stat is 8, a person has two times the strength of an average adult male.

A person that has the strength stat of 10 can be considered an expert soldier.

When Kagami displayed the following page of the status screen, his shoulders dropped and his hope had been completely lost.

Head: Moonlight Stone Circlet

Neck: Arch Exile Super Z Necklace

Abdomen: Sage's Robe ( Summoner )

Arms: Almighty Gloves

Legs: Sage's Robe ( Summoner )

Feet: Pegasus Boots

Ring finger: Mars Ring

There was no problem so far. The equipment was top tier, Incidentally, this equipment was awarded to him by the king of the Arkite Kingdom when he became an Elder of The Silver Linked Towers. This equipment was custom-made by the leading craftsmen players for only Danbalf to have.

The problem was of the avatar display. On the status screen was the figure of a girl that he had created himself wearing the equipment. Up until now, a dignified Danbalf had shown his imposing appearance here.

What was this? Kagami began rolling up the hem of his robe and watched as the part of the equipment column in the status screen which showed abdomen and legs changed to [ empty ].

After ascertaining the exposed body while playing with his robe with one hand, he coiled a finger to feel the texture of the gently fluttering supple silver hair around him.

There was enough breast that it spilled out from his small palms, and his skin was a fair porcelain color, He had two modestly plump legs that stretched from a reserved butt. It was not a mistake, this was the body that he had made that as a manifestation of his ideal that was made possible with the [Vanity Case]. At this point, Kagami's preferences were exposed.

“OUI OUI OUIIIIIIII, What do you think you are doing!?”

The commander grew panicked at the sight of a girl's body, and wrapped his red mantle around it in order to cover it. In addition, the surrounding knights gaze's lingered for but an instant on the immodest girl's appearance before they steeled themselves and looked away.

” Good Grief, ojou chan a young lady should not show their body off like that. Although it is not a problem as my knights are sincere honest people, one should not be careless in this regard.”

You need not react excessively to this. Although Kagami thought so, whether or not these knights were all players or not he admired their reactions.

It was possible for a player that had enough fame to have NPC attendants. Though Kagami thought that the surrounding knights were the commander's attendants, he judged that he was wrong. This was because NPCs should not react that way.

Although Kagami did not want to admit it, but as regretful as she was, she decided to accept the current situation. Where did she go wrong? The fact of the matter was that she had confirmed the character reset.

This was most certainly because of the upgrade. Given this conclusion. she had decided to buy another “Vanity Case” in order to restore her appearance. Even though it was only 500 yen, she had to buy 1,000 yen. Adults were dirty.



Squirming about under the mantle in order to put on her robes, she once again checked the status screen, and confirmed that the avatar in the menu had the Sage's Robe (Summoner) equipped.

"Is that an operator's bracelet? Was the ojou chan an adventurer?"

The commander who was trying to put on the returned mantle muttered this as he looked at the arm of the girl.

The operator's bracelet. They were words that were unfamiliar to Kagami. There was no doubt that the item the commander was referring was the terminal, as it evident in his gaze. However, there was no need for him to ask about it. As long as you were a player, anyone would have this. It was a funny question because adventurers referred to players anyways.

The order of knights was an elite magic unit, thus it can not be an amateur player. How many decent curious players would join a small kingdom such as the Arkite Kingdom? Kagami doubted that they had never seen one before.

"If you were to inquire whether I was an adventurer, I would say that I am."

She had not yet grown accustomed to her own voice. It was too sweet of a voice, a tone that until now had a sense of discomfort for her.

He had started with the formal tone of voice of Danbalf from the start of the game.

As expected, Kagami as a matter of course began to role play to fit his dignified appearance. Now that it had been four years, he was accustomed to his tone of voice already. Familiarity is frightening, with her appearance to the world becoming that of a girl on the surface. Her unwillingness to change her tone of voice was something of a mystery. It was not possible for her to change it so suddenly. However, it was not particularly troubling, thus she abandoned the idea to change her tone of voice.

"Is that so?, you were an adventurer? You came to hunt with friends and encountered this mob of hobgoblins? What misfortune...."

Hobgoblin?

She said that while looking around her neck felt heavy with the pull of her hair. This was because her hair was contained within the robe at the time.

Immediately noticing this, she brushed her hair upwards. After that, looking at the scattered corpses, she recalled that it was like that.

Hobgoblins were a subspecies of goblins that inhabited such places as mines, and that they were much stronger than normal goblins because of the metal weapons they used. Goblins were green and Hobgoblins were blue. Recalling this, she nods. However, for Danbalf, the difference was negligible.

“It is safe, your companions will surely be found.”

The commander continued to encourage her. Players who would go so far for thorough RP are unusual. However, there was no meaning even if she was encouraged.

“There are no companions. I am the only one.”

” Mhm, ojou chan was alone. Well then, did you happen to see the adventurers who defeated the hobgoblins? An adventurer with this much ability, if that is the case by all means we wish to thank them.”

At this time, Kagami decided to show off the Dark Knight. If that is the case, it is simple to show them.

This is the person who did this.”

With the words [Summoning Magic: Dark Knight], a black knight appeared close by when the skill was activated.

” This.... This is!?”

“What is this guy!?”

The surrounding knights became vigilant and whipping out their swords, they took their distance.

“This is... Is this by chance the art of summoning?”

“That’s right. This guy cleared away the monsters.”

When the commander heard the words the girl, he instructs the surrounding knights to stow away their swords. With a look of admiration, he looked up at the the black knight.

“This guy is a rare summon.....was ojou chan the summoner? This guy is a

rather formidable swordsman.”

“Yes, this is a favorite summon of mine. Aside from that why are the elite magic knights in this sort of place?”

Although armor spirit summons are not unusual, perhaps the reason why the commander said such a thing was that it was rare for a summoner to use such a low class summon nowadays. So it can be said to be unusual in a sense.

Leading a company of elite knights near the border could cause a bad misunderstanding to neighboring countries for example. The kind of the Arkite Kingdom did not like aggressive wars. The company of knights were military strength for national defense. Kagami did not know the reason why such a valuable strength was dispatched,

In the first place, Kagami who is an Elder of The Silver Linked Towers should have heard of big movements in neighboring countries.

” Ah, information that monsters have moved to the vicinity of the border arrived, and we were dispatched for a subjugation mission.”

The subjugation of the demons in the vicinity of the border. This was a duty that Kagami had just completed. If it was the people of the Arkite kingdom, all of them were supposed to know of the duty system. Then why is it that the elite commander of this country does not know? The doubt passed through Kagami’s mind again.

“Ojou chan, if you are an adventurer have you not heard either?” Of the fierce battle with demons who came flying from the sky a decade ago, and the three god national defense? The number of demon appearances has jumped to nearly double from those days. It seems to have been related to that time.”

“Ten years ago..... what?”

“You don’t know? Hmmmm, Well it was a decade ago, ojou chan would have been 2 to 3 years old at the time.”

In the first place, even closed Beta had not begun a decade ago. The time in [Arc Earth Online] was the same as real time. Kagami had not heard of the story of a fierce battle with demons in the setting.

At the start of the game, the Arc calendar was September 1, 2112. It was the same on Earth, September 1, 2112 in the Christian era. And it is now September 14, 2116 in the arc calendar which was four years from the start. It was impossible to have been a decade ago, even in the arc calendar.

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## Chapter 3: Hero of the past

Kagami operates the bracelet terminal and opens the menu. This type of command menu was seen often in SciFi systems of anime and movies that appeared in space; It was only able to be seen by the person in question. To others, it would only look like a person were staring into space.

The history that Kagami had chosen from the chronological table using the menu displayed its contents, however Kagami stared only at one figure as she had lost the capability for speech.

It was the place where the newest event had been written. The second prince was born on arc calendar April 23, 2146 in the Mirstone Kingdom. .He was named [Atolzade].

It was so.

It was not the content that had astonished Kagami. Though the [Mirstone] Kingdom was not familiar, it could have been some small country that a player had founded somewhere. The problem rather, was the number of years.

When she checked the current time in a bit of a panic, what was displayed in the upper right corner was Arc calendar 3:12 PM, May 12th, 2146.

This was a strange thing no matter how one thought. This because 30 years have passed from “now”. Reexamining the history, she found that events she had not known anything about were there.

And a decade before as was mentioned before, on June 24, 2136, the three god defense war broke out.

Kagami at first thought that it was incomprehensible. If there was an upgrade, it was supposed to have been written in the chronology. As a test, when she went back to the oldest point of the chronology, it was September 1, 2112 when Arc Earth Online officially started. The decoration was written grandly.

Even the two upgrades were listed. However, she did not see the description for an upgrade that should have only occurred yesterday. Although Kagami knew that there had been an update only a year ago, she nevertheless looked.

If this was not because of an upgrade, In Kagami's mind anxiety welled up at the same time as this thought.

If this was not the result of an upgrade, then what was the taste and smell of grass?

She then looked up and closed the menu,

"I will not finish it, but can I get some water?"

She called out to the commander who was staring with great interest at the Dark Knight she had summoned.

"Hmm, oh its good."

When she received the wine skin containing water from the commander, she poured the contents through her small lips to her throat. The water was lukewarm containing a dose of salinity to wet the tongue.

"Here is the water. Thank you."

She returned the wine skin, and place a hand on her throat. It was obvious that taste and thirst were not a part of [Arc Earth Online].

Still, something is wrong. She felt anxiety that the five senses are too realistic Although it was possible to drink recovery medicines before, as far as taste and thirst went, something felt off. However the current situation was nothing but vague, it was impossible to keep up with.

Even when taking off one's robe or putting it on, the feeling of cloth rubbing against the skin is a reality.

Up until the present VR technology was in the research stage with the five senses. That said, in its own way electrical signals and electromagnetic pulse can be reproduced, to the extent that a person could feel it in VR, but the feeling of pain was suppressed with a limiter.

Now for the current situation, it is too realistic. As one would expect, not revealing a single word about the advancement of technology is not possible. That is to say that the rapid advance of technology that was just produced recently, should not be possible to be reproduced here.

While Kagami was calmly thinking about this, he dismissed the theory he had

made at first about the upgrade. In VR, the reproduction of this is still impossible.

When she drew an impossible conclusion it was immediately discarded. It was highly unlikely that it was reproduced to that extent.

However, from the current situation, it was not possible to deny it completely.

So this really is reality.

This had been the kind of thing of urban legends, whispered ever since full dive type VR games came out with VR technology. The reasoning was that the game world was real and that it existed slightly apart from the real world. And that any player could be caught in that world.

Of course Kagami had not believed such rumors, however she has imagined it. And the current situation was very similar to what she was experiencing right now. She shook her head to deny it as a chill ran through her spine. She looked towards the heavens as she banished such ridiculous thoughts.

It may just be a bug but she concluded that she would pay a minimum of attention to it when Kagami stopped thinking. The answer would not appear even if he thought further.

” Commander Graia, a hobgoblin hideout has been discovered, who is this person?”

When the group that searched the forest returned, in an instant their smiling facial expressions retreated and tension remained. That was because standing beside the commander called Graia was a knight with a strange appearance of red eyes and shiny black face.

Although they realized that the black knight posed no danger to everyone, they could not help but be vigilant, as its existence had an overwhelming feeling which intimidated them.

“Ah, this black swordsman here is..... what this ojou chan here summoned. Feel relieved because it is not harmful.”

“Is this a summon skill? It was also a very rare class wasn't it? Then is this guy an armor spirit? Although he had the stories .....he did not think that it would be such an air of intimidation,

[Mhm, I was also surprised when I saw it for the first time.]”

After that, Graia explained the situation to the group that came back. The hobgoblins here were defeated by the Dark Knight. The girl was alone voluntarily and she had no companions. Therefore he would call back the platoon that went to search.

While the knights were having such an exchange, Kagami noted the respect that existed between the two.

They were saying that summoners were a rare class. Certainly speaking, only a small number of people sought to gain this class. By the way, the most common one was that of the warrior monks. It was a class that dealt with the art of recovery and support. It was easy for many to understand why it was such a popular class.

At the time that class skills were chosen, there were good skills available at the start. If the magician had [Magic: Flame], then warrior monks had [Monk Skill: Heal] as well as [Monk Skill: Protect],

The initial skills of the summoning class was called [Carved Seal of the Contract]. This was the skill that allowed you to summon spirits with which you had defeated, it was not a skill that had any attack strength. And this summoning skill was misunderstood to be an advanced technique. This was the most common cause for the lack of summoners.

It was not that difficult to defeat a spirit. If you were able to ask an acquaintance or even employ a mercenary. However, in order to form a contract with a spirit one had to naturally do it alone. Players had to pledge not to use 100% of a spirit’s stamina.

Of course Kagami went through the same road. She had bought a large amount of medicine, a large amount of explosive-base items, and had fought an armor spirit for two hours on an [Ancient Battlefield] and just barely managed to contract with the thing. It was the Dark Knight, she had a deep attachment to it not just because of its convenience or that it was her first summon, but because it had become a companion she had spent a long time with.

However, this was not something anyone could just do. Those who had hunted for the basic knowledge of the class on the bulletin boards tended to avoid the summoning class because of the degree of difficulty involved.



That said, that does not mean there are no summoners. Or rather it was that Danbalf yearned to paint over the negative perception the summoning class had. There were those players who saw his heroic sagas on the bulletin board and chose the summoner class.

However the two knights of the company talk in such a way that they had just seen a summon for the first time. For some reason summoning skills were in relapse and became unpopular again. This was not a situation Kagami could ignore as someone who had reached the peak of the summoner class.

“Speaking of which, I did not hear the name of ojou chan. I am Graia. Graia Astol.

While thinking about the huge task that lay before her, that is re popularizing the summoning class, Graia had asked for her name.

Kagami felt uncomfortable at that question.

This commander’s conduct would be commonplace in reality.

To ask the name of another person.

One would introduce himself.

It was natural when interacting with someone for the first time. In truth she was quite willing to introduce herself.

However, this was in game. By examining an object an avatar’s sight, it is common sense that the other party’s name would be displayed overhead. If there was a need to ask for one’s name it would be to ask about how to call someone. (I think it means how to pronounce the name idk)

Graia gave his name. It was not a lie because when Kagami examined him, his name displayed as Graia Astor. In this way it was readily apparent that a name can be seen immediately without asking for it.

Calling to mind certain assumptions, Kagami attempts to test them out.

[ You can just check it, do you not understand?”

Hmmmm..... Although I am sure that at your level of skill, ojou chan would be famous, I am not able to remember your appearance. I am sorry. Is there one among you know who this is?”

To the commander’s question, everyone shook their head side to side.

“HmMMM, I see.....”

Kagami heard that among some players, there are apparently those that think it was rude to investigate without the other party's permission. If you tell such a player to investigate then they will.

Although it can be said that by simply examining Kagami who had her appearance changed so much, people should still know the name Danbalf as it was the name of one of the most important figures in the Arkite Kingdom. However there are only so many people that could have such a famous name.

Kagami's assumption were that those people here were unable to investigate. It was something like that.

The common sense of a player is not there, and their thinking is too out of place. If it was a player then..... there may need to be a change of perception, as Kagami thought this she placed her hand on her chin and muttered “Hmm.”

Based on recently collected information, she assembled a hypothesis. Then how? The improbable theory gradually became more possible in her mind. Kagami remembered the shiver a little, and dismissed that hypothesis which lead to that labyrinth of thought

“We are real sorry ojou chan. For us whose only skill is in the sword, we are not familiar with those skills.”

“Hmm? Oh no it is not like that. She felt guilty for worrying them.”

Graia misunderstood that the girl's silence was because of shock. Kagami in her actions should start to do actions befitting that of player to be recognized as one. Then she thought again about what a player may do.

Therefore, Kagami trying out the methods which clarified that this was a game, tried to select the log out button from the menu. However, it was not possible to do it. On the contrary, the system entry itself had disappeared.

She quickly reformed her early hypothesis.

She can definitely feel the five senses working. The reality was that there were no players, she was unable to log off, 30 years had seem to have passed, and there was no update.

Reproducing all five senses was impossible for today's current technology. If that was the case, no one knows who was a player except themselves. The system does not recognize the forced exit code in order to log out. The game world did not have a differ by one second from reality in the four years he had played, it is now the future.

Supposing that the development money was the same as an average national budget, then there should have been an announcement when implementing this technology.

This world resembles the real world more and more. The hypothesis that was shoved into the corner of her head was gradually resurfacing. If basing it on that, this world would be an extension of another world. Another question is asked.

“Then do you know of a person named Danbalf?”

Turning it over, she asked about herself as if she had become a part of the past.

“Of course. There might not be a single person in this country who would not know the name of Danbalf.”

“Really, everyone” he continued with that line of thought and all the knights nodded saying that it was natural.

Through this answer, she finds that a person named Danbalf had been present. Next, Kagami tried to verify if this Danbalf had been played by him 30 years ago, or whether it was just a person with the same last and first name.

“What sort of person was he like?”

Although she said what kind, she was not aware of the country this was. If you were speaking of [Danbalf] he was a hero from about 30 years ago who had taken an active part in the [Turbulent Days]. He was an Elder of The Silver Linked Towers was he not? He was a sage feared by other countries to refer to him as Danbalf army.

The timing and the title of Elder of the Silver Linked tower matched the facts. Ah..... she was truly embarrassed. Unfortunately he had acquired two household names. This was the price for being too enthusiastic for Danbalf.

” He.....was a hero”

“It is so, in the war after the nation was founded it was said that Danbalf secured a chance for victory by hindering the progression of enemy forces. There was also talk about a platoon composed of the Elder’s summons plunging the enemy camp into chaos.

In addition, he was the developer of a refining technology. He was even heard to have said to have used the strength of two classes at the same time. It was not like there was only [Danbalf], there were many other stories about other sages.

Come to think of it, nowadays knights are sent to eliminate demon nests found in the vicinity of the border. Back then Danbalf before, there was a story that the sages of the Silver Linked Towers took turns to annihilate the demon nests.

The history Graia was talking about was the name as the memory Kagami had. Kagami called off the war, developed a second class and also devised research technology. These were all done by the former Kagami, there was no mistake about that.

“Hmm, so that is the case. Then, do you know of Danbalf’s last moments?”

“Danbalf sama’s death? I have never heard talk of his death. In the first place, 30 years ago on a certain day he went to subjugate demons who showed up near the border. No one has ever seen him since. Because Danbalf would not be defeated by mere demons, at the time a search was conducted by the country. However I head that he was never found. Have you not heard of such a thing?”

” I see, it was like that after all?”

An answer the same as the memory of Kagami came back. She was connected to that time. In other words, Kagami was convinced that this was same world 30 years later.

Although she does not know the reason,she stopped to calm down and think.

Kagami completed organizing her situation. The current problem now was what happened if he gave his name as Danbalf, who was a famous name in this country in others. Danbalf had a solemn dignified figure who was a veteran summoner and and Elder of The Silver Linked Towers. And according to the story just now, he was a hero.

Such a hero has now become..... an ideal girl. She imagined the cold eyes that would be turned upon him when he returned to his original appearance, and Kagami shivered with the crisis that would place her in.

She can do nothing now but deceive.

This was the idea Kagami decided on. She thought this way because Graia was seemingly unable to use investigate. She chuckled to herself that no one would ever know. It was cunning attempt to save her reputation and honor.

Kagami came up with an alias. The hero who disappeared 30 years ago has appeared and become a girl. That theory would never be believed right away. Moreover, if she desperately tried to convince them that she was Dunbalf and they asked her why she turned out like this, she could not afford to answer that she was creating her ideal female image. That would give a fatal blow to her image.

Giving the alias a little thought, she appropriately converted her own name.

“Is there something about Dunbalf sama?”

“No, it does not matter now. And so, she gave her name. “Her name was Mira.” She was still a beginner, who was not aware of common things.”

She spoke while holding her hand against her chin, but because Danbalf’s beard was missing, she felt anxiety for her future.

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Kagami -> Mirror

This is Simple.

Skill change.

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## Chapter 4: Joint fight

“Is it Mira dono? I will remember it. However, a summoner!, that is to say summoners are amazing!”

“This time, it was not a problem if it was of this degree.”

“This fellow is ridiculous. To acquire a summoning skill which was not inferior to hobgoblins, you must have had a really good master.”

” Hmm, there is such a place.”

There are no such masters in such a place, but let me pretend there is. It became troublesome for Mira to think of an excuse so she had answered positively. The Dark Knight that had been kept out until then was made to return,

Graia disappointingly lifted his gaze from the location of the Dark Knight. Meanwhile, two groups came back from reconnaissance of the woods.

“Report. There are no signs of others in the vicinity. With regards to the companions of that ojou chan there, they have either already fled the surrounding area, or.....”

One of the platoon leaders found it difficult to report the contents of his report. However, it was an imaginary fear. Mira stared at the platoon leader with a guilty feeling. However, the platoon leader misunderstood the glance, and exuded a cheerful air.

“Nay, ojou chan it is surely alright.” It is very likely that they managed to get away. It is because hobgoblins are lacking in agility stats. They are surely safe.

To say that they were safe so many times, this platoon leader must have had a very conscientious character, almost to the point that one would think he was not acting. Basically, having come to this, the idea of this being a game and the idea of this not being a game (rather, her recognition of both) are fighting each other, and though she can't completely abandon the idea that these are role-playing players or NPCs, these completely human reactions (overflowing with 'humanness') caused her to feel quite shaken.

It was just that the existence of the bracelet terminal supported the idea that was a game. Although she had Graia's word that adventurers all carried the same thing, it was still very vague evidence and this worried her. In other words, evidence that this was a game only existed in Mira's head.

"Report. Inside the hobgoblin fort, a number of high class archgoblins have been spotted. However we were able to confirm that are at least 150 hobgoblins. There are thought to be the same number located in the inner premises.

"Even for the weakest variety there are 300, but for there to be higher class species as well..... We had better wait for reinforcements then."

"Well, now that you mention it....."

"What is it."

"The commander who hesitated a little to speak, opened his mouth gravely." The words caused a huge commotion among the group of knights.

"Begin to prepare battle formations against the hobgoblins." It seems the invasion is near."

Graia's face grimaced for a moment, and revealing a sigh he crossed his arms as he made his decision.

"Is that so..... well there is no time to wait for reinforcements. We must somehow do it ourselves.

Pondering a bit, the figure of the Dark Knight whom Mira had summoned appeared in Graia's head. That overwhelming air of intimidation which caused even hobgoblins to be frightened. Also, judging from the traces of the fierce battle that took place here, the Dark Knight's true strength is not inferior to a hobgoblin's. Graia estimated that to be so.

Unexpectedly, the conclusion that Graia had reached through his own suppositions, was actually quite different from reality. Graia, when he first heard that the Dark Knight had killed them all, he had imagined a fierce harsh battle. Who on earth could fight with two opponents one after another, the result was that he thought this the result of a grand battle.

The fact that Mira had dealt with 100 opponents at the same time, let alone

in a span of two to three minutes did not cross his mind. Rather, it did not come to mind because he thought it impossible. It was common sense for the elite Arkite magic knights who were dispatched to the front of battles to fight alone. The fighting method that a summoner would use to fight did not cross their minds.

“Well then, Mira dono. Would you not give your help as an adventurer here? “It may be useful later on to earn the knights’ gratitude.”

Their smiles ceasing, Graia’s knight company protested at his decision.

Graia was keeping an eye on Mira’s summoning. Even if the odds were one to one for the knights, it would be unlikely for them to lose one in three. They had strength worthy of that of an elite. However, this time there are a large amount of opponents. The danger had surely increased 6 fold. This was where Mira comes into play.

The summoned Dark Knight would bear the brunt of the enemy. There was no danger in dying because it could simply return. It was even better qualified as a diversion because of its dreadful appearance.

And then, while the hobgoblin’s attention was distracted, the knights would use a pincer attack to dramatically decrease their numbers. Their chances of victory would skyrocket should they do it.

This was the plan that Graia made up.

“Hmm, well that’s good. Then shall we go.

” Oh are you willing to do this? It is very kind of you. You will be compensated for this.”

Mira accepts the request. Although there was some self-interest mixed in accepting the request from Graia, she felt that it was not right to get to know the person who woke her up this way.

“What was the basis for thinking this? Not long ago she had used [Investigate] to glimpse his status.

Name: Graia Astol

Class: Holy Knight



Position: Arkite Kingdom

Hometown: Arkite Kingdom capital Lunatic Lake

HP: 1440 / 1440

MP: 143 / 143

Strength: 8 + 2

Stamina: 10 + 1

Mana: 5

Dexterity: 7

Agility: 7 + 2

His stats did not amount to much like this.

After looking around a little, the commander Graia had the highest status values. Mira assessed that his Strength and Stamina were rather low.

What! The correction value of the equipment is basically non-existent? It is too low. Although it looks great, there is nothing more than the basic performance and status on the armor he was wearing, there did not seem to have been any reinforcement items used on this.

Mira's first impression was that a commander would have decent equipment.

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The sounds of footsteps mixed in completely with the murmuring of the stream flowing close by.

The Millette forest was located in the southeast of the Arkite kingdom border. The Arkite knights advanced jointly in order to observe the surroundings. After moving for a while Mira and the group exited into an open space. There situated on a slightly elevated cliff was a cave which had stand of trees enclosing its perimeter. A short distance inside were and overflowing amount of blue faced hobgoblins standing in a line. A red faced archgoblin in the vanguard raised its voice with a ghee ghee sound. Anyone could tell that they would soon be marching

Graia signals each squad to split from their platoons and hide in the shade of the trees. Each group surveyed the opponents and held their breath.

Only the hobgoblins exceeded 300. It is as the report stated. There were only 15 archgoblins in sight. They had the premonition that it was going to be a tough fight. That is, if only the knights were fighting, however,

Mira was lurking in a corner of the thicket that surrounded the front of the fort. with a 10 reliable knights which included Graia.

The strategy, was for the concealed Mira to summon the Dark Knight in the face of the enemy. It would be nice if the diversion drew up to 50 but 30 was good as well. It would prove to be a great success if the other goblin forces revealed a gap.

The company of knights had two groups stationed on the cliff top and two to either side of the fort. If the surprise attack reduced the number of goblins on the left and right sides, the dark knight would be expected to head to the entrance of the Goblin fort for cover. When they showed their backs, Graia would lead his 10 men to make an assault from behind.

This was the strategy that Graia planned. He directed all the knights to do battle. He asked Mira to order the Dark Knight to act violently and attract their attention.

While feeling the sensation of sweat running down the hand that gripped his shield Graia touched the worn sword hanging off his waist. He was waiting impatiently with bated breath for the signal from the detached force. The other knights felt the same way, with their bodies bent low their turned their gazes to the area where the detached forces waited with deep slow breaths. The knights swallowed down their killing intent but this only served to increase their fighting spirit, the ambiance that surrounded them did not detract from their elite image.

However, Mira felt out of place in that situation. Although she felt uncomfortable with the sharpened tension, she sat cross-legged with her right hand caressing her chin while staring intently at the songbird pecking at the nut in front of her.

She observed it skillfully jostling the nut in order to eat it. The songbird pecked a hole in the seemingly hard nut. When Mira was reflecting on the songbird's all too realistic behavior, she felt something suddenly flicker.

“It came, the signal. Fourth and Fifth squad deployment complete.”

“Second squad’s signal came.”

“This group as well. Third squad deployment complete.”

All of the deployed squads’ signals have been received. Graia closed his eyes momentarily and exhaling deeply, gripped his sword to confirm its presence.

“Alright, Mira dono. Please summon it.”

Mira who had been floating around in her thoughts looked back at the voice in a panic, her gaze on the songbird hastily removed.

“Ok, then lets move along.”

The emergence point for the summoning technique was decided to be a short distance away from the fort on a hill.

[Summoning Skill: Dark Knight]

The black knight who appeared clad in jet black flames quickly caught the attention of the goblins with its overwhelming presence.

The sudden appearance of an unidentified party caused the goblin force to display bewildered expressions. While raising their voices with a ghee ghee sound, the ranks of troops raised their weapons prepared to investigate without disturbing their lines.

Mira surveying the goblins revised her old ideas about goblin behavior. Then, the goblins little by little exchanged their ranks so that 20 hobgoblins commanded by an archgoblin began to run towards the Black Knight.

At first glance, they seemed to have been following the command of the archgoblin leader to attack, but judging from the manner in which they started charging and the order, it seemed that they were not working together.

“There were only 20, Its not enough but there is no helping it.”

Graia quietly muttered. If there were only such a small number then it would be able to clean it up immediately.

However, a situation occurred which exceeded Graia’s imagination. The sword that the Black Knight had been holding out to the side sprang up in an instant and sunk into an opponent and rather than skimming the ground it

jumped once more.

His expectation of its skill was changed.

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## Chapter 5: Two return trips

Without even time to scream the black mass closed the distance and the unfortunate quick footed hobgoblins were soon torn to pieces and sent flying through the air.

It all too soon arrived before the eyes of the ten trailing hobgoblins and without time for them to take stances, the black long sword scattered offal and body fluids around while eyes popped and tumbled around on the ground.

The Dark Knight caught up to the last group containing the archgoblin. With a reverberating dull metallic sound, the archgoblin raised its voice mixed with uneasiness. The archgoblin was wearing heavy clothing so although it was slow it had the strength to persist. The archgoblin was particularly crafty in that it surrounded itself with hobgoblins to raise its own survival rate.

However, it was a foolish idea before an armor spirit filled with murderous intent. If one wanted to survive, there was no choice but to run in the opposite direction the instant one faced it.

The Black Knight whose momentum had not dropped even the slightest bit passed through the last group mowing them down.

This all took place in an instant. The hobgoblins had become lumps of meat without even understanding what had happened. They had worn death instead of armor.

After all only the fleet footed hobgoblins had avoided their bad luck. An individual adversary that exuded despair had come. All the goblins here had quite simply run out of luck. (Not really sure what went on in this line)

“Whoa come on, this is a lie.”

“Commander.....what in the world is that.”

Graia with both eyes opened wide stood stock still as the tragedy unfolded before his eyes.

The Black Knight who had won easily over a goblin platoon did not cease moving. Shaking off Graia's expectations it dashes towards the fort momentum

intact.

A black assassin's dagger approached the goblin fortress. In the face of absolute death, the goblin fortress fell into a state of panic. One after another goblins have ceased to exist leaving only dead husks that colored the scene.

Unable to move, the deployed forces waited on the cliff with blank surprise and eyes opened wide to the unfolding tragedy unfolding before their eyes.

They are knights. Overcoming the battlefield time and time again they were proud of the skills they possessed. Up until the present they have never before encountered a demon that inspired such dread. However, they prided themselves in mustering up the courage in their hearts to come back and secure victory.

As for fear, those who knew it were able to overcome it.

However despite all that, veteran warriors with long military service had their hearts and minds shaken by fear of the Black God of Death below. They did not want to stand in front of that. Such hopeless fear grasped their hearts and minds and hung over their pride like a finger.

It was not fear anymore, it was a curse.

Their hearts and minds broke. Just imagining standing in front of that sword cut off all their hopes, a black flame swings and the light of life is extinguished.

However, there was no need for the knights to get involved. The goblin force's resistance was meaningless, they were unable to even run away, This was because the sword ahead displayed a march into the abyss.

The Dark Knight who finished the execution bowed to Mira and returned to black fog. At the same time, the knights timidly advanced in formation to begin inspecting the fort.

"That thing, what was it."

Graia's party were walking from the wooded area towards the fort in a cautious manner. Before long they joined the other troops. They received a report that there were no surviving remnants of the goblins forces in the interior of the fort.

Mira and the knight troupe turned to walk towards the capital of the Arkite Kingdom, the Lunatic Lake.

When the subject of the Dark Knight's strength came up, the knights smiled wryly and were relieved from the bottom of their hearts that it was not an enemy. Mira gave off the sense that such unnatural strength was commonplace.

"I never would have thought that its true strength was like that."

"Our turn never came."

"When I thought about what could have happened at that time, I felt comfortable. ( don't really know this one) Mira chan is amazing."

"So cute."

"You....."

"Err um.... that is...."

"However, no one knows what its true strength was."

"Oh yes that is right. If it was an adventurer, I would guess that it would be as strong as the [Genji] strong hammer or [Kazari] of the crimson scorched earth?"

" No not at all, it surely wouldn't go up to legend class."

"Is that so?"

"There cannot be such a monster that was willingly collected." (Don't know about this)

"There is no mistaking it."

Hahahahah! While the conversation talking about Mira was getting heated up, said person was talking with Graia about the country's present situation.

Mira obtained information about the current situation of the Arkite Kingdom. Right now eight of nine Elders who were keystones of the national defense were absent. Each of the towers had delegated representatives. Also Mira confirmed the fact that Danbalf had not been alone in his disappearance 30 years ago.

Not less then one year had passed until all nine Elders of the Silver Linked

Towers had disappeared. However soon, one master wizard [Luminaria of the Natural Disaster] returned from his disappearance ten years later.

Based on Luminaria's advice, this affair had been discussed behind closed doors by the upper echelon of the country. They officially announced this as the Elder disappearance case. Until then, those especially talented researchers who had served as aides to the Elders acted as their representatives. Even so, there were still big differences between them and their predecessors so there was a limit to the responsibilities they could bear.

Mira in addition called up the chronology from the menu and reviewed the description for 20 years ago. Certainly, the Arkite Kingdom had announced the Elder disappearance case.

Elder Luminaria. This name sounded familiar to Mira.

When Arc Earth Online officially began she had one close friend who she had a friendly rivalry with.

She had brilliant crimson long hair similar to that of a rose with a strength of will to match. She had the appearance of a model with an abundant chest and tall figure that matched that of a model. It was a figure that anyone would look at.

She was the embodiment of men's dreams, This was Luminaria that Mira knew of. And because the player inside was a man, he was a guy who told dirty jokes without hesitation. An uncomfortable feeling was born anew in her mind.

Luminaria also disappeared, although she suddenly came back 20 years ago. Her situation of having disappeared 30 years ago was the same as Dunbalf. In other words the player that was Luminaria and the player that was Dunbalf suddenly disappeared at the same time and reappeared.

Although the time that Danbalf and Luminaria reappeared was different, they both disappeared at the same time. Although the appearance had changed.

In Mira's mind, the next place to go to has been decided. Luminaria was in the same situation as herself, so there was a strong possibility of her being the player that knew Mira. She may learn something if she speaks with her.

Their destination was the place where the silver towers were located, Arkite



kingdom's greatest town [Silver Horn] where all their magic and military affairs were gathered.

They advanced on a woodland path between the trees and before long they arrived at two forking roads. On the left path was the road to Arkite kingdom capital [Lunatic Lake] on the right path was their destination Silver Horn.

“Well then, be careful when returning.”

” It is safe here, although he would have like to said this line, Mira dono had true strength. He could not say this at all.”

While laughing out loud with a ha ha ha ha, he stroked Mira's head with a “bashi bashi” sound. Grimacing at the burden on her neck, Mira brushed his hand off and said “Stop treating me like a child.” The surrounding knights gazed at the heartwarming scene.

“Because this was a special case the reward will not be through the guild, please visit me at Lunatic Lake when you finish your errands. I will talk to the guards to let you through.”

“HmMMM, well then I will come visit you when I have free time.”

“Ah, I will be waiting.”

Saying so the knights left through the left road, and Mira went towards the right road.

Red began to seep into the blue sky peeking through the gap between the trees. When she confirmed the time from the menu that floated in space, she determined it to be past 5:00 Pm.

According to memory, she had walked about an hour on foot from the Silver Horn Crossroads. She had not yet come halfway through the journey. However, that was simply because Mira had constantly stopped to view anything of interest.

She carefully observed the butterflies suck nectar from flowers with great interest and she dug up earthworms causing her to twitch her face. And with fatigue that had not been felt in game up till now, she took several breaks.

When Mira closed her menu, she felt a bit hungry and remembered the apple pie that he had been keeping in her item box. When she touched her fingertip to the icon within the box, a tiny icon began to grow in substance. It continued to grow until it was full size and materialized in her palm.

Mira squinted at the thing that had appeared on her palm. It had already been one week since the apple pie had been placed in the item box. Although this was something which she had created 30 years ago as confirmed by the description, she could not detect an abnormality.

Although she hesitated a little to bring her small nose close, a fragrant smell of vanilla beans extended to her nose. At the same time her stomach growled. Mira makes up her mind and with a wide open mouth, bit into the pie. A crunchy texture and sour apple taste greeted her mouth at the same time, taste was clearly simulated.

Then she opened the item box again and retrieved [Appure]. This was an item that every magic class always had on hand, it would be no exaggeration to say that it was the prevalent item. It was a drink that was effective in raising MP recovery speed that has apple and milk in it.

She put her lips to the amber white liquid that had a faint sweet scent of apples.

“So good.....”

Her thoughts leaked out unintentionally. The two foods had excellent texture and taste. There also was no issue with the feeling of food going down her throat. However, although Mira had never eaten apple pie up until now, she memorized the excitement of her first taste. Although [Appure] was not an item that could be seen in reality, Mira has become fond of its good flavor and taste.

“Fuuu” Mira leaked out a long sigh. She looked up to the sky at ease and gazed at the clouds drifting by experiencing the whole world.

The breeze rocked her hair and the sensation of that green scent tickled her nose. A moderate feeling of fatigue came upon her in proportion to how much she had moved. In addition the appetizing [Appure] and apple pie contributed to this as well.

Whether she willed them or not, she experienced a diverse sense of reality. When only this much circumstantial evidence had been prepared, the more carefully one tried to understand the present situation the more one could not

exempt the chance that it was reality. (Someone please help me with this line its これだけの状況証拠を揃えられてしまうと、慎重に現状を把握しようとする程、現実以外では考えられなくなってくる程だ。)

Therefore, Mira for the present worked on finding an answer. She would act based on the assumption that this was reality. Even if it differed from this, it would only become a funny story. If it was like that there was no problem. However, it is not possible to deal with something when it was already too late, thus she assumed the possibility that it was real. She may really die if she gets killed and may never get back up. People who have fallen into danger because they ignored their bad feelings may have bad endings waiting for them.

First of all, Luminaria as a person who decided to live in this world, may know something . It was her top priority to meet her. She returned her attention to the road ahead and stepped forward.

Just when she was feeling fatigue from walking through a crossing and was about to hurry, it appeared.

Drool dripped down from the sharp canines protruding from the gray body. Mira recognized the figure which had approached slowly and raised a low growl.

It was called a saber dog, which was called the first hurdle for beginners.

There were a lot of players who were made to suffer from its agile movement and strong attack strength.

The surroundings were the territory of this saber dog. There was no one around and a weak looking girl is alone far away from a town walking on a forest path. This was no longer a foolish move, this was suicidal.

Those who only looked at her appearance were unable to judge Mira's true strength. At most they would only be able to guess that she was a magician from her robed figure. Although they may think that she was a magician, the contents were still that of a developing little girl. Had adventurers been passing by 9 out of 10 of them would have jumped in at that time.

All that was reflected in the eyes of the saber dog. It judged from her small stature that she was weak.

As for the monster named saber dog its length is well over one meter, even for adults it would be dangerous without any preparation.

The hunter's thirst for blood reflected in its eyes and it carefully eyed the distance between them to not let its prey escape.

Mira thrust out her right hand towards her opponent. And up until now a feeling identical to that of a skill's activation moment is felt in that moment. The saber dog's pupils were now dyed in obvious fear and its body was crushed into a red large flower from its impact with many trees.

After all, the opponent was a lower class monster that was not comparable to hobgoblins. The skill Mira used was an initial skill of her second class [Xian Expert: Shock Wave]. However the art flies forward like a shock wave. When an expert of Mira's degree uses it, it becomes an art that vanquishes small lives lightly.

"It looks like there's no problem."

Because Mira was capable of using summoning arts, she used Xian Expert Magic only as an experiment. And the experiment gave her the conviction that skills were able to be used in the same sense as the game.

Mira roughly brushed away the sparks that had fallen onto her and she hurried away without looking back.

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## Chapter 6: Silver Tower

The day sets and the innumerable stars shone in the sky. It was a night sky that differed from the scene in [Arc Earth Online], For a city person it was a spectacle for which an instinctive sigh of admiration leaks.

At last, Mira finally arrived at her destination Silver Horn. While Mira waved her hand at the gate keeper she past through the wide open gates. For an instant, she was engrossed at the sight of the changed town.

“Of course if 30 years had passed it would have been like this.”

Mira muttered this in order to convince herself.

However, it was natural for it to be different. The wall that enclosed the town grew higher and wider. The town had grown over three times the size of the one in Mira’s memory. Only the 9 towers, the symbol of the town, rose in the center. They were also known as [Silver Towers]. This proved that this city was Silver Horn.

Mira aims at the towers which were far from the gate. Citizens going home from work were going to and fro main street, and with a sigh Mira pushed into the mix.

Mira’s form was flickered like fire from the illumination produced by the street lights. Coupled together with her childish features it made for a very strange sight in the eyes of the populace.

Although the person herself did not notice, those people who caught Mira in their view called out in worry over a little girl walking late at night. Everyone turned their heads as one. Each person’s reaction was to be captivated in that alluring beauty.

It may have been inevitable. Mira’s appearance was created under the pretext of an ideal female image, because of that everyone that encountered her had their breath taken away. Naturally the maker herself was the same. She was as spellbound by her avatar as the onlookers.

Had it been midday knights would have surely broken up the crowd of

admirers.

A large gate set in a wall of about 4 meters blocked the way ahead of the main street. Lit by moonlit, the figures of the Silver Linked Towers stood out majestically. It caused her strain her neck to look up.

The towers made a circle and lined up from the front in a clockwise rotation were the [Tower of Magic] [Tower of Saints] [Tower of Sun and moon] [Tower of Spirit Eradication] [Tower of Summoning] [Tower of Necromancy] [Tower of Xian] [Tower of Demon Invocations] [Tower of Spiritual Arts].

In order to enter the Silver Linked Tower grounds, one must enter the wall depicting the Silver Linked Towers. It was of no use to go through the big gate. However it was common knowledge that tower had enchanted this gate with special authentication magic to prevent outsider's entry.

In order to enter, one must receive a pass from the administration bureau of the Silver Linked Towers. Another way was to prove that you were a researcher belonging to the Silver Towers by presenting a silver key. The last pass was for the Elders of the Silver Linked Towers. They had tower master keys which were engraved with nine canes.

Because this gate existed, there was no need to post people to watch the front of the tower. And Mira of course possessed one such tower master key.

When Mira advanced in front of the gate like she has always done, she noticed something unusual.

Up until now, the gate was like an automatic door. By approaching the gates it would open, but right now the gate did not how any response. Mira who tried to advance the same as before moved back in a panic after she had almost collided with the gate.

“What happened?”

Unintentionally muttering this while she was looking up at the gate loitering, she jumped away and approached again. However, the gate remained closed like an endearing child who does not laugh at a clown. It remained closed looking down at Mira.

“This is strange.”

Mira muttered this again and tried to remember how to open the gate. A pass, a silver key, and tower master key. I am the Elder of the Summoning Tower who holds the tower master key. When she remembered this, she opened the item box which displayed the column that important thing was kept in.

Mira confirmed that there was the tower master key in the item icon line and removed it. It was not the type of key which twists and slides. It had the shape of a card. Nine towers were engraved on a silver base and only one of them shone with gold. The shining tower showed who it was that owned this tower master key. Mira understood this to be the same as the one in her memories.

When she was rubbing her chin with her fingertips, suddenly the gate opened without a sound.

“This is..... aha that’s right.”

When she returns the tower master key to her item box, the gate closed. It opens when she takes it out again. It was valid but apparently because it had been in the item box, it went unrecognized. When Mira had noticed it she had already repeated this several times as she played with the gate.

Although some things have changed and they were a bit puzzling, one she understood them there would be no problems. When Mira passed through the gate she grabbed and threw the tower master key into the items box.

The lawn spread over the premises and the sporadic researchers exiting the towers watched her walk about in a hurry. Although the ending time had past long ago, the researchers did not seem to mind.

Because as many as thirty years has passed since the age Mira knew of, Mira was a little worried. However, because this place had not changed at all, that is to say their blind devotion at all times, she was half shocked and half relieved.

The nine towers drew a very long circle on the spacious grounds. Graia had talked about Luminaria, the Elder who studied magic. This would mean that the top floor of the Magic Tower would contain the sage’s room.

Mira began to walk towards the tower in front. Several magicians gazed at Mira’s retreating figure from behind. That little girl fascinated them and some

thought unpardonable thoughts.

The keys were not necessary for the gate of the tower so Mira goes in.

The interior was a complete atrium. The tower had a feeling of freedom. The tower had a doughnut shape as a result of facilities being piled on top of one another. And the spiral staircase lead to the top connecting all the floors. Whenever the number of people increased, extensions were put in, and before anyone had noticed, it reached 30 floors. As one would expect climbing up to such a height on stairs would take time. That was why in the center of the tower an intangible art was applied that had been installed two years from the start of service. It was an elevator lift that had been installed for the sake of convenience.

So, this tower had been built by players.

This was because there had not been a suitable time to do this during the early days. The method of acquiring that technique had not yet been established back in those days as well.

Players who selected magicians from the beginning can only use the skills they acquired in the beginning. When parties that were made in the opening stages crossed got out from beginner status the players could not help but become hindrances in those days.

It became common sense for magicians to end up being out of place, and then the first founder of a nation appeared. And then began the founding age where the rush for territory lead to frequent wars.

Players who became kings employed player mercenaries with high rewards and players that belonged to those countries participated in the war. Since players in themselves crowded up games, one person must bring at least 10 NPC non player characters in order to participate.

Large countries grew when their player citizens multiplied. From there lots of money was made and these countries used this to attract elite players to win wars. Such a situation spread across the continent and it gradually began to be seen as a problem.

Also, when the difference between that of the large and small countries grew, the situation occurred in which as soon as a small country was founded, it would be invaded an transformed into a vassal nation. It became difficult for



new nations to begin.

In a world that had become chaotic the players who served as kings assembled for one meeting where they signed a treaty.

“Country strength ranking system”

The agreement between nations was called this. To determine a country's rank, its possessions, economic strength, military strength and various other factors were examined. In addition, player participation in wars were restricted based on this.

The best feature of this treaty was that in low-ranked countries, maximum player participation in wars were allowed. Players that could participate in wars were elected at random.

In this limited national framework, mercenaries were limited. 70% of the participants in the war must be a citizen of that country,

As a result, NPC non-player character soldiers values went up, while at the same time, individual player's true skills affected the war situation in a large way.

And by this treaty, Magicians totally lost their place. Five non-player character soldier slots were taken up for a magician player. It becomes impossible for one to win a war if one chose a useless magician.

Thus the persecution of magician players progresses in this way underneath everyone's notice.

In addition, various limits were imposed on players who did not belong to the country. There were also various benefits from the country that one could not receive.

First of all, the penalty of death was atrocious. When one died, all the items in the item box were lost. Furthermore, if one suffers from a weakened state, it would take one a full day to recover their combat potential. Also when traveling across national borders, the toll free is not low either.

If they belonged to the country, items were not lost and recovering takes a few minutes. In addition toll fees were at the level of tips and government-RN facilities could be used free of charge.

But of course, there were not always good things, national tax was still collected but the benefits were great.

All players choose one among three countries at the time they started. Although these countries were called the initial three countries, they had the limitation of being forced to leave once one reaches a certain rank. In the beginning, everyone had shown various reaction like those of a demon, gradually [Arc Earth Online] faded. That trend was overturned. Incidentally, it was the founding of a country that made that matter groundless. In other words, after one goes out from the three initial countries, if one receives benefits from becoming affiliated with a country, one would jump at it.

The Arkite kingdom was located in the continental southeast was born during such chaos. In the agreement, a provision banned countries from picking wars with newly founded countries for four months. However, though there were no large countries in the surroundings, there were a great number of small to medium countries, and it was likely to become easy prey.

However, the fate of the country did not run out. Arkite king Solomon and Danbalf were friends from open beta.

Although magicians were in a difficult position at the time, Solomon invited Danbalf to his country.

After that, magicians heard about a country that accepted magician players and one after another they gathered in Arkite Kingdom in order to pursue their rights.

Because the player named Solomon had known Danbalf for a long time, he knew of the struggles magicians had to experience. For that reason an ambition to improve their situation was grasped.

When Solomon began to accept all magicians, a certain interesting phenomenon begins to occur.

That was an information exchange between fellow magicians. Under normal circumstances, the process of acquiring skills was difficult to understand. If one discovered an art that no one knew of but yourself, then one would have absolute superiority on that art. This was an era where information sell for a high price.

However, the friends who gathered there taught the acquisition method and effects of the skills to each other.

Although Solomon himself had given up on the war, his nation had not. For the Arkite kingdom who had accepted all those expelled from their countries, the magicians gave up their dominance in order to combine their strengths.

Solomon found that there was a chance at victory.

When he loaned a part of the territory for skill research, the gathered magicians built nine facilities for every kind of skill. This became the prototype for the Silver Linked Towers. This was the moment in which a group was born that possessed the power to prevent even the best of countries from invading the small country that was the Arkite kingdom.

In this world, it was an event of 30 years ago. While indulging in such deep emotion, Mira stepped into the elevator and aimed for the room of the sage in the top floor.

This elevator was different from a real elevator in that a thin round stone with a painted magic square bobbed up and down within a thin transparent tube. The passage of the elevator stretched to include the stairs at every floor. Its appearance was similar to that of a fish bone. This reached a point that the elevator was now called Fishbone. Again, this event occurred 30 years ago.

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## Chapter 7: Dumbruff's disciple

The top floor of the Tower of Magic, it was also called the sage's private room or laboratory. Furthermore, it also contained the aide's room.

When the transparent filer which blocked the back and front of the elevator lifted, Mira stepped down from the front. When she traversed the circular corridor formed from translucent tube, she found herself before the laboratory door.

"Hey, Luminaria." "Are you there?" "Answer me!"

Mira made a small fist and pounded on the door repeatedly. (poor door.... a person 6x as strong as an adult male is pounding on you) In the corridor of the tower, the echoing screams of the door seem to exceed the sound of the little girl's voice.

Since the time the person named Luminaria became an Elder, she would often stay in the laboratory. In other words, the place she is most likely to be in is this place.

For that reason, Mira immediately beat the door to the laboratory with the expectation of Luminaria releasing a kick to open the door while saying "Allow for Moderation!" The usual situation did not occur so she stopped her fist strained her ears to listen carefully.

"Away huh."

On rare occasions, she can be found in a difficult to approach nearby forest doing an experiment.

<This fellow is a guy who can't read the atmosphere.>

Mira in her mind muttered this and placed her hand on chin in careful deliberation.

"Who is this?"

While pacing back in forth in front of the door having begun to think of waiting until the master of the tower returned, the voice of a calm woman

suddenly sounds from the rear. And Mira was familiar with this voice.

Indeed, the dress of a secretary was worn by a beautiful woman with shoulder length blond hair that suited her spectacles. Blue eyes that were filled with suspicion were turned towards Mira.

“Oh, Litaria its been a long time.” As for Luminaria, do you know where she has gone?”

The beautiful woman whom Mira calls Litaria is an aid of an Elder. In order to assist the Elder with their research and miscellaneous duties. NPC non player characters were dispatched by the country. In other words, Litaria is the aide for Luminaria. .

And she is of the race of elves. Because they possessed long lives, their beauty is kept for a very long period. Depending on the person such a race would be like a dream come true.

However, players in Arch Earth Online were unable to choose the race because it was an exclusive race for NPCs. In addition, dwarves and little people, sirens, werewolves, and giants were famous examples of this. With the exception of cat ears and tails humans were unable to transform. Gardia tribe had robust bodies and various races exist.

“Who are you? In order to enter this floor one must use the elevator, other ways of approach are nonexistent. Only a select number of people know the way to the top floor.”

Wearing a tense atmosphere, Litaria’s eyes were filled strongly with precaution.

“Well then I am.....” “It was so....”

Mira at the present time, recalled that she did not have her dignified appearance. It was not possible to ask Litaria to [Investigate].

There was no guarantee that one would believe her if she introduced herself as Danbalf. To a person who knew herself originally, that magnificent Danbalf, being seen enjoying the appearance of a little girl would be an unbearable thing above all for Mira.

However, it would only be a trifling thing if Luminaria was the other party. First of all Luminaria would enjoy “such a thing” more than anyone. In that case

for Mira approaching the topic of her appearance, she could speak with confidence that she was cute.

As for the present conditions, Mira came to talk to Luminaria. This situation was unexpected.

Mira told Litaria that she remembered the procedure of going up to a sage's room in the elevator. When she was speaking of this, she recalled the operation of the elevator.

Only people knowing the procedure to start the elevator to go to the top floor know of it so that fans do not intrude on the Elder.

Of course, Mira being an Elder agrees with this. Therefore, when she came here, Litaria doubted how a little girl had come to this floor as it was a cause for worry.

With her true identity not revealed, that she was the Elder of the summoning arts passing by to visit the sage's room, then she will not communicate this fact. Then Mira tracing her jaw with her fingertip thinks over this insight. Since she is unable to determine her true identity, having said that she must provide justification for knowing how to operate the elevator to come up to this floor. She should come up with a convenient excuse that would allow her to go in and out freely in the future.

And then, one good idea appears.

"You, do you know Danbalf?"

"Of course I know him. He is the Elder sama of the summoning tower."

"Yes that is so. I am Danbalf's apprentice. I was ordered by my master to pass on some messages to Luminaria dono in his place. I am to convey this message and come back."

"Danbalf sama.....!?! If that's the case then its surely reliable..... Er, However I never heard about Danbalf taking care of an apprentice like you before."

The expression of Litaria reflected obvious excitement when she heard his name. This was because she proclaimed herself the pupil of the wise man that had disappeared 30 years ago. It was justified if one said such a thing.

"That is so. I am an apprentice that bears the name of a person who had

disappeared 30 years ago.”

“A person who has disappeared came back!? If there is a pupil, then that means Danbalf has returned?”

“Ah, yes its like that. For certain reasons he is unable to move right now. So I came instead.”

“Really? “Danbalf sama..... “But, what on earth is the situation for him to not be able to move?”

“Ah..... um, it is like that”

Because it was an incomplete idea, Mira would be troubled if she were asked for details. Then she hit upon a suitable excuse. It was an action that she had frequently done when was still Danbalf. If this world had succeeded conventional history, this might work.

“In order to train a newly summoned spirit, he had to stay inside the illusion beast town.

“.....again a new summon spirit.” As expected of Danbalf. Sometimes spirit training in the illusion beast town causes one to be lost, like that there is no change. (no clue about this sentence) If that’s the case than it can’t be helped that he could not move.

Ah, Danbalf sama. I want to see his face soon.”

Though it was a desperate excuse, Litaria nodded because the story had been convincing. Apparently her former actions remained in this world as a memory somehow. Mira gained this conviction.

Why did this excuse work? This was because the Illusion beast town was a famous hunting ground for players.

Although someone does not live in said town, there was one field that had a great variety of monster and illusion beasts which dominated the ruins of the ancient town. The more one kills monsters here, the more blessings can be obtained which increased the rate of growth, recovery speed and rare item drops. There were also a variety of monsters that appeared here. High ranked players were known to have these as hunting fields.

The problem was that the blessing was reset if you left the town once. That

being the case, it was common sense for players that hunted in the Illusion beast town that one would buy a large quantity of recovery items and seclude themselves in hunting.

“Ah.... such a thing. The location of Luminaria.....dono huh?”

“It was so. At present, Luminaria sama ..... No no.....I should not, its wrong. While she is certainly speaking of Danbalf sama, nevertheless that much one could be aware of about Danbalf sama. She could still be just pretending to be his apprentice. Do you have evidence that you are who you say you are?”

Litaria went beyond respect and worshiped Luminaria and Dunbalf who supported the country together. The hint that Danbalf was alive made a bright light burst out from her expression but she smoothed it over in a panic. She has still yet to confirm the truth regarding the previous matter.

“Is there evidence? Fu—-mu....., is this easy to understand?”

After having thought a little, Mira takes out evidence that only Danbalf would have from the item box. Of course, it was the silver card on which nine canes were carved, the tower master key.

“This is..... The tower master key of the tower of the art of summons! Then, you really are Danbalf’s..... Oh name.... may I have your name if that’s ok?”

“I am Mira. Litaria, I would like to hear where your master is. Is Luminaria dono not here?”

“Yes, Luminaria sama as of now has gone out to Lunatic Lake. She is not likely to return until tomorrow.”

“U mu, was that so? Then there is no help for it. Then shall I come again?”

If she is not here, then it is futile. Mira considered it to be troublesome to go towards Lunatic Lake at the present moment. If she was going to return tomorrow then her conclusion was that it would be agreeable to come back at that time.

“That’s right. It is night already, will you not spend the night in my room? She thought about whether or not it was good to stay until Luminaria came back. Also please tell me about various things about Danbalf sama if possible!



Abruptly Litaria's expression changed and approached. Mira vigorously retreated until her back bumped against the door. Litaria, only wanted to hear stories about Danbalf but as for Mira, the thin excuse she used would go up in flames. It was not a wise policy to prolong the story because she did not know when a fault would appear. She intended to run away promptly.

In addition Litaria was a beautiful woman even though she became familiar with her face. If you examined Mira she remained a man inside full of secret desire. In conclusion she could not destroy her reasoning here. More than Danbalf's pride as a person as at stake here, it was a feeling of wanting to look good to a person who loved himself. Even though the present situation was that they both had the same sex, it was not the problem.

"No, besides I have other engagements to attend to. Allow me to come back again tomorrow.."

"Ah, so it is like that..... She doesn't say that she had nothing to do this evening. Mira sama, won't you hear what happened 30 years ago. Please tell me what Danbalf sama has been doing up until now."

"It was still like this. To be ordered by the master to take care of tasks."

When Litaria did not chase after her, she jumped into the elevator to descend to the first floor. If she was questioned for details, there was sure to have been some contradictions. For example, if she was asked about how she became his apprentice. It was because she did not think about the details.

Mira reflects on the excuse that she established. She looked up in regret at the thing she herself said. The sudden change in Litaria resembled a transparent tube. She let out a big sigh.

"I had a more intellectual impression."

She knew that Litaria was an NPC, She did not remember her personality to be like that from her memories. Her impression was that she ought to have been more secretary like. 30 years have passed, perhaps that was the source? Mira placed her hand on her chin as she smiled wryly and passed by looking at each floor.

She arrived at the first floor in approximately ten seconds. Taking the opportunity to get psyched up, she passed by researcher saying "Do you best!"

As for Mira, it was one of Danbalf's habits to yell like this. To the abrupt encouragement of a little girl passing by, although they did not recognize Mira's purpose, several researchers got psyched up to greet their all night vigil. Mira left the tower of magic and entered the tower of summons. Because Luminaria comes back tomorrow, there was one thing that she wanted to confirm by then. It was not necessarily a lie that she had business to attend to. The business was confirmation of the state of the room he had been using as a base. If it has not changed from before, she would be able to use it, accordingly she would also be able to spend a night there.

The tower of summoning had the same structure as the tower of magic. The inside of which was silent as the intangible magic light flickered as bright as the afternoon light. Mira narrowed at eyes a little at the radiance while she operated the elevator to go to the top floor. She considered regulating the quantity of light later.

It was different from the tower of magic in that it passes each floor as it passes by. When researchers were not found, she recalled the words the knights had said "It was the first time I have seen a summoner, they are unusual."

The number of summoners had obviously decreased. Mira felt a certain feeling similar to that of seeing off a retired companion. She felt slightly disconsolate.

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## Chapter 8: Mira and the wise room

The top floor of the summoning tower. The structure was identical to tower of magic, the placement of room was identical as well. Mira without hesitation goes toward private room without event.

A red carpet was spread over the corridor and a black armor that looked similar to the Dark Knight is displayed. They were items which were presented to Danbalf for his distinguished services of the war he had participated in. However, there were very bitter feelings attached to the two names he gained from this, though few people knew of it.

And there two suits of armor stood at the opening to the private door. When she considered the suits and armor, she guessed that 30 years have passed since she had left them there. Mira reached out with her hand to the massive black door.

“Oops, I forgot about that aspect.”

She suddenly recalled that and stopped. While thinking that she could not get used to this, Mira holds up the tower master key she had taken out from her item box. Then as if pleased with the return of its master, from the vicinity of the doorknob a small clicking sound resounded.

When she passed the doorknob a chill flushed through her body. Mira had entered the private room but she felt a sense of discomfort.

When she first entered the room, she had taken off her boots. Because there was no shoe rack in the entrance way she had left them there. Although she did not take off her boots in game, now that she was in reality she could not throw off the custom taking off shoes when inside a room.

When she became barefooted, she advanced indoors to a familiar sight. The carpet made from the pelt of a devil beast king occupied 80% of the floor which she could see. Although the soft pelt shone with a golden color, it was very sturdy. When one is training in judo not one wound would be suffered atop it. This rare item had taken all the Elders of the Silver Linked Towers to obtain when they did the carnival of the devil beast king subjugation tour. This was

Danbalf's share of the devil beast king's fur which craftsmen had processed.

It is a high quality material retrieved from the material of a devil beast king class that would yield first-class equipment. However, when Danbalf asked to make it into a carpet, the first class leather processing workman asked more than several times "Is this really okay?" They were aware that it would be a really regrettable decision to make this high class pelt a mere carpet.

The memorabilia had a certain meaning, it prostrated itself on the ground as if to show obedience. In addition, accessories that Danbalf had collected were scattered around. She knew each and everyone of them by sight.

However, certain items were placed slightly different than from what she remembered.

"Is this because of Mariana?"

For Mira, there was only one person that she thought of that could cause this sense of incongruity. She was the aide of the Elder of the tower of summoning, Danbalf's aide.

It was a simple story, after all, there were only two people who were able to enter this private room. Only two people held the tower master key, the Elder or their aide. The main person in this room was absent for 30 years. Then the remaining person would be Mariana. Mira expected that Mariana her aide would clean it as usual.

Mira was aware that Mariana was such a non player character. Among the many rooms a lot of them were storage spaces. When she came home from hunting she irresponsibly stuffed the spoils inside. When she next logged in, the items were sorted into each storage by type and the mess was cleared up.

After having become an Elder. Danbalf has never once tidied up. The methodical meddlesome person reminded him of a childhood friend heroine from a romantic comedy, that was Mariana.

The source of the uncomfortable feeling was Mariana moving around the small accessories every month. Because there was a story about her being concerned with Feng Shui fortune telling, she left it alone.

Mira's expectations hit the mark. Mariana who was Danbalf's aide had every day for 30 years never missed the cleaning of the room or maintenance of the

accessories. She believed that her master would come back one day.

She wondered whether she had been doing this for 30 years, Mira was a little worried about this conjecture.

However to make it to tomorrow, she hunted through her memories for a bed to rest her tired body. When she was playing this as a game, she logged out and slept in her futon whenever she became sleepy. However, the situation now was different. Because it is not possible to log out, then I can do nothing but sleep as I am here. However, because she has never used the bedroom in the past she does not remember where it is.

Mira understood that it was natural to have many rooms within the private room. Thus she checked every door to make sure she did not miss it.

The first room was a collection room. Rare items from around the world were collected and they formed a line in the room.

The second room was a refinement room. Wisdom and materials concerning refining technology that Danbalf had developed overflowed from this room. However for Mira it was a mere work room.

The third room was a storeroom. Experimental weapons, defensive armaments, and refining goods were beautifully displayed. Items suitable for Danbalf's character were scattered irresponsibly, If Mariana saw this room she would have fainted.

And the fourth room was a restroom. At the same time, Mira was reminded of some business she had yet to complete after she came to this world. She became stiff from a familiar physiological phenomenon which rose from her lower abdomen.

She did not forget. She only wanted to forget. The symptoms were like ripples that had been noticed even before her arrival in Silver Horn.

However, Mira did not want to admit it. Because it would not be possible for her consciousness to go back if she does it with a girl's body.

However, it would not be a problem if one somehow endures it. Rather, it was bad for the body as much as she did it. In actuality, all the equipment and preparations in order to do it were complete. She decided to not think hard about this matter, however like the Dead Sea, it overtook her. It seems like her limit was near. "You, let's do this."

When Mira steels herself and closes the door of the rest room, after a short time the sound of flowing water could be heard.

<Luminaria would laugh wildly at this.>

When she remembered her expression at that time, she smiled wryly. When Mira looked back at the restroom she unconsciously placed her hand on her abdomen.

“Well, this is normal. After having tried it, it is a natural action for me.”

It is natural for anyone who doesn't have it to use that bowl; Mira mutters to convince herself.

The expression of Mira who had passed the most severe mountain pass for the first time was so bright as to be refreshing.

Within herself, though there existed wicked feelings, she had a vigorous mental strength and a healthy body to begin with. It can't be helped. To be honest she remembered being a little excited without a doubt. She assumed a defiant attitude in order to justify herself.

After that, Mira who had gotten into her stride, strode into the fifth room. When she threw off all her equipment in the bathroom and became naked, she finished taking a bath.

<It is regrettable that a long time is taken when one's hair is long.>

After basking in a hot bath, her fatigue had more or less been removed and her feeling of drowsiness had somewhat eased.

She hung her towel in an appropriate place and lowered her small bottom on a leather sofa and immediately opened the item box. The purpose of this was to confirm if it had any house dress included.

After having gotten out of the bath, the blood and dirt attached to the robe was noticeable. Mira was not a neat freak. Still, she was unable to bring herself to wear the robe until after she washed it.

When she looked at the list, one of the icons caught her attention.

It was a quest reward called “Celestial maiden's robe of feathers.”

This item is the special equipment she got when she cleared “the celestial maiden legend” which was the quest for a Xian Master. The item's effect was

the strengthening of the exclusive skill of the Xian Expert. Because the appearance did not suit Danbalf too much, it was an equipment that entered the storehouse.

She was considerably obsessed with the appearance of equipment in the age of Danbalf. She did not choose ability over looks for his majestic magician. Because it was her creed, she could not bring herself to equip it even if it had high performance.

However, she considered how Mira looked right now. This was a genuine flawless gown with frills. If it was now with her current appearance of a little girl than it may possibly match her.

There was no time like the present, Mira took out the celestial maiden's robe of feathers from the item box and wears it.

At first glance, the clothes are no larger than the size of a baby doll. The hem of her skirt reached the near Mira's calves and the sleeves were located in the middle of her upper arm. The cloth reflected a light pink color and it had no drag upon touch. It was a cloth that was worth of the name celestial maiden. Consequently, not only Danbalf would balk at wearing this equipment, male avatars would as well.

"Fumu, This is quite excellent."

The window isolated the room from the dark night that ruled outside. The figure is not distinct but there was no problem confirming with the projected light. Mira substituted the window for a mirror and smiled admiringly at the sight of the girl clad in only a dress. Although the smile contained a bit of carnal desire, Mira's expression mirrored that of a rogue. Yet it still remained that of an innocent smile.

After that Mira finds the bedroom that she had been originally looking for after checking every single room. Alternatively, had she not found it, she could have dragged several robes from the warehouse and casually throw them on the sofa for use.

They were things used in the age of Danbalf. The decoration and coloring are good, they were robes with a feeling of dignity and luxury. They were her favorite robes.

Although Mira thought about doing the laundry, she thought of leaving it to Mariana and decided to leave them scattered around as always.

Mira leans against the window while gazing at the distant streetlight. She let out a small yawn. After that, she began to feel sleepy and placed a hand on her waist to stretch lightly. She confirmed the time from the menu.

It is past 10 PM. It was as expected, although she had originally started off strong walking in the forest, a certain fatigue had been accumulated in her small body. She had temporarily kept herself awake by bathing. Mira opens her small mouth and yawns again while wiping both her eyes with the back of her hand.

At any rate, the purpose Mira was here now was not only to confirm what had happened to her base. She came to meet with Luminaria, one of the players that was in the same situation she was in. However, if the person did not come tomorrow, Litaria would tell her.

Mira concluded that there was little to be done in the present circumstances. She was attracted to the bedroom and she collapsed into bed. A gentle opposing force pushes back the small body of the girl. The bed was made by Mariana every day. Mariana's heart longed for her master.

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Lunatic Lake is the Arkite Kingdom capital. Near its center bordering on a crescent moon shaped lake was the Arkite castle where the king lives.

Solomon who is the king finishes putting the business of the day in order and entrusted his whole body to the back of a leather chair. He kicked the desk which had the stacks of documents he had just finished. In reaction, the chair with wheels carried Solomon to the window with a light rattling sound.

The source of the magic light was the silver bracelet Solomon had on. Solomon touches the bracelet on his left arm and considers the empty space.

On a screen projected onto the empty space which was only visible to its owner, characters coded in white and gray appeared,

“Danbalf.....”

Solomon confirmed the screen every day. And now, the name of Danbalf was floating in white.

Solomon raised his head and turned the chair. He immediately shifted his



attention to the window that lay to his back with which dark and quiet night ruled. He was hoping to see Silver Horn city beyond the distant mountain . It was the town of heroes for the country. While reminiscing of a chance encounter in that city in days long gone, the sound of rapping on the door returns Solomon's awareness.

“Enter”

“Excuse me”

The man who opened the door and bowed was one of the heralds of the Arkite Kingdom. The man advanced one more step and took out a piece of paper.

When Solomon urged him to continue with his expression, the herald expands the paper and reads the contents out loud.

“I will report. This is a regular timed report from Graia of the magic knight order. “I discovered a fort of hobgoblins in the vicinity of the border, the enemy force's strength is approximately 300. He borrowed an adventurer girl's strength and completed all sweeps and he was returning now. He hopes for a suitable reward when the person comes. The name of the adventurer is Mira. I am told that she was a beautiful little girl with long silver hair.

Solomon who receives the report frowns at messenger not understanding. This was because the Hobgoblin army was 300, it was of considerable scale. He had sent 50 elite magic knights; however it was not possible for them to have been able to wipe out that many. If the captain was Graia, he would have almost certainly waited for reinforcements. However, without doing so, he borrows the help of an adventurer .A question appeared in his mind of why he had forced the subjugation.

However, Solomon was certain that he had a reason for doing this. Graia is a man that he could place that much faith in him.

Solomon thought, Was there a reason that it had to be forced? Or does the adventurer's borrowed strength have anything to with it? However for now, the matter did not hold any significance. He breathed out once and abandoned that line of thinking. He took the report from the hands of the herald to read the report with his own eyes.

“Is there something else?”

“Yes.”

“Fumu, speak.”

“Litaria sama, an aide of the Tower of Magic of Silver Horn contacted us with magic correspondence. I was told that a girl named Mira introduced herself in her district as the apprentice of Danbalf.”

“An apprentice of that fellow...?”

Solomon drops his sight down to the screen of the bracelet. The name of Danbalf is displayed there. This name had been displayed as grey for 30 years until yesterday.

It was the name of a his friend that had been a former hero which had white. A girl that had introduced herself as his apprentice had also appeared. And there was the adventurer who had subjugated the hobgoblins with the magic knights. They both had introduced themselves with the name of Mira.

“There was no chance that this was just a succession of coincidences.”

Solomon’s eyes which had just been exhausted from the clerical work just a little while ago regained their light. A joyful shine took the place of the weariness in his eyes.

“Send a messenger as soon as possible to Silver Horn. Tell them to invite the adventurer named Mira courteously. I leave the choice of messenger to you.”

“Certainly. At once.”

When he took his eyes off the herald, the herald left the room and folded the report. Solomon stares at the window at the distant town with the tower again. The jet black mountains which absorbed the moonlight contrasted with the lake that was the symbol of Lunatic Lake around the castle. The lake shone with an ephemeral light.

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## Chapter 9: Magical girl?

The time in the morning was still early. The sound of the bird that tells of daybreak is heard. One carriage that gave off the noisy sounds of horseshoes dashes at full speed in the main street of Silver Horn.

Residents saw the departure of the carriage with the national emblem of the Arkite Kingdom which aimed for the Silver Linked Towers.

When the girl's pupils within the darkness feels light, her consciousness slowly rose to the surface.

On the canopy bed, Mira sat up which caused her clothes to become disheveled. She opened her small lips to breathe in air deeply in order to stimulate her awakening.

However, remnants of her drowsiness still remained and she lost. She blocked off her field of vision and threw herself down face up. She began diving down from the surface of consciousness to the bottom.

When her consciousness has begun to doze off, in the quiet room of the top floor of the tower where even a bird's sound doesn't reach, a sound with a constant rhythm resounded many times.

Mira was forcibly called back by the discord shooting through the silence. She got up with vacant eyes that were not in focus. A question floated to her mind about the unfamiliar luxurious room.

“Here.....”

She unintentionally let out a high tone. The events until yesterday gushed out from her mind like a geyser. At the same time she experienced a light sense of loss with vertigo she muttered “My manliness.....” while considering her image.

With a small body she was not used to, Mira slid to the edge of the bed and stopped to sit on its ledge. Thereupon her clothes fluttered suddenly and the seductive two legs of a girl came into view. The light that came through the gap of the curtains shone like a spotlight on the white presence which made Mira at a loss of words.

With red cheeks like that of an adolescent boy, Mira softly touched her fingertip to her skin and gazed at it to check. It was the soft skin of a girl, her sense of touch confirmed it. The electrical signal that was sent to the brain made her recognize the succession of yesterday's events that lead her to today. With this her consciousness was fully awakened.

“.....However, what kind of sound did I hear in the morning?”

Mira, whose head had been made clear, noticed the mysterious rhythm that continued sounding even after she had woken up and listened carefully. Tap tap tap. It was the sound similar to that of rapping on a hard object and the sound of a voice blurred by distance. Mira only understood that there were multiple people. She left the bedroom to go find out what the matter was all about.

Upon approaching the sound, she began to be able to make out the voice. At the same time, she could understand its intention clearly. The vibrations of the mixed air arrived at Mira's ear.

“Mira sama, won't you come out? Mira.”

“Litaria, is the apprentice of Danbalf really here?”

Having first heard it, they seemed to be the elegant voice of a familiar woman and an unfamiliar voice of a man.

“I am certain. She carried the tower master key of the tower of summons. A person had also seen the girl with silvery hair entering this tower last night. That means that she should have surely spent the night here.”

“However after that, can she not have gone to a hotel?”

“It is not necessary to stay at a hotel because she has the tower master key. All the facilities are there. Because I clean it every day there can not be any defects.”

In addition, the voice of a girl is heard from outside the door rather than a woman's.

Here, the noise of the knocking on the door and the calling of herself up until now was recognized.

The voices were that of a man and two girls. Eventually, she vaguely recalls that the woman's voice was slightly familiar. Mira opens the door in order to meet her and find out why the voice was slightly familiar.

Mira confirmed the figure of the other party by looking up a little, "What, Mariana and Litaria?" While rubbing away the remaining sleepiness away with the back of her hand, she glanced at the two familiar people. After that she refrained from taking a step back and stood up straight. Her eye had caught on a man who wore a military uniform. He had an armband of the Arkite Kingdom attached to his right shoulder.

"You are.....?"

"Mira sama! Just what clothes are you wearing!"

"You please look the other away!"

Litaria stared stupefied at the figure of Mira who had just emerged from the door. Mira was almost naked and her skin captivated the man's eyes. At the same time, a girl with twin tails who had the appearance of a maid while waving her hair which glittered like sapphires forcibly turned the man in military uniform who had been ogling Mira's body which had become visible from her thin clothes. Together with a dull sound.

The man falls prostrate and stares at the floor. While all this was happening, Litaria held Mira on her back and led her into the room.

"What on earth was that!?"

Mira had just been set down on the leather sofa while the door was closed. She had just been compulsorily returned to the room and had not understood. She requested an answer with a perplexed feeling while looking up at Litaria.

"It is because of this person here. Even if this is the sage's room, it is because there is a visitor that it is wrong to leave with such an appearance."

Showing a little anger, Litaria admonished her clothes. This was said, and Mira recalls the thing she is wearing and lowers her eyes. Her clothes were certainly the celestial maiden's robe of feathers, nonetheless they could not be called anything but underclothes, in addition she noticed that they were also transparent. First of all when she was in her own room she generally had a

carefree appearance. She only had a robe for combat prepared as a change of clothes.

After all, the robe of the sage is meant for combat in the first place. There was no need to inquire whether or not her current appearance was comfortable. In the first place, it was something she was about to wear in order to go out. She did not mind at all what she wore in her private room.

“Unfortunately, there are no good clothes.”

“Right here. At least cover your body with this. While it is close to nonexistent there is a chance to be attacked by a pervert with carnal desire.”

Litaria said this and picked up a red and black robe from the sofa to cover Mira.

Mira pulled out her head from the collar of the robe and noticed that the size of the robe does not match her at all. Even the tips of her fingers did not leave the sleeves. In fact, the collar width was just right for Danbalf but for Mira, it was too wide going past her chest leaving a large opening. A bewitching appearance that was different from nakedness was produced.

“Its too big.”

“Because it is Danbalf sama’s, it was unreasonable to expect that it would fit her size.”

While saying these words, the maid girl unfastened her hair ornament which she had used personally to squeeze the neck of the robe and stopper it. The hair ornament had the shape of a red ribbon and Mira’s breast was decorated in a girlish way.

” Be firm.....”

It was her favorite design robe too. Mira dropped her shoulders having had her dignity fade away because of that one hair ornament.

“Mira sama. Is it true that you are an apprentice of Danbalf?”

While the maid girl was straightening Mira’s collar, she stared intently at her eyes as if clinging to a thread of hope.

“Ah, yes it is like that. Mariana, I heard about you from master.”

The maid girl approached with a hanging breath, She had transparent sapphire eyes and hair with wings like that of a butterfly and an unchanging body. Her wings shook lightly as she approached. These wings were proof that she belonged to the fairy family which kept their appearance as that of a human child even while grown up. They used their wings to catch atmospheric mana and not wind to flap and flutter about in the sky.

Mariana was the only one of the fairy family to be Danbalf's aide.

“You are good. Danbalf sama.....”

Mariana revealed a look of relief and her eyes became damp. Countless drops fell to cool her reddish cheeks.

Mira became flustered at the girl who began to weep abruptly. She was unable to bear it and half stretched out her hand to her cheeks. However, before she touched them, she returned her hand to her chin idly having perceived the meaning of Mariana's tears.

The girl shed tears for Danbalf who had disappeared suddenly. She hesitated to touch Mariana because she had feelings of guilt for deceiving Mariana.

Mira was touched by the tears and she thought of something to say to stop them. Let's at least reveal the truth only to Mariana. However, she gives it up. How would it go if she explains it? Would she believe that the chief Danbalf has become a girl? Should she take the trouble to? Wouldn't Mariana be chocked?

Although Mira had thought of her as only just an NPC up until now. She thinks of herself and sheds tears. She did not yet understand how to deal with Mariana with her established self.

The thoughts of selfishness of not wanted to be rejected by a girl who adores herself fought with the desire to not cause anxiety to her. Then she swallowed the words that had begun to appear and fell into silence. She chose to remain silent with a selfish excuse.

Mira stares silently at her hand hidden in the sleeve with miserable feelings. Besides, Litaria responded to it and quietly wipes Mariana's cheek and whispered “Its okay.”

“I'm sorry. I'm fine now.”

Mariana breathed out to sort her feelings and settle her mind. A familiar

thyme resounds indoors.

“Um, Litaria sama, Mariana sama. Is it alright already?”

After a while, the muffled voice of a man could be heard. The man in the military uniform that Mariana had forcibly turned around had regained his consciousness. It had restarted to accomplish the duty he had been given by the king.

“Yes, we will go after this.”

Litaria replied to the voice. She returned her gaze on Mira with their original purpose. The person in question had stretched out on the sofa and was currently shaking her sleeve.

“Going? What business do I have with that soldier of the national army?”

“Yes, I reported to King Solomon about my meeting with Mira the other day. Then I’m told that a messenger came in person in order to let Mira see the king.”

“Oh, Is it Solomon.....?”

King Solomon of the Arkite Kingdom. He is the player that founded this country. Furthermore, he was the ringleader who had invited Danbalf to live in this country. As for Mira, he was one of the friends who he had a longer association with than Luminaria.

However, Litaria and Mariana could not know such a thing. Mira’s attitude came off as disrespectful by calling King Solomon by his first name. However, it came from an adolescent who was stretching herself on the sofa so that it instead came off as a heartwarming feeling instead. In addition, Mira had used the same tone as Danbalf when saying those words. It was like a child imitating its parents. As for Mira, she was not aware of any of this,

“Luminaria sama as well, she has not yet left that place, I think it is possible to meet after the meeting.”

“Fumu, Is that so? If that’s the case then I will go immediately.”

The person named Solomon had the same possibility of being a player as well as Luminaria. Mira realized this and decides to accept the summons and stands



up from the sofa.

However, when she went towards the door, Litaria and Mariana stopped her.

“Please wait, Mira sama.”

“Mu, What did I do this time?”

“Although we put a robe on you, It doesn’t mean that you can go out as is.”

Litaria uttered these words and dragged her hand out of her sleeve. In other words, the current condition of the robe was not suitable.

“Mira sama, please keep still. I will fix it immediately.”

Although it seemed to Mira that Litaria’s eyes sparkled suspiciously, she was soon captured without time to escape. After that Litaria with a joyful appearance suddenly pulled out a large quantity of ribbon out of nowhere and Mariana rolled up her sleeves.

Although Mira offered some resistance to the two people’s pushing and prodding, she was straightened and decorated.

“The problem is her undergarment.”

“Yes, that’s right.”

The two people had just finished straightening out her appearance. The moment Mira came out, she recalled the celestial maiden’s robe of feathers. She considered what it would do within a robe. At the same time, a chill went up her back, she had been transformed into a shoujo dress-up doll. She did not want to think about what her body had become.

Now she had on a robe that covered her body. In the beginning she had a semi naked appearance. She did not have the memory of having worn an undergarment. In other words, Mira was not wearing any bra or panties.

The two girls could not allow a girl in their presence to be in such a state. Mariana pondered a little and then thought of something. “There was that. Please wait just a minute.” she said. She opened the door to the bathroom where Mira had charged in with a defiant attitude from last night.

After a while Mariana returns with something in hand. Mira did not recognize the clothes on sight but she could see that they were clothes made of white

cloth. Nevertheless, she traced her memories feeling that she had seen something similar to this before.

“Mhm, this is just right. Well, Mira sama.”

Litaria urged Mira to raise both her hands. Mariana with an “Excuse me” forcibly made Mira wear it. Mira’s will did not have any place there.

After Mira wore the clothing, she remembered what the shorts were. It was an undergarment frequently seen with the Gothic and Lolita style clothes.

“Why is such a thing in my.....no in master’s room.....”

Somehow she squeezed out those words. She questioned how an item like that appeared in the first place here.

Although she was sure that there were accessories classified as undergarments, Danbalf did not have such a hobby in collecting woman’s undergarments before. She did not remember placing such a thing in this room either, Speaking of undergarments, she had collected the seven color loincloths for the river ascent festival.

“Danbalf sama’s private room has a big and comfortable bathroom as expected.”

“Well it is certainly splendid.....”

“It is for changing my clothes.”

“Is that so.....!”

In that instant Mira completely loses the will to resist. She hung her hand as she was turned into a complete dress up doll.

Her robe was decorated with a lot of ribbons. The hem of her skirt was interwoven so that it flared up. On her sleeves, ribbons were coiled into bows, One look would make anyone mistake her appearance for a mahou shoujo. Litaria and Mariana nodded to each other satisfied at their work. However, inversely proportional to their satisfaction, Mira’s expression stiffened as bitter smile built up on bitter smile.

“Well then Mira sama, let’s go.”

“The messenger is waiting for you.”

“I want to change clothes.”

“He can not wait any longer.”

“Although it was you who kept him waiting.”

“It is bad manners to have such an appearance.”

“While that may be true.....”

Mira gave up the idea because she could not find the slightest hint of success with these two. She lowered her eyes and glanced at herself dressed in a robe like that of a mahou shoujo. ”

” Then let’s go.”

Litaria leads the way and opens the door. The man in the military uniform stood there in an upright posture just like when she first saw him. Although his cheeks were slightly red.

After Mira left the private room Mariana closes the door calmly. When the man saw Mira in a robe filled to the brim with ribbons he was surprised at the change. He recalled in his mind Mira’s appearance not too long ago which had most of her body showing and felt a little excitement at that.

Mariana noticed this quickly and scowled silently at the man like a dragon. The man who was standing upright flinched somewhat and bowed lightly clearing his throat and placing his right hand on his chest. This was the method of bowing for the army in the Arkite Kingdom. Mira’s expression cramped slightly at the same time.

That is to say, this military-style etiquette was conceived by Danbalf, Solomon and Luminaria when they thought about how to get the perfect mood going. This was after they had just won the thought to be hopeless first war after the founding of Arkite Kingdom. Because of this, the tension that was created was shaken off.

If it was a time of war the atmosphere and feeling when all the soldiers were saluting together was spectacular, but if it was just for Mira, then she could not suppress her embarrassment.

“It is the first time I have met you, I am Garret Astor who serves the Arkite Kingdom as the Deputy Head of the tank corps.”

“I am Mira.”

“You are Danbalf’s apprentice, Mira.sama. I was asked to deliver a message from the king and visit you.”

“I finished the conversation. Mira accepts the audience with the king willingly.”

“Is that all? Thank you very much, Then let us go at once, we have prepared a carriage.”

When the man said this he regained his serious expression, Mira was guided in front of the carriage.

“See you soon, be careful on your journey.”

“Mira sama, please allow me to hear about Danbalf in the future if possible?”

“Fu—mu, Well then. Let’s talk about this next time.”

“Thank you. I will wait.”

“Umu, later then.”

Mira while climbing into the carriage waves to the two people in farewell. She begins to rack her brains of how to explain Danbalf the next time they meet.



## Chapter 10: Horse lane

Inside the forest that continues from Silver Horn to the capital Lunatic Lake, one carriage dashes on a paved public road while letting out the sound of wheels and horseshoes.

The carriage had two swift horses. It was called the Chisato carriage because it was for the exclusive use of an important person when cases were urgent. It was not originally a thing used for pickup, but King Solomon wanted to meet Mira early.

While being jolted in such a carriage, Mira looks at the scenery flowing outside the window. "I say this is amazingly fast." She is enjoying her first experience on a horse-drawn carriage.

Occasionally in game, she used the floating continent to move long distances. She cannot open the menu to use it now. This was because the command to use the floating continent disappeared from the menu column of the system. "However, being able to use a floating continent in the current world is doubtful." Like the present situation she herself is now in, she considered it more realistic and is not troubled by it, she decided to enjoy her current state as a girl.

A little less than two hours after leaving Silver Horn, Mira was not able to calm down and her eyes were swimming. The cause was due to the physiologic phenomenon she faced the other night.

The short and quick vibration of the carriage in particular continued to give a further sense of crisis in her abdominal region. For that reason, Mira was unable to bear it and she poked her head out to the coachman.

"Excuse me, is there a privy near here?"

"Kawa shop huh? I have not heard of such a thing, What kind of items does it sell? I will buy it soon if you are willing to tell me because we are going to reach Silver Wand in the mountain district soon."

"No, it is not a shop..... "Oh dear, well the pheasant is shot I dare say....."

“Pheasant, does it taste like chicken?” Incidentally, that reminds me that I haven’t had breakfast yet. I understand, we are slightly late, but let’s make for breakfast when we arrive at Silver Wand.

“Ah, that was a joke just now! Privy then privy.”

“Umu mu.....I’m sorry, there was no such shop like that in Silver Wand.”

“Listen! Toilet, restroom, bathroom, things like that! Ah..... mou Its fine here, stop I’ll just finish up under the shadow of that tree!”

“Eh.....Ah.....AH! So it was like that!”

She would have been able to hold it longer if it had been the body she had before. However the body that became a girl begins to rapidly approach its limit, Mira instinctively feels it. As it is now, she would wet herself. She poked the back of the coachman several times in impatience to urge him to stop while pointing at a suitable place in the forest.

Mira jumped off before the two horses had stopped completely and she walked slowly and carefully over to the tree. She tucked the skirt of the robe up under the shadow of a suitable tree, And now, she stopped moving to see the the underwear that concealed the lower half of her body. However, it was simply her hand. Both legs were more or less pigeon-toed and they continued to stomp the ground restlessly.

(How do I take these off???)

Contrary to her feelings of impatience, Mira was to begin with forced to wear these undergarments for the first time. Although it is deserved. Because it stayed in place with rubber, Mira tried to lower it by force but was prevented by her hipbone. It occurs to her to just tear the thing off, but at the last moment she reconsiders. As one would expect she was not able to tear a borrowed thing. However any more and she would wet the borrowed plum blossom silk fabric and fretting she accelerates.

Mira fails to pull it off sideways using her fingers to try to stretch it at the waist.

While feeling sweat begin to pour out from inside her body, she caught sight of a thin string. And then, she smiled wryly at her panicked state which had kept

her from noticing such a natural thing.

The string was laced in a bow knot in the vicinity of her waist. She would have been able to understand at once if she had been calm. It is no wonder however, the processing in her brain had slowed down because she had not grown accustomed to her new body and it was the time she had been in such a situation.

It was not a big deal if she understood it, however she had finally understood it just before she reached the critical point. She hastened to unfasten it from her knees and squatted. At the same time, she was filled with a sense of liberation. Mira was greatly relieved.

Having done the act a second time, Mira was under the impression that she had perfectly mastered this body. However, she was made to notice the difference in a hurry. When she finished her business she was about to stand and wear the undergarments, when she recalled that girls had to wipe their bodies before hand.

In her carelessness she had not prepared paper, not to mention anything that could replace it. She opened the item section just to make sure, but it only held food. There were only some refining crystals and material items included.

When she shut the menu, she began looking for something that can be used for substitute. Within the forest, a small creature emits a light sound from the treetops. Grass grew in abundance, and various multicolored flowers peeked their heads through.

Mira looked briefly and plucked a fairly large white petal and used squatted down again using it as a substitute for paper.

“She hasn’t finished yet, I have to wait.”

While paying attention to the area Mira had plunged into, the man was not able to compose himself. The girl emerges from behind the man. To the voice of Mira he jumped somewhat, the man with a start stiffened his body from a guilt conscience. “I am sorry.” He spoke an apology with two meanings.

“Errr... For the time being, let’s go have breakfast at Silver Wand.”

“Well then, lets go.”



Apparently, Mira had not noticed. The man believed this and ran the carriage again while feigning tranquility. (WTF was this guy doing? Post any thoughts in the comments lol)

It was approximately one hour from the lavatory uproar, The journey was going well, the carriage was about to arrive in Silver Wand soon. However, it was only the journey that gone so favorably, as for Mira, she had faced unimaginable adversity.

(Oh god is that what I think it is? That flower.....)

Inside the carriage, Mira writhed atop the seat in pain that she had never experienced before. She was in agony from the burning pain inside her private parts.

When she had begun to feel discomfort, she thought it was something peculiar to that female-specific place. However, the sense of discomfort gradually became too awful to endure and she confirmed the source of the pain. She then realizes the cause of the pain.

She arrived at the answer, that single petal. Rather, Mira thought that was the only thing that could have caused it. She could not imagine that it was caused by woman specific symptoms.

She guessed this and opened the item column to confirm whether she could do something for this. And then, one medicine was taken out from among the items in reserve.

It was a treatment medicine called “Versatile Ointment Medicine” that recovers abnormal status and heals some wounds.

When Mira stoops down to curl up in the corner of the seat, she felt some resistance to doing it. However, she applied the ointment relying on her memories and waited for the effects to appear.

The guess proves right after a short time, the symptoms due to the poison of the petal recovers from the detoxification of the ointment.

Mira with a feeling of relief falls down on the seat and murmurs “Already such unpleasantness.”

It is approximately ten minutes from the petal disturbance. When the carriage gradually stops, the coachman peeps his face out from the driver’s box.

“Mira sama, we have arrived at Silver Wand. Will you go to a dining room? Or, shall I buy anything?”

Mira thinks a little.

“Well then I shall trouble you and go to a dining room.”

As usual she answers with a prompt answer.

In the first place she had been living a life where most things were satisfied in virtual reality. It was unusual to walk under the sky, it was an age where everything was delivered to home, shopping not to mention work was done in VR.

But now, this world was different. She walked through the woods in person and was jolted in a carriage. You could say for sure that these were real first experiences. It was overwhelmingly inconvenient compared with conventional life. However Mira is now starting to feel that all of this was fun.

Mira felt that people’s minds were narrowed by too much convenience.

Thinking that she wants to experiences many things, she gets off from the carriage under the blue sky.

Silver Wand.

It was located in a valley in the mountain range located between Lunatic Lake and Silver Horn. It was known as a town that had people whose occupations were agriculture, forestry, and mining.

Because it was a way station between the capital and the country’s greatest military strength, the trade has made it a prosperous large town.

The place Mira was now was a parking lot in the commercial area of the town. Several carriages are stopping on the grounds of the wide lawn and they queued up for the stables. Accordingly, they performed horse care and feeding.

The parking lots naturally charged. They charged every hour. Because the district where the Chisato wagon stopped is a parking lot for the the exclusive use enclosed by a hedge, it doesn’t cost anything. In other words, it is a carriage for a special person who is related to the imperial family or noble.

Therefore, It was impossible to not be the focus of people in the vicinity of the parking lot.

A man who works as the manager of this place took notice of the girl and man in a military uniform and was in turn speechless. This was because he knew the

man who guarded the girl Garret Astor well. It was not only the manager of the parking lot who knew this man in the military uniform. There no one in this town that did not know of this tank corps vice-leader.

That kind of big shot, would not work as a body guard for a common girl. If it was an aristocrat, at most it could be an aristocrat with blood ties to the royal family.

Needless to say, everyone's attention is focused on the girl who is with the big shot of the kingdom forces. Mira had white skin and fascinating silver hair, strong willed eyes and clad in a robe full of ribbons, It was an appearance that made everyone at a loss of words. Rather, mere words could not begin to describe the girl. Everyone's sight was snatched away and they could only gaze at the girl silently.

The town of Silver Wand was surrounded by mountain scenery. Mira looks up into the sky while greatly stretching to loosen up her body.

While chasing a bird that flew across her vision with her eyes, she transferred her gaze to a bird that flew out from the woods and chased it further. Her body naturally spun around, but the person in question doesn't notice at all.

Time returns to the manager of the parking lot when he heard the voice of Garrett asking him to take care of the horses somehow. Garret notices the glances from all around and scowls to turn them away.

Mira was convinced that they were jeering at her and when she was thinking of trying to escape their gazes, Garret returns from his conversation.

"I am sorry to have kept you waiting. Does Mira sama have anything in particular she wants to eat?"

To Garret's inquiry, Mira responds "Whatever you recommend is fine." while hiding herself in the shadow of his large body. At any rate, she poked his back in order to leave this place early.

"Well then, let me guide you to my favorite haunts."

The appearance of the girl pressing Garret impatiently overflowed with the warmth of a parent and child. At the same time, people viewing that scene began wondering who on earth the girl is to be escorted by the vice-leader of the tank corps. However, they all came to the same recognition, this lady must

surely be high class, up until now they had never encountered such a beautiful girl before.

Mira and Garret leave the parking lot and entered the main street using a path. They arrive in front of a dining room and inn.

“This way please. It is a small place, but the taste is guaranteed.”

Mira looked up at the wooden building. The name of the shop was written in large letters [Twilight Street Pavilion]. As often as is the case, one is able to perceive the interior with the Western style door. With Mira’s height she was unable to see the interior and could only see the ceiling.

“It has been a long time since I have been small. Excuse me for saying such a a rude remark.”

When the two looked back at the sudden voice of a woman from behind, they saw a woman in her 20s with a shopping basket in both hands scowling at Garret. She was a simple but beautiful woman who had shoulder length chestnut brown hair which peeked out from her bandanna. She had a white and blue apron dress which was embroidered with “Twilight Town Pavilion.” She is a helper in this shop.

“Oh, Sherry. Long time no see.”

“Is this real? Show your face a little more....WHAT!? WHO IS THAT ADORABLE CHILD!?!?”

Sherry placed the shopping basket aside she looked at Mira who was looking up at Garret and in a natural flow, placed her hand on her head and stroked it.

“You, stop this!”

Mira who brushed off Sherry’s hand, judged that she was the type of female who would treat her like a child. She substituted Garret for a shield and hid herself.

“KYA——~! SHE’S SO CUTE——~!”

Sherry remembers the expression of vigilance that crossed Garret’s face. Mira’s appearance was like a small animal and this awakened her motherly instincts.

“This person is Mira.”

“Hee—~, Mira chan he says. Adorable~. Mira cha~n.”

Sherry’s expression loosens even more as she sidled up to Mira.

“Sherry. Mira dislikes this, please leave and go over there.”

“Yes yes yes yes.”

Mira continues saying these words while hiding herself in his shadow. Like that, her appearance degenerated further, but because she put not being disliked as top priority Sherry controls herself.

“Hey hey Garret. What are you earnestly doing with Mira?”

“I am in the middle of sending her to Lunatic Lake, but we did not have breakfast.”

“So we stopped here. We will eat a nice meal.”

When Sherry recovered her shopping basket, she opened the swinging door and guided the two people in.

“Hey, lets wait until the counter seat becomes vacant. ....Is Mira still angry?”

While Sherry is hidden in Garret’s shadow, she stares at Mira who has yet to drop her vigilance with a slightly sorry look,

“I do not think that Mira sama would get angry at this sort of thing.”

Garret is right, Mira is not angry. She was only ashamed that she was treated like a child.

However, the woman’s face looked lonely so against her will, Mira went out from Garret’s shadow.

“Do not treat me like a child.”

She only conveyed these few words. However to Sherry, she saw a girl trying to act like an adult. She was driven by an impulse to hug her with all her might, but she shook it off in a moment.

“Mira chan is adorable!”

Right after Sherry utters these words she threw down the shopping basket and jumps with vigor. Mira was hugged tightly. Because it was a direct expression of love she could not forcibly shake it off. Mixed with a sigh she murmured “This was the result of making my avatar like this.....”



## Chapter 11: Hummer Lane

Mira finished eating at the Twilight Street Pavilion and received a strawberry milkshake from Sherry to quench her thirst.

The taste of the milk which was sweet and the acidity of the strawberry was blended skillfully. For Mira the taste and compatibility of it were perfect such that her countenance naturally loosened.

Of course, Sherry was being sure that she would not miss that moment. She embraced Mira closely with a “Mira chan CUTE—~!” Having received the strawberry milkshake, Mira understands that it is useless no matter what is said to Sherry causing her to completely give up.

Garret smiled watching the two people while he chatted with Varga who was the manager of this inn and father of Sherry. “She gets it from my wife.” Varga jokingly said though the laughter did not reach his eyes, To this, Garret could do nothing but smile wryly. To cut the long story short, this was the reason that he did not drop by this hotel very much.

A man named Varga with the same color as Sherry’s short hair made very delicate dishes with a rugged body strengthened in the mountains. The contents of the meal the two ate were chicken sandwich with roasted vegetables and chicken interspersed between two slices of white bread. Garret had remembered the earlier conversation with Mira about pheasants. Sherry also brought a tart pudding who fed it to Mira. These were both Varga’s works and his attention to detail on the visuals overflowed, not to mention the taste. When he gave the guide recommendation he left out his own personal feelings aside and recommended this inn.

“Then shall we go soon?”

Garret waits for Mira to finish gulping down the strawberry milkshake and then drinks up his herbal tea and stands up. At the same time Sherry pouts.

“Hey stay and rest for a while longer.”

“Although we would like to we cannot. Even though we are like this we still in the middle of a job.”



“Yes, let us go early.”

Mira senses that this was a good opportunity to escape from Sherry’s hands and stood up from her seat.

“”Aah, Mira chan!!”

Sherry began to tidy up the counter while staring in disappointment at Mira who had slipped away, She was thinking that she would have been a popular poster girl to draw in customers for the shop.

“Thank you for the delicious meal. I will come back some other time.”

“Thank you for the treat.”

“Come again. And bring the ojou chan as well. I will always have a strawberry milkshake prepared and waiting.”

While Mira was preparing her ribbon covered robe, she reacted to the words strawberry milkshake.

“Fumu, I will try when this girl is absent.”

She proposed a minimum compromise.

“Mira chan....so cruel....”

“She goes out approximately before noon to begin shopping, that would be a good time to visit.”

“”Hoho, I will try to keep that in mind.”

“Even father!???”

Sherry staggers unnaturally to the counter and was overwhelmed by the reality that she had no allies.

When they made it back from Twilight Street Pavilion, the two people returned straight to the parking lot. Mira climbed into the carriage before she was noticed. The two horses were well taken care of by the manager and are happy. When they fixed the harness in place, they neighed with plenty of strength while not showing the slightest bit of fatigue.

Garret hastened to fulfill his duty by starting up the Chisato carriage. However the instructions were to escort her courteously, since she needed breakfast he

had to put up with it despite wanted to hurry. They originally were to pass by Silver Wand but they took a break to eat breakfast.

Garret felt a little pressed for time and while holding the reigns, he makes the horse-drawn carriage run.

Mira had no way of knowing this matter and looked around the street of Silver Wand from the window of the carriage with great interest.

<This town must have been made over the last 30 years.>

Mira did not have a town named Silver Wand in her memories. While feeling the flow of time, her mind leapt at the freshness of the scenery passing by.

When the carriage got out of the main street and left the town, they headed to a forest road. They continued straight ahead on the road and before long they arrived at an open space. In front of them was a cliff that had been cut off by numerous stone blocks. The public road continued into the depths of a large half moon hole in the center.

Mira who had been riding in the carriage was surprised at the scenery which faded away thinking that they were getting clear of the forest. She was able to see the walls of the stone from the window which lead into the interior when the light from the entrance gradually grows dimmer.

Mira felt ringing in her ears and remembered that the carriage was inside a tunnel.

However, in the mountain between Lunatic Lake and Silver Horn she does not remember a tunnel in her memories and pokes her head into the driver's box.

"It is remarkable to have such a tunnel here. When was this built?"

"The Benedict tunnel? If I am not mistaken, Solomon ordered the construction of this tunnel 30 years ago. I heard that it was completed in five years."

"Oh, was that so?"

<That guy. So he is working properly huh?>

When Mira looks at the front, she understood that a spiritual art burned with light at equal intervals and that this was the thing lighting up the tunnel. Although it was somewhat dim, there was enough light to read a book by.

It was inconvenient to come and go between Lunatic Lake and Silver horn because they were separated by the mountain range. Since the floating continent could not be used and the only means of transportation was the carriage, this tunnel could be said to be indispensable to transportation. Mira also picked up some information from Garret's words. They were Solomon's orders and thirty years ago.

In other words, Solomon was living in this world for 30 years when Danbalf disappeared.

Is Solomon himself a player? She could only confirm when she sees him.

Mira turns back to her seat thinking that travel over the mountains through a tunnel was too slow. She could only stare outside at the monotony of the scenery from the window.

The sound of the echoing horseshoes and wheels, the monotonous scenery, the feeling of a full stomach and the cradle like vibration. These factors came together exquisitely and Mira nodded off to sleep and began sleeping peacefully.

When they passed through the tunnel, a blue sky spreads out in front and in the distance a lake shaped like the crescent moon projected the color of the sky. The Arkite castle where King Solomon of the Arkite Kingdom lives is near the center where it touches the lake. The capital Lunatic Lake surrounds the lake.

The carriage with Mira in it got out from the forest which stretched to the foot of the mountain and ran at full speed out across the Rageddo plateau as the evening twilight descended.

There was a countless number of plants and bare rock in the meadow. Small animals lurked there sometimes and occasionally faces popped up from the gaps in the spaces to peek at the departure of the carriage.

Mira rubs her eyes with the back of her hand when she was woken up by the light of the setting sun. She rolls to her other side in order to escape from the light. She yawns a tiny bit after that and places her arm on the window frame and her hand on her chin. While looking at the flowing scenery that is slowly fading in the distance, she takes out [Appure] in order to quench her throat and tipped the bottle.

The wind which entered through the window made Mira's silver hair flutter. It caressed her warm body which had just woken from a nap.

“Hou, This place is huge.”

Mira who had moved her gaze forward expressed a voice of admiration as she saw the big cityscape snuggling up to the crescent moon shaped lake as they were pressing forward.

The capital Lunatic Lake looked down on the Rageddo plateau from a distance. Each lake was surrounded by ramparts like a full moon.

The town had grown far larger than the one in Mira’s memory.

Eventually, Mira found a big building that stands out awfully and made an appearance in the driver’s box again.

“Excuse me, what is that large building in town?”

“That large building?”

Mira pointed towards the town when she called him. When Garret see’s the girl’s happy profile he confirms that it was the destination and saw her excited. The big building which first caught her eye was in fact the Arkite castle which was enshrined in the center. However, it would be hard to believe that Mira would ask such a rudimentary question. The fact was that there were four buildings excluding the castle that Garret could see that would fit the description of big building.

Within the town, around the area that was in the middle of the distance from the king’s castle to the ramparts were several eye-catching facilities that were located in the cardinal points. Everyone who lived in Lunatic Lake knew of them.

“Aah, is that the Wu Xing Organization?”

“Wu Xing Organization?”

“Yes, those facilities are the result of Solomon sama’s Wu Xing planning. They began to be constructed at around the same time as Benedict tunnel.

The waste treatment grounds in the south, the drug development laboratory in the north and the workman atelier in the west were built sequentially with the Arkite educational institution in the east. Together they are called the Wu Xing Organization.

“Hoho, indeed.”

The ideology of Feng Shui used the five elements of Wood, Fire, Earth, Water,

and Gold. Solomon's policy which he had based the structure of his capital on was Kyoto. Mira is convinced that that fellow seems to think grandly. Solomon was a Feng Shui lover. This began from a certain event when he was playing in-game, After that he studies it with zeal. Mira was told at every opportunity whenever her economic fortune was going up. Solomon was the cause of Mariana being obsessed with Feng Shui.

When Mira came to an understanding, she returns to her seat and places her arm on window frame while holding her chin. The distant town was not yet visible. As she placed her lips to the [Appure] starting to drink, she leisurely looked at the scenery where a flock of migrant birds were in flight. The weather was good as well. The situation now was that of being shaken in a carriage with a quiet plateau in the background. Although she was puzzled at this situation, if she had to say she would classify the present situation as [Happiness]. Mira begins to think this gradually.

When the bottle of [Appure] was finished being drunk, it was put in the corner of her feet and two new [Appure] were taken out. Mira came to coach box quietly and recommended it to Garret with a "Do you drink?"

"Ah, thank you Mira sama."

Garret for a moment was engrossed in the innocent smile and atmosphere of a lady that Mira wore and received the [Appure] in a fluster.

"May I know the reason you joined the army?"

Mira casually asked. She wanted to speak about something.

"The reason I entered the army?"

Garret mumbled "That's so isn't it....." while he drank the [Appure]. This exquisite flavor had a soothing feeling to it which seemed to heal his spirit. "This, this is delicious." He leaked these words reflexively. Mira answered with a "Is that so?" while exuding a triumphant air.

"After all, was it father's influence?"

"Hou. Does your father participate in campaigns as well?"

“Yes. Although saying so is embarrassing, but he was my aspiration. He is the commander of the first magic knight corps. I wanted to enter the magic knight corps because of my father originally.

“To be a dutiful son. Father would have certainly been pleased.”

“No no, as expected I cannot say such a thing face to face. Therefore this is a secret Mira sama.”

He placed his finger to his lips. The expression of Garret as he said that it was secret was very gentle, it was understood that he is always thinking of his father. Although it was a gesture like that of warning a child, Mira tolerated it as she could feel the warm feelings from the heart from it.

“Well, that’s good. Your father must be a lucky person.”

“Is that so?”

“Umu, I would want to have a dutiful son like you if I were a father.”

“In Mira’s case, would you not be a father but a mother?”

“Ah, so it seems.....”

Although she tends to inadvertently forget, she smiles wryly recognizing that she was a girl again.

Mira in conclusion says “Well then stay devoted.” Saying these words, she patted Garret’s head in retaliation and returns to her seat. Seemingly ashamed “Yes. however, this.” Mira showed a big smile when she got Garret to say this. (hmm this and the last sentence were a bit confusing.)

I am not a father but a mother. Although she did not think of it at all, she reconsidered not being a parent.

Be that as it may, that act would be required. She could not imagine herself being embraced by someone. Mira abandoned the idea since she did not want to do it. (Lol she still thinks she is a man after all....)

It is impossible because she dislikes children anyways. Rather if a child was born to herself, how would she have done so, and what would she name it? (Coughs up blood, urgh this sentence has defeated me... no clue as to how to translate this so yolo.) She recalled having thought such things with her lover. They were far off memories now. (So that guy had a girlfriend when she was a guy? Makes

you wonder.)

In order to not become a parent she would have to watch attentively because of that. Mira was able to understand the meaning. (Not much clue on this either... I don't understand how she would watch out for that, not like anyone could overpower her to do it....) At that time she began to think and decided to just enjoy her second life in her new appearance. When concluding this, she drank up the second [Appure].

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## Chapter 12: King Solomon

When the carriage with Mira gradually lowers its speed, it stops in front of the gate which towered in a imposing manner.

Only the ramparts that wholly enclosed the capital which overlooked the plateau can be seen. When one looks up at it, it conveyed an overpowering feeling which splendidly denoted the Arkite Kingdom's national defense strength.

Mira leans forward from the window of the carriage. When she looked up at it she says "It really is huge." The difference between the walls of now and 30 years ago made her heart excited.

The capital, how much have you changed?

Mira shook off the various thoughts, she had decided that she would now enjoy the changes in the world.

The gate where the Chisato carriage had stopped was not the front gate of the Arkite Kingdom. It was a special gate leading to the carriage passage that leads straight to the Imperial castle.

When Garret exchanges some words with the gate-keeper, the big gate opens letting out a solid dull sound.

When the gate-keeper raises his hand, he sends a signal. The bell at located at the top of the gate rang out high in the sky. Then a bell tolls in response to it from a distance away. It tells of the arrival Chisato carriage far and wide. There were 5 intersections in total that crossed the carriage pathway. Each time a military escort comes out and begins to stop traffic with a black yellow stick. It was a special thing used whenever things important to the country had to pass by such as the Chisato carriage. For that reason it was necessary for a heightened state of alert.

"Hey, this is a surprising reception."

While leaning forward over from the window of the carriage, Mira despondently muttered this at the sheer size of the affair. She saw the military



escorts lining up in regular intervals on the other side of the open gate.

The carriage starts to run slowly but gradually picks up speed. It reaches maximum speed in a few seconds and the scenery of the town rapidly recedes to the rear.

The residents of the town seeing the Chisato carriage running at full speed had eyes full of curiosity. When their eyesight caught the appearance of Garret serving as the coachmen, they guessed that this was an important matter. However, at the same they caught a glimpse of the girl covered in ribbons from the window and were captivated. All their interest in that instant was taken away by that fleeting figure.

When the grand impression of the scenery through the window begins to gradually fade, Mira finds one building that soars above the rest.

It is one of the Wu Xing organizations. the Arkite Educational Institution. In the center of the grounds partitioned off by a high wall, was a magnificent schoolhouse enshrined like a palace. Mira decided to make a tour of the Wu Xing Organizations first in her sightseeing schedule.

While being jolted in the carriage the scenery that passes by gradually drops in speed. They stop gently near the castle gate in front of the imperial castle.

“Did we finally arrive?”

Mira who had been keeping still stretched in order to loosen her stiff body. She stealthily dropped the empty bottle of [Appure] that she had finished drinking into the corner of the step.

“Many thanks. Mira sama.”

When Garret opened the carriage door, he bows and stretched out his hand to escort.

“Thank you.”

“But it is unnecessary.” While saying so, Mira gently brushes Garret’s hands away and jumps the short distance to the ground. The Imperial castle she looked up at was not different from the one in her memory. Half assured and half disappointed, Mira lowered her gaze and was at a loss of words for this place which had been only the one not to change.

The inner gate opens slowly, and on the carriage path a grander reception awaited.

On both sides of the passage from the castle gate to the Imperial castle were knights standing in a line with raised swords before their eyes. Their swords hardly wavered and behind these sword wielding knights were knights with spears in their hands lined up. In addition a soldier waved the national flag at equal intervals among them.

“Well then.....this is fairly considerable..”

“King Solomon must be pleased that much with Mira’s visit.”

“That guy....”

“Speaking of Danbalf sama, he is a hero of this country. This level is ordinary when meeting his apprentice.”

“Fumu, such is life.”

“It is certainly like that. Then Mira sama, let us go.”

When the two people parted from the carriage, the castle attendant brings the Chisato carriage to the stables.

At the same time as Garret escorted Mira across the gate, the sound of a drumbeat shakes her eardrums intensely. The group of knights slanted their swords and pushed forward their shields which had national emblem carved on them. The knights lined up in the second row meanwhile raised their spears in a slant to form a passage of arches which continued from the castle gate to the castle.

“Well then, this is ...considerable”

“Somehow, I am also feeling somewhat comfortable.”

While inside the grand welcome for Mira, Garret who is her guide, turned towards her smiling happily.

“Really, that guy.”

A carefree expression began to be revealed on Mira’s face. She had a favorable impression about Garret’s personality. She praised Solomon who had

such a subordinate in her mind.

The two people were pushed from behind by the gratifying sound of the drum and fife band through the grandiose arch and entered the castle. Ahead two palace guards waited in the entrance. They bowed and said “We will guide you to the see the king.” Because Mira did not like standing out that much, she followed them feeling relieved with the silence.

When the palace guards opened the door the king;s room, an elegant scent of flowers drifts out. A carpet has been laid on the floor. From Mira’s side it was separated by color with blue, green, red, and white at regular intervals. There were five people with the king. One boy stood out as he sat on the throne which rose several steps above.

He had a little pair of golden eyes with light green hair and a crown with innumerable gems adorned his head. At first glance the boy who wore gorgeous clothes and sat on the throne feels out of place. However his appearance belied the fact that he has governed the country for 30 years.

A seemingly mischievous expression was worn on his face as he watched Mira. This boy is the king of the Arkite Kingdom and a friend of Danbalf, he was King Solomon.

There was no difference in Mira’s memory. His appearance was the same as the last time she had seen him although his clothes seemed somewhat more gorgeous than previously.

In front of King Solomon standing on a step lower was a knight who wore the atmosphere of an extraordinary person. He was a magician wearing a black shaded hood that concealed his face. When the two people beheld Mira with their eyes, the figure of a too lovely magician girl was seen and smiles appeared on their faces. However, the knight breathed a sigh of disappointment when he thought that the apprentice of the hero Danbalf was just a young girl.

Garret took a step forward and kneeled.

“I have accompanied Mira sama, the apprentice of the Elder Danbalf.”

Saying that, he bows.

“We appreciate your efforts. You may retire.”

Standing with a stately dignified air next to the throne, the name of the man

who spoke was Suriman. He belonged to the elf family with a handsome face and blonde hair.

Garret moved to the side with a "Excuse me."

"Nice to meet you Mira san. I am Suriman. I am King Solomon's aide."

"I am Mira."

Mira shifted her gaze to Suriman and answered briefly. Garret who had arrived at the presence of the king panicked greatly at Mira's unchanged grand figure.

However, Mira who was completely ignorant of Garret's feelings folded her arms and placed her hand on her chin and [Investigated] Solomon.

However, no information floats into Mira's view when she gazes at Solomon. When she watched Suriman instead, she could confirm his full name and status.

<This, what kind of thing is it.....>

"To come straight to the point first of all, I want to confirm whether or not you are truly an apprentice of Danbalf, will that be all right?"

The words of Suriman calls back Mira from her considerations of the differences between the two people.

"Ah, I do not mind."

When Mira pulls out the Tower Master Key from the item column with a [Here it is.] she stepped up to meet Suriman halfway.

However, at that moment. The knight who could not let that pass suddenly jumped out unsheathing his sword.

"Do not approach any further! You bastard, you go too far with your disrespect!"

Together with an angry voice the tip of a sword pointed towards Mira.

Knight Reynard who acts as the head of the Arkite Kingdom Imperial Knight Guards. Just before the audience with King Solomon, he was told to not mind it even if the other party did not know some etiquette. Therefore, he endured the matter of not kneeling and manner of speech and held his words. However, it

exceeded his boiling point when she approached the king without permission.

Although Mira did not know, there was a distance that one could draw near the king. The distance is decided by rank. For guests, the regulations were that they must not step any further than the black section of the carpet excluding special cases.

“What, I would not be able to pass it along if I do not approach.”

“You should hand it to the palace guard who waited next to you!”

Solomon and Danbalf stood shoulder to shoulder before. For Mira, she came with the mindset of meeting a friend and being able to talk a little. Because this was the only thing in her head, the importance of being the top of the country and the seriousness of having an audience were missing entirely.

Although Mira in those days spoke with a similar attitude, the knight's expression was now mixed with anger and there were different circumstances in the present time. Mira did not have the slightest clue as to how one would conduct themselves in such a public place. Embarrassed, she pinched the tip of the sword with her finger and presented the tower key to the knight.

“Was it like that? I am sorry. Just, if it is fine for you, could you not deliver this?”

“You bastard.....How far..... First of all, withdraw!”

The enraged knight pulled the sword in his hand with strength. Despite all that, the sword which the girl was pinching did not move an inch. Reynard had a shocked expression on his face.

“Reynard, bring it.”

The brief voice of the boy on the throne ordered him.

“However Solomon sama. This person, she is too intolerable!”

“First of all, I told you already at the beginning. It is included in that category as well. Or do you intend to keep me waiting further?”

Reynard visibly withered under Solomon's gaze. Although Mira was the one who did not know a thing, she thought that he was a poor thing. However when she thought back to his attitude when he snatched the tower key, she dismissed

that.

When Mira released the pinched tip of the sword, Reynard glared at the slender white arm that peeked out the robe. He concluded that a dubious art had been used and his precaution towards Mira thickened further.

Meanwhile, Garret sees that the atmosphere was settled for the time being and secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

While Mira returns to her original standing position, Solomon receives the tower key from Reynard and confirms that it is certainly the key of the tower of summoning.

“It is certain that this must come from Danbalf. There is no room for doubt if this was passed from master to apprentice.”

Solomon said so and passed it to the guard who delivered it to Mira.

When Mira receives the tower key she puts it away in the item box. In order to escape the eyes of Reynard who is still glaring at her, her gaze wandered.

“Since confirmation was able to be proven, Let’s assume that her status is changed. Apprentice of Danbalf, I want to hear the story of your master who had been absent for 30 years. Is that good?”

“Umu, I do not mind.”

Mira answers the timely offer promptly.

“Well then, my office should be good. I can talk more calmly than here. Everyone remaining should be good to join the feast of the parade corps.”

When Solomon says this, Reynard takes a step forward again. “A wry smile appears on Mira’s face at the same time.

“Solomon sama. Even if she is the apprentice of Danbalf, it is still dangerous to leave you two alone when we know nothing of her true character. Please, I would like you to let me attend your company!”

When Reynard glances at Mira, he takes a deep bow and makes the proposal to Solomon.

Although Mira did not know his true character she shook her head at Reynard’s loyalty.

“Reynard, are you saying that I am inferior to such a young girl?”

Solomon became clad in a serious spirit when he spoke to Reynard. King Solomon, even though he had the appearance of a boy had governed the country for 30 years. Not only politics, in a world where military prowess decided the fate of the country above all. It can be easily guessed that Solomon’s true strength who kept reigning as the king of one of the countries in the world was his wisdom.

“No. It is not unreasonable! It is just that this person uses suspicious arts, it is just guarding against an emergency.”

Mira did not have any idea as to the suspicious art Reynard alludes to. It was no wonder, Reynard was only mistaking it for an art. He had the superior physique and selfishly concluded that he could not be defeated by a delicate girl in strength. Actually, strength correction was caused by Mira’s equipment. However because Reynard did not understand by what means Mira’s arts worked, there was no way to explain.

“The one called Mira. Do you have mind to do me harm?”

“Why would I do something like that? I only came to talk to you.”

“So she says. There are many things I wish to speak to you about as well. Will you not listen to reason? Reynard.”

“However, in the unlikely event that something were to happen to Solomon sama’s body, I .....

Reynard clenches his fist tightly. However, the magician who has been keeping silent until now interrupted the back and forth exchange.

“How about we do it this way. Reynard and I will wait in the corridor in front of the office. If anything happens we only have to rush in. Mira sama is not Danbalf sama, in the short time it takes before we enter, there is no reason for something to have been done to Solomon sama.”

“Uhuh, Umu.....that is right still....”

“Well then we will do this. I actually wanted to join the feast too, but because Reynard is like that, there is no help for it but to keep Reynard company. I and

Reynard san. Do you not think that this is enough?"

The magician who suggested this placed his hand on Reynard's shoulder while smiling.

"It is a good plan. Joaquin sorry for troubling you. Let us try to hold a banquet in the near future."

Solomon says this in a short breath and stands up.

"No no not at all, I do not deserve this. I will have Reynard treat me."

"Nugu....."

Reynard could not say anything but grimace.

"Then, shall we go?"

When Solomon says this, the three begin to walk to the office corridor.

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# Chapter 13: Talks between the wise and the king |

## Part 1

The King's office was located in the third floor of the imperial castle in place where it overlooked the lake.

Inside this room there were only two people, Mira and Solomon. Knight Reynard and Magician Joaquin who his aides were waiting in the hallway before the door.

The office was surrounded by bookshelves filled with various documents on the history and technology of this world. Solomon sinks into his leather chair. Mira lightly looked about the room when she sat down on the corner of the sofa which was half buried under documents.

“Well, it really is cluttered.”

“There is too much work, I won't be able to handle going back and tidying things up.”

Although the other party was a girl, Solomon spoke casually with no consideration to his position as king. Mira has already completely forgotten the difference in status.

“Fuu, I can finally speak calmly.”

“Umu, It seems that way.”

So speaking, the two sat up and exchanged mutual glances.

“First of all, is it fine if I could verify one thing?”

Solomon raises his forefinger while staring at Mira.

“Fumu, what is it?”

Mira moves the randomly placed documents on the sofa to her feet in order to stabilize her position and be more comfortable. She listens for an answer.

“You.....,are you not Danbalf?”

With those words, the documents Mira obtained floated to the floor. Mira's eyes were wide with surprise. She turned her eyes to Solomon. This was

because she was in the middle of thinking about how to speak without hindrance. Her intention was to if possible, have as little damage to her image as possible. By no means did she expect that the other party would just call it out.

There was no dialogue for feeling the topic out. Solomon's mind hid an expression of mischief. He was smiling as he already is convinced.

Also, Solomon's expression was the same so that Mira would not know the difference. She was convinced that the boy in front of her was the close friend she had a rivalry with.

Although she did not know the reason, the conversation ended early. It was not necessary to deceive him here. Mira disregarded her image and concluded that she should first grasp the current situation. She left the documents she had dropped and sat deeply on the sofa again.

"You have understood well."

In short, Mira affirms it. At those words Solomon burst into loud laughter although he had been holding back his grin.

"That appearance, you completely changed!"

"There are various reasons for this...."

"Even though your appearance had changed. Well, you are you after all. A lolicon."

"Just leave me alone."

Mira pouted like a girl and Solomon smiled with his whole face like a boy. At first glance, one would not think that the two were the top duo of the country, the top magician and the top ranking official, the king. Meanwhile, the two who waited in the corridor heard the sounds emanating from the door. They experienced a sense of relief after hearing the sound of laughter from the king who had not laughed for a long time. How many years has it been?

"First of all, could you tell me? This world.....what is it??"

Mira posed the most simple, straightforward question. Solomon who has finished laughing arranged the information in his head while returning to his earlier attitude. He sums it all up in one phrase.

“I do not know.”

“You don’t know? You are saying that you spent 30 years in this world and you know nothing!?”

“That’s right. To be precise, this world is not a game but a reality. Were we born on a world that exists somewhere else in the known universe? Or perhaps are we in a completely different dimension with totally different laws of nature? Does this world operate on laws that exist completely outside our reasoning? To that extent it still has not become clear.”

“I see. However either way, this is reality is it not?”

“I wonder if that is certain. For 30 years spent clearly aware to be a dream, what kind of daydream is that?”

When Solomon shrugs his shoulder he glanced at a part of the bookshelf which stored the summaries of events that had occurred during the last 30 years. He praised himself with a “I held on well.” when he looked back on those burdens he faced.

“Well, I have still not come to a decision as to whether or not this is a dream.”

“It’s reasonable since it has only been less than a day, but unfortunately, this is reality.”

Yesterday. Those words reminded Mira of a question that she was anxious about.

“By the way, Solomon. How did you know that I was Danbalf?”

Mira remembered that she had hardly given any hints. If she had to say getting the tower master key from the master was not such an awkward excuse. In fact, Litaria and Mariana saw this and were satisfied. In the first place, the sudden appearance of a person who had disappeared 30 years ago would not be likely be expected. However, Solomon clearly guessed it right. Mira was convinced that there was a good reason for that, so she asked for an answer.

“Mmm, that’s right. Simply put, because it would become too long if there were details, he received a report of a girl called Mira who was a summoner

summon a Dark Knight with monstrous level to help the Elite Magic Knights' strategy. He also heard that the apprentice of Danbalf was a girl called Mira who showed up at the towers immediately after that.

“With that alone, did you understand?”

“Is this the groundwork? This information was confirmed from the friend list last night. Your name which was offline until now was now online.”

“So it was the friend list?”

Of course, there was no way Mira would not know of this. It is a list that can confirm whether or not a registered friend is playing the game.

Mira considered it but she had a problem. It was that he did not know where the friend list was on the menu. She might have thought to open the list if it was there, however she did not think of it thus far. The reason why was that the friend list button had vanished from the menu.

However, Solomon says that Mira was confirmed to be online in the friend list.

“The friend list button disappeared, how did you check it?”

“Ah, Is it like that? Have you only come back yesterday? If that is the case then you only know how it was used in the game.”

Solomon said so and placed his fingertip on the bracelet on his left arm. He placed it on the position to open the menu and continues touching it. Then a menu is projected that only Solomon could see. However a different screen was projected.

“You should do it this way. Try it.”

While Mira was still looking at the menu, she gets to a different screen different from the one she has been seeing until now by pressing the button longer. There she confirms the entry.

“Hohou.....This.”

The entries that were lined up were from the top: [Friend List], [Map], [Skill], [Guild].

“I have not seen these entries before....”

When Mira muttered this, she selected the entry [Map] which floated in

midair, however the screen becomes pure-white and nothing changes.

“Hey Solomon. What is this map? Although I thought that would not be such a thing...”

As it was too early to ask questions of whether or not she understood it, Solomon turns his eyes to Mira while shutting down the screen.

“The map is a new entry that has been added. When you put the map entry into the important item column, it is possible to find it easily and it becomes convenient.

“Hou, there was such a usage?” That is convenient is it not?”

Mira received an explanation and understood the convenience of the new entry immediately.

The map function could be said to be essential in a game that has a vast world as a stage, It was not in Arc Earth Online. Speaking of that, only a rough continental chart was sold in the three initial countries. However the price it was sold for reached a degree that beginner whom the map was most necessary for could not reach it. In the future though, players produced a detailed map. Nevertheless when the map of each area was taken out, it was not possible to open it and confirm. Needless to say, even their present location is not marked.

“That might be so. If you have a map, you should move it to the important column.”

This was said and Mira immediately opened the item column, however she did not have any map.

“Ah, yes. I traveled on the floating island.”

“Oh my. That is extremely unfortunate.”

What was the floating island? It was the billing item floating continent that cost 2,000 yen. Mira messed around in the item column. She had placed everything in her wooden house on top of the floating continent. Whether it was a dungeon, field or labyrinth, in most cases when she went somewhere she used the floating continent and only opened the map to figure out how to get there. That backfired now.

Mira recalls one more thing.

“Now that you mention it, the billing item entry can’t be found.”

“It seems that the billing item entry has disappeared. In addition, the message box, log out, and shutdown entries have also disappeared.”

The billing item entry was the entry that managed all the billing items. This entry was also used to perform movements on the floating continent. It having disappeared meant that it has become impossible to use the floating continent.

“Well.....then.....”

“I was also disappointed at first. I had put all the all color sacred sword on the floating island..... Ah, now I remember all the good items that were lost.....”

And like that the two people lit up by the lamp illumination recall the memory of the items that were lost as they stared into empty space. The shadow that fell on the wall reflected the minds of the two people which flickered.

“Just for all that, you summoned me too quickly did you not?”

“Such a thing. It was too good a timing. Even if your appearance changed, if a vanity case were used then. It is not an impossible story.”

“That’s right. If I knew this would happen I would not have used it despite having bought it.....”

“Now that you mention it, you fussed over taking a SS screenshot so much so that you ended up making a collection of cool poses, did you change anything?”

“HmMMM that is.....it would take long if I spoke of it.”

Mira while saying so, explains about the mail about how the account balance would become invalid and how the only thing that could be bought with 500 yen is the vanity case. Continuing, she hit upon the ideal female image and having stayed up all night, she manipulated and selected parts from the vanity case that fit her interest,

“And like that I spent the night.”

“Umu, Although I don’t recall finalizing it, in the middle of it I fell asleep.”

“Huh. It is unusual for you to fall asleep. Its clear that you got too absorbed.”

“Before I noticed I had completed it.”

Mira noticed that she made a slip of the tongue here. Solomon was an acquaintance for a very long time, he had already begun to sense that Mira had been deceiving him. To prove it, Solomon opens his mouth.

“You made it very seriously. Mira chan.”

“.....It is my best masterpiece.....”

“Uh-huh, say it again. You lolicon.”

Incidentally, the two people who talked all night revealed their preferences such as the idols they liked and which characters they loved. Solomon easily saw through the deception simply because he understood the other's preference. Mira's figure was a straight pitch down his expectations. Mira is different from what he knew of a casual example of his friend's hobby. Her appearance was that of a custom made design. He was made aware of that appearance when she walked and threw her body on the backrest of the sofa wearily.

“Solomon. Do you not have a vanity case?”

Mira clinging to hope speaks this. Solomon who heard these words opens the item column suggestively.

“There it is. Here.”

He says this and takes out a Japanese style, black box, the vanity case. The glossy lacquer painted on the box was bright.

Mira stared dumbfounded at the box for an instant, and abruptly stands and charges at Solomon.

“Hand it over!!!!!!”

“So suddenly!”

Mira and Solomon crashed into the chair and they collapsed to the floor. Ribbons caught on objects on the desk and made loud noises as they fell on the floor.

“Solomon sama, what happened!”

Reynard who reacted to the big sound quickly opens the door posthaste but was at a loss for words at the scene which exceeded his expectations.

Two people were tangled and Mira hung over Solomon as she sat astride him with their hands clasped on the vanity case. Although Mira appeared to be attacked at first glance, the problem was Solomon's body pose. His hand had thrust out to support Mira's body and splendidly seized a soft swelling on Mira's chest. His leg had rolled up the robe's skirt to expose Mira's lower half.

"No, there is no problem."

Although Solomon reports this while feigning serenity, anyone could tell that there definitely abundant problems.

"You bastard, you finally showed your true colors!"

Reynard begins to naturally get carried away. It was Joaquin's job to cool his head who had popped his face into the room a little late.

"Now now, Reynard san. Let's settle down and observe the situation calmly. Hey, is it good? At first glance, it seems that Mira had pushed him down, but look at Solomon's hands as well. He is firmly massaging it."

"Yes, certainly..... But what....."

When Joaquin controls Reynard who tries to argue further with his hand, he announces his reasoning.

"So it's like this, while they were getting along happily on top of the chair ..... they lost their balance and it turns out like this. (yup ecchi stuff) Su-, such a thing!!!"

Although he thought that Solomon sama was not interested in women, it turns out that he only preferred a suitable appearance. "I understand. The Arkite kingdom is secure with this."

"But, Joaquin. With such a young girl, will others accept it?"

"It is the apprentice of Danbalf. Is that not the greatest title?"

"Hmm, Certainly."

At last, the two people concluded their conversation without permission. For Mira and Solomon, what was their situation now? Understanding finally catches



up to them.

Their current situation was that of Mira sitting astride Solomon with their faces in close proximity to each other. For Solomon, in his hand was a soft pressure that felt comfortable to the touch. This information led to the answer of Joaquin and Reynard's behavior. And then they kicked off a large distance away from each other while staring.

"Wait a bit you. No matter how you think this is a misunderstanding!"

"Umu, I agree. I was only caught up when Mira fell down, that is the only reason."

The two people with great haste corrected their posture and attempted to make excuses. However, they had no persuasive strength for Joaquin and Reynard who had seen their states a while ago.

"Ah, Solomon sama. For the time being, I think its good sense to leave."

"For the kingdom..... For an heir....."

When Joaquin leaves the office calmly, Reynard thinks about the future while muttering unnecessary things and closes the door quietly.

".....Emergency meeting later....."

"Well then, you are difficult position."

"You, its not some other person's problem."

"Well for me, its not a problem if I use the vanity case and return to my original state."

"I will think of a way to clear the misunderstanding, as soon as I turn back to my earlier appearance." Mira says this while indicating the vanity case in Solomon's hand.

"Ah. It is impossible. Did you forget that this was a billing item?"

"I remembered it. It is certainly not possible to charge any longer and I agree that it is certainly valuable. I promise to use all my strength whole heartedly for you if you let me use it. Well then."

"The rule of billing items. It is not possible to transfer it to others."

Solomon holds out his hand with the vanity case and presents it to Mira while saying so.

“Well then, give up. Even if you receive it this way.....You would not be able to take it.”

Although Mira tries to receive the vanity case from Solomon’s hand, her hand passed through so that the tip of her finger could be seen. It was like a three dimensional hologram.

The slightly lengthy discussion continues.

# Chapter 14: Talks between the wise and the king |

## Part 2

“What does this mean?”

Looking at how her hand passes through the black box, Mira’s face drew near while closing and opening her hand.

“As you can see. Even when this game became reality, the former rules still apply. This vanity case is not transferable so I can’t give it to you. The same goes with soulbound items like your master key; you can’t even steal them.

“Do you mean that the only way is to get a vanity case myself?”

“It looks like that. And you should know that it’s impossible with billing items.”

“What a disaster...”

After the brief conversation, Mira fell down on the sofa. Her already resigned mind with all its might whirled with thoughts to maintain stability.

“Shouldn’t there be any exceptions?”

Only lifting her face, Mira clung to a last ray of hope.

“I haven’t heard about any during these last 30 years.”

“What a disaster...”

Her hope was completely smashed with this backed by experience answer. Turning herself on the sofa, Mira closed her eyes retreating into the world of delusions dreaming of her magnificent appearance.

“I’d like to help with this but I’m out of possibilities here.”

“Do you really think like that? In your heart, you must be laughing about me, right?”

The view of Mira still rolling on the sofa full of negative thoughts was of

nothing but a sulky girl.

“Of course, I’m not doing it. You shouldn’t yet forget about this country, right? Protected by you all, this country was able to stand against foreign countries. But do you understand the situation now, now when the wisemen important support disappeared?”

Solomon was speaking about the Elder Vanishment. Within a year of the disappearance of Dunbalf, all the Elders vanished. It was engraved into the chronology of Arkite as the largest event.

“Yes, I heard about it from Graia. It’s like everybody vanished at the same time. When I knew that Luminaria returned about twenty years ago, I went to the towers to hear more.”

“Ah, so that’s why you were at the towers? Well, if you already heard of it, there is little to explain. Without you all, the strongest swords and shields of this country, do you understand what will happen?”

“I see...”

Leveraging the support of the nine wisemen, the Arkite Kingdom never performed any aggressive wars resulting in avoiding conflict with foreign countries. With a rich country and a king properly paying attention to defense, the other countries naturally would establish trade relations.

But this country lost its support.

The public announcement was done twenty years ago when Luminaria returned. Even if she was one of the Nine Sages, supporting the whole country by herself was beyond her powers.

That’s why conflicts started by other countries to get profitable lands occurred more frequently. While there was no full-fledged war, frequent skirmishes gradually exhausted the country.

That’s the present situation of the Arkite Kingdom. Even if it’s just one, the return of a member of the Nine Sages will have an immeasurable influence. Even more so if it’s the “War Power Dunbalf” who singlehandedly suppressed the neighboring country’s chivalric order of five thousand knights.

“That’s what I am saying as a king. You are a hero of this country. The influence of your existence alone is tremendous but proudly announcing that you became such a loli is, well....”

“W....well.”

“While I understand that because it’s still you, your ability is still the same, the impression is completely different. If you originally has such an appearance, it could work somehow, but the image of you is carved in this country’s history as a majestic veteran mage whose appearance was well suited for the title of wiseman.

“That’s right. Even now I can proudly say that it was the supreme masterpiece.”

With an improved mood from the praising of her ideal man’s image, Mira joyfully unfolded her eyes on Solomon.

“And what will happen to the image when such a hero became a loli?”

Can you imagine that? A case when a respected person, who called himself Dunbalf, became a girl of such tender age.

“.... Unreliable.”

Murmuring that, Mira understood the position in which she had placed herself.

“You said it. I would be really glad to announce that Dunbalf returned to the country but I can’t show your current appearance. People don’t know about the existence of vanity cases.”

“How about making an announcement without showing me?”

“That will be difficult. After all, a hero returned to the country after thirty years. We should make a national celebration, how exactly will we hide the main guest? And when things calm down, there should be spies from foreign countries.”

Just like Solomon said, hosting a party for the return of a hero after a thirty year absence is completely natural. It is likely that there will be spies to check if it’s true. When they fail to find Dunbalf, it’s obvious that trust in the country

will surely fall.

But Solomon hasn't planned to announce the return of Dunbalf for one more important reason. To tell it, Solomon approached the sofa Mira rested on.

Correcting her posture in response to a serious look behind the smile of the approaching Solomon, Mira wore a dubious look.

"And here I have a proposal for you."

"So, what is it?"

"I want to announce you as a pupil of Dunbalf after you get a nationally acclaimed achievement."

Solomon's proposal was to put prestige on the girl. Even if one told that the suddenly appeared girl is Dunbalf, it is unlikely that people will believe you. Even if they believed, with her image lost like they previously discussed, her influence would not be that high.

Also, if you chose to immediately put the disciple of Dunbalf on the position of wiseman, she will just be a girl without any accomplishments despite being a disciple of a hero.

If the top of the experts title was granted on a whim, what will the rest of the experts think who worked hard for that?

But if she accomplishes a valuable achievement for the country, it's a completely different matter.

"I can't say for sure that it will work but I think its important to try. Even more, I beg you to do it!"

"Well, I understood your point. So, what exactly do you want from me?"

Hearing that, Solomon made a deep breath. His serious posture contained within it a somewhat worried feeling.

"Dunbalf... No, I'll call you Mira from now on. Just in case this leaks somehow."

"Fine, feel free to call me as you like."

"So, Mira. The thing I want from you is nothing but to look for all of them.

“Who do you mean by ‘them’?”, Mira asked him to explain, placing her hand on her chin. What exactly did he try to say? Mira couldn’t understand that at first but considering the flow of conversation she reached the answer, expressing a deep tiresome look.

“I believe that right now in this world there are only Luminaria and me, right?”

“Well, if you put question like that, you were the last one.”

“What?”

“I believe I just told you about the friendlist. Try to look at it yourself.”

Activating the previously assumed unreachable『Back Screen』in response to that, Mira opened the friendlist.

Names of formerly good friends were lined up and appeared in that list. Obviously, the names of Solomon and Luminaria were painted white. Looking for the names she wanted, Mira followed this list with a completely languid expression.

“Everybody is online.”

“It looks that way.”

“Then why are they not here?”

“If I knew that, I wouldn’t have begged you for that.”

“That’s a difficult task. I have no idea how to find them. When they’re not at Towers, they’re not the type of people to stay at one place.”

“I agree that it takes time. But if it’s possible, I’d like to find half of them in this year.”

Half of them within this year. Without any ideas as to why Solomon placed such a limit, Mira doubted that she could.

“Finding them this year is quite hard. Without any leads, starting the search for them from nothing is definitely a task you can’t complete in a year or two.”

“That’s true, but no matter what we still need them in this year. You barely managed to appear here in time. And I have no other ways but to bet on this

chance.”

There was something out of place in the figure of this boy who had wrinkled up his eyebrows like he was completely tired.

“So why? Can you tell me the reason we have to hurry so much?”

Solomon got a single file from bookshelf and gave it to Mira.

This file listed the war chronicles from ten years ago. Mira recalled the conversation with Graia in the corners of her mind. Hasn't the spawn rate of monsters gone up after that war?

“So it's The defensive battle of the Three Lands Of God ...”

After glancing at description, Mira muttered the title of file.

“Did you know about that?”

“Just a bit. Looks like it happened ten years ago. Graia told me that after it there were more attacks of monsters.”

“That's right. We dispatched the chivalric order when you were absent but with that amount we couldn't simply ignore the costs.”

“And, how did that become a reason? Isn't it a thing of the past? Or you want to dispatch me again just to save war funds?”

“That would greatly help as well but we have a more urgent issue.”

Having said that, Solomon searched through file in Mira's hands, stopping at a certain page. There was a topic named『Limited anti-war treaty』.

“Hmm, what's that?”

“You probably don't know because you was absent but this The defensive battle of the Three Lands of God was at a much, much greater scale than all battles we saw before. If I say that the kings of all Three Origin Countries, the God Kings, directly took the control, you should easily understand, right?”

“Impossible... Those immovable kings.”

Mira's astonishment had good reason. The Three Origin Countries are the starting territory of this game. It means that they existed before players started to found their countries to guarantee the safety of unexperienced players.



When the rush for founding countries arose across the continent, those Three Origin Countries became the countries of ordinance. If you want a comparison, the NPCs of those three countries had enough power to suppress even the players.

When even the kings of those three countries themselves came forward, it's easy to perceive scale of things.

There is no need to mention that nickname Mira said, "Immovable kings", was given because nobody saw them moving.

"Even the title "The defensive battle of the Three Lands Of God" reflects the hard efforts of Three Origin Countries at the front. This war involved all the continent.

The landing of crowds of demons was the origin of battle. They mostly assaulted the three countries but when reinforcement arrived, they started to scatter to other places. Because the scattering demons attacked countries indiscriminately, the damage obviously expanded at a colossal scale. A lot of small countries were destroyed. It was really cruel."

Talking about the cruelty with a warped face due to anguish Solomon certainly displayed the king's lament about the nation. Answering "So that's what happened" to Solomon while still not completely comprehending situation in mind, Mira lamented as a close friend.

"Well, even if ten years passed since that great war, with that much impact, you surely can tell what happened after that."

"Everyone's hands were full with reconstruction works all over the places, I believe."

"You're right. That's why all the countries came to a mutual constraint named the limited anti-war treaty. Summarizing the contents, all military actions were prohibited for ten years."

"I see."

To sum up it all up, all countries for the time being proposed to focus efforts on restoration to put everybody on decent starting grounds because they weren't in state for war.

“And you want to say this pact ends soon?”

The limit on time Mira guessed from the flow of conversation before. It means the deadline is due to the time that wars will start after the pact ends.

Without the main force of the Arkite Kingdom — The Nine Wisemen — someone will surely take advantage of this opening. If you manage to get the Arkite Kingdom, abundant land which gave benefits to various places, with the top magicians, all that wisdom will definitely yield you large power. Nobody wants to skip that chance.

“Honestly, saying that we’re guarded only by this pact is not an exaggeration. Without even talking about attacking, we need at least war force to defend this country.

I beg you one more time, Mira.

Can you please look for everybody?”

Taking a breath after closing the file, Mira returned a serious look to Solomon. The answer was already set in her heart.

“Why not. Let’s do it.”

Hearing that, Solomon broadly smiled “Thank you”.

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## Chapter 15: Luminaria Of The Disaster

“And, looking for them is fine but do you have any ideas as to their locations? You can’t simply catch those guys without any clues.”

“Well, that is certainly true but at least one is easily predictable.”

Just like Mira said, The Nine Wise Men are a bunch of quite eccentric guys who never stayed in one place.

The words of Solomon caused Mira, busy with thinking how to fulfill her promise to find all the vagrant guys, to remember a particular person.

“You’re talking about Soul Howl, right?”

“Yeah, just as I thought it’s better to start with him.”

『Soul Howl of The Giant Wall』, being the Elder of Necromantic tower, loved undead girls to an abnormal extent.

The place that came to mind for them was a dungeon 『Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis』, commonly called as underground graveyard among players.

In the times when they hanged around together, Soul Howl delightfully whispered ‘paradise’ in this shrine filled with undeads. A dungeon filled with mostly undead monsters surely was a holy ground for him.

It was well worth checking for Soul Howl if he’s online and not at towers.

“The underground graveyard is a bit far away. I would love to use the Floating Continent but...”

“I’ll aid you with it. Although, I can’t dispatch neither Senri carriage nor Juuryou carriage for this top secret mission.

“Senri carriage? Juuryou carriage? What are they?”

“Ah, Senri carriage is the carriage that transported you here. It’s quite fast, isn’t it? It reduces load on horses with the Elder tools making it the fastest carriage in our country.”

Solomon proudly said that, throwing out his chest while smiling.

“Surely it was fast. Though it wasn’t even close to the Floating Continent”.

“Don’t compare that to a cheat item. Now you should understand how broken it was.”

For a reference, the speed of the Senri carriage is 25 km/h. Floating Continent, comparing to that, moves with 500km/h. Senri carriage is quite fast considering the technology of this world. Therefore, just like Solomon said, the Floating Continent is a completely broken transport.

“The Juuryou carriage loses in speed to the Senri carriage but with all the effort on the inside interior, it works as a carriage version of a mobile home.”

“Huh, that’s quite nice.”

Mira dreamed about sprawling in a bed on a slowly running carriage while sipping apple Appure.

“I’d be glad to ride on the Juuryou carriage.”

“Well, you will ride it one day.”

“So stingy of you. It’s not like you can’t lend it to me for a ride to the underground graveyard.”

“I greatly wish I could do it but like I said before, it’s a top secret mission. Both Senri carriage and Juuryou carriage are custom-made. They’re used for state missions, sending royalty and similar stuff. You should understand they’ll greatly stand out at the destination place.”

“I would rather not do it.”

“I thought the same. Well, I can prepare more common good carriage.”

Saying that, Solomon returned the file to the bookcase when a sudden noise rang outside. After that, completely ignoring Reynard attempting to restrain her, a woman shot past the door of the office with enough vigor to break it.

Dressed in a white and blue robe, she, singlehandedly snatched the glances of Mira and Solomon; she had extremely attractive body lines and face capable to exclusively grabbing all the attention.

This beauty, shouldering her long, burning-like deep crimson hairs, without

any doubts swinging her chest, glanced once at Solomon with her red just as hairs eyes and focused on the girl.

“What’s the matter with you? I believe it’s still not the time we determined earlier.”

With a voice filled, unlike earlier, with dignity, Solomon stared at this woman. Hearing those words, she slammed the door back.

With his face hit by the door, Reynard with an anguish, greatly wavering expression was almost at tears. “She doesn’t listen to anybody so you shouldn’t worry much”, Joaquin comforted him, placing hands on his shoulders.

“Having heard about a pupil of Dunbalf, I wanted to take a look but there was nobody at the audience room. Squeezing it from a nearby guard, I learned that you moved to the office, so I’m here.”

“I see. Well, in any case I was going to bring her to you.”

With these words, Solomon walked to Mira’s side.

“This girl, Mira, is the pupil of the Dunbalf.”

After this introduction, Mira without rising from sofa or greetings, stared at the women staying near the door and, bitterly grinning at that unchanged appearance, and leaned her back on sofa.

“So, it was her? By the way, your highness Solomon, isn’t there a issue with your tone?”

She referred to his tone of voice, not the proud one trained much earlier to show dignity but one for speaking with friends. They decided to use the right tone for non-private conversations in a situation when somebody else listens.

“Ah, there is no problems. After all, it’s Dunbalf himself. You can talk casually too. And even after all that time, I still can’t get used to that tone.”

A roguish smile floated over all Solomon’s face.

“Wh... Wha...”

“A, it’s a long time, Luminaria. At least for you. It was just recently.”

Mira saluted with a hand.

Luminaria. One of The Nine Wise Men. The only Elder whose whereabouts were known.

“Is that so? Dunbalf, right? You finally came here...”

Luminaria stared at whole Mira’s body just like inspecting. This perfect figure made her to remember a conversation with Dunbalf about his tastes. And then, Luminaria burst out laughing. Still staying outside of the door, Reinald closed his ears and nodded with Joaquin at the slightly escaping from the closed door laugh.

The rumor that Luminaria is sometimes weird was confirmed again.

Looking at Mira again after rolling about laughing, Luminaria strangely grinned.

“Finally you understood this wonderfulness? The female body is great. Already played with it, right?”

That’s the first thing she had to say. Luminaria’s mouth, telling really vulgar words, with charming lips, forming a smile around it’s edges, indeed showed sexuality as a part of appeal.

“Don’t place me in one group with you. It was an accident, not my intention.”

“Still, look how wonderful is the result. I think it’s a bit unnatural to call it accident.”

“Hmm. It’s a long story. Hmph.”

Mira briefly explained the whole story starting from the mail about expiration of money and ending with today’s situation.

“My vanity case is here for exactly the same reason. Though I haven’t used it.”

Solomon explained why he had the vanity box which disappointed Mira so much. Just like Mira, he felt that leaving cash was wasteful and bought vanity case.

“Is that so, I got one too.” *TN: {“Her” friendly speech is clearly masculine.}*

Telling that, Luminaria took a vanity case from inventory and started to play with it on her hand. Bitterly staring at that, Mira sulkily sprawled on the sofa.

“Why can’t I have one?”

“Because you already used it.”

Solomon’s short concise words sharply hurt Mira. While moaning, she faced up on sofa, throwing down her arms and legs.

“But isn’t it good? It’s not just an avatar now. Isn’t it an image of ideal woman? From the first glance, it reminded about you, so isn’t it your blessing in disguise. For me, the fact this world became reality was really a fortune. This world is the best. After I got this body, I’ve played with it the whole day.”

With the refreshing smile on the beautiful face, Luminaria probably was able to steal hearts of most of males if they only don’t listen her.

Mira, looking at that hopeless Luminaria with cold look, threw out a question.

“By the way, I figured today, Solomon spent here 30 years and Luminaria spent 20. With all that passed time, you certainly don’t look aged, do you?”

At the first glance there was nothing unnatural for Mira. After all, it was just a few days ago. But they say time’s flow for them was different. Even if you ignore Luminaria, it’s not that simple with Solomon. Maintaining a boy’s looks for thirty years is pretty much impossible.

“Speaking about that, we already considered this as natural.”

“And it’s one of reasons why this world is the best.”

Solomon clapped hands. Luminaria twisted her body, just like embracing herself.

“Long story short, it looks like we, former players in this world differ from usual people.”

“What is the difference?”

“Well, the first one is **Inspecting**. Have you tried to inspect me or Luminaria?”

Being told that, she actually tried to **Inspect** Solomon in the audience room but no information was shown. At this time, she gazed at grossly wriggling Luminaria.

But nothing appeared before eyes.

“I can’t find anything about you. Even though I could with Suriman and Graia.”

Hearing that, Solomon with boyish smile took a seat at the feet of the sprawling Mira.

“It’s likely that inspecting former players is impossible. It’s the first difference. By the way, when I met you, I immediately inspected and got nothing so I understood you were a former player. You proclaimed herself a pupil at same time Dunbalf came online and had the appearance of a loli in Dunbalf’s taste. Even if wasn’t me, that becomes iron-clad proof of your identity.”

Solomon explained it while correcting the robe’s edge that became a skirt, covering Mira’s legs to hide her bloomers.

“Do you mean it can be used to tell players from rest?”

“Yes, just like that. I can’t be sure that the appearance of everybody hadn’t changed but at least we can find players.”

“But with the personality of those guys, simply looking at them should be enough.”

“Surely, even if this Luminaria got different look, I would definitely recognize her.”

“That’s right. I don’t think there are more people perverted to that extent.”

Both of them smiled at each another. Luminaria, called a pervert, glanced at them with a stern look but promptly changed expression.

“So you said we’re so close we can recognize each other no matter how our appearance changed!”

Giving an unexpected reply, Luminaria dived into the sofa like doing a body press. Solomon quickly managed to evade but the completely exhausted Mira with a small surprised cry was mercilessly hugged by Luminaria.

“My friend!”

“Hey, stop it, Bakanaria! Sto... Where are you touching!”

Luminaria’s wriggling hands crawled around Mira’s body just like examining it.

“How great is that, how gre... ghhh!”



Luminaria was raping Mira just like an evil magistrate, when a dull sound of explosion fluttered in the air. Screaming from the bottom of her stomach, she vigorously hit the ceiling and clumsily fell on floor.

Mira getting back up on the sofa pointed her right hand to the ceiling. She shot into Luminaria a skill from her second class, Xian Expert 【Xian ▪ Air: Impulse Wave】 from the point blank.

“Even sexual harassment can cost you your life.”

To the cold words of Solomon, Luminaria slowly got up with thumbs up and answered “Still worth it”.

Rising while settling her robe, Mira glanced at Luminaria and warned: “Next time — with the magical eye”. After that, Luminaria, having nothing to do with her dubiously prepared hands, began to gather scattered around paper from the floor after a short delay.

“You’re doing quite an admirable thing.”

“Hey, I love tidiness.”

“Then please do that as well.”

Solomon pointed at scattered papers at the table. Luminaria nodded without a word.

## Chapter 16 The Latest Technologies

“Let’s continue then. The largest difference with players and normal people is in our bodies. As you can notice, it doesn’t seem to age.”

Telling that, Solomon showed his figure, spreading his arms. The same as Mira and Luminaria, his appearance was carefully constructed with vanity cases.

“And that’s why you haven’t aged even after thirty years?”

“Yes. I can’t tell for sure because we still don’t know a lot of things but it looks like either we don’t age at all or simply don’t change our appearance with age. I still don’t know if we have a life span at all. Though it’s not like we have any way to confirm it without waiting another 40-50 years.”

The fact that there is no aging with time means there is no degradation of body with age. Thus, the skin’s tension is preserved. A large part of reason why Luminaria praises this world as the best lies in the perpetual youth of that form. If you’re handsome, you’ll remain that way forever.

Judging by this explanation, the unchanging appearance is not a property of this world but just a privilege of former players.

However, for Mira ‘**lifespan**’ was more important. It’s natural that in thirty years you still don’t die from age. But what about other causes? In a game, when monsters defeated you, you resurrected with weakened status in the country or place you was linked to. But it only applied to game. Does it still work now, in reality? That’s what bothered Mira.

“By the way, what about death in this world? Do you still resurrect with the status penalty?”

“Hmm...”

On this question Solomon folded arms and pondered with a troubled expression.

Gathering his thoughts after a short pause, Solomon lifted his face with

words “I don’t know for sure.”

“Honestly, I haven’t yet heard about death of players. But it’s related to the fact there aren’t much players. Also there is a possibility that this information is restricted.

But my personal opinion is... probably, you do die.”

A plain voice of Solomon told it extremely seriously. As long as it’s reality, it’s definitely not a strange thing. And Mira, while hoping that it’s not true, actually understood that things can’t be so convenient and smoothly accepted those words.

“Thus, if you said “probably”, you do have some basis?”

“It’s the friend list. Do you know that I check the friend list every day? Because, well, all of you tend to appear unexpectedly. But, you see, there was an opposite case. Well, even when friend list told me he was online, I couldn’t know where he was.”

Telling that, Solomon stopped his monologue to wet his lips. In the moment his voice vanished from room, there was only the sound of papers being bundled by Luminaria.

“One night when I checked my list like usual, he became offline. Since then, he still hasn’t came back.”

“Indeed.”

If you assume that presence in this world makes you to appear online in friend list, then becoming offline means one of two possibilities. First is, by some means he managed to log out. Another is, he simply disappeared from this world. In other words, he died.

Trusting to the logic of Solomon, Mira decided to act even more carefully.

“About all that die-don’t die thing. Honestly, the primary cause of death is a battle. And I think that it’s hard to die in action for us. With all our strength, even if we face a stronger opponent, we can run away for sure, so be it the king of beasts, Maou, or dragon god, we always have a way.”

As Luminaria stated in the middle of arranging papers while charmingly sitting

on the table, for them it's not that a big issue. They could trust in strength that they got through various means in the four years since the official release.

"Surely, it's that."

"Also, it's just the worst case, so let's put this topic aside for time being. Right now we don't have neither need to answer, nor any humane way to do it. I think we should just take extra care."

Returning his smile, Solomon confirmed the time in the menu of his bracelet.

"Well, it's already the appointed time. Let's go. Mira, you're going with us too."

"Hmm. Well, it's fine. Do you have any other task?"

"That will be a surprise."

With those words, smiling like he had something in thoughts Solomon walked to the door of the office.

"I'll show you how this world has advanced!"

Luminaria, turning her table to the door, jumped down from the table.

Following them, Mira stood up and left the office. To get away from the unbearable glances of Reynard and Joaquin, she quickly slipped into the shadow of Luminaria.

Five of them went down on several ladders while moving through the corridor. Silence gradually took over, only the sound of footsteps, coldly echoing from cold gray walls, resounded in their ears.

When Mira went on down, by her count, the tenth ladder, she saw a large steel door with guards staying on it's sides.

Recognizing Solomon and Luminaria, the guards reported "Nothing abnormal sire" with the **usual** military salute.

"Good job."

Solomon made a short nod switching in the king mode. Luminaria did the same.

"Everyone has already gathered."

“Fine.”

“It’ll begin soon. Your highness, can you tell us who she is?”

Guard looked at Mira.

“This person is Dunbalf’s pupil, Mira. Her skills could help in an experiment we’re going to do so I brought her.”

“She was a pupil of Dunbalf? My apologies.”

After that the guard pushed a card-shaped key to the door. A white corridor appeared behind it.

Mira followed Solomon and Luminaria. Suddenly, the Middle Ages scenery changed to a cutting edge-looking institution.

This scenery made Mira to recall a certain foreign space station she saw at TV once.

(It looks like they’re having some fun.)

Considering the deep basement, strong door, and experiments the first thing she thought about was a secret research institution.

“We are here.”

Saying that, Solomon stopped before a large door. The door slowly opened itself.

“It’s quite amazing too.”

A huge white space opened behind the door. The size of this space was comparable to a domed stadium.

Countless machines were clustered around here. One machine attracted attention with it’s giant form. It had a large horizontal extension on a tower rising from a heavy body. People in white gowns hustled before gauges around the tower. Near the main body, stained in oil figures dressed in patched clothing with aprons discussed something.

“I waited for you, Solomon-sama.

Counselor Suriman appeared from a side of the door. With a nod, he moved to the side of Solomon.

“Thanks for the hard work, everyone.”

At this voice, everybody stopped, turned faces to him deeply bowed. After they finished paying their respects, their attention focused on the unknown girl standing near him.

Being weak to attention, Mira instantly tried to slip behind the back of Luminaria. But Luminaria quickly grabbed her shoulders and put her in front of them.

“This girl is Mira, pupil of the Dunbalf. She inherited Dunbalf’s skills, they should be useful in today’s experiment.

While everybody around expressed their emotions, a noble stepped forward.

“Such girl is a... May you allow me to make greetings?”

“Fine, go ahead.”

After Solomon’s permission, the noble man walked to Mira and knelt. A man about 60~70 years old with silver-gray hair and deep wrinkles on the face showed a gentle smile to Mira. With that matured calmness and masculine expression, his looks were more suitable for the king title than Solomon. A gorgeous costume without excessive adornments completed the refined outlook.

“Glad to meet you. I’m Edward Corse Steiner. I’m greatly honored seeing a pupil of a hero, Dunbalf.”

With this greetings, Edward took hand of Mira and made a gentle kiss in back of the hand. Mira was impressed with that refined gentlemen’s manners to the point that she did not even brush him away. Even more, she was fascinated by his manners. After all, this was the Mira’s admired bearing.

“Yes, I’m Mira.”

Looking at Edward’s retreating figure, Mira reaffirmed her devotion: “As expected, **authenticity** is magnificent”. Luminaria silently chuckled behind her.

(Edward? I feel I met him somewhere)

While musing at the gentleman’s manners, Mira tried to find where she heard the Edward’s name in her vast sea of memories about Ark Earth Online to no

result.

“Well, preparations are over. Let’s start the first stage.”

Returning to her senses at the voice, Mira, following busily moving researchers and engineers, looked up at the giant mechanism in the middle of them.

“Could it be a... cannon?”

Muttering that, Mira looked at black pipe, extending like a gun barrel.

“That’s right. And it’s not a simple cannon“, gently smiled Luminaria with feminine manners.

A few of the researchers had quickened heartbeats looking at this Elder’s onee-sama charm. Mira, knowing the insides, with inexpressible feelings moved away.

At the edge of her vision, some device was in middle of preparations far away in direction of the cannon’s barrel.

(What is it?)

Gaping at that sight, Mira slightly tilted her body, showing smoothly shining silver hairs and countless shaking ribbons on her shoulders.

“Hey, I’m feeling an amazing glance.”

“What? It doesn’t matter, just set that stuff up.”

“No, but, well, that’s.”

“Just what’s wrong with you?”

At the end of Mira’s sight, a researcher and an engineer, doing last adjustments of device, noticed the adorable girl gazing at them.

“Wasn’t that Dunbalf’s pupil...”

“Yeah, Mira-chan.”

“No, no! Chan is a bit rude.”

“But no matter how you look at her, it’s Mira-chan. How can you call her otherwise?”

“Something like Mira-sama?”

“Mira-sama... In some sense, that fits her too.”

The researcher broadly grinned. The engineer nodded, expressing agreement. Despite the stupid talk, their pace of work went faster. Mira’s attention made them enthusiastic.

“Preparations are complete. We’re ready at any time.”

The only engineer who had a red hat reported it. He planned the main part of the cannon and was in charge of today’s experiment.

Looking at the cannon again, Mira already expected the test firing. But even judging by looks, it wasn’t a simple cannon. A cannon that shoots simple shells was here even in the game epoch. It was a generic weapon made by players with a blacksmith skill.

But it never needed neither the size, nor countless indicators connected to it.

(Well, well, what are they going to show?)

Happily cuddling her chin, Mira waited for the result.

Researchers stood on alert by the gauges connected to cannon. Nobles lined at the wall watching over the experiment.

“Start the experiment!”

“Starting the experiment!”

At the loud signal of Solomon, the lead engineer started the main mechanism, repeating the order.

High-pitched sound of the motor reverberated in the room. The hands of gauges started to shake. Nobles held their breath. Reynard and Joaquin stood ahead of Mira’s group just in case, focusing attention on the cannon.

“5 seconds till the first stage....4.....3.....“

Mixing with the increasing sound of the countdown, a noise similar to the electrical discharge was heard.

“2.... 1...Ready!”

“Fire!”



Responding to Solomon, the lead engineer pushed a lever. At this second, thunder accompanied with a flash of a lightning tore the sky. This torrent of destruction crashed into a curtain of light atop of the device in front and, shaking the room with the impact, burst into an explosion a moment later.

Everyone in this room was entranced for a moment with that destructive power of the cannon, which was enough to blow away the device producing the light curtain.

This power was clearly above cannons in past. Eyes of Mira shined at that brave figure of the new model of cannon.

“Amazing, amazing!”

Luminaria put her hands on shoulders of Mira and leaned face to her side.

“This is a technique born and progressed during 30 years you was missing. It’s the Accord Cannon made with the **magical engineering.**”

With those words, she looked up at the Accord Cannon which demonstrated enough strength.



## Chapter 17: Refining

The test firing of the accord cannon succeeded safely. The scientists and engineers began analysis of the data.

Accompanied with Solomon, Suleiman and the nobility, eight engineers and the lead engineer spread on a desk the data about the Accord Cannon moved into development room and began a discussion about the military use and the mass production.

Quickly withdrawing herself from the tortuous discussion about state affairs, Mira started to examine content of shelves in the room. She couldn't recognize a single thing there.

“By the way, Thomas. It seems we managed to complete the first stage without any issues but did we have any problems left?”

“No. We managed to completely control the recoil too. It should already have some military use, I guess.”

Solomon nodded with satisfaction at that confident answer of the lead engineer Thomas.

“By the way, what are we going to do with the mass production? My Wesleyan family can easily help fund the mass production.”

Following him, all rest nobles expressed agreement.

“Speaking about that...”

Speaking those words, Tomas presented one document on the table with a discouraged face. This document revealed information about the shells of the Accord Cannon and explained the operating materials.

“One refined gem and two sealed gems are necessary for the Accord Cannon to fire once.”

Following that, Thomas explained the principles of the Accord Cannon design.

In the summary, a refined gem works as a shell. The power for this shell is extracted from sealed gems.

Refined gem is a jewel able to store a peculiar power made through the combining of several materials. In production process it's tuned for extremely easy power accumulation.

Sealed gem is a general term for substances containing some amount of a specific magic inside.

The Accord Cannon shoots by means of extracting and amplifying power from sealed gems. A refined gem is used as the shell guides this amplified to the limit chaotic force. In other words, it's used as a self-launching lighting rod.

The refined gem utilizes this raging force to launch destroying itself in the process. The size of the refined gem affects the time until destruction and, consequently, the shooting range. So, the last thing you need to use the Accord Canon is a sealed lightning gem. Basically, this cannon operates on electricity.

"That is what we are dealing with. Considering all your aid it is not hard to start the mass production but supply of refined and sealed gems is a problem."

Telling that, Thomas made a large sigh. Refined and sealed gems. A specific crafting skill becomes necessary here. While sealed gems occur in nature too, all refined gems are made by people. Crafters are a must here.

The difficulty mentioned by Thomas is the difficulty in providing the necessary sealed lighting gems and refined gems.

There are several people with the required to produce refined gem skill in Arkite Kingdom. Still, they can't make gems above the middle grade. The supply of sealed gems is barely enough to operate the cannon too. But even under those circumstances, the capability of the Accord Cannon is quite high.

There are no issues with the mass production. The supply of shells is somehow fine. But it is only enough to display the minimum capability of the Accord Cannon. Thomas, who devoted long years of his life to development of the cannon, stared at the document with a discouraged feeling of being unable to allow his child to display full potential.

"I believe we can solve it right now."

While Thomas face was still cloudy, Solomon with a joyful mood placed some jewels at the table. Some of the jewels cast a weak light.

“Is it... Turquoise and moonstone, I believe. And those are... sealed gems? But, your highness, the grade of those gems is not that high, how exactly are you going to resolve anything with that?”

Turquoise and moonstone. All around natural gems, they’re capable of holding power so they have utility besides being decorations: sealing the magic.

The jewels placed by Solomon weren’t that special — just common gems. It wouldn’t be strange to doubt his words but people here were already used to his suggestive behavior so they quietly waited for the explanation.

“Okay, come this way~”

“What? What this time!?”

A confused girl’s voice rang from a corner of the room. Everyone turned their eyes to her.

Cheerful Solomon chuckled a bit on the sight. Hugged by Luminaria, Mira struggled like a child in her breast.

Placed down by the table, groaning Mira stared at Luminaria but noticing she just attracts even more attention, backed off.

“So, what is it this time?”

“I beg my pardon. I have a request.”

Without a single regret in his smile, Solomon took several gems from the table and showed to everybody.

“Mira, can you please make a refined gem from this?”

He offered two turquoises and three moonstones to Mira.

“And that’s all thou want?”

Mira tried to stretch hands out to get the gems but her hands were already busy with the awkward robots she got from the shelves. A blue robot in right hand, a red one in left hand. They were labeled as “combining robots” and Luminaria grabbed her right in midst of her attempts to combine them.

“ ... ”

“Erm... Can I hold them?”

“Yes, please.”

In the indescribable silence Suleiman humbly offered a hand and Mira with a short answer gave him awkward clanking robots.

When Mira took the gems in her now free hands, Luminaria came carrying a large board. She placed it on top of the table with the aid of some magicians in robes holding the edges.

“Is it a refining stand?”

Thomas named it seeing the numerous figures and symbols on the board.

Refining stand is a magic tool used to refine items. Figures expressing dismantling, combination, alteration, converting and compression formed a circle on the top of it.

“Are you going to start refining now? Doesn’t it take a while?”, Edward raised his doubt.

When you get used to refining, experience and understanding of process become crucial to reduce the required time. However, even the best refiner in the Arkite Kingdom needs 30 minutes to make a single refined gem.

Nobles and experts with knowledge about refining nodded at his words.

“Well, you will understand when you see it. All right, Mira. Do it please.”

“Good grief, just when I almost made it.”

Moaning her complaint Mira stood before the refining stand. Two robots left in a corner of the table reflected in corners of her sight. A little more time and she could have understood how to combine them. So, Mira placed gems and set her hands up above the destined position to finish with the task already.

After a short time the circle started to glow. Under the delicate process of pouring strength and detailed control over the starting figure she dismantled the gems and, leaving only the power essence, compressed it to combine it back.

Shortly after beginning, Mira removed her hands from the refining stand.

“Ah! She removed her hands in the midst of refining...!”

Thomas started to panic yet when light particles, which appear only after completing the refining, whirled over the refining stand and stopped the moving, he fixed his eyes on the stand unable to breathe.

“I... It.. It’s”

When the light faded only one large transparent stone lay atop of the stand in the place of several gems. With an unbelieving expression Thomas stared at that stone, sticking his face right to it.

“A refined gem... Impossible... To make that in such short time...”

There was nothing strange in this astonishment. Mira made this refined gem in less than a minute.

“I thought I said you she is a pupil of Dunbalf, right? Mira inherited everything from him.”

Solomon puffed with pride like it was his achievement. Rather than inheriting everything, she obviously was Dunbalf himself but it was a convenient explanation to keep her secret so Mira confirmed it without making a fuss.

This crafting skill itself, **【Refining】**, was developed by Dunbalf. This skill is about extracting, fusing, attaching peculiar power: some elemental power or a boost for stats. It makes it possible to extract this power from gems and attaching it to equipment reinforcing it or, vice versa, extracting this power from equipment and sealing it into gems.

The amount of power inside of each gem have a fixed limit but by combining several gems it’s possible to make refined gems. Due to a higher limit on the power they hold refined gems are more valuable and useful than usual gems. Mira can be called the pioneer of this technique even although her appearance is not the same. She has more experience and understanding of the process than anyone and it leads to higher efficiency, proportionally reducing the required time.

“I heard that the refining skill is developed by Dunbalf but by no means I could expect that even his pupil had such talent.”

Thomas moved his look from refined gem to Mira. A girl reflected in his eyes could be the person who let Accord Cannon display it’s full potential. When

Thomas realized that, a feeling similar to excitement arose from the bottom of his heart and filled his body.

“And while you are still at that, Mira, could you please combine those with that refined gem?”

Solomon gave three sealed gems and Mira, answering with “Hmm”, placed those stones to the designed spot and started refining again.

And this time again it haven't took a minute for the light to fade and the shining refined gem now contained all the power extracted from the sealed gems on top of the refining stand.

“Is that enough?”

“Yes, thank you.”

Solomon delightfully nodded, taking the newly created sealed gem. After the refining, the sealed gem was shining with new strength and clearly contained considerable power.

“I believe she should be able to solve all our issues with refined and sealed gems.”

With those words Solomon gave the sealed gem to Thomas.

“Yes, of course, it should be enough.”

Thomas answered with a smile, cautiously holding the gem on his palm.

When everybody started even more deep talk about the military use of the Accord Cannon, Mira grabbed robots from the table and, sitting in a corner of the room, began to play with with them. Seeing that, a man in a robe came to her.

“Mira-chan, can't you please make some time for me?”

“I'm busy now so come later.”

Mira answered while gazing at joints of the robots in a passion. A man in robe with slightly troubled face leaned over her and pleaded “Can you please work something out?”

After a sigh Mira turned to this man. He was a handsome young man in black



and blue robe with gold, shining hair falling to shoulders and good-looking face. And Mira knew that face.

“Creos?”

“Oh, you know me?”

Of course he saw Mira for the first time.

Creos was a half-light spirit and half-elf attendant of the Tower of Summoners. Due to a special ability of light spirits he eliminated the need to think about illumination even in dark dungeons and for that reason was often being dragged along by Dunbalf.

“That’s right. I happened to hear about thou from my teacher.”

She knew him by face but because she let it slip without any consideration, Mira chose a simple excuse. Creos with a pleased face answered “So that is why you know me.”

“Then, once again. I am Creos, the vice-elder of the Tower of Summoners.”

“I’m Mira.”

They exchanged simple greetings. Right after that, Mira recalled one word Creos had said.

“Speaking about that, I heard from Graia that after the Elders disappeared, the vice-elders started to work instead. Looks like thou was one of them.”

“Well, it almost was forced on me. I was recommended because I was with Dunbalf for the longest time. Honestly, the rest of the vice-elders are in a similar situation.”

“So that’s how it went.”

Mira remembered that she dragged Creos along due to his utility. But she also understood it was a good decision to pick him. Even if you are judging by strength, Creos who constantly accompanied her in all those dangerous fields was probably the strongest attendant in the Tower of Summoners.

It should be the same for all the rest vice-elders. When you’re dragged through the highest level fields, you’ll become stronger no matter if you want it

or not.

“By the way, is it fine for thou to not take part in this discussion? It should be an important weapon, right?”

Saying that, Mira pointed with her eyes at Solomon’s group talking at the table.

“It is fine. After all, as vice-elders we came here just to look at the performance.”

“By ‘we’ thou mean that they all are vice-elders too?”

Mira looked again at figures of the magicians near the wall. Just like Creos, they were without any particular interest and were busy with their own things.

“The important discussion already finished and they are already discussing about the mass production. It is the domain of Solomon and nobility.”

“That’s why thou came to talk with me?”

Saying that, Mira returned her eyes to the robots in her hands and resumed trying to rotate and bend the parts to find the place of combination.

After that, they continued easy conversation but at the end because Creos switched to grumbling about how absurd was Dunbalf’s decisions to drag him through all that places Mira just listened with aizuchi to him with a bitter smile. ED: aizuchi is basically small interjections within the conversation in order to feign that they are actually paying attention. Like yes, uh-huh, etc. Its often used when you zone out like when a teacher or parent is lecturing you.....

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## Chapter 18: Learning a Skill

“By the way, are thou still using Rairinko as your main?”

Mira could not comprehend all the complaints directed on her past self anymore and to divert him from that topic she mentioned the name of the strongest summon that Creos had.

“Where did you learn about Rairinko? From Dunbalf again?”

“Ah.. Yes.”

At this point Mira gave up and decided to attribute all knowledge to her master.

“Oh, that is quite embarrassing. Looks like he talked a lot about me.”

“Yes, I learned a lot.”

Creos happily smiled at that. Despite all his grumbling, all the complaints came from his respect and affection for Dunbalf. Creos was happy that this wise man talked so much about him with a pupil.

“Just like you heard I am still using Rairinko mainly but this Rairinko became much stronger since that time.

“That surely sounds promising.”

Rairinko was ranked in the upper-middle range amongst summons. Having even more strength should make it a reliable battle force.

“Making a contract with Rairinko was really hard. And this Dunbalf, you know...”

At this time Creos started a passionate speech about how great the wise man Dunbalf was. Honestly, he was dragged along only because he was handy but when Creos told his impressions like “When he did it for me that time” and “It was a great lesson for me”, Mira, being affected by an awkward feeling of guilt, was busy by just silently sitting there with a fixed expression. Occasionally she responded with aizuchi.

“Being trained by that now I am managing the Tower instead of Dunbalf.”

Satisfied, Creos nodded with a feeling of accomplishment ending his long story. Although for Mira this story, despite having some nostalgic scenes, was mostly an epic saga about Dunbalf from the standpoint of Creos.

After that Mira at last brought up her doubt from the time she went into the Tower of Summoners.

“By the way, when I stopped at the Towers, the Tower of Summoners was utterly deserted compared to the Tower of Magic. Had anything happened with it?”

“Eh... You surely stick it where it hurts. Yes, right now number of summoners is extremely low.”

“So, its just like I thought.”

At the time she visited the Tower night hours could serve as an excuse but after getting the confirmation it was clear that the Tower of Summoners faced a shortage of people. Looking down in sorrow, Mira remembered the old times and began to feel she must do something about it.

“I guess that as a pupil of Dunbalf, your made your first contract through the same method, right?”

To overcome the struggle with the first contract Dunbalf spammed potions and all the available bombs. But Mira knew that Creos was talking about another method. As the Elder, she developed it herself to help her juniors at the Tower.

“Hmm. You mean using refined equipment and sealed blasting gems, right?”

“Yes, this one. Some time after the disappearance of Dunbalf we still continued to complete our contracts but shortly we ran out of the the sealed blasting gems and then our refined equipment broke... Even refiners from the palace could not make such high-class tools as Dunbalf and that is how the first unable to complete contract people appeared.”

“That makes sense.”

The method Mira developed then was similar to spamming consumables but was tuned up for better efficiency.

Potions were substituted with a refined equipment to greatly increase stamina and instead of bombs, it used sealed blasting gems with the element that was strong against the target. It made drastic difference in the difficulty of completing the first contract. But because of the dependence on Dunbalf, after his disappearance they could not continue using this method.

Even though there was a handful of refiners, time and labor costs made the price of supplies to go through the roof. It quickly became beyond the means of the new summoners.

And without help from the absolute charisma of the Elder, the Tower of Summoners became deserted.

“Fine, then for a meantime...”

Lifting her face, Mira reached for her sealed blasting gems from the inventory. Picking up the scattering stones from the floor, she offered them to Creos.

“I think it’s enough to defeat the opponents for about 20 people.”

“Tho...Those are the sealed blasting gems!? And that grade... It is the same as 30 years before... No, even higher... Is it really fine for me to accept that?”

“Yeah, it’s all I can do right now.”

“But haven’t you got all that stones from Dunbalf for self-defense?”

(Indeed, it could be used for that.)

The sealed blasting gems could be used as a trump card in emergency cases. Assuming that Dunbalf gave stones to his pupil for defense could be a reason why Creos hold his craving back.

“It’s not a big deal. I’ve got the Dark Knight from the master. And if he was here, he could not ignore the situation with the Tower too.”

“That obsessed with summoning Dunbalf certainly would not accept the current state of things at the Tower.”

Muttering that, Creos accepted the sealed blasting gems from Mira.

“Thanks you. Thank you, Mira. As soon as possible I will tell it to all newcomers who gave up on summoning.”

A grin covered the young-looking face of Creos.

Being frustrated with the state of things at the Tower, Creos himself was constantly trying to do something. But even though several people recently finally managed to make the contract, his methods still were full of problems and they couldn't fully resolve this situation.

As a result, young people who wished to become summoners left the Tower with their dreams shattered. For Creos, who saw their backs, those sealed blasting gems were worth more than 100-carat diamonds.

“Yeah, do it please. Also, accept this too.”

Understanding his devotion to the Tower, Mira decided to make one more farewell gift to Creos who already lost himself in delight.

She took a ring and a necklace from herself and offered to Creos.

“That is...”

“This equipment increases physical strength and power. It should be enough to stand on equal footing against a low-ranked opponent.”

“Is it really fine to accept such valuable things?”

“It definitely is. If my master wants to protect something, I would support that feeling too. In return I'm entrusting the Tower to you, Creos.”

“Putting the honor of the vice-elder at stake, I will do everything for prosperity of the Tower!”

Being in euphoria, he nodded, looking into the eyes of Mira with a strong shine in his eyes.

“Then we are conducting the second stage of the experiment at the same time five days later.”

Solomon closed the meeting with that words. Nobles and vice-elders left the development room with salutations.

“Seems like it's over. Good bye, Mira-chan and thank to you. I should tell everyone as soon as I can. Looks like I'll become really busy.”

“Sure, take care.”

After a a deep bow Creos hurried to follow everyone. His steps became light and rest vice-elders, noticing that, tenderly looked at his back in surprise. It was not a secret for them that Creos was worried about his Tower but, having their hands full with their our Towers, they couldn't offer much help. Considering how often Creos was gloom until now, it was a long time since he was in such high spirits.

It obviously was caused by the new hope for the Tower of Summoners but, without knowing it, rest vice-elders assumed that the talk with Mira caused Creos, who had a love for children, to have a good mood.

“Well, it's already time for dinner.”

“What are we having tonight?”

The discussion between Solomon and Luminaria made Mira to wonder how luxurious a meal is for a ruler of the country.

“Can I join you?”, she asked turning her face back.

“Of course. We were going to invite you anyway. There is still a lot things to talk about.”

“Mira-chan, you can look forward to it. You surely never had such feast before.”

“That sounds great.”

Holding the extremely transformed robots in her hands Mira became even more jovial at those words.

Then Luminaria noticed that squatting Mira was rustling something. Luminaria quietly approached and peeked at her hands with a grin.

“What's the hell is it?”

Witnessing clusters of a weird form, Luminaria instantly blurted in her original tone and, bringing her face closer, fixed her eyes at an object in hands of Mira.

“A combining robot as thou can see! I almost combined it, wait a bit.”

Mira with a child-like smile, no, with a genuine child smile, was happily transforming the robot like an absorbed himself little boy.

“Oh, what going on here?”

Worrying about them, the chief of development — Thomas — came near and saw the reason they sat down there.

“Ah, the ‘Hyper Combining Lord Vulcan’? Where did you find it?”

“It was laying somewhere on that shelf.”

Mira pointed at a shelf in front with a finger.

“That’s where it was. I already considered it lost.”

Thomas nostalgically looked at the muddle in her hands.

“So, it means they are thine?”

“Rather than that being mine, it is made by me.”

“Oh! So thou have a pretty good hobby.”

“It already became my work. And although I tried my best, it is a failed work: due to a design error it does not combine.”

“What... did....thou... say..?”

At his last words Mira awkwardly turned back with a disbelieving expression and stared at Thomas, who was trying to disguise his embarrassment with a smile.

“Yo..you see, when I made this combining mechanism, the width was a little bit off. Fixing it requires disassembling the whole thing so I put it aside to fix later and then I accidentally lost it.”

Due to face so angry he couldn’t possibly think is possible for that cute girl, Thomas, stuttering in his answer, slowly lowered his body.

“What did thou saaayy!!”

This scream was heard outside of the room.

Thomas, feeling relieved after somehow managing to calm Mira down with a promise to gift it after fixing, received the Hyper Combining Lord Vulcan.

Grumbling about the lost time Mira got up and instantly frowned in response to a certain unexpected sensation. Yes, a common physiological phenomenon.



Mira turned around and was already ready to ask for the directions but stopped for a second.

In a basement of unknown castle it's faster to ask if you don't know the location. But the thing she was going to ask would certainly light a strange sparkle in the faces of Solomon and Luminaria. She knew their personalities too well.

Nonetheless, trying to find it without any hints could lead to the worst situation. That's why Mira quietly brought her face to ear of Thomas.

"Where is the nearest toilet?", she whispered. But she picked the wrong person. Hearing her, Thomas pointed at a door.

"Well, you need to exit here, then go to the right until the end and then it will be near when you turn left."

Thomas without any delicacy taught the location of toilet with big gestures. Of course, Solomon and Luminaria knew about a toilet in that direction. In other words, they immediately understood what Mira sought from his words.

Mira, obviously exposed to their looks, rushed out of the development room.

Getting to the toilet with the taught directions at full speed, Mira stopped her movement before two entrances. The labels "Men" and "Women" near them blocked her path like a barrier.

After a little confusion Mira made up her mind and walked to the women toilet. She was grinning a bit but she hasn't noticed that. However, a woman dressed in a white robe suddenly appeared from the door. Assaulted with a feeling a guilt, Mira recklessly changed her course and crashed into a wall.

"Ah! Are you okay? Wait, you are Mira! Mira the pupil of Dunbalf, right!?"

The woman, holding dizzy Mira, quickly recognized her. An impressive entirely covered with ribbons robe, long shining silver hair. It was impossible to forget that cheeky yet cute as a doll face.

"Going to the toilet? Are you fine alone? Do you need help?"

The adorableness of Mira almost made this woman in a white robe unable to

control herself. But no matter how you look at it, this attitude looked like caring about a precious little sister.

“I’m fine. I can do it alone.”

Escaping from her hands, Mira jumped into the women toilet.

“Oops, I entered here”, muttered Mira with unclear emotions in this space, unusually filled with individual stalls only. Then, pushed by irreversibly increasing sensations in her abdomen, she opened a door of a stall.

After completing the task, Mira smile stayed before the sink. She washed hands, repeatedly nodding to herself “I grew a little bit more.” Then, looking around for something to wipe hands, she saw the reflection of a girl in a mirror right in front of her.

Gazing at that figure, she muttered “I am so cute ♪.”

The first time when Mira saw herself was on the reflection of light on the armor of magic knights. The second time was in a window glass dyed with the night. A large proper mirror specially made to reflect a figure reflected her charm much more clearly, to the point she became enchanted with her prettiness.

Unable to find any towels at all, Mira wiped her hands with the sleeves of her robe and, looking at the mirror, absent-mindedly touched her face. Following her chin, she moved her fingers from her lips to the back of her neck and lightly stroked the beautifully swaying silver hair.

“Welcome to this side of the world. I’m greeting you.”

Foolishly immersed in her own world Mira abruptly stood up straight and turned her face to the atmospheric female voice.

Triumphantly grinning Luminaria was there.

“Since when have you been here?”

“I am so cute ♡.”

Mira instantly charged with a 【Xian•Step: Gap Closer】but Luminaria vanished in air like a phantom and opened the distance.

“Whoa, what was that. I haven’t seen that movement before.”

Mira was attracted to that vanishing-like strange movement. She didn’t know of any skill producing a similar effect.

“While you went missing, progress was not limited to the magical engineering. It was a whole thirty years, battle skills rapidly advanced with each day too.”

Luminaria with her skill vanished and reappeared repeatedly like a phantom. Looking at that, Mira completely forgot about her recent embarrassment and filled her thoughts with that new skill.

“It is an evading skill developed a little over eight years ago, **【Mirage Step】**. The effect is, well, you can see it yourself.”

While saying that, Luminaria repeated moving leaving phantom shadows.

“The requirements for learning it are: having mana and acquiring the blessings of both light and water I believe.”

“Oh! Then I can learn it too, right? Teach me it!”

Hearing that she already meets the requirement, Mira urged Luminaria.

Eh-? What should I do-? Should I simply teach a product of long history for free~”

Luminaria displayed a hesitating appearance. He, no, she already knew since those days about Mira’s remarkable obsession with skills.

“Fine then, Solomon should know it too anyway.”

Mira flew past Luminaria with those words when she was called out from behind.

“What do you think this is?”

Turning her face back at this voice, Mira saw a single book Luminaria got from the inventory. The cover said “Encyclopedia of skills, 2146 year edition”.

“Ca.. can it be..”

An encyclopedia of skills, a large best-seller bursting with a countless amount of skills of a great variety made with a publication skill. Of course Mira, being

obsessed with skills, had one too but it was “Encyclopedia of skills, 2116 year edition”, out of date by 30 years in this world.

It was no wonder that Mira couldn't take her eyes off from that book. In the four years of official service players discovered lots of skills. Considering 30 years of development, the amount of knowledge in that book should be immeasurable.

“There aren't many publishers now so you can't buy that book no matter how much you pay. What if I said I'm going to give it to you?”

“What do you want?”

Mira made a point blank question. This book was just a bunch of already known instructions for Luminaria but she understood how attractive it is for Mira. If Luminaria brought it here, there is no way she could give it for free. It was obvious after her recent over-emphatic words.

“I'm glad you are understanding it. Don't worry, it is not that hard for you. I heard from Solomon that you are going to look for those guys. I want you to get two items for me along the way.”

“So, what are they?”

“The first one is a sword of the Crimson Lotus King.”

“Hmm. It's quite rare. Although it's not unobtainable at all. But it's the same for thou as well. There is no need to specially ask me, right?”

“Like you know, I can't move from this country now. Putting aside the Accord Cannon, if I happen to cross the border, it can provoke other countries. You know, I'm famous here.”

Telling that, Luminaria puffed out her abundant chest and boldly smiled, lifting the edges of her mouth.

“That makes sense. It was quite realistic even then. And now it became a true reality. Indeed, in that situation it's easier for me to move.”

“Yes, that's why I'm begging you. Do it and this book is yours.”

“Well, why not. But even if thou try to hold a sword, isn't magic faster and stronger? And why do thou need the charcoal? I believe it was an alchemical

material. Thou said that being a jack of all trades doesn't suit thou, right?

“Well, I don't care about the original purpose. It's just a catalyst for me.”

Luminaria is a sorcerer. The best one. No matter how rare is it, a sword of the Crimson Lotus King shows true value only in the hands of high-level swordsmen. Sorcerers can't handle it. For a simple flame element attack the 【Sorcery: Double Blaze】 is way more efficient. And considering that Luminaria is bad at delicate work, she never cared about alchemy so the need for material of the concealed stone of purification — charcoal of the World Tree — is unclear.

“Catalyst means... a catalyst for learning a spell?”

“Yes. A while ago I found a pentagram I have never seen before. When I did analysis, I found that it requires that two items as a catalyst.”

“Those thirty years were amazing if even new skills appeared. Wait, thou just said ‘analysis’? What is that, the catalyst for sorcery was supposed to be found by burning everything thou could think about so how did thou learned about this catalyst?”

“Well, there is a new skill advanced from the Judgement — the 【Expert Analysis】. Of course it's written in this book too.”

Saying that, Luminaria brought the book to Mira's face. Mira faster than the eyes could see grabbed at the phantom with her hands.

“No way...”

“You are the same as thirty years ago. It's thirty years too early for you to win against me. So, what is your decision? I will give this book to you if you bring the catalyst to me.”

“I'm accepting it.”

Luminaria having jumped with Mirage Step to Mira's back spoke. Turning around to Luminaria, Mira answered with a glint in eyes.

“But I have one condition.”

“What? Travel expenses or tools for it? Solomon should prepare such stuff.”

“No, just teach me how to use this phantom.”

Mira looked up at Luminaria with her eyes full of hope. Despite her experience, that look startled Luminaria a bit.

“You’re quite good at abusing your appearance. Well, why not. I’ll teach you as an advance pay.”

## Chapter 19: Conflict again

It's been a while since the training session began. The aide of Solomon, Suleiman, went to look for the still missing Mira and Luminaria. Knowing how it looks from the outside, he tried to call them near the women's toilet but even then he heard only two noisy voices instead of an answer. When he at last dared to peek inside, they were dashing around while leaving phantoms behind. Thinking he was overworked, Suleiman tried to shake his head while pinching his forehead. Needless to say, a female scientist who happened to visit the toilet at this time considered him a pervert.

But she also became completely stunned by the sight of the top of the Tower of Sorcery, Luminaria the Elder inside.

However, Luminaria decided to finish the training due to that and their long visit to toilet was finally over. As a result, Mira managed to learn the 【Mirage Step】. Of course her technique a bit rough due to the lack of experience but it could be fixed with frequent practice.

Together with Solomon they went to a large banquet room and ate dinner. This time the presence of the usual servants prevented them from talking about anything outside of daily topics.

The content of dinner was extremely gorgeous and, being the most excited, Mira was asking "What's that?" all the time. It tickled the motherly instincts of one of maids and she began to fuss around her explaining the content of dishes and wiping around her mouth.

And Luminaria got her turn after the meal. She offered to enter the bath and, hearing "Indeed, I've got exhausted. A long bath sounds nice for me." in answer, forcibly snatched Mira. Left to himself Solomon went to the men bath alone.

"Why must I enter the bath together with thee?"

"Why not? The bathtub is large enough. Since we finally met again after such a long time, let's do some naked socializing!"

Mira and Luminaria stood in the changing room of a large bath. Contrary to Luminaria, who already adeptly folded her clothes and placed them on the shelf, Mira was still struggling with her robe that was adjusted by her aide Litaria and Mariana.

“Good grief. Let me help.”

Luminaria approached Mira and with practiced hand began to untie one ribbon after another. At the same time, the object of her dignified obsession was voluptuously demanding for attention right before eyes of Mira. Of course Mira could not handle staring directly at that scenery so she quickly moved her glance to a side.

After the hard effort of Luminaria, twelve ribbons were lined up on the shelf. The robe that was hemmed up with them returned to its original form. After undoing the last ribbon at her chest, the collar opened up to her shoulders and, looking at the moderately bulging breasts of Mira, Luminaria beamed a smile.

“Not too big and not too small. Really, the contents match your taste too.”

“Drop the subject already...”

Mira pulled her robe to move to a corner of the room and, retracting her hands, reluctantly started to undress it.

Dressed in the Nymph Raiment and bloomers Mira appeared from under of that phony magic girl style robe. It made Luminaria to make another attack. Mira who was dressed in the celestial maiden’s robe of feathers and bloomers appeared from beneath that bogus magical girl style robe. Seeing this Luminaria was pressed to make another attack.

“Mixing a see-through negligee with such old-styled bloomers... You came here literally yesterday and are already displaying that striking growth. With that pace you’ll get to my level really soon.”

The combination of immature yet bewitching see-through garment with apparently far away from eroticism bloomers was a discovery for Luminaria. Although it could require somebody like Luminaria to find something strange in it.

Mira, throwing away her robe at that pervert, hurriedly stripped away the rest of her clothes and ran to the bathroom.



Luminaria carefully folded the robe, put it on the shelf and followed her.

The bathroom was luxurious and gorgeous, enough to not be an embarrassment for a residence of the king. Water from a hot spring filled the large bathtub, ascending through a fountain at the middle and, attracted by the gravity, rained down like a shower all over the place.

This bathroom was open to guests. For that reason, a lot of things were stuffed inside which contributed to the appearance of a other worldly country at first sight, which could be seen just from the look of a fully joyful Mira.

“This is ridiculous! This indeed is ridiculous!”

Shrilly laughing Mira was struck with rain under the fountain. In no time her hair was soaked and clung to her skin; drops of water, going down her soft skin, fell to the floor.

In this absurdly expensive bathtub spa which screamed overkill, Mira, kicking the overflowing water around, bustling here and there, was fully enjoying herself.

“Looking at that, this behavior surely matches the current appearance. Well, he was childish to start with anyway. But are you really fine with that, Dunbalf?”

Muttering that to herself, Luminaria watched over the frolic Mira without being particularly against that.

After having enough fun or, rather, rest in the bath the refreshed Mira returned to the changing room and wiped herself with a towel.

Her previous outfit that was left on shelf was put to laundry and a change of clothes was left instead.

Mira took the change of clothes in her hands, unfolded it and froze in that pose. It was because the change of clothes was a sky-blue dress with frills. This outfit was not ordered by Solomon or Luminaria. Simply put, a maid chose this dress with all her devotion as something that would look the best on Mira.

But the problem did not end there. Rather, a strike overshadowing a mere dress was right next to it.

White panties arranged with a small ribbon. It was not overly decorated but precisely due to that it could bring Mira's charm to the next level. It was like the panties were saying that there is no need for unnecessary things, simple panties are all that you need, that it's enough to reach supremacy... or, rather, to strike into a peculiar hobby.

Mira in a hurry opened her inventory to look for something else instead but, like she already confirmed last night, she just reconfirmed that there was no place to run.

"What? Do you still hesitate? Quit it right now. It will not end anyway. Making a reaction each time only makes you tired.

Luminaria got out of water a bit later and, while changing into the prepared outfit, said that while looking at the frozen Mira holding a dress and panties. She instantly understood the situation.

"Still..."

Muttering that, Mira pointed her glance at Luminaria and, widely opening her eyes, glared at the robe of Luminaria.

"How did thou got a robe?"

"I often stay here. That's why there is plenty of spare clothes for me."

"If so, can thou lend me some please? This is really over the limit."

"In no way does my size fit you. Besides, it surely suits you so calm down and put it on. Or rather, do you want me to help? "

Luminaria sidled up to Mira with a suspicious smile.

"No thank thou!"

With those words Mira escaped to the opposite side of the locker room and, making a large breath to gain determination, put her head through the dress. Feeling discomfort with her wet hair being locked inside the dress, Mira forcibly pulled out her shining silver hair with a hand.

And now only the panties were left. A fierce battle between panty-less faction and giving-something-up faction began in the mind of Mira. The giving up group attacked with the shortness of the dress. Panty-less group desperately

defended with the former Dunbalf image and the three letters “man” in the heart. However, this conflict where sides could never reach a compromise, was meant to be prematurely finished by one person.

“Are you sti-ill on that?”

Saying that, Luminaria simultaneously took the panties from Mira’s hand, squatted down and held it near Mira’s legs.

“Hey, lift a leg.”

“No... way...”

“He-ey, do it already.”

Urging Mira, Luminaria was poking her leg. With a somewhat reluctant feeling Mira slightly lifted one leg and, quickly sticking one side of the panties through, Luminaria urged again with “Hey, now the other one.” Mira with resignation lifted her other leg, and was dressed with panties. The same way she already experienced with the drawers.

Forced to abandon something prosperous, Mira with a feeling of having achieved enlightenment left the changing room.

Getting a message from Solomon that he waits at the office from the alert maid outside of the locker room, under the lead of Luminaria they reached the office.

Luminaria knocked the door and Suleiman who was in the office opened the door and bowed with “We had been waiting for you.”

Then he, passing them, left the office and without a sound closed the door.

“Excuse me for the trouble.”

Languidly tossing documents he had in his hands to a corner of the table, Solomon, leaning on a back of chair, throw a look and made a large breath.

“You look very pretty.”

“Yeah, it extremely suits her.”

Saying that, Solomon and Luminaria had the edges of their mouths lifted in

smiles. This dress was not ordered by Solomon. He just ordered maid to bring an *outfit that would look the best on Mira*. This maid presented similar cute dresses to her little sister on each payday. That's why Solomon bothered to find for her to make such order.

"Humph. Quit with it already. Also, what's with thou? Thou look tired."

"Well, I am tired. And that's even despite Suleiman helping me big time."

"Is he that good?"

"I'm horrified from just thinking what would have happened if he was not here."

Exchanging that light talk, Mira, like she was drawn to it, turned to sofa and put her whole weight on it.

"Well, about the things we're going to do now."

With that preface Solomon took a single sheet of paper from the table. It listed the amount of refined and sealed gems for the following experiments with the Accord Cannon.

"The experiments with the Accord Cannon require 30 refined gems and 35 sealed lighting gems. Also I want you to make flame, water, earth, ice, wind, light sealed gems, 5 of each. Can you do it please? All the materials are ready."

"Hmm. It's quite a lot. Thus, which rank of sealed gems do thou need?"

"As high as possible but with materials we have fifth grade probably would be the limit."

The rank of sealed gems shows the amount of power contained inside. First is the highest, seventh is the lowest. Furthermore, due to the limits of materials, first-grade sealed gems and bases for them are quite scarce.

"Well, I'm fine with it. But in this case, perhaps it's faster to return to the Tower. As for the refined gems, there should be more than thou can possibly use in the storeroom. And there should be a reasonable amount of sealed gems too."

"Uhe. Just as expected from you. If you could come earlier, the research would be progressed much further. Or, rather, it would be already completed."

“If thou needed it, thou could just ask Mariana. Even without me she can enter there too and I left the managing of items to her too.”

There is a storeroom in the private rooms of the Tower. To enter this storeroom, you need to pass the private room. Only the Elder of the tower and his aide can enter it. In the other words, even without Dunbalf he could ask to Mariana to bring it. That’s what Mira meant.

“Erm... about that. One time I tried it, to ask if there are any refined or sealed gems in the storeroom. And if there was some, if I could possibly get some.”

“So you already did it. What, did thou already run out of them?”

“Ah, well. She had no intention of listening to me at all. It belongs to Dunbalf and she will not give any, even to me. Dunbalf will definitely come back and my mission is to defend all of the Tower till it happens so he will not face any troubles. ...She cried when she said that. I could not force her with a order.”

“Just like he said. I was with him that time. With that tenacity, she was ready to defend it till her death.”

“So that’s why...”

Mira thought again about Mariana who waited for her return for such a long time.

(I should tell it at least to her.)

A lonesomely looking girl with sapphire-like hair with a downcast expression came to mind. Probably no one else can cheer her up. She did not want to leave this girl crying. Realizing that, Mira came to a decision that this was more important than one short moment of shame.

“Well, that’s what we have. The amount I said earlier is enough for now. All materials are in the refining room. I will guide you there later.”

“Hmm. Then I will make it all before I sleep.”

“Those words can make our refiners to pass out.”

Luminaria who was sitting on the desk supported her bent body with her hands and said that with a really blissful smile. Refiners in this castle are working tirelessly around the clock. Mira’s demonstration of refining speed

would definitely make them pass out without any hope for recovery.

“...I will order to bring materials and a refining stand to your bedroom instead.”

Solomon, having that scene in mind, told her that he will prefer her to quietly refine alone. Answering with “I don’t mind”, Mira got the apple olè from her inventory and made a gulp.

“But, thou understand. If thou need it so much, then being able to do it yourself is better, right?”

“That is, you know, much better, but advancing a skill is rather hard. With the current production pace our hands are already full. Is there any good method?”

“Well, it depends on your efforts. Do thou have paper and a pen?”

“Yeah, err. Here.”

Solomon got a fountain pen from the table and parchment from a shelf and gave them to Mira.

“Wait a minute.”

After accepting it Mira, using the wall nearby as a support, drew figures and symbols on the parchment.

“Well, something like that. Later, show it to those refiners please.”

“H-mm. What’s the heck. I can’t get it at all.”

Snatching the parchment from Mira, Luminaria pulled a wry face after playing a staring-out game with figures and symbols, and gave the parchment to Solomon.

“It is ...hmm. I do understand that it is about refining. Do I need to simply show it, right? Fine.”

“Yeah, I leave it to thou.”

The figures and symbols Mira drew on the parchment were a schematic of a new refining stand she invented and designed a while ago. She scribbled it, specially mentioning abbreviated fine details on the margins. And later it made an enormous effect to the magic engineering.

“So, in this case let’s talk about the tomorrow. All arrangements for the carriage are already done, you can depart for the underground graveyard at any time.”

“Isn’t it quite early? I’d love to do it slightly slower.”

“Do you? Fine, you can freely stay here if you wish. I made early arrangements for your sake.”

“For my sake?”

Mira threw a dubious glance on Solomon. She couldn’t think about any merits of early departure.

“Yeah. If you stay here for a bit longer, my maids will be delighted I believe. But I don’t think that you will be so glad.”

“What’s that? What are thou talking about?”

“I heard from the chief maid that after seeing your robe they were excited with inspiration and it looks like all the maids are making an outfit for you.”

“I will leave at dawn tomorrow.”

“Ha ha. I got it. Then I will tell it to them.”

There is no way that outfit inspiration by a phony magical girl-style costume would be decent. Mira promptly decided to run away.

“They have weird hobbies...”

Saying that with amazement, she made a small yawn.

“Oh, is it sleepy time already?”

Fiercely staring at the teasing Luminaria, Mira actually started to drop her eyelids due to sleepiness.

“A lot of things happened today.”

Drinking the last gulp of the apple olè , Mira yawned again with a large stretch

“Well, let’s leave off here for now. It was fun to talk again after a long time.”

“Yeah, thou told me about all that so it was worth for me to come here too.”

“Since me and Luminaria still have some discussion to do, a girl outside of the door will show you the bedroom.”

“Fine, I got it.”

Mira, quietly leaving the bottle from apple olè on the sofa, stood up and went to the door.

“Good night then.”

“If you want to wake up early, do not overdo with your tonight activities and sleep properly.”

“Do not mix me up with thou. Good night.”

Under the looks of slightly smiling Solomon and grinning like usual Luminaria, Mira with a bedtime greeting left the office.





## Chapter 20: The Elite Maids

The sun ascended and the castle began to hum with life. Mira who was sleeping in underwear woke up. It was the outcome of ignoring the nightwear — a rabbit kigurumi that was prepared for her with a note. Last night the refining stand and materials were delivered shortly after the maid showed her the bedroom. As she promised before, Mira made all the refined and sealed gems that Solomon wanted. It took her a little over 20 minutes. It could be enough to make the royal refiners pass out if they saw that.

Still sleepy, Mira went to the toilet and then collapsed on top of the bed again. When she did it, the forgotten rabbit pajamas leaped up and covered her hand.

“What’s that...”

Shaking away the foreign substance touching her hand, Mira recognized bouncing rabbit ears reflecting in her slightly opened eyes and jumped out of bed. A sheet of paper that fell at her feet caught her attention. The words ‘We prepared the nightwear for you. Please don’t hesitate to wear it. From all the maids’ assaulted Mira with uncharted fear.

The words she heard from Solomon yesterday about maids who were engrossed into making an outfit for her passed through the mind. And it was the teaser. Maids were too fast at that pointless work. In a mad rush, Mira opened the menu to check the time. It displayed 8:45 AM.

It was way too late for the departure. Without noticing the tiredness from the carriage trip, she made a mistake of turning loose in this high-class bed.

Nothing but warning bells sprang to Mira’s alarmed mind when it started to grope for the next step. And a silent knock in the door forcibly put an end to it.

“Good morning, Miss Mira. I brought your attire.”

A bit eager female voice called her through the door. For Mira, it became the death sentence.

(She certainly brought it!)

In a rush, Mira looked around the room but there was nothing to wear instead but the rabbit pajama and her cute dress. She was desperately looking for a breakthrough solution, but her time was over.

“There is no answer. Is she still sleeping? The breakfast will get cold so I must come to wake her up and bring her the attire now. Yes, I must.”

After a short act recited in a monotone voice, the bedroom door opened.

And the first thing that caught maid's eyes was the small bottom of Mira.

In a light panic, Mira for some reason thrust her head into the bed. That was all. She like an ostrich stuck her head under the covers and left her body exposed.

“M-i-s-s M-i-r-a. Good morning.”

The maid trotted to Mira and gently rolled up the high-quality dawn blanket and with a grin made another greeting to the wryly smiling Mira.

“Y...yea. Morning.”

“I am a maid appointed to take care of you. My name is Lily. I am looking forward to working with you.”

“A.. ah, so.”

A real, not phony magical girl costume that Lily held in her hands made Mira, who was ashamed of her own ridiculous actions, to grab her head in a deep anguish.

The Gothic Lolita costume was based around white and black colors and used a moderate amount of cloth. A short black flared skirt in a set with a sleeveless dress and a coat in the form of an opened in front robe completed the outfit. Without much respect to her will, magical girl Mira was being dressed up to a very, very lovely attire. The number frills and ribbons increased even further.

As her only granted wish, she was spared with plain panties she already had instead of frilly lace ones. Her request for trunks was instantly rejected.

After that, Mira was forcibly brought to a room in the only place in the castle where men trespassing was forbidden — the maids area — and surrounded by countless maids.

“Here, Miss Mira. Lift your arms.”

Obeying to a holding tape measure Lily, Mira raised her hands. Her eyes already lost their luster. She became a blindly following orders marionette.

Right now they measured her chest. While it was fine for panties to be loose a bit, wearing a wrong-sized bra could bring numerous problems. After Lily brought up such reasoning, Mira resigned with “Do whatever thou want” and still kept standing still like that.

Still, even if this problem hasn't touched Mira since she hasn't had any intense exercises yet, she already felt rubbing from the robe several times. And after Lily and the rest maids half-threatened her that if she leaves it alone, any touch would become extremely painful, Mira completely gave up.

“Such a good form, I'm jealous...”

“I see...”

After completing the rough measurements Lily got behind Mira and gently wrapped up her two bulges with her hands to find the precise size.

(How long will this torture last...)

Contrary to the will of the absent-minded Mira, Lily after grasping the details of her breast size made instructions and the rest of the maids promptly brought an exact-fit bra.

“How does it feel, Miss Mira? Doesn't it hurt? Do you feel tight anywhere?”

“No. Anyway I can't calm down with it.”

“It should be fine. Everybody feel like that for the first time.”

After the tender dressing up, Mira, feeling slightly pressured, made a large sigh lamenting her looks.

The maids wholeheartedly entertained an unconcerned about the outfit

important guest. Even when they were joyfully enjoying themselves, there was nothing to blame in their professionalism and their skillful coordinated work.

When the maids quickly finished measuring all the sizes of Mira, not just her breast, they became worked up about an even more perfect than the one they made by eye-measurements cosp...outfit. Mira still had no idea that the main performance will await her at the next castle visit.

After the maids of this area saw her off, Mira was lead to the dining room by Lily and took a breakfast. Bread and soup, salad and fruit juice and similar light yet well-balanced foods brought her to her senses.

A magical girl was happily sipping fruit juice in a corner of the dining room. An auntie from the dining room delightfully watched over her; Lily broke out a smile. The outfit which suited her better than expected naturally gathered glances.

When Mira finished drinking the fruit juice, she finally lifted her face and noticed eyes focused on her.

(What's.... Is this the 'being stared at' feeling?)

She exposed her alertness, but her flustered, restlessly looking around figure only stirred up the women's desire to protect. Actually, Lily was writhing while witnessing this small animal-like behavior. And men, who were used to seeing the quite sturdy castle maids, were completely fascinated by her, musing if girls were such cute creatures.

Anyway, for not used to attention Mira it was obtrusive and the persecution complex habitually told her mind that they certainly were laughing at her weirdness.

After leaving the dining table, Lily pacified Mira while leading her to the office. But words that it was only because she was cute served only as the finishing blow.

"King Solomon, I brought Miss Mira here."

With a knock in the door, Lily called him.

“Yea, get in.”

“Excuse me.”

Getting the permission of Solomon, Lily silently opened the door and with a bow got Mira into office, gently closed the door and went outside to stay on the alert.

“Hey, g’ morning.”

“Yea, morning.”

Mira returned the greeting and, looking completely drained, threw her body into the sofa. After seeing her outfit, Solomon’s shoulders shook while he covered his mouth with his hands. Mira shot a glare at him.

“Have you slept well?”

“Yea, so well I couldn’t escape from the maids.”

“You look very pretty. Just as expected from my royal maids.”

“Even though I had no problems with a normal robe.”

Becoming sulky, Mira fluttered the edge of the skirt. Indeed, it was hard to believe that such masterpiece could be made in a night.

“By the way, it seems you did what I asked you to last night.”

“Yea. Ah, about that. I left it behind in the room.”

“A maid delivered it after you left the room. Now we can do our valuable experiments for a while. Thank you.”

“Don’t thank me for such little things.”

Turning her sight from Solomon, Mira answered with a blush. She surely was a bit eager at making it.

“Ah, by the way. While I haven’t forgotten to give it to you.”

“Hmm. What’s that?”

With that words, Solomon threw a pouch to her. Mira caught this pouch with something jingling inside.

“It’s money, money. Do you remember Graia? The officer of the magical knights order. I heard from him that you helped to suppress monsters. It’s the reward.”

“Ah, that’s what it is. But I already have so much money I can not worry about it.”

“Really? Do you have it somewhere in the warehouse of Tower or what?”

“What are thou saying? I have it with me...”

Saying that, Mira halted while trying to retrieve the money. She had tried to retrieve about 100 leafs but it did not come out. By the way, leafs is the unit of currency in this world.

“Ah, have you noticed it? Now guess why.”

Solomon showed her a mischievous smile.

A shiver crossed the mind of Mira. In a hurry, she tried to check her balance but the number showing it that should be there disappeared without a trace.

“Where had my money gone?”

“Same as the floating island. It was probably swallowed by the waves of the digital world. A majority of players believe that money, unlike items, weren’t in the inventory. So it was a different thing. It was governed by the game system before but when it ceased to be a game, this system stopped working. That is quite believable.”

“What....My 200 million...”

“You stashed quite a lot... Well, I was the same at that time...”

For the second time since the floating continent case, the two of them with hollowed out hearts for some time silently looked up at the sky.

“So, you can’t use any money that you don’t physically have in your hands anyway so here is 100 000 for the time at an occasion of reward. Use it sparingly. You’re good at that, right?”

There were several coins in the pouch. One gold coin, 3 mythril coins, 3 silver

coins, 4 cobalt coins, 10 copper ones. A gold coin is equal to 50 000 leaves, mythrill one is 10 000, silver is 5 000, cobalt is 1 000, copper is 100 leaves.

“100 000.... Just 100 000...”

“Forget it already. For you it’s easy to earn money in no time. I already managed to forget it too. I actually managed...”

The game system did not allow to steal money and death penalty was limited to inventory items alone without affecting money. That’s why there was no reason to store money at the storeroom. This habit backfired now.

“Also I just remembered while telling that, have you tried to use the item box since you came here?”

Solomon recalled the changes since 30 years ago he had already started to forget.

“Several times. What’s wrong with it?”

“Looks like you haven’t noticed it yet.”

With that words, Solomon took a fountain pen from the table and threw it to Mira. She caught it and held it before eyes.

It looked like a usual fountain pen. Well, since it was used by king, it was a fine-crafted expensive pen.

“And what’s that?”

“Try to put it in the item box.”

While thinking about why he said that, when Mira tried to open the inventory to put the fountain pen as he said, the pen fell onto the floor.

“What does it mean?”

Staring at the pen rolling on the floor, Mira glanced at the inventory. It wasn’t full and there was no visible problem with it. Not understanding the situation, she turned her look to Solomon.

“I already told you that money was managed by the game system, right? Actually, it looks like inventory items were managed by this system too.”

Picking the pen up, Solomon opened his own inventory.



“By the game era classification, fountain and quill pens were misc items, swords and armor were equipment, gems and metal ingots were materials. A long time ago players made a research facility to clarify the laws governing this world and they have done a lot of experiments since that time. Any way, they say that the items themselves were automatically classified and sorted by the game system. And the item box, as the name suggests, can't contain anything not classified as an *item*.”

While saying that, Solomon took a book from the shelves and held it to show to Mira.

“Now, when the game system does not work, this fountain pen is not a misc item and this book is not a written item. It means you can't put them in the item box. By the way, all the stuff that is already in the item box already possesses classification so there is no issue.”

“That's rather annoying. Do thou mean I can't travel empty-handed?”

The revelation of this fact brought Mira to tears. She was going to look for problem children and the goods for this journey would grow unwieldy in size without a doubt.

“But, you know, half a year after the item box became useless, we found a ground-breaking method.”

“Eh? And what is that?”

“The point is, you just need to do the work of game system manually. The research found the【Abstract Skill: Itemization】. Using that skill on an item classifies it to some category and prepares it for the item box.”

“Do thou mean that with that skill I can use the item box like before?”

“Yes, like that. It's simple so I'll teach it now.”

“Yea, please.”

30 minutes later Mira smoothly learned the Itemization skill. Using it on the fountain pen, she confirmed that she can place it into the item box and nodded in satisfaction.

Abstract skills is a category for all the skills that don't belong to any class. There are a lot of convenience skills like the Itemization skill contained in it and anybody can use them as long as they have mana. The skill to illuminate a room also was an abstract skill although Mira used Creos instead.

After that, Mira quickly tested the Itemization and returned to the sofa for a rest.

“Well, about the underground graveyard then. Unlike before, now all the dungeons are managed by the Associated Adventurer Union.

Solomon moved to the discussion about the mission he entrusted to Mira.

“Adventurer Union? What's that?”

“It's an organization made to prevent the reckless deaths of ordinary people and novices when this world became real.”

“Oh...stiff like this? And the real goal is to hog all the treasures in dungeons to themselves, right?”

“There was a little incident once. ...One child died.”

“Hmm. That explains it...”

Mira somehow got it.

Dungeons are fields that spread indoors instead of open air. There are treasures lying inside but compared to open-air fields it's full with rampant monsters and wild animals are much stronger than in open air so it's dangerous places. Still, it is very appealing so people guided by various expectations often got themselves inside just to fall into darkness without seeing the daylight anymore.

In the game era, nobody cared about it. But in the reality you can't overlook incidents like that.

A child entered the dungeon. He was trying to get a special material for the medicine to save his ill mother. When he haven't still returned at the morning, adults went to look for him. As a result, a bit further in the dungeon they found the scattered parts of a barely recognizable half-eaten body of a boy which was holding a single flower in a hand. Shortly after his mother heard of this, she

passed away following him.

The world was one that became a reality. NPCs, the native inhabitants who already lived here, held human hearts with all the accompanying feelings about death. A player who heard about that case made an organization managing dungeons to prevent the same things from occurring anymore. It became the “Associated Adventurer Union..”

And now, after requiring a permission for entering dungeons and hearing requests when somebody needed ingredients from inside and couldn't it be worked around, the union also started passing various requests to skilled people.

Gradually becoming larger, helping to suppress monsters that became a national problem, it got the right to place offices in each country.

“Well, that's what we have to deal with now. Of course, you are going to be in the Magician Union. Here is a recommendation letter.”

Solomon walked to Mira with an envelope in hands and gave it to her with a smile.

“So, I can enter with that?”

Accepting the recommendation letter, Mira briefly looked at the envelope and quickly itemized it to throw into the item box. The recommendation letter was classified as a written item.

“No, it's just a recommendation. Only adventurers that belong to the union can enter dungeons. Also, there is a ranking based on the difficulty of the dungeon. The underground graveyard is rated as C or higher. There are a lot of different requests at the union now and doing them proves your strength for the rank promotion. That's a simple model of how the union works. Now it seems strange that there was no similar system back in the game era.”

“Surely it makes sense. Raising the rank to accept more difficult missions. Such games were fun too.”

The tension of Mira began to rise due to that somewhat game-like reference.

“This recommendation letter proves your identity and strength. Freshly

registered adventurers are originally starting with the rank G, but it should be enough for an abrupt promotion to the rank C.

By the way, the union will not grant you more even at my request.”

“Understood. Well, it should be enough. I should simply register with it, right?”

“Yeah. By the way, there are two windows in the union, warrior and magician guilds. Like the names say, it’s divided by classes they are working with.”

“There should be a department in this city too, right? I will register right now.”

“Yea, there is one. Rather, the union has offices in most of the cities. There is one in a city close to the underground graveyard where I’m going to send you by the carriage too. Are you really sure? It takes almost a day to issue the adventurer’s ID.

His smile implied something. Mira felt a hint of anxiety from it.

“Ah, only a day? Then I’m staying here for another...”

Suddenly Mira recalled the disaster that happened this morning. Given them a whole another day, who knows what masterpiece those maids would create. Understanding what Solomon implied, Mira began to plan what to do from now.

Spending a night at the inn here. But there is a large probability she will be captured at visiting the castle to get the carriage. Even if the carriage will wait outside of the city, a maid could also wait together with it so it’s no good too. After worrying about that, Mira concluded that a single day of postponement is fatal anyway so she firmly decided to leave immediately.

“Please prepare a carriage right now.”

“Ha ha ha. All arrangements are already done. You can leave at any time.”

Mira eagerly stood up and left the office with Solomon.

Accompanied with Lily they arrived at a stable inside of the castle. There were two horses and a carriage a size larger than the previous time. Next to it a

stableman, a maid holding a large basket and a bag and Garrett who served as a coachman the previous time waited there.

“Oh, Garrett? What, are thou serving as my coachman again?”

“Good morning. If you don’t mind, let me serve you again.”

For a moment charmed by the even more polished appearance of Mira, Garrett made a bow with a smile to hide it.

“Well, fine. I’m feeling at ease with thou too so I’m counting on you.”

Mira returned a smile with that words. Garrett with a blush happily answered “I look forward to working with you.”

“Then, take care.”

“Yea.”

Having exchanged a short goodbye with Solomon, after a tight embrace with Lily Mira got into the carriage. Then another maid brought a basket and a bag inside.

“Take care of yourself and have a good day, Mira. There is a meal inside of the basket and spare clothes inside of this bag.”

“Ye....yea. Well, thanks.”

With a bow, the maid got off from the carriage. Mira hasn’t thought about the content yet... no, without even the intention to even think about it, she was staring at the bag and made just another sigh.

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## Chapter 21: Adventurers Coordination Union

It was three days since they left the capital of the Alkite Kingdom, the Lunatic Lake. Smacking her lips at the sansai cuisine, which they got in a village on the way, Mira began to get used to the carriage travel. The carriage passed the gates of the Requiem City Caranach located next to the rank C dungeon, 『Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis』 and entered the main street.

“Have we gotten there at last?”

Mira popped her head out from the carriage and swept a glance at the lively street. It was a little past the noon and people, leaving their workplaces for a lunch, surged into restaurants.

“Yes, thanks for keeping up with me. To begin with, I am going to lead you till the inn.”

“Yea, I’m relying on thee.”

Amidst the noise of hooves, Mira returned to the carriage and sat down. This carriage at the first glance looked like a common frugal wooden carriage but with resin wheels that dampened vibration from the ground and a spring built into the axis it was specially designed for the extreme comfort. And this quality applied to the inside arrangements too. Seats were comfortable soft. It was possible to sleep well while the carriage was running. The table here had small ditches for stability in case of sudden braking. It almost looked like a typical carriage yet it had very remarkable content. That was the incognito carriage ordered by Solomon.

After gazing a short time at the scenery, they arrived at the premises of a large 3-story building and the carriage proceeded to a wooden stable. As the carriage came to a stop inside one of the inside sections which blocked the direct rays of sun, the degree of brightness was discretely reduced. The administrator of the stable who was an employee of this inn approached the coachman Garret.

“Welcome. Are you going to stay here?”

“Yes, we do.”

“Very well. I will contact you later about the management of the carriage and horses.”

“All right.”

The administrator gave a ticket to Garret and stepped backward with a salute.

“Then, Miss Mira, let’s check in to begin with.”

“Yea.”

After popping his head from the perch to call her, Garret promptly jumped off the carriage and opened the door.

“Pardon me.”

He moved quickly; when Mira still was stretching on the seat of the carriage, he already opened the door.

Mira with a tap got off the carriage and, following Garret, went towards the reception desk of the inn. The name ‘Summer lantern’ was engraved on a large marble next to the entrance. Garret opened the door and they entered inside. The interior was closer to a hotel rather than an inn.

At the front desk busy workers in uniform maintained their composure while bustling back and forth. Adventurers in splendid robes and armor spent their time together at chairs next to a window that appeared to be a rest spot. The western hotel interior combined with the Middle Ages fantasy engendered an indescribable atmosphere. A garden spread outside the window, neatly arranged trees and a flower bed swayed on the wind. Kids running around could be seen outside.

“This is indeed quite gorgeous.”

“Well, it’s a Caranach inn.”

“Isn’t it expensive? I don’t have that much money.”

Mira answered while placing her hand on her waist pouch. This black pouch, which fit well with her black outfit, was in the bag that the maid gave her. She tossed the reward money inside of it earlier.

“Of course you should not worry about that. Solomon covers all expenses for

this trip.”

And Garret smiled slyly.

“I always wanted to try staying here once”, he merrily murmured.

“Good grief, was thou such guy?”

Lured by him, Mira carelessly returned a smile.

While Garret was busy with checking in, Mira without a particular goal wasted time gazing at furnishings and paintings near the entrance. But she had no idea that she secretly became an object of admiration as well. As it might be expected from adventurers staying at a high-class inn, they easily could hide their attention.

Garret completed the formalities and, being lead by an employee, they proceeded together into a room. For this inn, the room had belonged to the average class but compared to the usual ones the pair frequented it was more than enough for high class. By the way, comparing it to apartments at the Towers is not fair.

“Then, Miss Mira, I have a mission after this so let’s meet at dinner.”

“Yea.”

“To get to the Magician Union, after leaving the inn turn left and you’ll quickly find it after going straight forward.”

“Understood.”

“Also if a stranger approaches you, you must not go with him”

“Ye...yea.”

“If you get lost, ask people in white-and-blue armor about the best inn in the city and they will tell you how to get here.”

“I’m not a kid. I’ll be fine so go away already.”

As he continued, his words became closer and closer to instructions to a child. Mira interrupted it in the middle and poked Garret, urging him to go already. Garret couldn’t help but worry, but he already heard about the Mira’s strength so he reluctantly went to his room.



Unlike Mira, Garret was staying at a regular room on the bottom floor of the inn.

Mira was glad he worried about her but wanted him to do something about treating her like a child.

On a table in the room, there was a memo. It listed tips and service-related things. It covered topics like 'leave the key at the front desk when you're going out', 'call service with a bell next to the entrance', and the time of breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Mira briefly looked over the note, left the room, left keys at the front desk and went towards the magician union right away.

"I believe it's at the left."

She left the inn and strolled by on the left side. There were a lot of people on the main street, but it has calmed down since the time she came here. But it still was the main street of the city and there were a lot of people coming back and forth so Mira prowled by the edge of the street to avoid attention.

"Hmm, is it here?"

As Garret had said, after going straight forward a little she stood before two similar large stone buildings. Signboards over the doors told that the left one was the warrior union and right was the magician one.

When Mira checked the magician union signboard and reached the door with a hand, a troubled voice sounded from the neighboring warrior union.

"I beg you! I heard that everybody here is strong. Please!"

The door of the warrior union opened and a boy about 10 years age jumped out from within like he was being sent away. Following him was a muscular man in metal armor with a troubled expression who had forced the boy away.

"We'd be glad to hear you but right now the largest rank among us is D. We can't grant your wish, lad."

For a moment, Mira thought that the boy was being bullied, but it was clearly an adult troubled about how to deal with a selfish boy.

Adults kept coming outside to calm the desperate boy. Having no business with the warrior union for the moment, Mira opened the door of the magician

union.

The interior of the union was well-organized: reception desks were lined up into one lane, and a large bulletin board and chairs for rest were placed in front of them.

Overwhelmed for a moment with the scenery that at a first glance could be mistaken with a ward office, Mira looked around. A majority of people here were magicians. Furthermore, a majority of people were in robes yet some unbelievable figures appeared around them.

“Is it....normal?”

The attention of Mira was focused on the clothing of the girls of about 15-18 years old scattered here and there throughout the room. No matter how you look at them, they were magical girls.

At the first, when Mira wore the robe arranged in magical girl style and later her current Gothic Lolita magical girl costume made by maids, she was concerned about sneering glances. She thought that nobody around wore such a peculiar outfit.

But what about now? She confirmed that there were several girls in similar outfits. The fact she was not alone greatly grew in her heart. And with the proof that her clothing was not unique she received an immeasurable relief.

With an expression like she was set free from something, Mira went to a place resembling reception. Amongst all the receptions, there was a desk in front of them with a label ‘Registration of new adventurers’. Reconfirming the resemblance with ward offices because of reception desks dealing with different tasks, Mira found where was one dealing with her case and started a conversation.

“Do thou have some time now? I want to apply to the union.”

“Yes, I do. Do you want a new registration, miss?”

“Yea.”

The smiling woman that handled her had a handsome face with long blond hairs which were fastened in a ponytail with a ribbon. A name tag hanging from her neck read ‘Eureka’.

Startled for a bit at her smile, Mira nodded while regaining calmness.

“Then fill this form, please.”

After examining it, Mira recalled the recommendation letter received from Solomon and put it on top of the papers.

“I’ve got something like recommendation letter.”

“Recommendation, you say? Let me take a look at it.”

Eureka held the recommendation letter in her hands and, just as she turned it upside down to check the referee, she halted.

There aren’t many people registering with recommendations but it was not that rare. Eureka herself already got several recommendation letters from nobles registering their private guards in the union to get valuable things in dungeons or from high-rank adventurers who recommended potent newcomers.

But this letter was clearly different. The girl before her, judging by the fashionable outfit, was a magician. And for magicians neither the looks of a weak girl nor height mattered. Usually, their magical power could not be judged by outward appearances.

Eureka thought so when she took the letter. Perhaps it was a recommendation from a high-rank adventurer she met somewhere or maybe she was a daughter in a noble family. She assumed the latter by the cute appearance and tried to check exactly which noble family it was. However, the name written there was neither of them.

The referee was Solomon. The king of the Alkrite Kingdom, king Solomon himself.

“I.. I’m sorry, wait here a minute!”

The smile suddenly disappeared from her face and Eureka dashed into the depths of the building. She never heard about recommendation letters directly from the king, let alone seeing one. That’s why she decided she can’t judge herself and went to the chief room looking for orders from the union chief.

Left behind, Mira tried to figure out what was happening but without any ideas took a pen from the reception desk and started to fill in the required fields on the papers.

“I’m sorry for keeping you waiting.”

Mira completed filling the form and was observing the interior of the magician union when she was called from the reception side. Turning herself around, she saw the usual smile of Eureka who had just regained calmness.

“I filled it, is it enough?”

Eureka took the papers, checked for skipped fields and nodded.

“Yes. There are no issues here. And about the recommendation letter, miss, can you proceed to the union chief’s room?”

“Hmm. I don’t mind.”

Thinking that a sudden promotion to the rank C requires a verification by the union chief himself, Mira accepted it.

Eureka left the reception to a neighboring staff member, went upstairs to the third floor and lead her to the chief room. At her knock, a quiet elderly voice answered ‘Come in.’

“Excuse me.”

Eureka opened the door and went inside, Mira followed her. Fitting the title of the chief room, it was composed in good taste. Furnishings without excessive emphasis softly supported the coloring of the room. A large bookcase calmly stood behind the office table, the variety of books spoke of the thirst for knowledge of the owner of the room, the guild chief.

“Sorry for all the trouble to get here. I am Leoneil, the chief of this union.”

The union chief that introduced himself as Leoneil stood up from the office chair and gave a bow. The deep wrinkles carved with age around his face accented his maturity in his composed male aura.

Leoneil moved to the table for reception and, suggesting a seat to Mira, sat down.

“I’m Mira.”

Giving a brief answer to the introduction, after a short pause Mira sat down. At this time an office clerk brought tea and sweets from a room inside of the office, left it on the table and after a bow returned to the room inside of the

office again.

“Mira, you say.”

Intensely looking at the girl, Leoneil with ‘Let me look at it’ accepted papers from Eureka. Looking down, he glanced at the paper. Her name, class and country were filled there.

“Aren’t you the rumored pupil of Dunbalf by some chance?”

He asked like it was a sure fact.

Being the chief of magician union, Leoneil gathered various information from the country. And Leoneil was especially focused on the gathering of information to the point he even made a department dedicated to collecting news.

A rumor about the appearance of the pupil of the hero Dunbalf flew to him together with the information about the beautiful appearance of that silver-haired girl included.

Knowing all it, concluding that a girl who named herself Mira matched it was easy. And the papers stated the summoner class too.

“Yea, indeed. I haven’t expected it already got along to thee.”

“I see. Then I can understand why king Solomon gave you a recommendation letter.”

Quickly managing to accept that, Leoneil with a somewhat surprised expression put the paper on the table and affixed it with a seal. He did consider a test to prove she corresponds to the rank C but with a direct recommendation of king Solomon and her being a hero’s pupil he decided it’s not necessary. On the other hand, Eureka couldn’t keep up with the conversation and, forgetting about keeping her smile, dumbfoundedly stared at Mira.

“Wait, wait, excuse me! That ‘Dunbalf’ you said is about the Dunbalf, right?”

Knowing that it’s rude to interrupt them yet unable to stay here without confirming, Eureka moved her look to Leoneil.

“Yes, the Dunbalf. The pioneer of refining skill and the hero of the country since founding times. The one who was called the war power Dunbalf.”

Leoneil spoke of it as an extremely obvious thing. Bringing up a name of the wise man who hasn't revealed himself since the disappearance case 30 years ago and until now together with his pupil in the conversation was a bolt out of the blue for Eureka. It lacked a sense of reality. Leoneil himself would take more time for accepting it without having the information beforehand.

As she was repeatedly reciting the answer of Leoneil in the head, her full-face smile increased its brightness.

Considering that if he leaves her alone, the city will be filled with rumors, Leoneil just in case prohibited her to speak about it and gave her the sealed papers.

"I'm leaving formalities to you."

"Ye, yes! Leave it to me!"

Eureka answered lively with an uplifted voice. Then, carefully holding papers with both hands, after throwing a glance to Mira she left the room first to proceed with the registration.

"Well, from this place it's a personal thing so you are free to leave now but if you have time, could you please keep me company?"

The verification of the recommendation letter was already done, but Leoneil had an interest in countless things that Mira should know about the Dunbalf who hasn't revealed himself until now.

"Hm. Well, I don't mind."

With a status of chief of magician union, he had quite a lot of influence. Mira agreed to it considering that keeping company with him for a while to enhance relations could lead to various benefits in future.

The two of them sat on the reception seats.

Mira kept with the conversation, remembering the information she heard from the tower aide Mariana and Luminaria. She told she doesn't know if Dunbalf is still in the illusion beast city or not; that she can summon the dark knight on par with the teacher and so on, lining up answers that wouldn't cause a problem for her. In spare moments, she pecked her cake while sipping the herb tea. Leoneil, looking at that genuinely delightful eating manners offered a second helping

and Mira immediately replied with a nod.

“That was a feast. See thou later.”

“The adventurer ID will be ready tomorrow, you can get it on the reception desk.”

“Yea, understood.”

Guided by a clerk from the inside of office who had brought a second helping of cake, Mira left the office. Leoneil sunk in thoughts, looking at her back. She certainly was hiding something yet he couldn't feel any ill intent in it. She looked like a girly girl while stuffing her cheeks with the cake with a cream stuck on the face yet her gestures and the choice of words she showed sometimes diverted from that childish image.

Roughly convincing himself that if she lived under the same roof with Dunbalf, it could be somewhat explained, he deeply sunk into the seat spreading the recommendation letter.

“Ye-ea. Without limits.”

Throwing away the recommendation letter Leoneil looked up at the sky. A nimble landed on a corner of the table letter had asked him to assign the authority to lift all the trespassing bans.

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## Chapter 22: Rank C

It was the morning after the day she went to register in the magician union. Naked to the waist, Mira was repeating trial and error on top of her bed. She undid the bra that Lily put on her and didn't know how to put it back on. Continuing her hard struggle for a while, she suddenly fell into self-disgust and, with 'What am I doing' threw the bra at the bed and pushed her head through the dress.

After breakfast, holding some package Garret with a 'Then, see you later' went to another task. A little while after that, Mira, sipping banana milk, reached for memories about the destination in her mind.

The Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis dungeon, commonly called 'underground graveyard'. Just like the nickname tells, all six floors of the dungeon were located under the ground.

It was bound in a rocky mountain place with several carved statues along the sides; it was quite a magnificent view. It could prosper as a tourist spot if not for the monsters. Though the very presence of those monsters helped to bring liberal with throwing money away high-rank adventurers so it could be for the best.

Passing through the entrance required going through a large hall for festivals or whatnot. Almost no monsters spawned there. But at times monsters ascended from the lower floors or spirit monsters without a physical body appeared so it was not a safe rest spot for people without considerable skills.

And in the middle of this hall there was an altar. The mechanism inside of it could open the entrance to the first floor.

Monsters grew stronger with each floor and at the last 5th floor even high-level players couldn't keep their guard loose.

Done with recalling the basic things Mira had drunk all her banana milk and after a short rest went to the magician union.

She observed the people and buildings around while moving along the main street. Amongst the people in armor and robes she used to see in the game and the magical girls she saw yesterday there were flashy American ninjas, blade-



maniac samurais that looked like they were doing a sword hunt, and sisters that had their face covered with a hannya mask; Mira didn't know where to retort anymore at scenery that unfolded before her eyes.

(Perhaps I'm normal.)

There was nothing to be scared of in a city with even more peculiar people striding around. Full of confidence, Mira proceeded along the street swinging her arms in relief. She forgot her appearance was gathering more attention than the outfit.

After arriving at the union, Mira dashed to the familiar receptionist, Eureka who handled her yesterday. She was diligently writing something. They were not quite acquaintances yet, but it was easier to talk with her than to somebody completely unknown.

"Do thou have some time?"

"Yes, wait a minute, please."

Eureka who had been called upon put the papers to the side and lifted her face up. In front of her there was the face of Dunbalf's pupil, Mira, whom she saw yesterday.

"Oh! Ah, Mira! Good morning! Erm, are you going to get your adventurer's ID?"

Flustered for a moment, she quickly returned to herself and recalled the purpose of Mira's visit.

"Yea. Is it done?"

"Yes, we issued it. Wait a minute please."

With those words, Eureka stood up and brought a file from a shelf behind the desk.

"Here it is. Check it please."

She held a card from the file in front of Mira. Name, class and rank were written down on this card.

The name was Mira, summoner class, and due to the recommendation letter the rank was C from the outset. All conditions for the underground graveyard

were clear.

“It seems fine.”

“Then since you are getting rank C, we have the license to lend operator bracelets, how do you feel about getting one?”

Eureka got a silver bracelet from the file and placed it on the desk. Nevertheless, it was an extremely familiar thing for Mira.

“Are thou about that thing?”

With those words, Mira rolled up her left sleeve and showed a bracelet set on her thin white wrist. Instantly Eureka fell silent in a daze, shook her head and nodded.

“...Ahh, so, you... already had one!?”

“Yea.”

Eureka recalled that the girl in front of her is a pupil of a hero and stood calmly like she was convinced that for a person of this caliber it's not that weird to personally own one.

This operator bracelet was a replica of players' operation terminal. The functions were limited to item box and map. Though the production cost was high and required using a secret skill not listed even in the Encyclopedia, there were not many people owning it.

But due to the unfathomable utility, active high-ranked adventurers with at least C-rank income could lend it from the union.

“Just as expected from the pupil of Dunbalf. It's probably better to treat you as one.”

With some anxiety left Eureka realized that she should keep in mind that this girl is a pupil of a hero.

Putting herself together, she opened the file and gave a sheet of paper to Mira.

“Here is a gist of things related to the magician union. All missions have a set rank and you can't accept missions with rank above yours. Participation in group missions ranked higher than your is at your own risk.

Also, dungeons everywhere are limited by a rank too. They are managed by

union departments in the closest cities so feel free to go there when you need enter them. There are penalties for breaching that so please be careful. And last thing, for receiving suppressing missions the number of suppressed targets is judged by soul stones you deliver. If you lose them, the mission will count as failed even after completing it so take care of them, please. Do you have any questions?”

“An application is required...”

The current goal of Mira was a dungeon. Judging by the contents of the conversation, without an application there would be a penalty.

“After this I’m going to go to underground graveyard... Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis, how can I get the permission?”

“All of a sudden!? ...well, the reception desk to the furthest right from the entrance handles dungeon management so you can get permission there.”

“I see.”

Mira slightly twisted her body and checked the right side of reception desks. There were a lot of people around the central reception desks, but the right side was in moderate condition.

“And finally, the use of the union facilities is basically free. Food, drinks and consumables come at a discount. Also in the case that you damage the institution, the repair costs are deducted from your reward so please use it with care.”

Done with that, Eureka got a leather case with the same size as the card from her pocket. A cane and ribbons were drawn on this pink case. It was a very cute card case.

“It is a present from me. Please use it for your adventurer’s ID.”

“Ye..yea. Thanks.”

Mira was baffled with the overly girly design yet, being unable to coldly refuse Eureka’s good will, she meekly nodded. Seeing the acceptance, Eureka swiftly put the adventurer’s ID left at the tray into the card case and with a smile gave it to Mira. Mira accepted it with a wry smile.

“Also, the union chief for some reason has something to give to you and today he should be preparing it so, starting from tomorrow, he wants you to show yourself here again when you have time.”

“Something to give?”

“Yes. I don’t know what exactly but it looks like an order from Solomon.”

“From him?... It doesn’t look that good. Well, fine. I should just come after tomorrow, right?”

“Yes, please.”

“Understood.”

She had no idea what the union chief could want to give her but if he does it at the behest of Solomon, she could guess that it was probably related to that mission.

“Then, all the formalities are done. Also, only me and union chief know about your situation so if you want something, feel free to ask me.”

“I’ll remember that.”

“And afterwards...”

“What, do thou have anything else?”

With a look like it was hard for her to speak about it, Eureka, sparkling her eyes like she hoped for something, gaped at Mira. And, vigorously reaching out her hands,

“Please make a handshake!”

With those words she bowed her head. Until now she had the business face to carry out her job as a union employee. And now, when it ended, she couldn’t stay still with all the personal matters that greatly bothered her.

Honestly, Eureka was a big fan of Dunbalf. To the point that her home was flooded with Dunbalf-related goods.

With her long vacations, she had a pilgrimage when she went out to Silver Horn and all the vacations looked up at the Summoners Tower.

A pupil of the hero who wasn’t heard for ages appeared in front of her. As a

result, Eureka completely fell into ecstasy. After all, if fellow staff members knowing her saw it, they would probably be impressed how she managed to control herself enough to carry out her job.

“Is it enough for thee...?”

Mira, overwhelmed with her vigor, offered a hand. Right away, like she was engraving the sensation, Eureka gently yet firmly shook her hand. Furthermore, tears began to appear from her eyes.

“Thank you for that. I will never wash this hand!”

“Well, it should be better to wash it.”

Without knowing that Eureka is a hardcore Dunbalf fan, Mira answered while slightly drawing back. But even without understanding it, she thought that as long as Eureka is glad, it should be fine.

“Then good luck with your adventurer’s life. Thank you for using our services!”

Sent out by Eureka, Mira left the reception desk and pointed her legs at the desk at the right corner to get the permission to enter the underground graveyard.

“I want a pass to the Ancient Shrine, is it here?”

After coming to a desk, looking at the nameplate stating ‘Reception for permissions’, Mira asked it straight off.

“Yes, it is at this reception.”

Thinking that the voice is familiar for some reason, Mira lift her face.

Eureka was here.

Because Mira said something about the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolise, pleading with a woman that should handle people here, Eureka managed to temporary swap places.

Slightly astonished about her being here, Mira began to fill papers for entering the Ancient Shrine.

After finishing the formalities and paying 1000 leafs as a commission, she

accepted the pass to the Ancient Shrine from the high-tension Eureka. It was in the form of a card with figures drawn on it.

And at the same time she got the explanations.

First, touch the barrier stone at the entrance of dungeon with the card to remove the barrier and open it. In 10 seconds after releasing the card the barrier restores.

The card can be used only once and for another entrance she needed to fill the papers again.

There is nothing special in getting out of it. She can simply pass through the barrier.

After using, throw it into a recycle box at the union.

Mira promptly nodded at every line and, after another handshake at the end, she left the union.

When Mira left the magician union, she was going to put the Ancient Shrine pass inside on that occasion and opened the lovely card case. While she was doing it, she thought if she should go to the underground graveyard right now or do some sightseeing at the town first.

Upon that, there came a noise from the side of the warriors union.

“Fine then! I will go alone!”

With that shout, the door of the warrior union loudly opened. Upon that, a boy jumped out from it and ran right in Mira’s direction. Tears came to his eyes and he cast his eyes a bit down while trying to endure the frustration. Contrary to that, Mira looked down at the card case in her hands. That’s why they haven’t paid attention to anything around.

“Aaargh!”

“Gah!”

Obviously, the boy’s head thrust into Mira and she, wavering a bit from the impact, somewhat managed to stay on her legs.

“What’s the!”

Mira reflexively scowled at the one who was the reason, and the boy who fell and was grumbling while lying on the earth reflected in her eyes. At the second she saw him, her anger rapidly cooled and she walked to him and raised him up, hugging in hands. ED: hugging hands?

“Are thou fine, lad? Does it hurt anywhere?”

Mira approached her face to glance at the boy and, cleaning his clothes, gently asked him. After that, she wiped the tears from red-eyed boy's face with a sleeve of her robe.

“Yeah. I'm sorry for bumping into you.”

The boy made a quick bow. Mira, admiring the well-behaving boy, answered with “I'm fine” while patting his head.

“Are you fine too?”

Looking into his face Mira slightly startled at that question. Suddenly, a pretty woman face appeared before her eyes.

This dressed in white with green light armor woman had a slender sword. With a fluttering black long hair, tender face and drooping eyes, she was a long-eared elf.

The boy, throwing a glance at that elf woman, quickly took his eyes off and shivered in irritation.

“Ye...yea. I'm fine.”

“Really? It's great.”

Looking at her figure, appearance and equipment, Mira, considering this elf woman quite strong, tried to inspect her.

And she got that, first, her name was Emera. Her stats had high MP and dexterity with somewhat reasonable HP and strength. Considering the equipment bonus, it was slightly better.

Comparing it to stats of the commander of magic knights, Graia, Mira concluded that they were on par.

“But who are thou? Wasn't this lad crying before falling down? Don't thou know anything about that?”

If he was crying after falling down, Mira without worrying too much sent this boy home after maybe giving him some apple ole. But his red eyes were swelling to the point you can't say he simply cried a bit. 'I will not let you make a child cry', Mira turned her menacing gaze to this elf woman.

"Oh... For some reason, I'm treated as a villain... Well... To start with, I am Emera. I belong to the warrior union with the C rank and, generally, an adventurer classified to a high rank."

"Hmm. I'm Mira. Just now I joined the magician union."

"Wow. An adventurer at that age. Magicians seem to be really amusing."

"Rather than that, do thou know what happened?"

Looking up at Emera, Mira wiped the still flowing tears of the boy.

"Don't stare at me like that. The big sister will get hurt."

Looking like she's really hurt, Emera hung her brows down. If she insisted, she looked like a timid big sister. Mira had no habit of hurting women and softened her expression a bit. For some reason, she began to think that Emera did not make this boy cry.

"Err, if you registered in the union, you should have heard about the dungeon permissions."

"Yea, paying a 1000 leafs as commission, thou can get a pass. Dungeons have ranks and to enter thou must have the same rank, are you about that?"

"Yes, yes. About that..."

While Emera started speaking, the boy noticed the card case lying on the ground.

"Ah, excuse me. It's my fault."

After apologizing, the boy picked up the card case. Judging by this lovely design he understood that it belongs to Mira. But in the next moment the two cards he briefly glanced at completely changed his expression.

"Big sis! Is big sis at C rank!?"

The boy wiped his tears and with a hope in his eyes gazed at Mira. Not



understanding the situation but thinking that as long as he stopped crying, it's fine, Mira nodded with a relief.

“Yea, I am.”

“Eh...no way!? You just said now that you barely entered the union! After the registration, you should be at the G rank!?”

Emera was astonished even more than the boy. There is no wonder because getting rank C right after the registration was unprecedented, she hasn't heard of anything similar. She knew about recommendation letters. but even it at the best they gave E rank.

Emera rushed at them to peek at the card case that the boy held. Then she confirmed that, as the boy said, Mira's adventurers ID stated the rank C.

“What's going on... It's genuine...”

Widely opening her eyes, Emera saw the pass to the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis that was put in the card case too and, just like the ID, concluded it was genuine too. No matter how you tamper the writing on the ID, the union manages all the information. To get the pass, you need to go to the union and all tampering will become useless.

“The pass to the Ancient Shrine... genuine one”

When Emera muttered that, she understood her mistake. In a panic, she looked at the boy who with even stronger shine in eyes deeply bowed his head to Mira.

“Big sis, please take me along to the Ancient Shrine!”

## Chapter 23 Common Sense

Mira was caught by surprise by the sudden request of the boy, but he was so frantic with it that Mira began to wonder what drove him to request it. And then, she thought to grant it if it was why he cried.

“What do thou mean? Tell me why.”

When Mira said that, the boy lifted his head and nodded with a serious face.

“At the deepest place of the Ancient Shrine there is a mirror to speak with dead people. Take me there please!”

“Speaking with the dead...thou say. Was there such a thing?”

In the game, Mira didn't run through the Ancient Shrine so often. Usually those times were when the nine wisemen together did the trampling down that they call 'adventure', and those times she visited it for quests.

“Looks like he's talking about the Mirror of the Dark Aid. I heard about it too, I remember my friend was glad he met his mother that died long ago.”

“Mirror of the Dark Aid, thou say?”

Looking up those words in her memory, Mira recalled one quest. A fatal disease that was prevalent in the past began to display its fury again, and this high-level quest was given to do something about it.

The way to deal with it was to travel around the continent and find that there were books about the medicine that were left in case the disease rises again. However because nobody knew where exactly they were, the quest required a player to call a king from the past and ask him for the books' location.

There was a visit to the Ancient Shrine in the process of the quest and the Mirror of the Dark Aid at the fifth floor was introduced there.

Mira, musing about things which happened in the past, recalled this large antique mirror.

It was just an object for the event but now, when the game became reality, Mira updated her knowledge that the mirror could actually be used now.

“My father and mother were adventurers. But five years ago they got a

mission and still haven't returned. I waited for them at grandfather's home. But last week, people from the guild said that my missing in action father and mother are dead."

Mira silently listened the story told by the crying and sniffling boy and gently wiped his tears. His explanation had a single point that did not make sense for her. Mira threw a glance to Emera who should know something about it.

"Well, you know, by the guild conventions when somebody breaks contact and goes missing during a mission, they are treated as dead after five years."

"And that's why they suddenly dropped this information on this lad that his parents died?"

While she was waiting for the boy who couldn't speak due to his agitated feelings to calm down, Emera made this addition. Mira did not know how to comfort him and simply looked at the crying boy.

"You got the pass to the Ancient Shrine to go there, right? Please take me with you. Please."

The boy shut his eyes and then opened them widely with determination and bowed his head.

Mira without thinking much placed her palm on his head and gently patted it.

"Yea, understood. If thou want to go there that much, I will bring thou with me."

Mira nodded widely, beaming a smile. She genuinely wanted to let him meet his parents after he was suddenly told that they were dead.

"Thanks, big sis! My name is Takuto."

"Yea. I'm Mira. Leave it to me."

The boy's smile shone as he clung to Mira and she embraced him. However, someone else here was really against it.

"No no no. Noooo way! It's a rank C dungeon!?! How are you going to bring an inexperienced boy inside?"

Tearing the boy away from Mira, Emera was horizontally shaking her head. The rank C means that nobody but high-ranked adventurers were allowed to

enter inside. There was no way to bring a child there without any knowledge. The boy jumped out of the warrior guild because he was consistently trying to beg the rank C Emera to go with him into the Ancient Shrine but she firmly refused each time.

Of course, her decision was not wrong. The task had the difficulty of a rank C dungeon. It was not a place to bring people who are unable to protect themselves.

“Why not? As long as he wouldn’t fight.”

Mira carelessly declared that. She actually imagined the path till the fifth floor and decided that a single child wouldn’t be a problem there.

“It’s not so sim....I have no idea how strong your group is, but the Ancient Shrine is out of the question. It’s way too dangerous.”

Emera warned with a serious face. However, an outrageous truth awaited her.

“Erm, I’m going to go solo.”

Silence descended on them. Emera completely froze, unable to comprehend the meaning of those words. Her mouth was twitching as if she was going to say something. And then, she burst into anger at Mira’s absurdly reckless and stupid words.

“No way, no way, no way, no way! It’s certainly not a place to go alone! But it looks like you really registered in the guild today. How can you not know that! A rank C dungeon even if you avoid battles as long as possible, of course is not a place you want to go with just two members, with only one of them skilled!”

Emera raised her voice and frankly scolded Mira. People that were passing by along the main street who looked at the source of the voice recognized the famous high-class adventurer Emera and opened their eyes wide. She had the image of a bright and gentle big sister and they had never seen her in such mood before.

Mira, bearing the full brunt of her anger, was in anguish due to the loud voice right next to her. On the other hand, the boy, faced with the violent objection,

started crying again.

Witnessing that the boy started to cry again, Mira scowled a little and glared at Emera again.

“It’s impossible only for thee.”

With that refutation Mira grabbed the boy’s hand, embraced him and started to walk away. Being told that, Emera couldn’t object anymore. It was true that for her it was hard to get to the fifth floor of the Ancient Shrine while protecting the boy. But, having said that, even if the girl in front of her said she could do it, Emera couldn’t believe it.

After having said all that, Mira carelessly did such a declaration. The fact she just registered in the guild yet had the rank C stuck in the corner of Emera’s head.

The strength of magicians can’t be judged by their appearances. It was common sense in this world but Emera couldn’t know how strong the girl walking away from her was. Or was she a fool overestimating her own strength instead? Emera couldn’t tell and Mira didn’t look like she was going to say it. Emera rushed out to Mira and grasped her shoulder.

“Wait.”

“What? Do thou have something left to say?”

“I’m going with you!”

As an adventurer, she wondered how much strength Mira held if she didn’t seem to take the Ancient Shrine seriously. And if it was overestimation, she couldn’t leave her alone.

That’s why Emera decided to go together with them. In the worst case scenario, she was ready to let them escape using all her medicine and tools.

After Emera decided to go with them, they went to a cafe for a discussion about the details. The cafe was called “Cafe de Chocola”. This store was famous for its cocoa and chocolate cakes.

“Well, the first question to you, Mira. You look like a magician, but which class

are you?”

Emera started examining Mira’s strength. They were going to the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis, which was filled with so many undead monsters, that it was commonly called ‘underground graveyard’. Considering the perks of that place, Mira being a high-ranked monk or an exorcist still could barely make Emera would agree with her self-confidence.

“I’m a summoner.”

Mira made this prompt answer while Emera stuffed her cheeks with the special dish, chocolate overload, she was treated with. The chocolate sponge cakes were interposed with chocolate mousse that had raw chocolate inside, and on top of the chocolate cream there was some bitter chocolate sauce. Being not too sweet, it still hid the potential to make any sweet-tooth moan; it was not bad for a special dish. The size was close to a whole cake, so they could eat it while sharing with Takuto who was sitting beside them. Sometimes Mira wiped the cream around his mouth with a napkin.

Emera was pleasantly watching the family-like scenery when the word ‘summoner’ made her sit still.

Summoners already were considered as an endangered species. She heard that due to the high threshold there were no new summoners.

That’s why Emera hasn’t had a party with summoners since she became an adventurer until now. The only summoners she saw were the elite serving at the Silver Towers. They couldn’t be a sample for comparison.

“Erm, I don’t know well, but... are summoners... strong?”

She was trying to get the grasp of the Mira’s strength yet became even more puzzled, so she asked an extremely simple question. And it itched the pride of Mira who had a thing for the summoning.

At this time, Mira recalled words of the elder substitute, Creos. And even Erena who considered herself a high-ranked adventurer, spoke like she never saw summoners in battle. Mira asked the skies if the the depopulation of summoners progressed that much.

And then she began planning how to regain the dignity of summoners with her own hands.

“You will know it when the time comes.”

Mira chuckled, giving a vague hint. Contrarily, Emera only became more uneasy because it would be too late to understand they can't win.

Finishing the preliminary talk, they left the cafe de chocola.

“Well, let's go now. Thou should know the directions, so can't thou lead us please?”

Squinting her eyes in the bright daylight, Mira looked up at Emera. The whereabouts of the Ancient Shrine were listed at the reverse side of the pass she had, but relying on somebody who knows the way would be faster. Thinking about that, Mira gazed at Emera like she was asking a natural thing.

Hearing that, Emera froze again. Then she held her head in anguish again. Takuto showed surprise together with her.

“Hey, you're going to a rank C dungeon!?! You aren't going to enter without any preparations! At the very least, today we're preparing!”

Emera told her the obvious thing. Of course you need to prepare before entering a dungeon. And preparations for a high-level dungeon could easily take a week. That's why neither Emera nor even Takuto considered that they are going to go today.

“Well, as thou wish. Then we'll go tomorrow.”

Mira was going to finish the task today, so it was troublesome, but she didn't see anything bad in the preparations so she obeyed Emera.

And as a high-ranked adventurer, Emera was proficient in it. They circled around different stores to gather the necessary medicine and tools. Emera bought some expensive medicine just in case.

Mira completely fell into the sightseeing mood and barely bought anything barring the insect repellent.

Takuto learned how to use tools and medicine from Emera. It also was just in case.

“Mira, are you really going to be fine?”

“I'm fine. I was going to go there from the start so all the necessary things are

already inside.”

With those words, Mira rolled up her left sleeve. There on her arm was the operator terminal, which was called the operator bracelet here.

“Well, it should be fine then...”

Not persuaded yet, Emera anxiously bought more medicine and tools just in case.

Mira without any intention to buy any drugs followed her. She already had the excuse of completing the preparations and she actually got different medicine and tools inside the item box so it wasn't a lie.

After they bought consumables, three of them went to the town market to buy food.

Stores serving food were up lined at a corner of the main street. Emera straightly went there.

“Oh, Eme? Welcome here. Going out again?”

Emera went to her favorite adventurer's food store. She used to buy food here every time she was going to go somewhere. This shop with a portly older woman as the shopkeeper had a good assortment of processed food and seasoning.

Emera lightly smiled when the women gathered goods with a cheerful smile.

“Yes, to the Ancient Shrine tomorrow.”

“Huh. Going after big fish this time? Considering your guild, I shouldn't worry much but take care about yourself.

“Thank you.”

Emera kept silent that she's going to bring that couple with her in order to not bring unnecessary worry. But, of course, the woman looked at them with a great interest.

“Are they your children?”

“Of course not!”

Emera with a red face denied that teasing. Keeping half an eye at this home drama scene, Mira examined the goods with a great attention.



At the end, Emera stocked up here with smoked meat and canned freeze-dried vegetables and fruits and put it in her item box.

Then they went to the armory store. Metal weapons lined inside, several customers took it in hands to check the conditions.

“By the way, Mira, it seems you don’t carry any weapon; what weapon do summoners use at all?”

Emera thought that Mira possibly put her weapon into the item box but usually weapons are carried close to hands so they could be quickly used in need.

“I don’t have any. Summoning itself is a weapon.”

“Eh, so that’s the reason.”

Mira was not wrong, but she was far unlike the usual summoners so she couldn’t speak for everyone. A lot of summoners had canes to improve the MP pool and restoration speed.

However, Mira was a Xian Expert as a second class. The bare hands fight is the basics of Xian. It means that canes get in the way with the second class, so she went without them.

Erena had no idea about those circumstances and the summoner class but was fine with that explanation.

In the store, they mainly checked Emera’s equipment and chose armor for Takuto. It was a rank C dungeon. Even if he wasn’t going to fight, it was bad to leave him with a casual outfit.

By the way, Emera still was covering all expenses. She wasn’t going to make children pay and that amount wasn’t much for her so she didn’t care much.

“Hmm. This should work. Well, I’d prefer to take more time for preparations.”

Finally done with the shopping, Emera sat down on a stone fence that surrounded a square with a large requiem monument. The sun had already set and street lights illuminated people who were returning from their work.

“About the plans for tomorrow, are you fine with gathering at 10 AM in front of the union?”

“Yea.”

“Yes! Thank you!”

With those words, Mira sat next to Emera; Takuto bowed before them.

Emera still was anxious but she was going to do something about it at the place.

“Then, it’s late already so let’s call it today. Mira, Takuto, where are you staying?”

“My dad’s home is at the side street with the union.”

“I am... how was it called...”

After Emera mentioned that, Mira recalled that she hasn’t heard the name of her hotel-like inn and remembered what Garret said her about the case if she would get lost.

“If I remember correctly, it’s the best inn in the city or something like that.”

Mira vaguely answered with fingers at her chin.

Hearing this, Emera was surprised and with a completely astonished face placed her hand to her forehead. She compared the two people in front of her. Takuto covered both cheeks with his hands and stood still.

“Wait... there?”

Emera with a sigh pointed her eyes to a large building colored with street lights. The calmly illuminated inn ‘Summer Lantern’ showed yet another magnificence.

“Oh, was it there? I haven’t thought it was so close.”

Following her sight, Mira found the inn that changed atmosphere but had the familiar form and nodded.

“Enough... I’m not surprised. Yeah, you will not surprise me anymore.”

With her gaze wandering around, Emera stood up and hold the Takuto’s hand.

“Well, then I’ll go with Takuto so go straight home, Mira. Do you understand?”

Warning Mira, Emera approached her face and looked straight into her eyes.

“Ye..yea. I’ve gotten hungry so I’m going to return home now.”

With those words, Mira stood up and backed out to open distance with Emera. She still couldn’t hide her trembling after a beautiful woman suddenly approached her.

“So? Then good. Well, see you tomorrow then.”

“Yeah, see you tomorrow. Takuto, see you tomorrow too and sleep well today.

“Yeah, thanks, big sis. See you tomorrow. I’m counting on you.”

“Yea.”

Answered with Takuto’s smile after exchanging greetings, Mira started to walk towards the inn. Emera without moving right away carefully watched Mira till she entered the Summer Lantern and then began to proceed to the union direction with Takuto.

## Chapter 24: The Party Formation

It was the morning after the day Mira promised to go to the Ancient Shrine. She got a lunch box in the inn dining room.

After the Gothic Lolita left the inn, the staff was fired up guessing her identity. Opinions like a noble's daughter, a concealed royalty member, or a hidden child of some powerful adventurer were flying around and at times nearby adventurers joined their dispute.

Mira herself hasn't yet realized that she became the center of such exaggerated attention.

The sky was clear, the perfect day for a picnic. Mira advanced to the appointed place, the front of the Union, under gentle morning sunlight. The time was late morning, shopping housewives and armed adventurers stood out among the scattered people around the main street going to work.

As Mira advanced, excited with displaying the true strength of summoning, a crowd gathered at her destination — a square in front of the Union.

“What's that?”

Muttering that, Mira sat down on a bench in front of the magician union. She tried to find Emera and Takuto but couldn't find them around.

Thinking she came a bit too early, she retrieved some apple ole and took a gulp.

15 minutes passed since Mira arrived to the front of Union. The clock in the menu confirmed it was 10 AM. It was the appointed time. And the two of them haven't come yet.

“Late. They're late.”

Mira dropped a complaint while sending a look to surroundings. She saw that the strange gathering still crowded the square.

(Is there a morning sale or, maybe, street performance?)

Thinking it's not the worst way to kill time, Mira decided to find out, and a familiar boy, pushing his way through people, tried to jump out to her from this crowd. But, stumbling over the legs of people, he dropped the 2 copper coins he had and started to chase after them.

“What, was thou already here, Takuto?”

Mira, heading to the crowd, picked up the coins and called the familiar boy — Takuto.

“Ah, good morning, Big Sis Mira! Thanks.”

Getting the coins, Takuto greet Mira with a friendly smile.

“And it shouldn't be thou alone. Where's Emera?”

“Over there.”

In answer Takuto pointed at the crowd at the square. Mira thought that if Takuto came out from the crowd, he should have come early too and wasted time there.

“Big Siiis Emera, Big Sis Mira was here!”

Takuto turned towards the crowd and, running into it, raised his voice to call her.

A short time after that, the black-haired elf Emera appeared pushing herself through the crowd.

“You're late, Mira. How long should I wait for you?”

Saying that she waited for her, Emera factitiously puffed her cheeks. But Mira considered that Emera was dallying with the crowd while she was waiting, so she shrugged.

“Don't say foolish things. It's me who was waiting for thee. I was sitting on this bench all the time.”

Silence flew between them. Then Emera's eyes started to wander and she with a wry smile joined her hands in apology.

“I'm sorry! I hadn't expected so much people will gather.”

Emera made such an excuse. But when Mira, noticing something odd in this

excuse, opened her mouth,

“Is she the Mira you told about?”

A huge man glanced from behind Emera’s back. His massive metal armor was shining with a blunt silver color and his gauntlets had a scarlet bell design. A huge hammer about the size of his height hinted at extraordinary physical strength. Despite that, he wore a kind expression, and his short red hair and red stubble around his mouth held an atmosphere of wildness.

And, using it as a signal, two more people showed their faces.

“Wow, she’s absurdly cute!”

With those words, a woman lined up to right of Emera, her purple robe lightly swung up. Her blue eyes behind blue-framed glasses shined with lust. A sleeve of her robe had a scarlet bell embroidery. At first glance she gave an intellectual impression but her actions ruined it. Her hair, which extended a bit past the shoulders, were green; a cane about 1 meter length was placed on her back.

“Really? Where? Ah, spotted the beauty! Though I’d rather wait for about 5 years.”

This time a man in light equipment lined to the left of Emera and passionately observed Mira from head to toe. He had brown hair and earrings, his green bandana had the same scarlet bell embroidery. Handsome face and tall height, two daggers at the waist, black jacket and khaki trousers. At a glance he was an easy-going man.

“Who are they?”

Troubled due to being exposed to their attention, Mira glanced at the three who, judging by their actions, were acquaintances of Emera.

“The best members that I could pick in my guild, Écarlatte Carillon!”

Emera answered with confidence.

“Rather, nobody else was free today.”

“Why’d you tell her?!”

Emera angrily grabbed the collar of the cape of the easy-going man and shook it. In response, the man repeated “Sorry, sorry” without any hint of guilt in his voice.

“I am Asbar. Nice to meet you, miss. ”

A huge man cheerfully smiled. With the stern look, it was hard to expect such friendliness to ooze from him.

“I’m Frica. Best regards.”

The woman in purple robe, adjusting her glasses, intelligently smiled and presented a hand requesting a handshake.

“Ye..yea. I’m Mira. Best regards.”

Thinking that the impression she got from the woman was wrong, Mira reached for the presented hand with her right hand.

“Cute as expected!”

At the moment Mira shook her hand, Frica broke into a smile and anguished in a sugary, completely different voice.

“Mira-chan, Mira-chan. Squishy cheeks~”

With those words Frica kept poking Mira’s cheeks. Mira tried to get away but was caught by her hand so she couldn’t go out of range. She shook her head to resist, but was still poked in her cheeks by Frica.

“Do something, Emera!”

Emera who was called out released the man in light equipment and turned her head. And then, leaking out a sigh with a wry smile, she dropped a hand on Frica’s head. Stars flew before Frica’s eyes.

“I’m sorry, Mira. I did try to ask Frica to do her best in restraining herself.”

“I’d prefer her to completely restrain herself, not to do her best.”

Frika who was holding her head in her hands was peeled off by Asbard. Mira recalled Sherry, a waitress of Silver Wand shop in the village where she stopped in on the way to the Arkite Kingdom.

“I am Zefold. Call me Zef.”

The easy-going man that named himself Zefold silently approached and, matching her eye's height, broadly smiled. That carefree behavior unexpectedly made a good impression to Mira.

"I'm Mira. So, why are they here?"

"To help you!"

No word about them appeared in yesterday's conversation so Mira asked, giving the three people a glance. But Emera answered like it was a matter of course. She talked to these three people after escorting Takuto home, planning to sweep away all the remaining worries.

A 3-man party going to a C-rank dungeon gave her nothing but worries. And there was no particular reason to go only with three people. When she decided to go into the Ancient Shrine, she already was going to get some help from the free members of her guild.

"Hm, well, fine. Then let's go. I leave the leading to you."

Mira had nothing against extra members. Also, compared to the company of the beauty Emera, she surely could calm down easier with male fellows like Asbar and Zef.

Mira took Takuto's hand and was going to set off, but the look of the main street made her widely open her eyes in a daze. For some reason, her surroundings were crowded.

The people she saw at the square now crowded around this place. The Emera's guild made them gather here. This guild was famous for high-level adventurers, and when four members of the Ecarlate Carillon gathered together, there was no way they wouldn't catch attention. They had arrived to the front of the Union earlier than Mira. After finishing with some business in the Union, they waited at the square and surprised people gathered around, making the mysterious crowd.

When the origin left this crowd and stood with Mira, there should be no need to say that the same phenomenon happened.

"Emera-neesan, you're fantastic!" "Frica-tan, scold me please" "Zef, don't get too cocky" "Asbar, please take me to the next drinking" "Is this cute girl a new member?" "Zef, be careful at night."



Hearing that she gathers attention at this noisy square, Mira hurried Emera.

“Well, then let’s go. Everybody, follow me.”

“Yes, mam.”

Emera vigorously lifted her right hand and proceeded to the north side of the main street. Only Zef responded to her. Asbar wryly smiled and Frica hasn’t take her eyes from Mira. Feeling a discomfort, Mira casually hide behind Asbar. Takuto, still holding her hand, followed her.

As Emera proceeded, the crowd without hindrance opened the way and sent encouragements from behind.

Mira was impressed that high-level adventurers are treated as famous people.

Leaving the Requiem City Caranach and proceeding to the mountains at the north took them about 20 minutes. After they came out of the woods, along with the carved statues, in front their eyes there was the destination, the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis, greeting them with a dignified appearance.

“Well, finally we’re here.”

“Once again, this is quite the magnificent view.”

While Emera was bringing themselves together, Mira was in a tourist mood. The difference in their attitudes was obvious.

Their group stopped in front of the Ancient Shrine. While it’s rare, monsters could lurk around the ritual hall right next to the entrance so they took precaution.

“Fine, I’ll go check it.”

After saying that, Zef without a sound slipped inside the temple.

Shortly after that “It’s clear” resounded from the inside.

The group proceeded inside the ritual hall and everybody sat down. When everybody took a rest, Emera started to talk.

“Well, let’s confirm our goal. Our destination is the Hall of the Dark Aid at the fifth floor, right?”

“Yeah, he told me something about the Mirror of the Dark Aid. But as you

approach closer to the fifth floor, monsters become troublesome and numerous, will we be fine? Together with that miss and boy?”

Ecarlate Carillon passed this dungeon several times. After taking preparation, a party of major members broke inside and cleared the dungeon till the fifth floor.

Compared to those times, they did improved their skill yet there was only four main members and the defense of kids required attention. It can't be helped that Asbar displayed his worry.

“Huh, repeat that after you see it. I will change the narrowness of your view.”

Mira carelessly threw out her chest and said that. She thought that if they are getting so much attention, it should be a good chance to make the world recognize the power of summoners.

“Well, well, then we'll look forward to it.”

With those words Asber, understanding that she is in the age of acting like an adult, prepared himself to grab her and run away in any danger. The rest of the three members thought the same.

“Me and Asber will be vanguard, and, holding Mira and Takuto between us, Frika and Zef will guard from the rear. Fine?”

“Understood.”

“Okay.”

“Fine, fine~”

“Well, why not.”

“Yes! Thank you all!”

Everybody replied when the four members of Ecarlate Carillon began to check their weapons.

Asber examined the handle and the tie of his hammer, Frica, in addition to a cane, lined up several cards. Zef smeared his daggers in something resembling oil.

And Emera took a saber from item box to put it on her waist, moving the sword she had into the item box.

“Oh, is it the leader’s sword?”

Asbard asked when he saw this sword. At the same time, everybody turned to Emera.

“Yeah, it is. It’s the Nebulapolis after all so after hearing the reason he lent it to me. It should considerably help us here.”

With those words, Emera unsheathed the blade. This double-edged sword cast faint white light, revealing that it wasn’t a common sword.

“Oh, a light spirit sword? Thou hold interesting stuff.”

Mira said, looking at the Emera’s sword. Casting faint light is a trait of light element. And, even amongst light elemental swords that were rare, this one was with somewhat particular details.

The most popular light elemental sword —holy sword — is made by a blacksmith by swapping water with holy water and fire with sacred fire. There are several different methods, but the designs of holy sword and god sword are unique and at a glance it’s obvious it’s not simple swords.

And the sword that Emera held was a mediocre saber. Even though it emitted pale light, it didn’t seemed unusual.

But not for magicians. Especially for the top magicians who could see what happened around the sword.

“How did you know it? It’s the leader’s saber, I borrowed it.”

Emera with those words put the sword back in the scabbard and shining particles following around it quickly disappeared.

This shining particles were the reason Mira said it was a spirit sword. A spirit sword is a sword with a blessing from a spirit, the exact effect depends on the spirit. It doesn’t have to be a sword, and those arms are called spirit arms.

The effect can be attached to any arms, and magicians can see a glimpse of this power.

Just like warriors see fighting spirit, magicians see spirits. That’s why they can see the spirit’s power in swords.

It’s a common knowledge for magicians. And the top magicians can precisely

see a lot of spirits.

Emera, Asbar and Zef simply thought that she's a well-informed girl but for Frica it was different. She couldn't see the light particles that proved the spirit's force in the sword. And without seeing them it's hard to tell it's a spirit sword at a glance.

This girl saw the remains of a light spirit that even the high-level adventurer Frica couldn't see. It became a cue for when Frica started to suspect Mira was not an ordinary girl.

“We're going to rely on you.”

Asbar grinned and, putting his hammer back, stood up.

“Yeah, leave it to me. Well, let's go!”

Following the vigorously rising Emera, everybody got up and went to the altar, the entrance to the first floor of the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis.

Mira took out her card case from the item box and, remembering what she was told when she got it, pushed the pass to the Ancient Shrine against the barrier crystal surrounding the altar.

“Finally. Is there any loot here?”

“Don't forget why we're here. Escort them till the Hall of the Dark Aid first.”

“Fine, I got that.”

Passing through the swaying thinned-out barrier, Asbar earnestly warned Zef who was jumping down the ladder. Assured that Emera, Frica and Takuto passed the barrier, Mira, returning the pass into the card case, followed them.

In a few moments after they descended the stairs, the barrier returned its strength and small birds started to sing inside of the empty again ritual hall.

## Chapter 25: Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis

After descending the stairs, the group, relying on a pale swaying lamp, proceeded along a dim corridor.

“That is quite the useful thing you got there.”

Mira muttered that, looking at the lanterns that hung down from waists of the four people. A sphere floated at its core which was surrounded by metal braces. It was emitting a pale radiance that eerily illuminated the dark passages of the Shrine.

“I heard you already prepared, so I didn’t bring you to the adventurers supplies store. I have no idea how you would manage to enter here without even getting a lantern.”

Saying that in shock, Emera stared at a sphere that was brightly shining on top of Mira’s head. This illuminating light orb was made by Mira’s abstract skill.

“Magicians can always use an illumination spell. It should be enough.”

“Well, you’re right but is it fine for you to waste mana on illumination when you don’t know what awaits you here?”

Frica agreed with Emera. They just entered the dungeon and can expect a lot of battles ahead. And she is using mana on something that can be replaced with a lantern, no magician would even think about that.

Illumination from abstract skills requires recasting as it fades. Also, it can’t light up the whole area so some dimness still remains. That’s why in the Dunbalf’s era he brought Creos along. The power of a light spirit illuminated everything. Mira, intently watching the barely visible corridor, mused about bringing Creos here.

“Such a spell doesn’t cost me anything. Don’t worry about that.”

“Well... if you say that.”

Emera didn’t know much about magician classes and consented, assuming

that Mira has some class bonus. And Frica simply believed the words of Mira, knowing that Mira could see spirit traces she couldn't see.

Actually, classes didn't have any bonuses. But Mira already managed to restore herself to full mana. She trained to raise her magical power, so her mana limit and recovery speed became unimaginable for normal adventurers.

They proceeded while having such conversation, and a small room ended the corridor.

The air had become wet and a silent darkness surrounded them outside of the light. Having exhalations, foot steps and rubbing armor as the only background sounds, Emera opened a map on her operator bracelet and started to walk towards the next room.

(The monsters should start appearing soon.)

After leaving the first room after the stairs, they had proceeded along the corridor for a while. Another room-like space spread out in front of the corridor. Knowing that monsters in the Ancient Shrine start to appear in the second room, Mira used a summoning skill to prepare for the battle.

**【Summon: Holy Knight】**

When she set the location next to her, a shining light circle illuminated the corridor.

“What's with that light!?”

“What's happening?”

Because of the sudden flash that exceeded the dim lanterns and light of the illumination spell, Emera and Asber, who led them, looked back. Here they two witnessed how the pure white knight figure appeared from this light.

“I'm sorry if I frightened you. This fellow spirit is my summon.”

Mira briefly announced that while tapping the waist of the white knight. The knight who had suddenly appeared had a huge shield, which was able to cover his 2-meter height, and a long sword shining with silver in another hand. And the most peculiar trait was his full armor. The white was so pure it shined and a red light swayed behind a full-face helmet.

“Is it a spirit...?”

“It feels amazingly powerful.”

Emera and Frica stared at him with their breath taken away. They felt not only an overwhelming intimidation but also overwhelming security coming from this white knight.

“Kewl!”

“Is it the summoning? That’s incredible.”

Zef examined this holy knight who was calmly staying still from every side. He was a scout, but the embodiments of the protection, holy knights awed him. Asbar fixedly stared at the white knight before him while recalling what Emera told him earlier. The fact Mira got a rank C immediately on registration. Of course at first he thought that Emera grew senile or perhaps saw that in a dream, but after hearing that Mira got a pass and was going to enter the Ancient Shrine the next day, he didn’t know what was happening. And after seeing the Holy Knight with his own eyes he got confident in her. His instincts with a fuss told him that the knight staying here was stronger than he. Now Asbar assumed that getting the rank C from the start requires something like that. The lack of limit for the abilities of summoners slightly terrified him.

Then Mira ordered the Holy Knight to protect Takuto, throwing away all the malice that can come from any direction.

Holy Knight is an arms spirit used for protection. Therefore in protection he surpasses high-level summons. It was the reason she brought Takuto along in this dangerous place. Only one of the Nine Wisemen or somebody rivaling them could defeat Mira’s Holy Knight that was devoted to defense.

After ensuring the safety of Takuto, the group arrived at a large hall. Here Asber, while cautiously looking around, checked the grasp of his large hammer.

“Wait here, I feel some presences.”

Zef looked to the left, closed up with Mira and Takuto and prepared both his daggers.

Asbar placed himself between Mira and the emerged thing while Emera immediately closed the map and stood next to him.

Finally, like ripples spreading atop of the silence, a dragging sound covered the surroundings. Slowly yet surely something was approaching them.

Asbar and Emera, preparing weapons, gawked towards it. Zef, guarding the sides against a sudden attack, kept his eyes on the surroundings. Frika, maintaining a composed face, stared towards it while grasping her a cane in hands.

“Ghouls, huh.”

Emerging like silhouettes things revealed their contours as they approached the light. Their wriggling bodies roughly resembled people.

After a short display of disgust, Emera and Asbar quickly got calm and, holding their weapons, went forward.

Zef was on alert a bit behind, and staying behind Takuto the Holy Knight held the huge shield to cover him.

(And the vision is terrible.)

It was a long time since Mira, who has gotten used to Creos so much, saw monsters appearing from the darkness. She strained her eyes yet due to Asbar's back in the way she couldn't see well. Standing on tiptoes, she swang herself to sides, yet she couldn't grasp the whole fight happening a bit further.

“Unh... What's with that stench...”

“Really, what stinks?”

Mira frowned at the stench that gradually filled the surroundings. Takuto, while staying next to her, felt the same odor and answered while pinching his nose.

“Of course it's their smell.”

With those words, Zef pointed to the ghouls ahead of them with his eyes. The stench that Mira felt seemed like a rotting smell. Monsters, persisting on half-rotten meat, obviously didn't return any life to it and the decaying did not stop. They were always decaying just to crumble down someday and infect the next corpse.

After comprehending Zef's answer Mira fixed her eyes on a ghoul, which



emerged behind the even more disgusted Asber.

“Ough...!”

Unable to focus its dull eyes, the thing gazed at the prey; a rotten tongue was peeking through wide-open mouth lacking lips. Its lips were emaciated, the scalp that started to peel off barely had any remaining hair. Ruptures covered the skin and packs of worms appeared inside gaps of rotting flesh.

The vivid thing that poorly sustained the human form made the very air they inhaled seem rotten. This overdone realism made Mira feel intensely sick. But, when her averted sight met Takuto, she somewhat overcame nausea.

“I’ll go.”

With that announcement, Frika took a step backward and released the prepared 【Sorcery: Deep Crimson】 skill. Magic power gathered in the cane that she lifted and, after a quick flash, produced a flame vortex that engulfed the ghoul. Covered in the raging deep crimson hellfire skin burned down, the fire burst its legs and the ghoul collapsed. After that the flame covered his back and, scattering the ash, his intestines burst into flames.

The latecomer cremation flame, purifying the possessed with filth pitiful corpse, was brightly raging, burning him to nothing along with the stench.

The blaze that painted the surroundings in bright red slowly faded out and two more ghouls, who stood outside the range, started advancing again. However, now Emera and Asber jumped forward and tore down one of them to pieces and smashed the upper half of another, splattering the flesh and worms around. Even undead monsters couldn’t move after such destruction.

“Looks like it’s done.”

Mere dozens of seconds made Mira reconfirm that it’s not a game anymore. Due to the realistic depiction, even in the game in her first encounter with ghouls she couldn’t directly look at them. However, after some time it wasn’t a problem anymore.

But in the reality, when the vivid display of rotting was accompanied with the smell, it was impossible to get used to it even if you had resistance.

They broke the formation and, behind the shield of the Holy Knight, Takuto

showed his face with the still pinched nose.

The cremated ghoul was fine, but the rotten smell started to waft from the ghouls scattered by Emera and Asber. Mira frowned again at that stench.

“Takuto, have you drunk the medicine?”

“Yes, I did.”

Takuto answered in a nasal voice to Emera’s question.

“Then it shouldn’t be that bad.”

“Well, it’s natural. We’re used to it but for Takuto it’s the first time. The medicine helps but it’s not enough for starters.”

At Emera’s doubt, Zef answered while caressing Takuto’s head. Emera with ‘Well, now you mention that’ recalled her first time and agreed.

“Wait, what’s the medicine thou are talking about?”

Mira found a strange word in their conversation and, covering her mouth with a sleeve in recurring nausea, wondered about it.

“Of course, the anti-smell medicine... Wait, Mira, you don’t have it?”

“Anti-smell? Never heard about it.”

“Simply putting, this medicine reduces really stinking to slightly stinking... or like that?”

“It’s kinda oversimplified, but she’s right.”

No wonder that Mira haven’t known about it. Anti-smell medicine works on the sense of smell, partly numbing its ability. While it’s not complete, at the best it can protect against the too strong stench. There was no smell in the game so nobody thought about this effect then. But now, in the reality, the rise of demand on such medicine was natural.

(The new inventions in this world are amusing. I wonder what else I’ve missed.)

In the first serious adventure she had since come here, Mira was excited by the gradually expanding sense of reality.

However, in reality the stench did not go anywhere. Takuto boldly released his

nose taking effort to get used to it. With the medicine, it was somewhat bearable.

This time something flashed in Mira's mind. It was about the deeper parts. They were in the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis. The sacred land of the undead paradise. Even the first ghouls were like that. Even more of them would spring out later, and she recalled the huge zombie — Giant Ghoul — at the third floor. Their existence is unfathomable at this point. At this moment, Mira abandoned the idea of the normal adventure.

Mira, moving away a bit from the group, stretched her right hand to a side.

**【Summon skill : Binding Circle of Arcana】**

When Mira invoked the skill, a blue magic circle about her height in size emerged in front of her hand. But Mira didn't stop here. After securing the magic circle, she turned her hand to the left.

**【Summon skill : Binding Circle of Arcana】**

The second magic circle appeared. The slowly rotating circle was called Binding Circle of Arcana. This specific summoners' skill could strengthen the summons around, giving them various blessings. The effect increased with the each circle and improved efficiency of basic abilities, reduced the mana costs and increased supplementary effects.

However, Mira was not going to strengthen the summons. The Binding Circle of Arcana was a pre-requirement for another skill.

“Mira-chan, what are you doing?”

“Well, thou'll see it soon.”

Briefly responding to Emera's question, Mira reached into the circles with her hands.

“Well, let's go.”

**【Summon skill : Summoning Circle of Rozario】**

As Mira touched the two circles, they simultaneously started to change with sparks. Without understanding what was going on, the five in the group only held their breath.

Larger two-fold magic circles appeared from the gathered light. The circles shining in red overflowed with different, stronger magic power. Grasping that presence, Frika was so charmed she forgot about her thirst.

And then, the preparations were over. All that was necessary for the high-level summoning special summon circle.

『Name thyself, maiden of the soaring skies , the one who uses flash as a sword to clear away evil』

Mira whispered that to one of the magic circles. Not only for summoning, all the spells at the higher level required exclusive chants. And the words she whispered were one of the chants for the high-level summoning.

『The blade that swore allegiance to the master, Alfina, is heeding the call.』

The voice came from the other circle. This answer meant that the summoning was complete without a hit. The five people behind them looked around for the source of this voice. Quickly noticing it was from the Mira side, they turned there.

『Come forth,【Summon : Valkyrie】.』

Mira proclaimed the completion of the high-level summon and the summon circles shone, answering to her magic.

“What is it, what’s going on!?”

“Terrific magic pressure...what is it this time?”

Emera covered her eyes due to the dazzle; squinting Frica gazed towards in a daze. The rest of the three people lost their words due to this scenery and simply looked upon it.

The summoning circle next to Mira disappeared after a bright flash. Right after that, the remaining circle sped up its rotation, and the interior and outer circles opened out up and down.

“Abiding by the summon, I’ve been brought forth by you. It’s been a long time, my master.”

A woman emerged from the afterimage of the light pillar. Her beautiful figure carried azure light armor, gauntlets and grips. A circlet shone with gold on the

forehead; blue hair, flowing like meadows on the wind, fastened in one braid at her back. The sword she placed at her waist was contained in a scabbard as azure as the armor, yet a solemn light leaked through it.

A person that could proudly call herself a maiden of war suddenly appeared in front of the five of them.

“Yea, a long time, Alfina.”

Replying that, Mira fixedly stared at Alfina.

The summoned valkyrie, Alfina, kneeled in front of her, showing her respect.

“My master, looks like your appearance changed quite a lot.”

After sweeping her eyes over Mira, Alfina spoke those words.

“Ye...we, well, a lot of things happened.”

“Well, it seems so.”

Anticipating it, Mira prepared for hiding her excitement and was able to preserve unhindered attitude, yet she certainly hadn't expected the change to be so vivid.

In the game, there was no dialog outside of answers to direct orders. However, the valkyrie before her, Alfina, clearly could speak and had her own will. Mira confirmed that while becoming confident that her expectations came true. It clearly was not strange considering that it was reality. She was happy rather than surprised.

There were a lot of intelligent creatures among the summons that Mira had contracts with. Valkyrie was one of them. It meant that other summons could speak too. It was a godsend for Mira who was often acting alone.

“What did thou do until now, Alfina?”

Since she called her after all, driven by curiosity Mira decided to try talking a bit.

“I was training with my sisters mostly. We worked to be ready for getting summoned to the master at any time.”

“Hmm, I see. Just as expected. Thou is reliable.”

“It's an honor to take such praise.”

Mira broke out a smile, ensured that she wouldn't be lonely while traveling alone.

"Hey... Mira-chan, who is that woman?"

Emera widely opened her eyes at the suddenly appeared valkyrie, who wore unordinary atmosphere, yet somewhat stepped forward to question her. Frica became speechless from the overflowing magic power, Zef couldn't take his eyes from this beauty.

"She's Alfina, a valkyrie."

When Mira replied, Alfina stood up and turned herself to Emera.

"Are you the fellows of my master? My name is Alfina. I'm pleased to make your acquaintance."

She bowed with those words. This figure was so full of grace so Emera in a hurry replied "Best regards from us too" and returned a clumsy bow.

"Still, she's pretty. Or rather, she's not similar to that knight. After all, she speaks."

Asbar came to his senses, however, still gazing at Alfina, he muttered in admiration. He felt that the presence Alfina put on was on a different level and was astonished of that different league pressure.

"Well, she is. Have thou understood the power of summoners now?"

Bragging a bit, Mira threw her chest out, folding her arms. She was sure that at present this was enough to accomplish her mission of showing the power of the summoning skill.

"Master, what are your orders?"

Alfina turned her face back and, kneeling again, waited for directions. In regards to that, Mira gave an order that completely blew away all the preparations and worries of Emera.

"Exterminate the monsters from here till the fifth floor!"

She wasn't going to look at grotesque ghouls again. And bringing the end to every one of them was enough for that. That's what Mira thought.

“As you wish.”

Alfina unsheathed her sword and, leaving a glinting trail, leaped into the depths of the Ancient Shrine.

## Chapter 26: The mirror of the dark aid

The party was looking at the way Alfina dashed. All her problems were solved so Mira's eyes strongly shined, driving away the afterimage of the ghoul.

"Well, let's get going."

Saying that, Mira pointed the way ahead of them. Takuto hurried to her and grabbed her hand. Frica, following him, advanced next to Mira and leaned her body against her. Emera, Asbar, and Zef still gazed in the direction where Alfina had disappeared.

"Did you see it too?"

"Yeah, I did. That was ridiculous."

"I just think it's amazing."

The three of them witnessed the fighting spirit coming from Alfina, who unsheathed her sword and dashed away. Upon entering a battle stance, everyone compared the strength of their fighting spirits to hers. Warrior classes can feel it, and the three of them felt that Alfina's strength overshadowed everything they've seen before.

They threw glances to Mira, who was still puffing her chest from pride. Who in the world was that girl, if such a strong summon as Alfina called her master?

"It seems that summoners are really amazing. I am greatly impressed from seeing such a demonstration for the first time."

"Who are thou?"

Mira stared at the woman, Frica, who talked to her. She was completely different from the time they had met earlier. The face she showed when teasing Mira disappeared without a trace; eyes resembling the night cosmos were silently directed at Mira. Mira couldn't remember anybody who looked that smart, that's why this Frica was a complete stranger to her.

"Haven't we been together from the start? What a funny thing you are saying."



Frica answered while pushing up her glasses.

“Hey, Emera! Frica went weird!

The strangeness of Frica, who with a smile patted her head, forced Mira to ask help from Emera.

“Eh? What’s wrong?”

Dazedly Emera finally woke up and came closer to her.

“Frica is weird. She’s kinda too calm or perhaps too smart. Anyway, she’s weird.”

“Ahh, that’s why.”

Quickly grasping the situation, Emera approached Frica and suddenly hugged her.

“The hell, Emera? Quit it now.”

With those words, Frica easily brushed away her hands and got free.

“So, what’s going on with you?”

“Mira-chan, try to do the same thing.”

“Wha.. why would I do such a thing?”

Mira clearly hesitated. There was no wonder in that because Emera basically told her to hug this wise beauty Frica. And, while she wasn’t against this idea, she was unsure if it was fine for her to do such a thing, she couldn’t gather enough courage.

“Hey, just do it and you’ll understand everything.”

Emera lost her temper and, grabbing both of Mira’s hands, made her embrace Frica from the front.

“Whoa, Emera, what are thou...aaaaah!?”

“So cute, Mira-chan! Wanna cuddle with big sis? You do, right? Here, come closer!”

It happened instantly. Frica instantly broke her cool intelligent face and embraced Mira, who flew into her breast. Then she immediately brought

Mira to her cheeks and began enjoying Mira's tenderness.

"What's going on...!?"

This sudden change caught Mira off guard. She was wary of Frica after they met but since there were no actions taken, she was completely unprepared.

"Frica adores cute girls. She's usually calm and composed and we can rely on her at back guard. But, as you can see, she easily becomes like that."

"Then simply explain that in words!"

"I believed that it would be faster. Ehehe."

"Thou fool—!"

Mira's scream pointlessly echoed in the subjugated dungeon. But nobody answered her. The members of Ecarlate Carillon with eyes full of their deep condolences showed no intention of doing anything. Only Takuto showed his little adherence by firmly holding her hand.

Mira was finally set free when Frica completely recharged herself with adorableness. About 10 minutes passed since her restraint. In this time, Zef scavenged the remains of the ghouls for peculiar drop items. He wasn't particularly picky so the sorting of the monster drops was his specialty.

After that, the group finally got moving. They entered the passage beyond the area where they met ghouls, then went to the next hall. Not a soul could be found here, just piles of ash scattered around.

"I don't feel anybody here."

Checking the hall just in case Zef turned right and said it was safe. The group entered the hall, and Zef continued to scout the area. Then he found something shining in a pile of dust before him.

"Oh, isn't that a sealed stone?"

With these words, Zef picked a marble-sized purple gem out of the ash. Noticing that, Asbar kicked the pile of ash, confirming that another gem was

inside and looked throughout the hall.

“Could all that ash be the remains of monsters?..”

There were over 10 piles of ash in this 24 square meter room. Mira picked a sealed stone out of a pile.

“Hmm, they still drop the items that they should.”

Undead monsters are one of the primary sources of the sealed stones. Stones seal the magic power required to move corpses and a lot of things demand this mana. It seems that even in reality the monsters of the underground graveyard drop the sealed stones.

Formerly a lot of players farmed these dungeon monsters for the sealed stones. It was kind of popular among players, to the point they nicknamed it ‘visiting the graves’.

While Mira was busy with reminiscing about it, Zef managed to gather all of the gems in the piles. In total, he found 14 gems.

“I’m thinking, could it all be the work of Alfina?”

“In these circumstances, who else?”

“Then why did they turn to ash? Wasn’t she armed with a sword? Perhaps she can cast fire spells?”

“Unless she’s a high-level sorcerer, she can’t burn them down to complete ash. Yet there is no trace of such high-level magic so I don’t think she can be a sorcerer.”

Frica dismissed Zef’s guess.

As Zef mentioned, Alfina had a sword. Any corpses should have slash wounds from the sword, yet the closest thing to corpses were the ash piles scattered here like dust. It’s impossible to completely burn them to ashes without some quite strong flame attack. It could be done with the magic, yet it should be a high-level sorcery. Yet any strong power should leave appropriate traces, and Frica confidently dismissed this guess.

Everybody tried to figure it out, and after some time they looked at Mira.

“Mira, give us the answer, please.”

Zef with a wink demanded an explanation and Mira started to talk. She started with the reason why she chose Alfina among her countless summons.

“That’s because her sword is a cleansing sword forged out of condensed light. Each time she slashes a fiend, a light flash burns it away. Every monster here is undead, so nothing can stop Alfina.”

“I’ve never heard about such swords...”

Emera with a shine in her eyes looked at the dust piles around her. Half of the reason why she talked the Ecarlate Carillon’s chief into lending his sword was because she wanted to try it. Emera adored the famous swords.

“I see. I’m amazed that you can summon someone with such a sword.”

Asbar began respecting summoning even more.

The conquest of the rank C dungeon, the Ancient Shrine Nebulapolis, went easier than Emera expected... perhaps, it was wrong to call it “conquest” now. The greatest danger of the dungeon — monsters — were turned to piles of ash that Zef eagerly scavenged. The most adventurer-like thing they did was Emera’s checking the way with the map in rooms with several exits.

“And why exactly did we tag along? To loot the sealed stones?”

Zef uttered that while finishing with gathering the drops. Zef himself didn’t care about it that much but the leader of the group — Emera — felt uneasy. They were escorting Takuto until the Hall of Dark Aid. It was their plan, however, Mira proved that she could do it alone.

Allowing kids to go alone into a rank C dungeon where even high-level adventurers are forced to be careful was out of the question. Emera wryly understood that after imposing herself on them with such reasoning, she hasn’t yet gotten a second chance to use her spirit sword.

“So, how’s the leeching?”

“Don’t remind me!”

This word hurt Emera, but she had nothing to say in answer.

After that, they proceeded to a hall in the center of the third floor. There was the largest pile of ash in the dungeon. And the source of that was the main fear of Mira which made her resort to summoning, a giant ghoul. And now Zef was scattering those remains around.

“Whoa! A magic crystal!”

Zef raised up a palm-sized gem he found in the ash. The members of Ecarlate Carillion who were unconcerned till now instantly turned their faces to him. There was no wonder in that. Magic crystals are a terribly rare drop from large undead monsters.

“That’s great! Let me take a look.”

“What, really?”

“We got really lucky.”

Emera who became fully recovered charged at Zef, and Asbar gazed at the gem in his hands from far away. Frica hasn’t showed much reaction yet still flushed her cheeks.

Takuto had no idea what the fuss was about and just showed a happy smile, matching the air here. And Mira, being herself, mused about the rarity of this drop like it wasn’t her business.

And a bit later they finally got to their goal, the fifth floor, where the hall of the dark aid was located.

The scenery around them was the same, not a single monster and just piles of ash. However, the number of those piles increased and they became larger. They almost could see the brave swings of Alfina’s sword. Emera and Asbar gasped. They were supposed to break through it all themselves.

“The extermination is complete.”

And Alfina was waiting for them in the hall. There were no signs that she got

tired, and not a single scratch showed on her armor.

“Yea, thanks for the hard work. As expected from you.”

“Your words of praise are an honor for me.”

Mira held her hand over Alfina who was kneeling down in a bow.

“Thou deserve some rest.”

She made the return command and Alfina, wrapped up in a magic circle, blurred away.

Everybody silently watched at that, just Zef looked at the return with sorrow.

The fifth floor’s design was simple, right after the passage down the ladder there was a square hall with passages at each side. They came from the 4th floor, so only 3 were left. The left one led to a storeroom, in front of them was the way to the last floor so their goal — the hall of the dark aid — should be at the right.

Emera checked with the map and turned right. Zef who was scavenging in the ashes followed the group a little behind.

“So, looks like we got to the hall.”

They opened a copper door at the end of the passage and arrived at a room with mystery paintings on the walls. Mira, who hasn’t forgotten this eccentric look, checked for the mirror right in front of the entrance.

Emera and Asbar looked around the room, but there were no monsters or piles of ash. Only a single mirror. Judging by Mira’s knowledge, no monsters appeared in this room.

The eerie silhouettes that rose in the pale light of lanterns made them doubt if this mirror has another effect besides showing the deceased.

Somebody’s gasp broke the silence.

“What’s the matter? Why are you huddling here? Have you gotten to the goal?”

Zef caught up with them. His voice startled Emera.

“Ye.. yes, we did. This way.”

Blushing her face from embarrassment that such a trivial thing frightened her, Emera pointed to the mirror.

“Isn’t that great, Takuto? Now you can meet your parents again.”

“Yes, because of all your efforts. Thank you.”

Zef saw the mirror and, becoming glad like it was his goal, was caressing Takuto’s head. Takuto who was smiling shed some tears while answering.

“So, go to them now.”

Mira released his hand and lightly pushed his back. Takuto, submitting to it, nodded “Yea”, and made a step forward and called the names of his parents in the front of the mirror.

The mirror was extremely easy to use, it just required you to call the name of the person you want to meet while thinking about them. And Takuto, gathering all memories of parents he had, called them out in front of the mirror.

.....

.....

“Have they appeared already?”

Holding her breath Emera couldn’t control herself. But when Frica quickly glared at her, she shrugged and sadly stepped aside.

.....

.....

“Only he can see them?”

Unable to bear the silence, Asbar asked that. But nobody was going to answer, so he could only stare at the back of Takuto.

.....

“Takuto,”

The first one to notice the change was Mira. She trotted closer to Takuto and gently brushed his hair.

Seeing that, the rest of the members were going to step in when Takuto loudly

burst out crying and, longing for warmth, clung to Mira's chest.

"Dad... Mom..."

Accepting his flood of tears, Mira gently brushed his back.

"What's wrong? Were their farewell words so sad?"

Takuto shook his head in answer to her question and, holding his tears, looked up.

"Dad and mom don't want to meet me."

After those words, he burst into crying again.

It seems that he hasn't met them. Emera and Frica put hands on his shoulders and shed some tears in discouragement.

Asbar fluttered about without any idea what to do. He opened his item box and tried to find some sweets or drinks.

And Zef pondered in the front of the mirror. Perhaps it was broken and lost the ability to call out deceased.

"Lyrica."

Zef whispered this name. It was the name of his little sister who passed away earlier due to an illness. This word unintentionally left his mouth.

.....—!

A pale light appeared in the mirror and in the next moment a girl reflected behind it. She was about 15-16 years old. She wore a red one-piece and had tawny hair split into two braids. With a friendly smile, she looked upwards at the Zef.

"No....way..."

Without a doubt, it was his sister Lyrica. She hasn't aged after her death and had her favorite one-piece and the hair style he remembered well. The same Lyrica he saw the last time was in the mirror.

"Lyrica...Lyrica!"

Zef unvoluntarily clinged to the mirror and called her name.

"Bro...ther?"



The girl in the mirror doubtfully responded to his words. Zef confirmed she can hear him and exploded with the feelings he held before.

“Forgive me, Lyrica. Please forgive that I couldn’t save you! If I could return home faster, you...”

The voice of Zef got hoarse midway and his apologies blurred. Despite that, Zef continued to raise his voice together with the word “forgive” that got mixed sometimes.

The one who stopped Zef while in the gust of emotions spat out everything he bore inside was Lyrica herself.

“Onii-chan, why are you apologizing? Have you done anything wrong?”

“I... haven’t saved you. If only I returned home earlier, you could live.”

Zef continued to yell his confession. The only person who knew the circumstances, Asbar, with a scowl started to walk towards Zef.

When Asbar was going to say it wasn’t Zef’s fault,

“It’s not your fault! I died because of a disease. Not because of you! I haven’t come here to hear your apologies. I wanted to thank you!”

The girl inside the mirror scolded her crimson-faced brother, Zef. She was upset. He apologized for such stupid reasons. And he was blaming himself.

“Onii-chan!

“W..what?”

Filled with anger voice of Lyrica made Zef reflexively straighten himself. Noticing that, Lyrica broke a grin.

“Ly..Lyrica?”

“You haven’t changed at all.”

“Ehh..a..ahh.”

When Lyrica was still alive, she scolded Zef when his mischiefs were going overboard. A lot of time passed since, yet his body still remembered the voice of Lyrica.

“I died because of an illness. Don’t take the fault yourself.”

“But, Lyrica,”

“No buts. I know you was doing it for me. That’s why thank you. I love you, onii-chan.”

After that words, Lyrica’s image slowly started to blur. It seemed the time was up.

“Me too! I love you too!”

Zef yelled to the disappearing shadow of Lyrica. Right after that, everybody had a feeling that the girl smiled a bit.

## Chapter 27: The Goal Of Mira

Zef moved away from the mirror and without a word closed his eyes. Right now his face was probably worse than Takuto's. It wasn't clear if he was able to answer if someone called him now.

Probably understanding this, everyone exchanged glances and decided to leave him alone for a while.

"Well, the mirror does work."

Saying that, Mira returned to the original topic. The Mirror of the Dark Aid properly displays deceased people. They just proved it.

"Then I wonder, why didn't it work for Takuto?"

Recalling that it didn't work the first time, Emera voiced her concerns. Takuto's parents did not appear. It was clear now since everyone could see Lyrica. And no one saw anything in the mirror when Takuto tried.

"Could it be because he called them both together?"

Frica started building such a hypothesis. It could be that the Mirror of the Dark Aid can only summon one deceased at a time. And since Takuto tried to call both parents, there was no response.

"It's not entirely impossible."

With those words, Asbar moved his glance to Mira. Mira nodded and, gently embracing Takuto, placed him in front of the mirror again.

"Now try to call one of them, either dad or mom."

Hearing that, Takuto nodded and painted the image of his mother in his head.

"Mom! Lyne!"

Takuto put all his feelings into this call.

.....

Yet the mirror of the Dark Aid without any reaction continued to keep its silence.

“Dad, ... Ashley ..... father .....

Tears started to overflow in Takuto’s eyes again. Nobody appeared, no matter how much he repeated the call. The thought that his parents surely don’t want to meet him spread in his chest, painting it with sorrow.

.....

“Hick.....sob.....sniffle.....”

The Takuto in the mirror with a gloomy face was still staring with a sliver of hope.

He thought that they can finally meet again.

Both his parents went on a journey when he was even younger than he was now.

He feared that his memories will fade while he was living in his grandfather’s house.

And the report saying that they died left him in despair.

Then the rumor about the existence of the mirror that allows one to meet with the deceased he heard about gave him a hope to meet them again.

However, this hope was all in vain, he wasted time and the mirror did not reflect his parents.

“Looks like they won’t come out...”

At those words dropped by Asbar, the voice of Takuto raised in pitch and he started to cry.

Due to its timing, Asbar became flustered because he thought he made him cry. Mira fell into a panic, not knowing what to do, and embraced Takuto, calming him.

Her warmth slowly made Takuto to regain his mind. Still, his tears still did not stop flowing, and in that state he couldn’t even try to speak.

“I wonder why it didn’t work now.”

Emera circled around the mirror, inspecting it. She was hoping to find some explanation, yet there was no trace of anything that could cause that.

“Seems like it’s not because of the one-at-a-time limitation.”

“And it’s not broken.”

Frica peeked into the mirror and touched the surface. Asbar regained himself from the panic and, along with Frisca, peeked into the mirror. They racked their brains, looking at the surface without a single scratch.

And Mira too was trying to think something out.

The mirror of the Dark Aid is a quest object that allows one to meet with deceased people. When it became reality, it was not bound by the system anymore, as the case with Lyrica showed.

Then why did the parents of Takuto not appear?

Could it be they were actually refusing to meet him?

But Mira refused that possibility. No parents would do that to a child who craves to meet them so much.

Then why?

Mira reached for the most simple guess that also was the most believable.

“Aren’t the parents of Takuto still alive?”

At those words, everyone froze and slowly started to turn towards her and Takuto.

First of all, they went to the hall of the Dark Aid to let Takuto meet with his parents. At least, the members of the Ecarlatte Carillon believed it was their goal.

Yet the guess of Mira means the end of their mission. Still, that answer fell in their thoughts, causing ripples.

“Ahh, so. Wasn’t it all started when they were considered dead in action after five years passed? Then they can still be alive.”

Looking convinced, Emera instantly removed all the worries that were on her face and merrily ran up to Takuto.

“Considered missing for five years. Those are the rules of the Union. Indeed, that explains everything.”

“Oh, are there such rules? It means that it’s not like anybody confirmed their bodies.”

It was the first time Frica and Asbar, and even Zef heard that. Emera only told that a boy wants to meet his deceased parents, and a newbie girl ranked C is going to take him along, so she worried about them and asked them for help. That was all she said.

“Takuto.”

Mira released Takuto whom she still hugged and looked straight in his eyes. Takuto, feeling her seriousness or not, looked back into her eyes.

“Listen carefully, thou know that the mirror of the Dark Aid shows deceased people, right? In other words, it doesn’t show anybody who is alive. Have thou got it, Takuto? It means that maybe thy parents are still alive.”

Maybe alive. This words strongly resonated in Takuto’s heart, who had given up already, and brought a ray of hope to his already closed up chest which was shrouded in darkness.

“But... Grandpa says they are dead. And that I should give up.”

The hope started to glimmer again but then he recalled how his granddad who raised him for five years said such thing with a face he hasn’t seen before, and started sinking down again.

“And people in the Union say they’re missing, right?”

“Yes.”

“Then couldn’t it be possible? I mean, nobody actually saw the death of thy parents. And the mirror doesn’t reflect them too. Don’t thou think they’re most likely alive?”

After that Mira gently smiled.

“If they’re alive, you’ll meet them for sure.”

“So, Lyne and Ashley. If I happen to meet them, I’ll tell them about you.”

“They are alive for sure. The mirror proved it. Isn’t it great, Takuto?”

Unexpectedly, Asbar held tears at corners of his eyes. Frica took a notepad and wrote ‘To look for the parents of Takuto’.

And Emera, leaning over to match her height with Takuto, took out a towel and

gently wiped his remaining tears.

“That’s right, boy. You should hope they’re alive. Kids shouldn’t show such a face. Smile more. Your dad and mom prefer it for sure.”

Zef peeked at his face as he spoke. His eyes were still red, but Takuto was already calming down and tried his best to smile. Zef gently brushed his head.

“Sure, thank... you”

Despite the fact that he was still sobbing, Takuto answered with the best smile they saw from him. He was sincerely grateful that everybody accompanied his, a complete stranger’s, selfish desire and took him to this dangerous place.

And everybody here, like that gratitude was enough for them, nodded and brushed his head.

When the atmosphere calmed a little bit, Mira looked at Zef, like she recalled something. Whether he was set adrift by circumstances or not, he had just gotten over a resolution to his past trauma.

And the scene where Zef, completely ruining first impression of him, cried so much, flashed back in her mind.

“By the way, Zef. Are thou fine already?”

After her words, everybody turned to Zef.

Suddenly being turned into a center of attention, Zef nimbly winked and lifted his index finger.

“I’m back!”,

loudly declared he.

Some shadows still remained on his face, but it was already returning to his usual casual feel. Asbar, who knew about this situation, was still worrying about him, yet seeing him now, calmed down for this time. And Zef himself regained his demeanor after managing to give voice to all the feelings wriggling around deep inside of him.

That’s why he, with a serene face, gently bid farewell to his sister, floating in his mind.

Mira approached him, and tiptoed to reach his head with her right hand.

“What’s wrong, Mira?”

Her hand touched the head of Zef who was directly expressing his confusion.

“I’m glad for thee too. I have no idea what exactly happened, but it seems thy heart cleared.”

At those words, the mask of Zef broke and, with a sincerely relieved face, muttered “thank you” so quiet nobody except Mira could hear him. For a while, Zef let Mira spoil him. She obviously looked younger than him, yet he felt some motherliness hidden in her.

“Well, the task is over, how about returning?”

Emera found the moment to say that after they ate lunch right in the hall since monsters do not appear here.

“Ah, the outcome was unexpected, isn’t it a happy end?”

“For Takuto it’s just the beginning I guess.”

“Sure, I will work hard to become an adventurer like you all, and then will look for dad and mom myself!”

Zef became himself and Frica gently grinned while Takuto happily proclaimed his future plans.

“Speaking about unexpected, doesn’t it apply to you, lolicon? I worried about what happened, and was relieved since you seemed to have gotten over it”

“What? I have a feeling that there was really an unexpected word. Well, I misheard it for sure.”

“Asbar, it looks like you already knew about Zef. I had no idea! I am the vice-captain yet I don’t understand the worries of the members!”

Asbar got the impression from the scene between Zef and Mira and simply put it into an appropriate word instead of nickname. Obviously, Zef tried to argue, yet having a feeling of “why not”, his protest ended halfheartedly. Contrary to that, Emera was really worried about her lacking skills as the vice-leader. Nobody cared about that, and nobody ever thought a vice-leader should



have a grasp of the sorrows of party members.

“They are funny...”

The commotion here made her pull a wry face, yet felt somewhat pleasant for her.

“Well, since you are already going to return. Can’t you bring Takuto along? I still have some business at the 6th floor.”

At first, Mira was going to return here the next day after she had finished with Takuto. But now, when she got so many party members and the monsters are gone, there shouldn’t be much danger for him. Thus, she can leave Takuto to them and finish everything today.

“Speaking of that, your pass to the Ancient Temple started everything.”

Emera recalled how it was. Takuto begged Mira to take him along into the Ancient Temple because she herself started mumbling about the pass. It means that bringing Takuto to the hall of the Dark Aid wasn’t her goal, and she had another reason to come here.

“Wait, miss, have you had any business at the 6th floor?”

“The 6th floor? I heard that only a castle stands there, and that even monsters don’t appear and there is nothing there.”

“I heard that too. Thousands of people came here, but nobody had found anything at the 6th floor.”

As Frica and Zef said, the 6th floor was a bit special in this dungeon. Instead of the usual scenery going till the 5th floor, stairs ran along the walls and exited to a vast underground space. And in this space there are a lake and a large castle at the center.

Nothing changed since it was a game. And, speaking of peculiarities, there is one more thing that hadn’t changed: the reason this floor existed.

There is nothing. The only meaningful thing, the castle, lacks an interior and doesn’t have any furnishings. Actually, it even lacks doors, and even the place that is supposed to be the treasure room is wide open and, obviously, empty. No treasures, no monsters, no events.

A self-proclaimed archaeologist player examined every corner there just to

come to conclusion it was in vain.

However, Mira says she has some business there. Zef had no idea what she could want in that empty place.

“It seems interesting so I’m going with you.”

He expressed his desire to go together. Instantly, everyone’s gazes pierced him.

“He’s actually a lolic...”

“I don’t remember him being like that.”

“I’ll not give Mira to you.”

“I’m telling you I’m not!”

His almost screaming voice vanished, unable to reach anybody’s heart.

“Everybody saw it, right? Mira-chan’s ability. I just thought that if she is seeking something there, it shouldn’t be that empty as it seems. Without any ulterior motives, of course.”

After making such excuses for about 10 minutes, Zef managed to make them half-believe in that and, without any particular expectations, agree to accompany him.

Actually, the members of Ecarlatte Carillon for sure were interested in Mira, and, even knowing it’s meaningless, wondered if there actually can be something,

“So, Mira, how do you feel about us going together?”

With those words Emera sought the agreement of Mira, who along with Takuto was busy with apple ole and apple pie in a corner of the room.

“Fine then. I don’t exactly know what is ahead and want you all to return, but... Well, it shouldn’t be an issue.”

She is going to meet one of the 9 wisemen, Soul Howl of The Giant Wall. And, considering his nature, his hobbies aren’t exactly good, at the worst it can become a trauma for them. But, after thinking about that once, she concluded that in case of any problems she can just make them stay on alert.

Mira herself came to like being with them, and thought that it was not that bad to stay together with them for a little bit longer. Although the hobbies of Soul Howl are terrible, it's definitely nothing like assaulting people. And the difference here is basically the difference between making a haunted house loaded with gimmicks and hanging actual corpses around a haunted house.

Mira opened the door to the 6th floor ladder. From this point on, since monsters don't appear and since everyone was following Mira, she went first. As they proceeded down the passage, the road quickly ended, exiting to a vast space. It had the shape of an upside-down bowl, stairs descended along the right wall and the scenery started to change.

"Yay! Is it going to be like that from now?"

Zef timidly peeked inside. The 6th floor was illuminated. Countless crystals shined which were placed at the dome-shaped walls, they lit up all the vast space here.

Mira ceased her spell light, and the rest of the party extinguished the fire in their lanterns.

"Well, well, I wonder how he's doing."

Muttering that to herself, Mira took the left hand of Takuto and proceeded down the stairs.

"Hi..high..."

"It happens kinda often."

"The captain is probably going to faint."

After a little peeking down, Emera, sticking to the wall, followed Mira. Asbar already put on a light wry smile, but quickly regained his composure and started descending the stairs. Frica knew a shapeless skill to reduce the falling speed so instead of faltering she had time to worry for the leader of the Ecarlatte Carillon.

Zef was fine with the height and was primarily busy with teasing Emera.

## Chapter 28: Necromancy

“Are you ready?”

“Do I look like I am?”

The second she descended to the 6th floor and got her feet on the hard ground, Emera with a fiendish look went to punch Zef. It was the outcome of his non-stopping comments that lasted till they got to the floor which teased the not exactly acrophobic, but just casually disliking high places Emera.

“They sure are noisy.”

With a wry smile Mira glanced over them and moved her eyes to the giant castle towering in the middle of this space. There is no place that fit Soul Howl better than this castle. Mira understood that from the very beginning.

“Fine, I’ll leave them alone and move on to the castle.”

Saying that to the rest of the members, she started to walk the bare rocks of the ground. It was quite rough, but not enough to stop her progress.

“Let’s go to the castle too!”

Asbar agreed with Mira and loudly hailed that to the pair who were clamorously playing the tag near the lake. Judging by the occasionally echoing screams, it wasn’t clear if they had noticed it.

The sight of the giant castle now that they were looking closely overwhelmed Asbar and Frica. Contrary to them, Takuto was restlessly looking around.

“Although there is nothing to get, that sight itself is worth something.”

A cold lump of stone made in the shape of a castle. It was giant, the walls had no visible joints. If only it was on the ground instead of the depths of a commonly farmed dungeon, it could become famous among tourists. Alternatively, it could also become home to a roost of thieves.

Mira entered the castle through the door-less gates. A large staircase ascended in front of her, some shining crystals were scattered by the walls. They were the only decoration of those unadorned stone walls and floor.

“Well, can you all wait for me here? The rest is kinda confidential.”

She couldn't take them any further. She couldn't let them any adventurer know that she is fulfilling an order of the king. It was also especially because she couldn't find golems she expected to guard of the castle, considering the personality of Soul Howl. The title “Giant Wall” wasn't just a decoration, the mere entrance of the castle could be too narrow for him. And since the sixth floor didn't look dangerous, she decided to part with them here.

“Hmm. confidential?”

Asbar wondered what exactly it could be, but couldn't ask about it directly. The same, although directed to a bit different vector, applied to Frica and her delusions about Mira's secrets.

“Sorry for leaving Takuto to thou.”

With those words, Mira placed the Takuto's palm in Frica's hands. Frica who was calm for a while now almost burst again due to that.

“Yeah, I got it.”

“Take care, Mira-oneechan.”

“Don't worry too much about me.”

After she gently brushed Takuto, Mira walked to the entrance upstairs. After seeing her off, Asbar and Frica decided that since the secrets are upstairs, they can freely search the first floor.

Mira immediately started to look for a room with a certain facility. In a little hurry she peeked through the doorless entrances and found it in the sixth room.

She got inside and looked at a stone chair with a hole at the center.

“It should work.”

In a doorless room Mira sat down, pulling off her underwear. She was restless for a bit, but somewhat calmed down.

After that, without any troubles she took paper from her item box. After learning a lesson with the poison flower, Mira carefully stocked the paper.

Lastly, she substituted the lack of a flush with the shapeless skill's fire extinguisher.

Wiping the washing water against the hem of her robe, Mira tried to find her goal with 【Xian: Sense Life】. But it did not find anybody except the three people downstairs. The Sense Life had limits on the distance, and as one of the Nine Wisemen, Soul Howl could easily hide himself so it did not mean he wasn't here.

Mira headed to the last floor. She considered loudly calling him, but changed her mind because the people downstairs could hear it. Calling him names like "Expert on Zombie Chicks", "Afterlife Pervert", "Battle Gentleman" was an option too but it could ruin her reputation instead so Mira resorted to searching for him.

After getting to the top floor Mira just to be sure cast the 【Xian: Sense Life】 again.

"Got thee."

There was extremely weak response. However, it was so weak it could have went unnoticed without paying attention. Only by getting closer did she manage to feel it. It was so fragile it seem likely to disappear in any minute. And nobody except him can possibly be in such a place. Carefully hiding her presence, Mira was getting closer to it. Since she got here, she was going to surprise him.

The place she sensed was in the large hall in the middle of corridor up the stairs to the top floor. The throne room.

Mira huddled against a wall next to the throne room and carefully peeked inside to find the perfect moment.

"The heck is that?"

An unfathomable sight opened to Mira's eyes, who expected to find him surrounded by zombie maids. The madness of the throne room state made her start to sway.

The countless chairs that faced the throne were arranged like at a concert. Mira closed the distance to one of them and brought her face closer, looking inside.

“Is she suspended?”

Mira touched the cheek of the woman in a maid suit that sat in the chair. Cold, no trace of life warmth. Closed eyes, closed lips, nothing of it carried any emotions, she was simply being here.

“It seems his fetish got even worse.”

In disgust, Mira dropped a look over the surroundings. Western and eastern women dressed in a variety of maid uniform clothing occupied all the chairs in the room. The embalming was perfect, most likely done by Soul Howl. However, all of them are dead and can't be detected with the Sense Life. Mira concentrated again and felt the response further, from the direction of the throne.

Here Mira found a very different being.

Two thrones alongside. The eyes of Mira were glued to a woman sitting on one of them, the queen's one.

She was a pretty woman with a delicate yet bold face dressed in a beautiful, elegant dress. Her sheer indigo hair reached the waist. The skin was too white, even pale. She was about 17-18 years old.

Mira almost dozed off in fascination as she looked at her face. She sat still with closed eyes, her lips formed a smile. Mira tried to call out to her but, while having a life response, this woman shown no signs of life.

Confused, Mira reached a hand and instantly pulled away as she touched the skin.

“She's frozen...”

The skin of this woman was cold as ice.

“Soul Howl, are you here?!”

Unable to understand anything anymore, Mira reluctantly called him.

However, a dozen seconds passed, another dozen, and there was no answer.

Mira gave up and went to look for clues herself.

She started with a room behind the throne and fortunately got what she wanted. This room was full with scattered papers. Encyclopedias and manuscripts piled up at a desk in the middle of the room, the papers there were covered with scribbles.

Assuming it could be a clue, Mira took some papers to look at them.

“The Holy Grail of Bright Divinity?”

Mira pronounced the answer she got from all the papers and piled up documents.

The Holy Grail of Bright Divinity. It removes a lot of debuffs at use, heals any wounds and, making the death itself irrelevant, it even removes the death penalty. Even more, it was a legendary item considered to be the absolute weapon and defense against the archenemy of human race, devils.

However, there was no rumors of anybody actually getting this artifact. Thus, amongst the players it was rumored as an unimplemented item; nobody knew even if it was a drop item or a treasure from some dungeon.

The Holy Grail of Bright Divinity existed only in the lore.

(Why would he research such a thing?)

It surely had exceptional effects. But the situation where one of the Nine Wiseman would be forced to use such a thing barely happens. Then why? While Mira was figuring it out, the frozen woman she saw flashed in her mind. She returned to the king room and thoroughly examined this woman from the tiptoes to the head. Feeling a little guilty, Mira calmed herself saying that it is all for finding the truth.

“Nothing here?”

The examination finished with Mira being unable to find anything special so she started to consider other possibilities. But here Mira looked straight at the woman and got one thing. Since the woman was sitting, Mira hasn't checked her back.

Carefully and slowly Mira tilted the woman a little bit to reveal a red stain on her back.

The red stain spread on the dress. But it was not blood. The stain was made of symbols and shapes lined around a six-pointed star. And letters 'XV' were in the center.

Those symbols were familiar for Mira.

The weird circle engraved on the back is a seal. It was known as the curse of the netherworld or the blessing of a devil and meant exactly one thing: a sure



death.

There was a game event called 'The shadow of the black wings'. It was set around saving a knight marked with such a seal, but he ultimately died. Every player knew about this event since it was the premise for the first clash with the devil race.

Mira could clearly recall that due to the seal and the desperation.

This memories were connected to the Holy Grail of Bright Divinity. Soul Howl was going to remove this seal with the power of Holy Grail. Since this seal existed exclusively for the event, no spells or potions could dispel it. That's why anybody who was asked what to do with it, would probably point to the Holy Grail. Mira herself concluded that nothing else could work.

She looked at the woman again. Despite her being frozen, she was alive since she had the life response. It should definitely be one of the necromancy skills though Mira couldn't name it. Although, 30 years passed so it would not be strange if somebody found a spell with such an effect. And Soul Howl probably stopped her time when she is still alive and left looking for the way to help her.

"Still, with an alive woman... Perhaps he changed a little too."

Remembering the restless about undead girls Soul Howl, Mira bowed to the woman at the throne and left the king's hall.

The mission target was not in the underground graveyard but she found traces. She looked around the castle, collected in her itembox materials that could become a clue and returned to the first floor where everybody was waiting for her.

The castle entrance. Emera and Frica snuggled together with pale faces. Asbar was looking somewhat bad, Zef and Takuto, who were playing cards, noticed Mira descending the stairs and waved their hands.

"What happened here?"

Called by Mira, Emera and Frica turned their absent gazes to her.

"Really, what's wrong?"

With a bit of a wry smile Mira looked away. Then something suddenly came and hug her from a side.

“Welcome back, Mira-oneechan.”

“Was thou a good boy?”

“Yup!”

Takuto nodded with a full-face grin. Saying ‘Really?’, Mira patted his head.

“Mira-chan... nothing... special is supposed to be here... right?”

Forgetting about the age difference, Emera, unable to hold it in anymore, clung to Mira.

“Wait, what exactly had happened?”

“Dead maids... a lot of dead maids...”

Emera voiced the situation while Mira was trying to make some guesses. It seems they found maids similar to ones in the throne room. Moreover, a lot of them.

“Thou don’t need to worry. It’s just necromancy.”

“Do you mean this necromancer lives here?”

Still sitting Asbar turned his face to Mira. Looking for the answer, Frica who was sitting nearby lifted her head too.

“There were traces of him. It seems he left so he’s not here right now though.”

“Judging by your words, could it be that your errand had something to do with this necromancer?”

“Yeah, that’s right. But there is no reason to worry. His hobbies are as bad as you saw but he’s a good guy.”

Despite her words, it was absolutely crazy for them.

Generally speaking, the necromancy does not work with corpses. It deals primarily with souls. And necromancers can attach this soul, an energy chunk containing pure force, to a golem or corpse.

Also, necromancy is officially recognized as one of the 9 masteries. So the people of this world don’t really think it’s some inhuman or immoral, heartless skill. That said, it does have some dark, eerie image.

After Mira explained to them it was just a necromancy, Emera and Frica, and Asbar obviously quit digging deeper. Excluding only Zef.

“Necromancy?.. I wonder how to use it.”

Zef half-seriously muttered that, impressed by beautiful the maids.

“For now, let’s eat. I’m hungry.”

Stroking around his stomach, Zef sat down.

“Hmm. sure.”

Hearing him, Mira noticed she got hungry as well and agreed. The rest of the members half-heartedly agreed too and started to take the food and tools from item boxes.

“Hey, vice-captain, you too.”

“Huh... It would be better if we actually hadn’t found anything here.”

Emera with a sigh muttered that when Zef called her.

They finished the lunch and were resting with tea. With all that shopping they did the other day, the lunch made by Emera and Frica was good. And as dessert, the apple ole from Mira got good responses. Everybody’s feelings mildly cleared up.

“This place is really cozy for some reason. Even though it’s a dungeon.”

“Speaking of that, we’re still inside of a dungeon.”

“Oh, are we? I have no idea, what’s going on with this place.”

Still reposed, Zef muttered that, and Frica with Asbar got suspicious too if it was really a dungeon. Although nobody was going to answer that. Even Mira had no idea why this place exists.

“All right, my task is done. Let’s go home.”

Contrary to the resting Zef, Mira said that while rising up.

Mira more or less cleared her goal here. Even though she couldn’t meet him, she was going to return with the materials she got and look for his next location.

“Sure. Let’s return. No matter how safe it is, we’re still at the last floor of a dungeon.”

Done with cleaning up the lunch, Emera readjusted her sword on the waist.

“Riiight.”

“That’s right. Let’s go.”

“Let’s get moving.”

With the words of Emera, the rest of the members stood up too and, after checking their weapons, did stretches. Takuto swiftly stood up and hastily reserved his spot beside Mira.

After leaving the giant white walls, they proceeded to the stairs to the upper floors. Just as on their way here, the way was lit by the light of crystals so they could clearly see the way.

“Wait, isn’t there somebody over here?”

With those words Zef stopped and stared at the lake. The surface of the lake that was shaped like somebody took out part of the bedrock with an icecream disher diffused the light of crystals coming from everywhere. At the same time, the crystals in the lake shone too and made the sight even more fantastic.

“Are you sure? As long as monsters don’t appear here, even the curious adventurers won’t show up.”

Asbar said that, dropping a glance over the lake. The swaying light of the lake surface could actually be mistaken for somebody when seen with a side vision. Zef himself started to believe it, but at the words of Mira he stiffed his face.

“No, something is really there.”

Mira immediatly looked around the lake with the 【Xian : Sense Life】. Putting his personality aside, Zef is a scout, that’s why Mira checked this slight possibility and confirmed it.

“Hey, hey. Who could be in that place?”

“Something? There are no monsters, right?”

Asbar tightly gripped his large hammer, Emera unsheathed the sword and

turned herself towards the lake.

The 【Xian: Sense Life】 of Mira detects life but can't tell what exactly it is. It only tells if there is something alive or no.

And in case if that something is not friendly, they can't show their backs. To check it out, Asbar and Emera stepped towards the lake and at this moment

“Wha!”

A large water pillar arose from the lake. A pitch black shadow thrust out of that pillar lit by crystal's light and landed in front of them.

“That's... What's the hell...”

“Impossible... Why is he here?!”

Asbar and Emera shout that when they saw what appeared here. A black unnatural body resembling a human, four fingers on each of the distortedly crooked hands grabbed attention with shiny black nails. The black flat face lacked the nose like a Noah mask, it had only disgustingly distorted eyes and mouth. And the most peculiar things were the two crooked black horns and bat-like wings growing from the back.

The creature appeared in front of them looked like the ones that threw this world into chaos 10 years ago.

“It can't be... A devil...”

“They were supposed to be exterminated 10 years ago...”

Astonished Zef muttered that. Frica too gaped at the black creature in front of her.

“What's the matter? Why is a devil here?”

Devils. Absolute antagonists of mankind. The defense war of three holy countries was a war against the demon army lead by devils with the survival of mankind at a stake. And it was believed that humankind won the war and eliminated the devils. However, in front of their eyes without any doubt there was one of the devils.

Just for a moment the seal on the woman's back flashed in the mind of Mira.

Was this devil related to it? Still, since the circumstances around that seal aren't

clear, there was no way to find it out.

Devils were known as exceptional creatures, unlike some monsters. Thus, in the game they appear only on the missions with the Three Holy Countries. Every one had a court rank, and the weakest of them, barons of third rank, were equal to freshly capped highest level players.

Mira immediately summoned the Holy Knight and, adhering him to Takuto's protection, pushed his back with 'Takuto, return to the castle.' Takuto probably felt the unrest filling the air and with a light nod went to the castle along with the white knight.

"Meeting people in such a place surely means fortune loves me. It should become a good souvenir to my king."

When they heard sounding like that from under the water muffled voice, a large scythe appeared in the hands of the devil. Seeing that obvious hostility, Emera and Asbar wrinkled their faces.

"Damn! As I thought, he's going at it!"

With an impatient voice Zef put up a dagger, Emera and Asbar also got on alert and took a low stance. Frica started to prepare a spell behind them. In such a situation, Mira **inspected** the devil. Since it was totally unheard of to meet a devil in such place, she checked his strength. It was a natural habit of any game player.

"Hmm. Earl, third rank. Guys, can you fight him?"

From the weakest, their court ranks were Baron, Viscount and Earl. Each one was divided into three ranks. Unless something had changed, at the very least he required a party of 6 max-level people.

Asbar had already seen devils like the one before them. Once, when he just became an adventurer, black clouds covered the sky. A swarm of devils rained down from it. He still could clearly remember it. Trampling down adventurers, he even admired some of them. In the end had he become stronger than them? He shook his head, thinking about that. It did not matter since there was nowhere to run.

"If you mean to match him, it's straight down impossible. At the best we can

buy some time.”

As Asbar with a bitter look answered that without releasing his eyes from the devil, he remembered the heroes that swept down the devils attacking the city. The backs of people easily exercising enormous strength.

“Hmm, I see.”

Mira compared the crooked with gloom faces of Asbar and Emera. She realized that the four members of the Écarlate Carillon are no match for this enemy.

(Have I ever fought seriously since I came to this world?)

When she was still Dunbalf, she had beaten devils up to the third rank duke. But at that time she still had the proper equipment and it was a game. Now she was concerned that all the feelings became real and a part of that equipment went to Creos.

A lot of anxiety. She still hasn't got the feeling of reality in fights, and she still wasn't ready to risk her life. Mira was going to gradually accustom to this world. What still works, how far goes her control over the body. She planned to carefully explore it.

Right now Mira had only the skills and knowledge she had fostered in the game. And, judging only by that, this devil wasn't something to be wary of.

“Step down, guys. I will fight.”

Mira almost whispered that and stepped in front of the three people. It wasn't a long time, but she felt the goodness of those people and wanted to protect those who came along to such place. And she could accomplish it by doing the usual thing. That's where Mira got the resolve for the fight.

## Chapter 29: Mira vs Devil

“But Mira-chan, you’re going to fight against a devil. We saw you’re strong, indeed... however!”

“Yeah. At least let us to buy you some time to summon Alfina.”

Emera held her breath, Asbar tightly grasped his hammer and told that to Mira who was going to fight the devil. But Mira said without looking at them:

“I doubt there will be enough time for that!”

and summoned the Dark Knight in front of her. A high-pitched metallic sound instantly rang, spreading waves of repelled air around. The next moment Emera and Asbar saw the Dark Knight holding the devil’s sickle with a sword.

“He just...”

Cold sweat ran down Asbar’s cheek. Emera, unable to react in time, could just lift her sword after the fact. This clash had shown them their gap in strength with the devil.

“Step down already!”

Once again Mira warned the members of the Écarlate Carillon.

“But then...”

As adults, not only Emera, but Asbar as well couldn’t simply leave all the fight with the devil to a little girl. However, the enemy was out of their league and even if they try to distract him by buying time for everybody to escape, judging by that strike they probably wouldn’t last even a dozen seconds.

“Both of you, let’s retreat to the castle!”

“Yeah, it’s better than staying here.”

While Asbar and Emera hesitated, they were called to from behind. When they turned back, Frica waved them in while looking somewhat impatient. Nevertheless, when they were going to argue,

“We’re getting in the way here!”



Frica said that. She already saw it. The fluctuations from the magic power shaped like a ghost soul. And outshining it the magic rising up from Mira. At her words, Emera and Asbar looked at Mira again. Her small yet huge back without words was telling them that Frisca was right.

“Sorry, miss. We are leaving it to you!”

“Mira-chan. Run when you feel you’ll not win. We’ll somehow hold him back!”

Entrusting such will to her, they joined Frisca and Zef and ran away to the castle. At that time Asbar felt that this still small back of a girl resembles to him the heroes he saw once.

“I’m seeing things.”

Asbar muttered that and, convincing himself it was forced on him by the atmosphere shook it off from his thoughts.

“No matter where you run, mere humans can’t get away from me.”

Revealing a smirk, he clanged his weapons together and, glancing at the dark knight jumped away from him. He didn’t put in all his strength, but it still was enough to recognize the Dark Knight, who stopped it, as a worthy opponent.

“Let’s start with the greetings, warrior. I am Wolfton Bane. A third-rank Earl from Varnaless soul hunting knights.”

This time the devil held a distance from Mira without looking away and made a deliberately formal greeting. Despite being a devil, Wolfton was a knight and held the pride of the nobility. That said, the pride of devils wasn’t accepted by humans since it was inhuman and low.

“I’m Mira. A summoner, as thou can see.”

Mira, pointing at the Dark Knight with her eyes, faced Wolfton and returned the greeting.

“Hahahahaha, a summoner. Then it’s over after I cut down this knight.”

Not finishing his words, Wolfton kicked the ground and jumped, putting gravity and his own weight into one blow on the Dark Knight. This time, there was a dull metal sound and a sound of something breaking. The Dark Knight

stopped this blow by lifting his sword, but the ground couldn't withstand that force and collapsed under his feet. He lost balance and Wolfton wasn't going to overlook this chance.

As he landed on his feet, Wolfton made a half-turn, his scythe roared and sharply pierced the body of Dark Knight, sending him into a flight.

“Hehehehehe! That was all!”

Still rotating further on the inertia, Wolfton distorted his face in joy and like a kaishakunin hit towards the girl. (TN/ED: basically the guy who helps someone commit seppuku which is suicide)

But the black blade pierced only stone. The girl who was there a moment ago vanished from his eyes.

“Where...!”

**【Xian Sky: Knead Impact】**

Wolfton was twirling his head when his face deformed and with a breaking sound his huge black body took off to the sky. In the moment when Wolfton turned away, Mira sneaked by his chest and hit with a Xian skill. A multilayer shock wave unloaded its rage into the stomach of the careless Wolfton and brought him down.

(Hmm. So-so.)

Checking the response of the blow, Mira lightly gripped her fist. This fist told her that the battle feels almost the same. The reach became shorter, but she could just stay a half step further. And, compensating for the smaller body, concealment in the shadows became easier. That's what Mira knew from the first touch.

Mira was worrying the most about the differences in physics. The air resistance and uncalculated wind. But even if it changed, it wasn't enough to hinder her movements.

Moreover, she could feel the presence and movement of air with the five senses, and reflexes made her reactions faster. And she still had her strength. Her own mastered skills and abilities that she could turn into strength.

The reason for that all was nothing but Arc Earth Online.

The game world was absurdly realistic, it answered to player skills with unbelievable for online games flexibility.

Even at the start, experienced martial artists and karate champions could throw themselves against mid-level monsters or players. Thus, it was necessary not only to train in the game but also in real life.

Actually, this game had a veteran, who fist-fight with monsters in the game and got a prize in high rank match of a national karate tournament while being a complete amateur. Although, he lost after that due to the lack of physical strength.

That's why Mira who was good at close range fights as a Xian fighter had world-class fighting skills, discounting her muscles.

Right, it would work. Just by doing it like always, like usual she can fight the devil.

Mira took another deep breath and switched her thoughts. She remembered how she did it in game and was applying it to the fight.

“Wrench, what did you do!”

Wolfon yelled at Mira after he twisted his body in the air and angrily landed.

“I just gently touched you. Why are you so angry, brat?”

As Mira naturally said that, she felt how her feelings returned to Dunbalf's times. When a fearless smile changed her pleasant complexion, flames on the scythe showed Wolfon's anger when he charged at her.

“Lass, don't underestimate me!”

Mira just kept dodging the burning scythe attacks with footwork, sidestepping to the left and right. She felt uneasy at the beginning, but her movements opened an excessive safe distance and she gradually approached the best position.

Her ability was backed up by skills she ingrained in her body and her reliable experience. As she regained her posture, Mira kept dodging the scythe with the minimum movements and naturally guided her punches to Wolfon's openings. After enduring all her weak hits, Wolfon completely lost himself. That wasn't strange. His opponent was petite, a child and, to add to that, a woman. His noble devil's pride could not allow him to lose 1-on-1 combat to an inferior

race, humans.

With a loud roar the scythe slipped to Mira's side and, scattering crimson sparkles, pierced the ground. Mira largely inclined her body to avoid it and, using this movement, kicked the black skin that guarded the back of his knee. Wolfton lost his balance and Mira quickly jumped on his wide open back, grasping the horn growing on his head.

**【Xian Earth : Crimson Grasp】**

Mira concentrated her will and released flames that sparkled and wrapped around his head.

“AWOOOO!”

When Wolfton, covering his burned head, stood up after rolling on the ground, madness finally filled his eyes.

“Hmm. I felt that simple strikes didn't work.”

No matter how many punches she exchanged with the devil, with the toughness of his shell Mira barely felt a response. On the contrary, she hurt her fists. And it proved it further. After she gave her equipment for close combat to Creos, her own physical strength wasn't much different from the usual mage. Most of the Xian skills were affected by the muscles, though Mira could considerably compensate for it with her abnormal magic strength. Still, the most efficient Xian skills mostly depend on physique and lacked power. Originally, the battle style of Xian masters displayed the worth of combining close combat with the Xian skills. Mira was going to double this fight as a martial arts practice. But now her punches don't work so there's no reason to care about it. And, thanks to her high magic power, she could actually do damage.

**【Xian Inner : Awaken】**

Mira completely regained the old feelings of Dunbalf and, like she finally went serious, used the secret skill of Xian to open the true eyes. After she shortly closed her eyes and opened them again, her pupils were painted into a more clear blue than sky. During the awakening she got buffs to all stats and a bonus to the Xian skills.

The magic power of Mira skyrocketed even further and reached the eyes of Frica, who overlooked the fight from the castle. Frica reflexively collapsed, overwhelmed by the scale of this magic flow she never felt before.

“What happened, Frica?”

Emera reached out to the suddenly collapsed Frica and asked that.

“Thanks. It’s just... the atmosphere around Mira-chan changed. It became stronger... deeper.”

Everybody there silently gasped, hearing the words of the swaying Frica.

The fight between Mira and the devil became more fierce. Still angered, Wolfton returned to his senses and, covering his arms in a black blaze, launched a wave of flame with his scythe attack.

Mira dodged the scythe swing and unleashed an attack that repelled the black blaze attack.

**【Xian Earth : Wind Cloth】**

Contrary to the black blaze, Mira put the wind on her hands and repelled the black blaze with her hand, at the same time the vacuum and whirlwind’s turbulence wounded the side of Wolfton.

Nu~o~o~o---!

However, without regard to that Wolfton swang up his scythe. His wound was shallow enough to not affect his movements. The blaze tail sharply cut the air, flashing right before Mira who promptly pulled herself back. Furthermore, not finishing that swing yet Wolfton stuck out another hand making another attack with the black blaze.

“Huh! Thou aren’t half bad, brat!”

Mira crossed her arms and received all the attack with her winds while staring at Wolfton with her clear blue true eyes.

“How much are you going to mock me, lass?!”

Shouting his yell, Wolfton flew backwards and quickly raised his magic power. At the same time the black blaze swelled up and wrapped his entire body.

“Forget about the souvenirs. I’ll burn you right here!”

Wolfton roared and dashed to the ground as a jet black flame. But Mira could clearly see the quickly approaching devil who had enough speed to smash through bedrock with her true eyes.

“Rot away here!”

When his scythe bluntly shining with black flames went downwards,

“I refuse!”

**【Xian Step: Shrink Ground】**

Without any preparations, Mira instantly flew to his bosom and punched with **【Xian Air: Knead Impact】**.

“Wha..!?”

Scattering the black flames, Wolfton was thrown to the skies and, anguishing, he was trying to quickly brake, flapping his wings. The damage itself wasn’t so bad. His body, strong as expected from a devil of his rank, allowed him to be confident in his defense. A usual devil already should have lost the ability to move after all those attacks.

“Lass... how did you?!”

Even though the attacks barely worked, he couldn’t stay calm when a human child treated him like that. Wolfton was grinding his teeth, staring at the ground. But the sight he saw there for a moment made him shiver.

**【Xian Step: Sky Stride】**

Like climbing a ladder, Mira was closing up to him.

“You!”

He had no time for a swing. Wolfton took the handle of his scythe and promptly mowed the shortest distance to drive her away. But Mira jumped even higher over his desperate strike and, looking down on him, touched his head from an upside-down posture.

When her skirt softly rolled up, revealing the skin from her thighs to the abdomen, Mira focused her mind.

“How about this.”

“Wha....!”

**【Xian Earth : Furious Impact Grasp】**

A lump of impact appeared inside her palm and, becoming an resistible shockwave, it raged, trying to blow away the head of Wolfton. This overly violent force threw Wolfton who was unable to firmly stay in the air to the earth below.

The rock crumbling echoed around and a moment later Mira landed on the ground. Her pupils were focused on the black devil crawling out of the rubble.

“I had no idea such people exist.”

Even after receiving two strikes of high-power close range Xian attacks, the devil hasn't shown any signs of significant damage. His sturdiness clearly was erratic.

(I didn't know such tough devils exist.)

Still, Mira without showing any concerns fixed her look on the devil.

“But it doesn't work! I don't even feel it! Such attacks can't do anything to my trained body!”

Wolfton declared it to keep his will intact. The Xian skills themselves indeed worked to some extent, but it wasn't enough to make him worry about his body.

“It was a good match, but it's already time to finish it. Brat.”

**【Secret Xian : Unseal The Eye】**

With those words Mira triggered a skill changing her right eye to black with a gold pupil.

Filled with magic her changed eye seemed like an ominous moon shining in a pitch black dark night. And under the gaze of that eye Wolfton felt like the gaze alone could pierce him, he unconsciously shivered, feeling the superiority from the girl in front of him.

(Impossible... Feeling fear.... It can't be!)

“An impudent lowly huma....!”

Wolfton yelled, raising the scythe along with black flames to the heavens. But the scythe suddenly slipped out of his hands and Wolfton found an abnormality in his body.

(Is that..gr...paralysis!? Impudent, impudent!)

**【Xian Eye : Look of Numbness】**

The ultimate Xian skill that paralyses the opponent you're focused on and furthermore crushes him from the inside. The condition is capturing the subject into a magical eye's stare for a specific time. Mira landed a bit distantly to keep him inside her field of view.

“Nu ..... ~O~o~o~o~oo Oh oh!”

“As expected for a devil. I can't hold it long.”

Fingers, arms, shoulders, gradually the paralysis left Wolfton. Devils as a whole have a high resistance to control effects. He was paralyzed despite it just due to the sheer amount of Mira's magic power.

Of course Mira understood that. Her aim was not the damage to his internal organs combined with the paralysis. She just wanted to buy some time. No matter how much Mira dominated him, dealing with that excessive toughness was hard. It would take quite a lot of time to break this armor with her own strength.

“Yet it's already over.”

The next moment Wolfton felt a dreadful presence behind. But the paralysis was not over yet so he could only grind his teeth when a jet black blade appeared from his chest along with drops of a black fluid.

“Gu...o~o.Impossible!”

Wolfton, chewing the body fluids he spew from the mouth, turned his head backwards despite the paralysis and showed a confused look on his face. The black knight that he defeated at the beginning stared at him with red eyes. Her fists can't do a thing now, but Mira's dark knight is way more hard. Still, due to the hardness of Wolfton's body, there was the need to focus the power only



on the attack. The paralysis helped there.

“Why... since.... when...he...”

“My dark knight doesn’t falter that easy, brat”

Mira calmly approached him. Her steps were small but each of those steps uncontestedly engraved her victory.

“Not expected... my...defeat...like that”

“Haven’t I told thou first? I am a summoner.”

“Ahh...indeed”

Wolfton stood in front of her and Mira gazed at him with a true eye and a magic eye. Wolfton, looking at those eyes, faintly smiled. His face showed the contentment that he fought with a true warrior and lost.

The Dark Knight pulled out the sword piercing him and readied it.

“...Splendid...”

With his last words the sword beheaded him, shooting the black fluid in the air. Next to the fallen down body, his head in satisfaction looked up to the heavens.

## Chapter 30: The Explanation of Strength

“Amazing strength...”

Involuntarily muttered Asbar, who saw the whole fight from the castle. The rest also lost their words, witnessing their gap in strength that was orders of magnitude apart.

“Amazing, Mira-onee chan! Cool!”

Except for Takuto. Gazing in adoration at Mira, who had won the battle with the devil, he ran up to her. Looking at the Holy Knight, who was following him in a manner of honestly fulfilling the protection order, the rest of the members of Ecarlatte Carillon returned to themselves and dashed to Mira.

“I want to become strong like Mira-onee chan too!”

About the time they reunited with Mira, Takuto said that with a shine in his eyes.

“Whoa, I see. As long as thou uphold those feelings, thou will surely become strong.”

Getting arrogant from the praise of an innocent child, Mira grinned, while stroking Takuto’s head. Not a single trace of the ominous magic eye remained, her eyes returned to the usual color.

Her figure already had nothing in common with the time she fought the devil, she looked exactly as a girl of her age should. At first the guild members were taken aback, yet they were curious about the spectacle that unfolded before them. Mira’s display of crazy strength that could overwhelm the legendary enemy of the human race, the devil.

“I don’t know what else to say, but anyway, thank you, Mira-chan. You saved us all.”

“Yeah, who knows how it could turn with us alone.”

“I had not done anything worth the praise. After all, I dragged you all into that.”

Emera firmly believed Mira saved their lives, but Mira originally was going to come here alone. And that means she dragged everybody into a battle with the devil who happened to be here, so she rejected the gratitude with a shake of the head.

“Putting that aside, Mira-chan is hella strong. Is it related to your instant promotion to rank C?”

Suddenly Zef without any warning voiced the real question that worried everybody.

Despite it worrying everybody the most, Asbar and Frica assumed there are some circumstances that made her to keep it secret and with a gasp stared at Zef.

The one under their gazes watched Mira. He had no idea about her circumstances, but was sure she isn't a bad person. Perhaps through a pure intuition, Zef's people judgement was always accurate. And not only Zef but also the rest of the party saw how Mira cares about Takuto. Near him, Mira was a nice big sister and her grown-up speaking manner was way too adorable.

“Hmm, sure... Well, I could tell as well...”

After a moment of speculation about Zef's words, considering the talk with the chief of the magician's guild Mira concluded that they will find it out anyway.

And in that case instead of inventing excuses when they start to ask for details, telling them first of her excuse saves her time and should be consistent.

Because she's a pupil of a hero, the devil was not a match for her. Really, it should convince anybody who knows about the valor of Dunbalf.

“Then... the reason why Mira-chan is so strong is...”

As expected from her or perhaps displaying the natural reaction, Emera as the most curious fixedly stared into Mira's face, waiting for her to continue. Feeling the look of a beauty made Mira dumbly fall into confusion.

“Erm, yeah... Do you all know a person named Dunbalf? I'm his pupil. Thus I'm going on errands instead of the master who can't move around.

Together with the explanation of her strength, she hinted at the reason she's here that they would probably ask anyway. She thought that even if somebody

will ask for details after hearing she's here in the stead of one of the Nine Wisemen, she could just tell it's confidential.

Mira was preparing herself to the reaction, but that reaction was unexpectedly plain.

"A pupil of Dunbalf.... That's why she's so strong."

"The wiseman also known as the war power.... that's his pupil? I got it."

Emera and Asbar, rather convinced with it, readily swallowed her answer. A battle of unbelievable scale unfolded in front of them. And the traces of it are still carved around. Considering that power, it could easily be one of the Nine Wisemen, a legendary adventurer or a shogun of the Three Sacred Countries. They would rather doubt any other explanation of the strength of Mira, comparable to that.

After all, considering what they saw with their own eyes, they had no reason to doubt it and even if they try, that doubt itself couldn't explain anything. Therefore, rather than thinking about her relation to Dunbalf, they just took her words as truth.

"A pupil of Dunbalf-sama...a Wiseman."

Contrary to Emera and Asbar, who calmly accepted that explanation, Frica repeated those words over and over.

Frica saw that overwhelming strength with her own eyes so she barely doubted it. There were some premonitions of that before the fight with the devil. But, unlike Emera and Asbar, Frica was a magician and knew that such a thing never happened before. None of the Nine Wisemen took any pupils at all. All the magicians at the Silver Towers were only researchers and, while they could ask the wisemen to teach them something, it was the most they can do. Not disciples, nor even students. And obviously there was nobody who got all the skills through private training with any of them, as she heard.

Before the Nine Wisemen disappeared there were no rumors about pupils, and the only one who had returned, Luminaria, definitely had no pupils too. Having in mind that she couldn't explain her strength otherwise, Frica started considering the existence of the first in the history pupil of wiseman.

"That's cool! Sure, I know. Even I heard that name. And you are a pupil of

such a famous man. Mira-chan, you're cool!"

As the most carefree of them, Zef showed his admiration with gestures. Then, contributing to the fuss further, he added, staring at the Holy Knight who stood at the side: "Looking at him again, that dignity is something!"

For Zef the fact Mira defeated devil and thus saved them all mattered more than whose pupil she was. And Mira definitely was nothing more or less than strong. Just that. In a good sense he couldn't read the atmosphere..

As for Takuto, he knew who was Dunbalf but that knowledge haven't extend past the "a hero of tales and picture books". Compared to that, Mira was a hero that defeated the devil and his eyes shined from awe when he gazed at her.

Mira, anticipating questions, prepared for answers on terms 'Yeah' or 'No' but it wasn't needed so she happily took her rest without need for the further explaining at all.

She was expecting questions because, to begin with, the Nine Wisemen still counted as missing. And anybody could call themselves a pupil of someone whose being alive, let alone the whereabouts, were unknown. But everybody here accepted her without even considering that or any proof. For Mira's viewpoint it was strange, but for the rest it was the only plausible explanation of her strength. After all, her strength was that aberrant.

"Strange, you all believed it so easily."

Disappointed by it, Mira finally said that.

"Eh? You lied!?"

Just calmed with that explanation Emera started to urge Mira again. Staying too close to her.

"No, I didn't. Also, too close."

Mira slightly shook her head and averted her eyes downwards. Her face began to paint red.

"I mean, my master is missing now. And nobody wonders about that."

"AH, about that."

Emera nodded in understanding.

“There are some theories about their disappearance, of course. They could have went to the demon realm, or kill each other in an epic discord, or even called to heavens by some god.

But it’s just jokes popular among some people. For the rest, the Wisemen are hiding somewhere in this world far away from the world affairs.

And a pupil appearance is not strange now since three decades passed already.”

She wasn’t alone in that. As she finished, Asbar, glancing Mira from head to tiptoes, said

“And also, miss, your fighting style exactly matches one from my father stories.”

He followed that with a grin. It was the main reason to believe the Mira’s story for him.

“My father too often told such stories!”

“And my father too. Right after he understood I had the potential to become a magician, he often read stories about the Nine Wisemen.”

“Well, he would. Rather, I don’t think anybody born in this country haven’t heard about them.”

Following Asbar, the rest three people agreed and started to recall that stories. They were very similar to the scene of Mira’s fight.

“Stories?”

As Mira tilted her head, Emera began explaining the details.

They were talking about stories themed on the Nine Wisemen, very popular among the entire Alkite kingdom people, young or old. And inside that sagas Dunbalf was depicted as a hero able to control a thousand of summons, although one story was the most popular. That story told he mastered both summoning and Xian skills and practiced mostly the unheard for a summoner closed-quarter combat.

Dunbalf’s dashing through the summoner beasts fight. Every child loved that story. That common knowledge from the childhood lead them all to outright believing Mira.

“I had no idea such stories were around...”

Emera briefly yet passionately retold the content of stories. Takuto went excited as well, and his cheering “Cool, cool” got Emera carried further and further away.

“Mira-chan, that’s just the prologue! The saga about your teacher, Dunbalf, is not over yet!”

Right when Emera’s spirits arose even higher, she crouched, being hit by the further end of Frica’s cane.

“Emera, that’s enough. Let’s think about returning first. I don’t want to delay the report about that devil appearance.”

“Ahh.... you’re right. Let’s return...”

Emera answered in a muffled voice. When she unsteadily got up, some tears appeared at her eyes.

“Ahh, since I heard it already, I could stop her as well instead of thy.”

It wouldn’t hurt Emera if she stopped her herself, thought Mira while watching holding her abdomen Emera.

“No, Mira-chan! You shouldn’t worry since it’s Emera’s fault!”

“Oohh!?”

Frica almost cracked her voice into falsetto when she snatched Mira to hug her. Quickly she buried Mira’s face in her breast and began cuddling her, obviously just to fall to the ground on a chop of Emera. She reaped what she sow.

Right before Frica collapsed, Emera grabbed Mira and put her down to ground.

“I’m sorry for her.”

“She was normal just a moment ago...”

“Perhaps as soon as she relaxed, she couldn’t control herself anymore.”

“It seems hard for her.”

Saying that, they watched at writhing, yet happily rolling on the ground with “She was sooo fluffy!” Frica.

“Such a disappointment.”

“Well, that’s the charm of Frica too.”

Asbar sighed and Zef argued, justifying everything with the beauty.

“Still, just like Dunbalf in the stories, when he engaged in close combat with Xian and summoning, you managed to learn it too, Mira. That was amazing.”

As Frica was coming to her senses, Emera began her passionate speech. Indeed, it was the Dunbalf’s combat style, deviating from the combat of any decent summoner.

“Xian?... She quickly disappeared and reappeared then. The Xian is cool.”

“Nothing special in that.”

“Me too couldn’t follow her with eyes sometimes. Can all the Xian fighters do such insane movements?”

“No idea about others. Nothing special in that.”

“It was like running over the air. We have some Xian fighters in the guild but I don’t think anybody of them can do that.”

“The Sky Stride is just usual Xian move. Nothing special in that.”

Mira was quite high-skilled Xian fighter too, and coupled with the splendid visuals it was somewhat supernatural spectacle. The actual battle was way more intense than in stories. And that vivid scenes of course engraved in their minds.

“Xian is amazing!”

Voicing the everyone’s thoughts, excited Emera said that. Along with her words, the members of the Écarlate Carillon changed their minds about the Xian mastery. A pupil of wiseman, while being a summoner, could do so much with the Xian. And that Xian skills overwhelmed the devil. Of course they were fascinated.

“...What...thou...say..”

She was going to show off the power of summoner skills, but at the end only Xian was judged. Mira’s gaze went far away as she tried to find where was her



mistake.

“Hey, isn’t that pretty nice stuff?”

The next time. As Mira bet on the dubious chance to recover the reputation of summoning on their way back, she lift her face on the voice of Zef from afar. When everybody turned their looks, they saw the remains of devil and his weapon at the feet of Zef.

“Nevertheless, he got quite bad.”

Asbar said that while tracing scars all over the devil’s body. He lightly hit it with the back of hand and gasped at the unbelievably robust armor. He wasn’t sure that his full swing would leave even a single scratch on it. With the same feelings Emera put her hand on the hilt of sword and swore to herself she will double the amount of training starting from today. A scenery out of this world burned onto eyes of the devil, like he was trying to say that everybody will eventually meet the same end.

Contrary to the group, surrounding the body in admiration, Takuto hide behind the Mira’s back as soon as he saw the devil. Mira gently stroked his head, repeating “Don’t worry”.

“So, I’m about this stuff. It’s a bit heavy to carry for me.”

Zef with struggle lift the scythe with both hands and carried it to Asbar. Receiving it, Asbar instantly distorted the face.

“The...It’s quite heavy.Huh!”

With those words, he grabbed the scythe with both hands and made a large swing. Along with a high-pitched metallic sound the blade pierced the ground.

“How’s that? Can you handle it?”

“This burden is too heavy for me. And I never used a scythe before. To begin with, this scythe belongs to the miss who defeated devil. Well, she doesn’t seem to need any weapon at all but it should yield quite a price if sold.”

“Ah, so. And there are sealed stones and magic crystals too, Mira got quite a haul. Can I get one tenth as payment for collecting items?”

Zef jokingly smiled. The issue was that all the items they got into the Ancient

Graveyard bar the first ghoul belong to Mira. Of course Zef understood that before picking them up, and rest members weren't going to say anything about that.

Except Mira.

“What? Usually such stuff is evenly divided. Since I'm bad at math, I leave that to thy.”

Her words rendered the members of the Écarlate Carillon completely blank. The gathered sealed stones and the devil's weapon, scythe. Without estimating much, it was quite a fortune.

And everybody here saw Mira as the owner. But the owner herself told to split it like it was obvious. Division of the loot after defeating monsters together is a common sense for adventurers but now, when they knew the Mira's strength, they had no doubts they just came along with her.

“But, hey, your summon defeated them.”

“Aren't we a party?”

As confused Emera tried to tell her the circumstances, Mira with a grin returned a question.

Mira was going to do it from the start just because it was ingrained in her as the player's common sense. And, bad at disputing about drop Mira considered the equal splitting between members of party as the ideal.

Mira and Emera mutually tilted their heads while looking at each other. Takuto tilted the head without understanding their talk.

“This generousness is another great side of Mira!”

With that words Frica jumped out and hugged her. Mira with eyes demanded Emera to do something.

Dropping just another chop on the head of Frica, Emera giggled.

“You can't measure Mira-chan with common sense at all.”

“Agree with that.”

Asbar hugely nodded to a half-amazed yet gentle smile of Emera.

“Money aren't that big trouble for me.”

When needed she can simply coax Solomon.

“Well, speaking about somebody who stays at the Summer Lantern, it’s true.”

Ohh, you had to say that.”

“I did. I’m kinda envious to the lack of issues with money.”

Emera with slightly distant eyes recalled the inns of the Requiem City Karanach. They visited the Summer Lantern only once, as a celebration of victory in battle. A lot of elaborated dishes and clearly different from the cheap inn interior and furnishings. Emera remembered a night when she, soaking in princess’ mood, excited with her group.

Asbar and Zef remembered that time too, though the first thing that came to their minds was the pleased giggle, not fading from the face of Emera.

Apparently, rather than the princess mood, Emera loosened her face without being aware of that.

“Err, are you really fine with that?”

“I’m fine. Also if there is somebody able to use that scythe in thy guild, thou can give this scythe to them.”

She can’t equip it but, since it’s a rare weapon, not giving it to somebody who can actually use it would be a waste. It was another unspoken rule from her player times. When equipment piece dropped, it goes to one who can do most with it. Mira was always following it and had no intention to change that.

Her word said with such feelings caught everybody in surprise again. Emera amazed, Asbar wryly smiled, Zef burst into laugh. And recovered Frica tilted her head, looking at their variety of reactions.

“I’m not sure how much without examination, but that thing alone is worth quite much, you know?”

“As for equipment, if somebody has a friend that can use it, that equipment is better to go to them. I don’t need that. Can any of you use it?”

“Hmm, for me it’s somewhat harsh but there is a darkness knight in the guild and he should be able to use that, I think.”

Asbar equivocated, not exactly understanding why she would give it to

somebody who isn't even here.

“Whoa, a darkness knight. It looks nice. Then thou can give it to him.”

“Wait. It's nice since it would make our guild stronger but you should understand it yourself. We simply can't accept that.”

“Yup. I am grateful for your proposal, Mira-chan, but, you know, it's too awkward to get.”

No wonder Emera and Asbar hesitated. All the high-level adventurers pay attention to the money but this one is on whole other level. As for Mira, she doesn't use scythes and don't have that much troubles with money either. And still, she didn't like the idea to sell it. After all, she was mostly worried that the scythe will end up in hands of a villain. And if you such powerful weapon to villain, the damage would be disastrous.

It's possible that her loot would be used for evil. That's why she believed passing it to Emera's guild would be way better. Even after such short time she could tell that everybody in her party are without a doubt good people. The act of coming here in worry for a child proves it better than anything. Also, following the traces in a famous guild should be easy too.

“As for me, I don't want for villains to use it if I'll get bad luck when selling. Thus, I'll be worrying less if it ends in hands of a trustworthy person, don't thou think so?”

With that words Mira looked up at Emera, who, still stunned, was gradually becoming excited. Emera reacted to the trust behind that words. And it hit straight in her honest heart.

“I got it! I will take the responsibility for that!”

After such declaration Emera held the hand of Mira and exchanged looks with strong will in eyes.

“Are you serious? The words of miss have some sense but we met with her today!”

“Well, he's right. I mean that, you know, it's way too fast, right?”

“I am not going to betray Mira-chan ever.”

Without a doubt Frica asserted that. Contrary to her, Asbar and Zef were happy inside, yet still said reasonable things. They cared about the future of Mira but she herself was perfectly aware about that.

“If something happens, I’ll go to take it back myself.”

Mira daringly smiled and members of Ecarlate Carillon, understanding what she means by that, were forced to accept it.

## Chapter 31: Way Home

“Well then I’ll hold it until the guild.”

“Yeah, take it please.”

Emera applied the shapeless skill which categorized things as Items to the scythe and thrust it into her item box.

“Whoa. Barely fit the limit.”

“No wonder considering that weight.”

When Emera glanced at the items, the remaining capacity indicator made her exclaim.

The Operator’s bracelets, common among adventurers, are lent by the union. Capacity depends on items, and of course the larger the item, the more capacity it takes. Emera’s bracelet holds up to 200 kg and coupled with the things that already were in there, the scythe almost exceeded the capacity.

Asbar had held that scythe before and knew how heavy it was, so he wasn’t surprised. Still, Mira tilted her head since there was no limit in the game.

“What, is the capacity limited?”

Mira looked at Emera’s bracelet. It had almost the same design as her own. Maybe a bit larger.

“Is it endless in yours!?”

“Endless!?”

“Put all that you want!?”

Zef joined the conversation after Emera and Asbar. Since he casually gathered drops, the bottomless item box was a dream for him.

Attacked with questions Mira fell under their pressure and opened up her inventory. At the first glance it was filled with mostly small things, nothing particularly heavy. All of it together would barely weigh a hundred kilograms. So, even if there was a limit, unlike the game, she hadn’t reached it yet anyway.

“Well, let’s see. There isn’t so many things inside to tell for sure.”

Mira answered, considering that possibility.

Emera's group cooled down, remembering that she just became an adventurer and obviously had not much equipment to start with. But Frica still noticed a contradiction.

"When you got it from the union, they should've explained about the limit I believe..."

Everybody agreed with her wondering.

"She's right. Haven't they told you?"

Emera asked a question but Mira still had her operation terminal instead of operator's bracelet. And obviously nobody told her about the limits.

"Ahh... thou know... I've got it from my master. He never told anything except how to use it."

"I see. Fine then."

Everybody bought into another use of the pupil setting.

"Still, what if you hit the limit at the worst possible time? How about confirming it now?"

"Yeah. Let's check it."

Mira agreed with Frica's proposal and considered putting stuff inside once she returned to the Alkite castle.

Then Mira picked up the scythe, put it into the item box, confirming that it fits there and returned the scythe to Emera.

It happened about the time they finished with the checking of the item box. Zef noticed it first.

"Whoa!? Look, it's on fire!"

Everybody turned around to witness the devil's body engulfed in dark flames.

"What's that? Have you done something!?"

Asbar rushed out and, stopping right next to the flame, asked Zef.

"No, nothing. It suddenly started."

Zef shook his head as he kept his eyes on the flame. He was fascinated by the complete annihilation of devil. Suddenly flame rose up in front of their eyes.

“No need to worry. It’s the last moments of devils.”

Mira told so with reassuring face. Some time after their defeat devils perish in black flames. And when the flame soothed down, there was...

“Hmm. Something still left.”

Very timidly Zef poked the leftover black object. When a devil loses their life, the flame of their realm harboring within them burns everything into dust. Only the most toughened parts of the devil can withstand it.

“I never thought something will remain.”

With those words Zef, believing it was a common thing, picked up the remains of the devil.

After finishing everything here everyone headed upstairs. On their way back monsters haven’t respawned yet so they went up to the first floor without any troubles.

After passing the barrier at the entrance they filled their chests with the fresh air. Excluding only Zef.

“Haa—! The moment when you leave the dungeon is the best.”

Emera took a deep breath while stretching herself. To be precise, they haven’t gotte outside since this was still the ritual hall, but the air was way more fresh compared to the stale gloomy dungeon.

As Asbar and Frica relaxed, Zef muttered ‘It hurts’ while holding his hands against the palm marks on both of his cheeks. He teased Emera again as they went upstairs from the sixth floor.

Takuto silently looked on at Mira next to him. His gaze contained strong feelings.

“Well, we suddenly managed to finish early so let’s return before the sunset.”

Emera said that while staring at the crimson sunlight pouring down through openings of the temple.

Walking from the ancient temple to the requiem city Caranach takes twenty



minutes. They were going to take a camp on the middle floors of the dungeon but the massacre performed by Mira made their task overwhelmingly fast. Myriads of food provision and medicine already got their rest in the item boxes unable to find any purpose this time.

Leaving the row of statues behind, they entered a forest road on their way back.

A faint voice of an early owl was heard from far away. While the group were making their way through the forest, a gust of wind passed through them. Then a black cat hurried past them like he was chasing that wind.

“Mira-chan has white...!”

Frica’s eyes, which completely neglected her own robe, were fixed on the rolled up by the wind skirt of Mira. The gust of wind took them by surprise but the precisely aimed eyes of Frisca captured the glimpse of the plain white panties and she arrogantly drew near Mira. Mira herself shivered and slipped behind Asbar, sending Emera a look. Telling ‘Do something about her’. Emera silently nodded and together with a sigh dropped the considerably trained in that day chop on the head of Frisca.

“She doesn’t mean bad, you know?”

She uttered that, somewhat caring about her fellow. Mira answered with a shake of her head that the issue is not in meaning.

“Err...”

At the time Emera came back dragging Frisca along, Takuto raised his soft voice, looking up at Mira.

“Hmm, what? Something happened with thee?”

Mira’s face peeked from the Asbar’s shadow and asked Takuto while looking at him. After a short hesitation Takuto made up his mind and returned her glance.

“Before that wind blew I saw a woman. She looked like she’s chased by somebody and I got worried.”

At his words surprised Mira exclaimed ‘Whoa’.

“Takuto, have thou seen that?”

“Ye, yes. Ermm, it was a woman that had a hair similar to Alfina’s.”

“Well, well. It seems like thou can have some magician qualities. The one who passed before us was a wind spirit.”

Right before the blast of wind, a wind spirit actually passed across the group. For precisely this reason Frica predicted this wind gust and locked her eyes on the Mira’s skirt. Complete waste of talent.

“Me...a magician...”

While repeating the words of Mira, Takuto expressed delight with all his body. He admired Mira, he owed her so much and now he got a chance to become a magician just like her. That news excited him.

“Anyway, it seems a black cat chased her but why?”

Muttering that, Mira placed a hand on her chin and reached for her memories. But she couldn’t remember any creature bar elemental eaters to do such thing. And since they always looked like proper monsters, it was hard to mistake one of them for a black cat.

While Mira was in her musing, trees at the right side shook and the wind spirit appeared before her group again. Mira stepped towards in the moment she saw her and caught the black cat that jumped after her from behind.

“Hmm, what’s that...”

This cat was quite lighter than it appeared. The cat meowed, looking upwards at, her as if trying to tell something.

“Oh my, I feel some magic from this cat.”

Frica, who already came back to life, said that while peeping at the cat in Mira’s hands. Mira tried to inspect the cat to check her words.

“This one... is a shikigami?”

Words 『Shikigami: Nyanmaru』 appeared over the black cat. The shikigami are companions controlled by onmyoji masters. They exist in a lot of forms. From the usual animals to fantasy creatures.

“Still...this one...”

The meowing black cat still was wriggling in her hands, trying to push her away with its paws. Cute.

Keeping in mind that everybody is looking at her, Mira held herself back just before breaking to a smile. But the cat’s cuteness wasn’t going to stop. And Mira didn’t notice that Frica, who pretended to look at the cat in the hands, was actually staring at Mira’s chest.

“Hey...”

With a gentle whirl of wind, a whisper of a girl tickled their ears. At the same time the cat with a ‘Meow’ twisted its body and, slipping out of her hands, dashed behind her.

“Ah... She returned.”

After a quick gasp Takuto muttered that, noticing her. Mira wryly smiled ‘again?’ to Frica, who still stared at her chest ignoring the cat, and turned herself back. There was the wind spirit that crossed in front of them before.

“Wha..what are you going to do with the cat!?”

The spirit of wind peeked her face out from the tree shadows and, embracing Nyanmaru, cautiously asked Mira and Frica.

They became confused a bit since they believed that the black cat was chasing her. But one thing was clear: the spirit of wind and this black cat knew each other and seemed to be on good terms with each other.

“Eh... We don’t mean harm to thy cat.”

“Then... It means... you came to bully me, right!?”

With a sudden scream of the wind spirit, the air around them began to rustle and a small whirlwind surrounded everybody.

“Hey, what’s that? What’s going on?”

“Mira-chan and Frica! Had something happened!?”

Since Emera, Asbar and the rest of the warriors couldn’t see spirits, they didn’t know whom Mira was speaking to. But, feeling that the whirlwind was raging dangerously strong, they grouped together, getting themselves ready.

“Apparently the wind spirit believes we’re bullying this cat.”

“Doesn’t that mean we’re in trouble?”

Frica told it in a calm tone but suddenly Zef became nervous.

“Well, can’t thou wait a bit? I only thought he’s chasing thy and held him to stop.”

Showing the cat, who was calmly staring at the chest of the wind spirit, is fine, Mira began her explanations. It’s not like that spirits refuse to speak. Usually they’re friendly to people.

“Did you say Nyanmaru?”

The spirit inclined her head, confirming a part of Mira’s words.

“It’s the name of this shikigami... Thou haven’t knew that?...”

“.....”

Then Mira briefly introduced everybody and explained the situation. She told that she believed that Wind Spirit was attacked by the black cat and held him trying to help. And that this cat was called Nyanmaru.

It seemed like the cat and the spirit had been playing tag.

“Ahh...well, that... I’m sorry.”

“No, I should ask excuse since I wedged myself without knowing the circumstances.”

While Mira was continuing her explanation, the whirlwind slowly fade off and as she ended, the wind spirit apologized, holding Nyanmaru in her hands. Mira apologized too and they sincerely smiled to each other.

“This cat... Nyanmaru ended up being a shikigami.”

“Nyea.”

“By the way, do thou know the owner of this shikigami?”

“No. I met Nyanmaru when scary people attacked me. It became dangerous but Nyanmaru saved me and I don’t think there were any onmyoji’s around. Since that day Nyanmaru sometimes shows around for play but I never saw his

owner.”

The speech of the wind spirit was expressive. She displayed fear when told about the attack, then her face shined as she mentioned her saving. Mira wryly smiled at the overacted expressions and pointed out something that seemed out of place.

“Fine, then Nyanmaru is a self-controlled shikigami. Still, do thou want to say that some people attacked thee?”

“Ah, yes. When I was bathing in moonlight at the bank of a lake, they suddenly surrounded me. They were scary looking armed people. I got startled and ran through the woods and then Nyanmaru jumped in and drove the scary people away.”

“Attacking a spirit, what a scum’s deed!”

“Yeah, indeed.”

Frica angrily added that after hearing this story. For magicians like Frica, spirits are very important and close beings. And she couldn’t hide her anger to anybody who harms spirits. And the warriors group, even though they had no idea what’s going on, somehow understood why Frica suddenly exclaimed that. They also remarked that it’s unusual for Frica to raise her voice for a reason other than a cute girl.

Nature spirits like the wind spirit, unlike monsters, will never hurt people first. Quite the contrary: by being close to them you can get blessings and they are known as kind creatures always helping anybody in trouble. Even killing them only directs wrath of all spirits to you and they never drop rare items. Although it was certain only in the game. Now, in reality, she wasn’t sure there was nothing else she didn’t know. Something valuable enough to get despite harming good neighbors. Arriving at this idea, Mira felt despise to human greed.

“I am very grateful to Nyanmaru. Also I heard from friends that our fellows are being attacked and kidnapped everywhere.”

“Do thou want to say there are other gangs attacking spirits?”

“It seems so. I was lucky to saved by Nyanmaru, but they...”

The wind spirit tightly hugged Nyanmaru with trembling arms. Her face was full of sorrow and praying for the safety of her friends.

(If it happens everywhere, it means there are gangs made specially for hunting spirits or perhaps somebody who makes business of it)

Mira drew some speculations based on the words of the spirit. Either there was a way to put spirits to use and there are people who abuse it in the business.

Or there could be people who find spirits like this one attractive and kidnap them to hold for admiring or possibly as pets.

There also was the possibility that the power of spirits could have military use. And the problem is that spirits are merciless towards people who intend any harm. Even if they are caught, as soon as they seriously start resisting, they will easily devastate a small village. Spirit is a lump of such power.

However, now, thirty years since this world became real, it could develop in ways that Mira can't even imagine. She already saw the Accord Cannon as an example of that.

The technical progress. It brings the potential to overturn the common sense but it's also a monster.

(And I severely lack information...)

No matter how much she was trying to figure this out, Mira has just came to this world. Stumbling on the fact that she still knows nothing about everything that happened in last thirty years, she greatly sighed and gave up on it for now. Then Mira lift edges of her mouth in smile and

“In other words, thou have friends other than Nyanmaru.”

saying it, mischievously looked towards the wind spirit.

“Of course I do—”

The upset wind spirit restlessly stamped her feet and puffed out her cheeks. Then laughter rang out nearby.

“Oh, Mira-chan why did you suddenly start joking?”

Frica laughed with her hand over her mouth. Her anger towards the assailants still haven't been calmed but a wind spirit sulking in safety right before her eyes

gave her some relief.

“Well, it’s not like anything changes from our talk here. I don’t know how far this information got spread but it seems we should report to the Union. And I’ll warn the spirits I meet on the way since it’s all I can do now.”

“Yeah, sure.”

Opponents are unknown. There could be an organization. It means she needs to be ready for that.

Although they could already know that, Mira decided to ask to Solomon and Luminaria for any useful information they possibly know.

For now the problem with attackers is over, decided Mira and pointed her eyes to Nyanmaru.

Usually they are not hostile but spirits hold considerable power. Not something that usual human can match. If she was attacked with knowing she’s a spirit, it means the attackers hold enough power to resist a spirit. Otherwise nobody would buy a fight with an opponent surpassing human strength.

But it leads to another inconsistency.

Such attackers, able to fight with a spirit, were disposed by Nyanmaru.

If he won against rivals of a spirit, Nyanmaru as a shikigami that has more strength than a spirit. And it means his owner is even stronger.

“Hmm...So, Nyanmaru...”

Black cat shikigami’s name reminded Mira of a certain person.

It was one of the Nine Elders, the elder of the Onmyoji Tower, suzerain Kagura of the Seven Stars.

Onmyoji includes some techniques to control shikigamis like Nyanmaru, the strongest and useful of them are called Four Holy Beasts.

Even Vermillion Bird Suzaku, Black Tortoise Genbu, Azure Dragon Seiryuu and White Tiger Byakko, extremely famous sacred beasts, can be summoned by high-level onmyojis. Also, shikigamis can be autonomous and operated.

Autonomous ones can think and act themselves while controlled are directly operated by onmyojis.

And there is a specific trait of shikigamis: on their acquisition they can be named. That’s why Mira remembered about Kagura.

Genbu was Kamekichi, Seiryuu was Nyorozo, Suzaku was Piisuke and Byakko was Gauta. Add Nyanmaru here. It feels consistent. Kagura had a lot of other shikigamis and everybody were similarly named.

(But it's unbelievable...)

Of course it could be a pure coincidence. If you try to look for other people with similar naming sense, you will surely find them.

That said, considering the power of Nyanmaru, it must be quite a strong onmyoji. It means that as fellow onmyojis, they could hear some rumors or something about whereabouts of their top, Kagura.

It's only a guess after all, but it's not like she had information on anybody bar Soul Howl. Then trying to investigate every clue can fortunately bring her to a goal.

Well, it was better than nothing for her. Mira put this information in a corner of her mind.



## Chapter 32: Solomon's Gift

While the star shines calmly in the sky, the sun leaves an afterglow in the horizon and sinks. As night slowly creeps into the forest, the tone of formless insects begin to sound from within the darkness.

"It has become quite late has it not? Is the talk over? shall we go back soon?"

As the voices of Mira and Fricca trail off, seemingly a good time Emera speaks out.

"Is that so. Then lets go."

"ehhh, thats right. It's fine, Seirei-sama has Nyanmaru-san"

Listening to Emera, the two turned their eyes to the surrounding which had become completely dark, then finally towards the wind spirit.

"Take care"

"Seirei-sama, please be careful"

"Yes, thank you! All of you please return safely too"

Mira waves goodbye and Fricca bows using both hands. The wind spirit took Nyanmaru's hand waving back "Furi Furi" and then returned.

On the way, Mira gazes at Nyanmaru.

That shikigami is probably the escort for the wind spirit. In situations where assailants cannot be sensed anywhere, it's hard to say they'll be chased away only once.

Mira was thinking, did Nyanmaru's master make an automated shikigami protect a wind spirit? Or is the wind spirit using it as a decoy for assailants. However, Mira had seen them as very good friends so there was no way of knowing. In any case no matter what happens the wind spirit would be protected so there isn't a problem. However this point of view was merely speculation.

No matter how much Mira worried, together both the wind spirit and Nyanmaru were not easy to beat.

However, its best to never overestimate something since the Magician's true intentions aren't known. At the minimum, Nyanmaru's master should not be too far off. There may be information at the Guilds Association. Averting her eyes from Nyanmaru, Mira organizes some information.

(It'll be lucky if even a small clue is obtained)

Takuto who was listening from behind the party had begun to walk towards Caranach with Mira and Fricca

"From the talk earlier, could Takuto have a magicians aptitude?"

"Even if you ask, I wonder."

At Fricca's words Mira remembered something, returning a gentle gaze back to Takuto with a smile full of expectations.

Looking closely, the various status of Takuto has appeared, but as expected from a child. There are many one's lined up. However, magic is at six. Considering that the general public average is four, six has a very promising future.

Mira gave out a sigh after confirming the status. Class data had only displayed as Alkite Kingdom.

(Even if its checked, it isn't understood..... that is to say, to become a respective class something is needed)

It's good there might be talent, Mira brushed Takuto's head.

To see a spirit, its a Magician's characteristic that no one else has. Takuto's current Magician Class has yet to be known. After all when it was a player, a class is the item chosen first, but what of residents of this world? Mira questions.

"How are Magicians determined?"

Having just come to this world, Mira asks Fricca who seems to know

"Well ..... there are various ways, but the number one fastest way is to go to

the Guild"

"Hou, does that place also does such a thing? There's some business there, do you want to see them?"

"I want to go!"

When Mira replies, Takuto answers back with a big nod.

---

Requiem City Caranach.

Sky's that have been dominated by the jet-black darkness shine a small light, the surrounding is decorated with parade's and smile's in a bar after work for the day.

"That was tiring, I'll come back after taking Takuto to the Guild"

After arriving at the big square Mira, holding onto Takuto's hand leads him to the Guild's District.

"Heeeey, hey Mira-chan! bye bye, come back soon or I'll get lonely!"

Emera grabs Mira's hand almost as if in a panic. Behind them, the other three had different facial expressions. Those appearances, it can't be helped.

"That's right Mira-chan. We haven't shared, or done the party celebration yet "

"Ah, yes. The adventure..... later on lets celebrate. The MVP this time is that young lady after all."

"That's right. I want to talk with Mira-chan a lot more."

There wasn't any problems with the cost, however Mira was much more concerned about the noise. Trying to refuse would likely make them to chase her to the ends of the Arc Earth until she accepts it. At least for Emera.

"Fumu..... well, that's fine isn't it. It's unexpectedly fun when I'm here"

People casually exchanged idle conversation respectively with each other.

While remembering them Mira replied with a smile.

"That smiling face is like one million volts!"

Raising a strange voice, Fricca as if shot with lightning collapsed in ecstasy of the expression.

Among the people who come and go to the hall they were in a direct line-of-sight of everyone, and they hurriedly and left the place, leaving only Fricca.

After an hour passes in the Square, before long a person appeared who noticed Fricca of Ecarlate Carillon, and Emera alongside everyone else.

"We'll head over to the Spring Snow Inn that's on the left-side of the main street, come over after business is done in the guild. Absolutely you have to come"

Emera and the other members were swallowed up by the crowd of people while saying so

Mira accompanied with Takuto open the door to the Magicians Guild. In the guild, it was crowded under the light that shun in contradiction to the nightly darkness glittering. Guild members ran around storming the reception desk for requests.

"They seem busy....."

"Is that so....."

While looking at the spectacle where the clamor is shrouded, Mira and Takuto look at each other.

For the time being, Mira retrieved the permit, and threw it in the recycling box in the corner of the guild.

[Thank you. You're kind aren't you.]

The voice of a cute girl resounded from the recycling box. What kind of principle is that? a palm-sized girl appeared on top of the box, quietly smiled and disappeared.

"What is this....."

Takuto stared happily at the recycling box while change angles, Mura

muttered with a wry smile.

"Ah, Mira-san!"

Turning around to the excited voice of a woman, there was the figure of Eureka, holding onto documents.

"O-oh, Eureka?"

"Could it be, that you've already gone to the Ancient Shrine?"

"Umu. I've finished, so I'm just recycling."

"Is that so, thank you very much. By the way, that child?"

Eureka asked referring to Takuto who clung to the recycling box.

"We met with various circumstances, but anyhow he is likely to have a Magicians Aptitude. I heard that it could be checked here."

After Mira explained so, Takuto who was listening took a bow in front of Eureka.

"Nice to meet you. I'm Takuto. I want to become a Magician like Mira onee-chan."

Saying so with an eager expression that was raised filled with expectation.

"Takuto... this onee-chan is Eureka. nice to meet you"

While saying so, Eureka returns a gentle smile.

"Since you're Mira's acquaintance, let's start the examination at once. And so, what we talked about the other day, did you receive it today?"

Mira tilted her neck and for a moment, then remembered the words that were said at the time of the quest registration. Solomon's story and relationship to the Guild Master.

(come to think of it, such a thing was said)

"Umu, that would be so. We'll assume that it's received."

"Yes. Then come this way."

While holding the documents, Eureka walks ahead as the lead. Mira takes Takuto's hand, and follows after Eureka.

---

"Mira-san has arrived"

Knocking on the Guild Master's room door, Eureka's voice resounds.

"Ohh, Enter Enter"

From inside the room, an excited voice could be heard.

"Well then, Takuto-kun come here. While Mira Onee-chan is talking, shall we give you an aptitude exam?"

Eureka's and Takuto's line of sight come together, leaning forward with a hand extended.

Takuto quickly glances at Mira.

"It might be a little long, you should go and come back."

Mira releases hands, and lightly strokes Takuto's head.

"Okay!"

Takuto nods energetically, and is taken by Eureka to the Magicians aptitude examination room.

"Please excuse me"

Mira clears the door after the voice. Entering the Guild leaders room, Leoneil cheerfully tips a glass towards the young lady.

"What is this, it seems the mood is good"

Mira sits on the chair in front of Leoneil while saying so. Then a waiter in charge arranged green tea and a cake on a table in front of Mira without any sound.

The two people who hit if off chatting the other day, struggled to exchange formalities, with that being the case it was decided there was no need for it. On the occasion, after the tea and cake was prepared Mira shrewdly talks to the waiter in charge.

"Did you know? first of all, you're suppose to say "please accept this""

Mira while placing the cake in her mouth, Leoneil glances at two things on the

table one is a black card, and, another is a letter.

"I heard about Solomon, but what is this?"

Mira places the fork next to the dish, and asks while taking the card. The surface of the card is black and smooth as glass, a complex symbol and magic formations are engraved on the back.

"That is, a restricted area pass"

"Restricted area you say?"

Mira directs her gaze from the card to Leoneil, while Leoneil expanded the map on top of the table. That is, Arc Earth online's Shumegofe region with the map of the surrounding islands.

"Do you know the dungeon called the Tenma Labyrinth?"

"Tenma Labyrinth is it. I know of it"

Tenma Labyrinth. In the dungeon innumerably scattered in various continental places, a special dungeon with a certain law was called between players.

"Then the talk will be quick. Although it was often the location of many mysteries from that time, I don't remember exactly but the mystery has increased. It was designated as a special restricted area."

"Mystery? what kind of incident?"

The Tenma labyrinth is different from a usual dungeon, and the demon's that appear are all subspecies, along with power on an entirely different level. And, from the innermost treasure guarded by a boss which was a named demon, a peerless item could be obtained. Although it was collectively referred to as Tenma Labyrinth, towards the mystery Leoneil referred to, Mira showed interest.

"Anyhow, it seems even after taking the treasure of this dungeon everything seems to restore given enough time."

"hou.....that is....."

What is wrong. Though it was Mira who tried to continue, the thought was

sandwiched for a moment. As a game, it was natural for dungeon treasures and items to re-pop.

*(TLN: re-pop game term referring to the spawn time of monsters/items to reappear)*

That sort of thing, the dungeons only rare item was of legend grade. However, Leoneil said that it was mysterious. In other words, a treasure chest of this world is not bound by reality.

When thinking so, it is possible to look for an abnormality in the Tenma Labyrinth.

"In short....., treasure chests continue to excitingly revive."

"As expected of Dunbalf-sama's apprentice-san. Exactly right. The rivalry to compete for treasure, it was sealed as a restricted area under the pretext of preventing it. You might say, the rebellion during that time was considerable."

Leoniel smiled wryly with his words, then pointed to a single area on the map. There, in the middle of the forest that spread over from Alkite Kingdom of the southwest.

"That recognition certificate, is for Tenma Labyrinth inside the [Primal Forest]. I didn't know for what reason Solomon said to hand that over, so I struggled."

Leoneil said so, with eye brows raised in a good mood.

"And from the looks of it, they seem to have asked a lot."

"What, they asked me to be a little flexible"

As their gazes crossed, Mira concludes the talk with

"that guy, bullying people of this world too much"

After taking the card in one hand, the other goes towards the sealed letter.

"This, what is it?"

expecting to see nothing there, Mira asked holding something up.

"That, it's the Wyvern mail addressed to you that arrived this morning. The person who sent it was someone named Lily, do you remember?"



When Mira retraced her memories, she arrived at the thought of one woman. Alkrite Castle's maid who woke and greeted her every morning. A chill ran down her spine.

"u.....umu. I know them"

"Somehow, you don't seem happy. Dunbalf-sama's apprentice isn't interested in those kinds of women it seems"

While saying so, Reynard lifted his mouth into a grin. The reason Lily sent a sealed letter isn't understood, it didn't give off a good feeling to Mira.

It isn't necessary to read it here this moment, instead I'll throw the item in my Item box.

"Changing the subject, could I ask you something?"

Mira washed down the cream with tea while saying so.

"Ahhh, don't mind. If it's something I can answer"

Leoneil sitting nods lightly. Mira opened her mouth after easily organizing her question.

"Do you know of the people that are targeting the spirits?"

As one eyebrow twitches, Leoneil breathes out a sigh.

"That is a painful question"

"You seem to know of it then"

"Ahhh, about ten years have passed that since the matter has come to light. I don't know of where you learned of it, but it's rather troublesome. I'll tell you what I know however, don't reveal too much"

"Umu, that is of course."

When Mira looked straight ahead with her eyes after speaking, Leoneil began talking about everything he knew.

First of all, the number of attackers are of considerable scale, there has been a lot of damage in many parts of the continent. However, it's unknown why they're attacking the Spirits. And, one of the assailants identified themselves as [Chimera Clausen].

"Chimera clausen huh..... what is thier purpose"

Mira while saying so put her back into the sofa and looked up towards the ceiling.

"Well, with certainty they aren't good people."

Occasionally people will help other people, what is the reason to attack spirits who are the human races neighbor, in any case they shall not be forgiven.

The opinion of the two people were consistent.

"There's one more thing, may I hear it?"

"Where?"

When Leoneil asks, Mira returned with a nod "That's right".

From the beginning, Mira who came to listen, spoke about the general events. It was attacked by assailants, the wind spirit was helped by Nyanmaru. The assailant who has the ability only to attack spirits probably, was repelled by a shikigami controlled by a Onmyouji Master hiding in the shadows.

"Was there such a thing?"

"I would like to have heard of that Onmyouji, would someone know of that master? They could be someone with good influence, so it could be easy to guess."

"An Onmyouji comparable to a spirit. The Silver Tower comes to mind right away, but I've heard the magicians rarely come out. When it comes to an Onmyouji, there must be a powerful one nearby right now. Though it's different if they come secretly without stopping at the Guild."

The Silver Tower is the biggest existing magician's organization on the Continent, with all of the magicians being top class. Therefore the tower's magicians are all influential people that are comparable to the spirits. And, it can be said that the tower has accumulated all knowledge regarding magic.

In other words because it is the place that can polish magic from anywhere, Magicians who pursue research there, rarely go outside. At best, they could carry out an experiment in the vicinity of the open place.

"Umu, I see"

"Well either way, If you can help us in this matter, I'll give you the information as soon as it comes. If the apprentice of Dunbalf-sama cooperates, its likely that after 10 years we'll have some progress. I hate to say it, but that much is expected."

With a smiling face that doesn't seem to suit him, Leoneil sends a glance towards Mira. Those eyes, it shines like a powerful card was obtained.

"Well, it's not a story to be overlooked. I will cooperate, even though things may appear to be hectic. Rather than half-baked information, just go get solid proof"

Notcing the troubled look on Leoneil, Mira gives a light warning. Good verified information is needed to head in the right direction.

"Thatls too bad. Well, that should be fine. I'll work the intelligence personnel to the extend of a carriage horse. But before that, the Onmyouji will be investigated. Isn't that good?"

Leoneil makes a remorseful expression, looking up towards the sky. And the investigation of the Onmyouji will go without questions asked.

Coincidence? or was it Inevitable?, Nyanmaru's master is a magician that happen to be present during the spirits attack in the Guild, preventing it. The information Mira brought, although the possibility is low, there may be enough to grasp something about the assailants.

"Umu, that would be so. Right now it may be better to investigate from a different approach."

If Nyanmaru's master is an adventurer, they will be caught by Leoneil's search sooner or later. However Mira had one other purpose. It's a possibility that could lead to one of the nine sages.

If its related, Ken and Solomon will ask events of the matter of the spirit attack, and the two of them will proceed at the same time.

Mira sent encouragements to Leoneil's secret agents secretly in her mind.

## Chapter 33: Takuto's Aptitude

The report of the Spirits attack, it was decided communion would go through the Magicians Guild. The promise was to inform them about any new information if something was understood, Mira speaks of some more baffling information.

"By the way, as the leader do you think demons have gone extinct?"

Demon inside the sixth floor. From what Emera said, a demon that wasn't originally there, manifested in the sixth floor where there should have been nothing. Leoneil seems to be a well informed man, as for this matter of how far the search will go it isn't known.

"....., it seems that something has come to mind hasn't it"

After being silence for several seconds, Leo Neil who realized something opens his mouth. That behavior knowing something. From the expression and way of talking, it indicated there could possibly be a serious problem.

"Rather than saw, I fought with it in the sixth floor of the Ancient Shrine"

"With the demon!?!....., is this true?"

Leo Neil raised a voice having been surprised, I cut off his words asking him to quiet down.

"Umu, it was an Earl third rank."

"Was it okay?"

Leoneil asked with a serious face. Mira, pointing the fork at herself that was in her hand, and raised the edges of her mouth grinning.

"I seem perfectly fine, do I not?"

"..... I see, that's right."

This information was too shocking for Leoneil that such a simple thing also couldn't be considered.

Ten years ago in the territory of the three gods a defensive battle was fought

and the demons were annihilated. Until now there have been no official reports of demons.

However, Leoneil's information network of shadows appeared and disappeared.

Could it be. The existence of a vague silhouette emerged.

For example, if an A rank adventurer had the same story, Leoneil would not have been surprised. In fact, there were some similar stories, but it was a mistake or a result of the variation class of the demon whom the figure resembled.

However, this time the other party is different. Dunbalf's apprentice, with the trust of King Solomon of Alkite Kingdom. And, even the class of the demon was reported.

"So, what happened to the demon. Could it be..... it was, defeated?"

A demon alone is already a strong individual. All the more so if it was of Earl class. But, this girl being the hero's successor, expectations will be slightly higher.

"Umu, it was a good experience"

Mira nods, visualizing the battle at that time. The true combat in this world that has become a reality. It gave a certain clean feeling, Mira savored the experience. During the time it was a game, it was not represented with this sense of value.

"I see....., it was defeated. As expected."

Leoneil sent praises in response that didn't fall short of the expectations although he was surprised just as much as he was happy. And so, Mira conveyed the summary of what happened briefly, while consuming two cakes.

"The results, of where Takuto was brought to"

Calmly standing in the shade of the vividly colored wooden hallway after exiting the room, Mira began to mumble to herself. Since entering the Guild Leaders room I've been delayed until the end, I do not know where Takuto was taken.

It can't be helped, Mira utilizing her body perception wasn't able to find Takuto anywhere in the surroundings because of all the biological reactions. Mira thinking it would be fine to simply wait, heads down to the lower floor.

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### Magicians Guild First Floor

Mira, after coming down from the stairs, the hall suddenly became quiet. The cause, was Mira's smiling face.

What is Takuto's aptitude? In the case of summoners I could teach him various things, in that case providing items for contracts would be beneficial.

Mira recalling the days of her original intention, was a single person harboring a delusional future. A gentle smile by which a mother watches her child's simple-mindedness. Everyone who stayed there, was instantly robbed of their time by an angel.

Not knowing that the surroundings had changed, Mira sits in a corner on a seat, killing time by opening Lily's sealed letter.

"Fumu..... what's this?"

A sealed letter that contained a sheet of paper. And there was, as if something had been forgotten to be told.

F 2117, 9, 2

L 2126, 8, 11

K 2132, 6, 18

A 2138, 1, 14

D 2146, 5, 12

Had only been written.

(Is this some sort of code.....?)

Mira glanced at the paper while doubting, Solomon's signature was found on the lower right. Thinking about everything all at once, given that, deciphering with Solomon is impossible. So to speak, a place such as the signature that only Mira understands.

(Fumu. One way or another, Lily is unlikely to have wrote this)

Mira, placing the paper upsidedown on her lap humming, "Sugar, Sugar" gulping down Apple au Lait.

*(TLN: Google-sensei describes Apple au Lait as some kind of apple flavored milk?)*

Sugar intake is effective when you use the brain, forgetting that the cake before was already enough.

Looking at the stairs leading up Takuto still has yet to come, thinking of the Magicians aptitude again Mira stares at the wall, taking a bunch of paper.

(Fantasy world calander feels slightly out of place.)

A picture is drawn on the upper half, while a very basic calender with dates is on the lower half.

"Fumu, this is that sort of thing....."

At that moment, Mira realizes the meaning of the numbers written on the paper. Soloman conveyed in the letter, the additional information of popular commissions.

The first initials of the names uses the Alphabet. The numbers were a date in which they first appeared in this world. Presently, 2146 year 5 month 19 day. Mira came to this world on 5/12 In other words, D stands for Dunbalf while the following numbers are the date.

Normally, a place would come to mind when thinking of a date, but the Nine Sages have outstanding personalities. Based on the date they appeared in this world, it's reasonable to assume some sort of special event occurred. Thinking this, Mira glances at the initials on the paper.

(Flonne, Luminaria, Kagura, Artesia , and myself. It was said that it was checked everyday, and anyone that wasn't written in this, has been in this world before Solomon was.)

Mira was constantly staring out into space, not noticing anything in the surroundings. Standing up in order to inquire about the documents from Leoneil, Eureka accompanied with Takuto came down the stairs.

"It was here wasn't it."

Noticing the figure of Mira, Eureka let out a smile filled with blossoms.

When I went to the Guild Leaders room to convey the results of the aptitude test Mira was no longer there, so I walked around the third floor.

"This is Takuto's magicians aptitude."

Emera presented the letter from the examination, Mira dropped her shoulders the details of the examination were gaudily arranged. Magic conclusion, Sacred Magic, the aptitude for an Onmyouji was briefly described.

Mira's delusion was shattered completely.

"It isn't summoning....."

"All of the magic was handled easily. The amount of magic measured was determined to be above the general average. Takuto-kun has a promising future."

Just as Eureka compliments, Takuto runs up to Mira.

"With this I can be like Mira onee-chan right?"

A sparkling smile. Looking happily like so, I can't stay depressed just because you aren't a summoner.

"Umu, with hardwork you become a splendid summoner."

Mira smiled while giving a big nod. Takuto overflowed with joy hearing the words, displaying a wide smile.

"I am in your debt. Thank you."

"Thanks, Onee-chan"

"No no, If its a request from Mira even if it's something unreasonable I would help"

Eureka was a big fan of Dunbalf, and is currently crazed about the apprentice Mira. With eyes full of energy and hidden desperation, a handshake was requested as a reward. Mira responded with a wry smile.



---

Errands in the guild had ended. As Mira and Takuto leave the guild, the words of Emera were recalled upon looking at the street lights.

"Ahh..... what was it. Spring..... something Inn"

Mira took Takuto's hand while following the memory into the busy night.

(If I'm not mistaken, outside to the left..... or was it? Well, it should fine looking for spring.)

Advancing through the night restlessly, while checking the initials of the shops facing the street. Approaching two people closely, there was a single shadow.

"Good evening. At this time, what's wrong?"

Smiling brightly, wearing a blue and white colored light armor a man appeared in front of the two travelers with a sense of ease.

"Hm? What is it?"

"Good evening, and good work"

In contrast to the comment about good work Mira tilts her head in suspicion, Takuto quickly bows to the presence of the young man.

This young man, a guard soldier of Alkrite Kingdom's National Army Patrol Agency Caranach branch affiliation, is a person who functions like the police. The light armor had the emblem of the Alkrite Kingdom engraved, turning it into a suitable uniform. And the way he talks is natural.

As the day sank into night, Mira and Takuto walking hand in hand resembled siblings. Walking while looking around restlessly, one would normally assume the two to be lost. He was one such person.

"You seem surprised. Sorry. I am part of the Armed Forces National Patrol Agency affiliation, Erwin. May I hear both of your names?"

Mira watched with an indifferent expression, at Erwin introducing himself. Guards of the National Patrol Agency. Mira held admiration for Solomon making these sorts of things for public peace. However, there isn't any memory of speaking with such a man, furthermore with a puzzled look.

"Mira"

"Takuto is fine"

"Mira-chan, and Takuto is it. I wonder what are you two doing at such a time. Are you lost? I could escort you home."

Mira finally consented to the words of Erwin.

Certainly looking objectively, we do look like lost children wandering around aimlessly on a night like this. And I was able to look favorably to the young man that worked earnestly when I wouldn't if I found two such people.

"I'm not a lost child, but I don't know where the Inn where an acquaintance is waiting. Although it's suppose to say Spring, I don't any knowledge of it."

"I see, so it was that kind of reason. Hmm....., When talking about Spring and an Inn, could you mean Spring Snow?"

"Ohh, that's right that's right. It had such a name."

A single word from the depths of a blurry memory, Mira nods to Salvage-san's answer Spring Snow.

"If so, it's a little more ahead. I'll take you there."

Erwin with a smile, takes Mira's free hand and starts walking. Mira was too late to deal with her hand suddenly being taken, unable to break free from the young man, they were guided to Spring Snow.

"Ah, Mira-chan has come. Oh.....?"

Emera had been waiting for the two of them in front of the door of Spring Snow. The figure of Mira and Takuto were walking towards the place, a voice and hand waved out led by hand by a guard soldier, was by all aspects lost children.

"Pufuu! Mira-chan was brought!"

"It's not like that!"

Emera spoke with intense and loudness inside the balloon shop, and Mira denied it with all her strength. As a result, Mira was exposed to the eyes that gathered and Takuto was pulled while slipping into the shadow of Erwin while

looking down.

"Now then, because time is time, you can't stay up late playing."

Erwin who finished the guiding, bowed to Emera after saying so to the two people and went back to patrol.

"..... It was only a mistake."

The Mira peeps out to the entrance of the Spring Snow, Emera and Zef dodges the gaze looking upwards, as a non-convincing excuse was made.

"Yes yes, understood."

"It's been about half a day, but we're comrades aren't we. It's understandable."

"I see, then it is fine."

Emera and Zef nod in agreement. Although they recently met, an understanding was made, Mira loosens her expression. Unaware of the two enduring something.

"Now, Mira-chan hurry up"

Emera takes Mira's hand while saying so, showing her into Spring Snow.

Inside the shop was an open wooden ceiling, on the first floor the reception desk served both the Inn and dining room. Many tables and chairs were simply displayed, Inn guests were seated here and there, fully enjoying the temporary night.

"Ohh, young miss-chan, I've been waiting."

Inside in the corner, Asbel raises his voice from the seat of a big round table waves.

"Mira-chan, over here!"

Before it was noticed, Fricca appeared behind Mira, taking Mira away from Emera showing her to a seat. Then with reason, voluntarily tried to sit down beside as a neighbor. However, Emera had already sat down meeting her eyes with Fricca's, with a broad grin. The eyes were full of will, to protect Mira.

Fricca then moved to secure the seat on the opposite side. However, Takuto

was already there with hands connected to Mira, sitting naturally, happily looking around the busy store. Fricca, having eyes dyed with despair sat in front of Mira face to face, staring to burn the cute image into memory.

When all members finished sitting down, Albel calls the waiter over with a signal.

"First of all, a drink"

Emera expands a menu on the table, which everyone looks at.

"Takuto, is there anything you want to drink?"

"Orange juice is ok"

Mira asked, while Takuto answered. The exchange, was as if it were between siblings on good terms with each other. Asbel while watching the heartwarming scene of the two let out a pleasing smile, ordered a large beer quickly to the waiter. After Emera, Fricca, and Zef ordered, Mira asked for two cups of orange juice.

The waiter left after confirming the order, Zef speaks immediately after.

"Hmm well, I'll distribute the items. First is this"

While saying so, on top of the table sixty-four magic stones and one magic crystal was arranged.

"I want to ask again, is this really fine?"

Emera hesitated to receive the situation, glancing at the magic stone, then looking at Mira

"This matter, I have already finished speaking about it."

"That's true but"

"Its because the vice leader is serious. Well I also don't understand."

Emera looked at the loot with a difficult face. To obtain several hundreds of thousands as income without doing anything. It can't be helped to repeatedly confirm a confirmation on this matter. Because the other members could also understand the feeling, they left the judgement to Emera without saying anything.

"Sorry to keep you waiting."

The bright voice of the waiter hesitated to set down the drinks for the quiet party.

"First a toast."

Emera received a drink from the waiter, turning respectfully. After everyone gets their drinks, the line of sight gathers towards Mira. Takuto reading the atmosphere, puts up his glass with both hands while staring at Mira.

"Nu..... What. Is it me?"

"Afterall, today's leading role is Mira"

Not being familiar with the lead role, Mira was at a loss, nodding at the atmosphere that wasn't bad.

"Umu..... then"

Mira raised her glass, while everyone else followed imitating it.

"A toast to Takuto's magic, Sacred Magic, having the Onmyouji's aptitude!"

"Cheers!hey, that!?"

"ha ha ha ha!It is good. the toast!"

"Mira-chan, bottoms up!"

"Cheers!to Mira-chan's expression which is usually normal!"

"Eh..... umm. Thank you!"

Everyone clangs their glass and raises their voice. Asbel drinks the large mug quickly, laughing cheerfully. Emera also tipped the glass with a smile, since it couldn't be helped. Fricca stared enviously at Mira patting Takuto's head who was wearing a big smile. As Zef shrugged his shoulders, the figure of a person came to the side of the table, and shook his hand lightly.

"It's lively isn't it."

The person who spoke for the waiter was a red long haired man who wore simple red colored light armor. A tall person around the age of twenty, well equipped with androgynous features, it wasn't strange to mistake him as a

women hearing the voice.

"The girl over there, is the apprentice from the story?"

"Yes. That is Mira-chan. The boy beside her is Takuto."

The man sends a glance towards Mira giving a slight smile and bowing lightly, hearing Fricca.

"I am the leader of Ecarlatte Carillon, my name is Cyril. It seems our members have been taken care of. Thank you very much"

"You don't need to thank me. It was much more fun than going alone."

"Really? then that's good."

Cyril happy from Mira's compliment, answered with a smile. However, there was a person much happier than Cyril.

"Mira-chan, that's how we are!"

Emera gazes at Mira expressing a deep emotion of fullness from the heart. Although they did not serve any purpose in the adventure, the pleasant words spoken from Mira, gave them both embarrassment and joy.

"Me too, I thought it was also fun"

"whaa!?"

A person even happier than Emera, climbed up Mira's legs from underneath the table. Mira caught off guard reflexively raises her legs, splendidly kicking Fricca's stomach with tip of her shoes.

Pulled by the legs Asbel peeled off Fricca who fainted in agony with an expression full of pleasure off of Mira, while Cyril watched with a wry smile.

"Has Fricca been troubling along the way?"

"Magnificently"

"..... Sorry"

"..... Well, I don't mind."

The exchange between Cyril and Mira was short, Fricca was gasping for breath on a seat, was actually beautiful if she remained quiet, remembering the same

impression a sigh was exhaled. Meanwhile, Emera was still absorbed in a deep emotion, loosening up with a grin.

"By the way, is that today's loot? It's an amazing amount"

Cyril raised a voice of admiration looking at the magic stone on the table. It was an amount that was too much to be collected in a day.

"Really, Mira-chan defeated everything. But, Mira-chan insists everything to be distributed. So generous."

"Is that so? There's also a magic crystal to. It'll be a considerable amount of money."

It can be said that a majority of the loot belongs to Mira. And the total amount, can easily be estimated to be around one million Riffs.

*(TLN: Riffs are the currency?)*

That's equivalent to the cost of living in a home for four months. If Mira insists on a right, nothing could be said because everyone would understand. Still, Mira insists on a proper distribution. During the time of the game this was common sense, from the perspective of others it reflects a person of a softhearted nature.

"Oh, there was also a weapon."

"Oh yea, a large scythe. Something the enemy was carrying, it was also the time we got acquainted with Mira-chan's Dark Knight."

"Is it a large scythe? What is it?"

"Well....."

In front of Cyril who showed interest, Emera retrieves the scythe that dropped from the demon from the item box. Emera unable to lift it with her hands due to the heaviness, it fell to the floor and rolled around with a "dosuri".

"..... this is unlucky isn't it"

Cyril while saying so, takes the handle of the large jet black scythe and lifts it. With an arm identical to Zef's, and Asbel who was almost two times stronger was barely able to hold the scythe, Cyril did it with one hand.

When it seemed to look heavy, Mira was interested in the muscle strength of Cyril is and gazed his figure.

"Nu.....?"

Involuntarily leaking a voice of surprise. Cyril's status did not appear. Judging by what was taught by Solomon, the person called Cyril proves to be a former player.

"Whats wrong, Mira-chan?"

Every word's slightest effort wasn't overlooked in Fricca's behavior, Mira who noticed could avert her eyes and speak.

"Nu. On no, it is nothing. That scythe was lifted easily, so I just thought it was wonderful."

That reminds me, I forgot to ask Solomon about the handling of former players in this world, Instead Mira is taken about Cyril's muscle strength which can't be judged by appearance. Such a thing is surprising if Cyril is a former player indeed, however without also knowing the situation it isn't possible to say.

"That is because, it is our leader. How is it? Amazing right?"

Asbel proudly raises his voice. And it isn't only him, Emera proudly boasts of Dunbalf's apprentice.

"No, I still have a long way to go."

The person in questions humbly replies with a bitter smile. Cyril himself, is not so weak, in addition above it knowledge was repeatedly present. And the people who agree to the reasoning aren't present. Therefore the words were sincere. However as for Emera, Cyril's ability is overwhelming, having no self-conceit garnered him respect.

"Aside from that, this thing is considerable."

"Well, it is difficult to handle. In the case of Emera's guild members, it won't be misused. If there is a person who can use it, why not give it to them?"

"I see, so there was such a reason..... However I would like to say, is it ok to place trust in us since it hasn't been long? It might not be a good idea it might



not be passed to a good person."

"Well, in those circumstances, it can be said that it can be trusted. Indeed has been short, but I've come to like Emera. If there is by any possibility something happens, I will take responsibility, and collect it"

Mira directs her gaze into Cyrils eyes saying so. Cyril holds and nods while receiving the will and the decision included among there certainly.

"I believe in my comrades, thank you very much. I will take responsibility for this."

"Umu, I hope to get along with you."

After Mira and Cyril's exchange, all of Ecarlatte Carillon let out a breath of relief, after the troublesome words of Mira a drink was ordered from the clerk, and a toast was once again in order with Cyril.

## Chapter 34: Exchange Conditions

While eating their own meals, the leader of Ecarlatte Carillon became preoccupied with talking about mainly the Ancient Shrine. Alfina did a throat strike, Zef responded. Having gone through a lot of trouble getting the spirit sword, it wasn't used once said Emera. Mira was missing the common sense of adventurers, and the gap between talent was amazing added Asbel. Mira's cuteness never ends, Fricca enamored. From the exciting chatter, Cyril had a few envious thoughts towards Mira. Every now and then, "That's true?" among things like, "I think so?" Along with prompt agreements, "That would be so." and responses like "Mira-chan is mine!" followed by strong denials were heard.

Mira, while hearing Emera's cheerful conversation, wiped Takuto's mouth occasionally, as additional drinks were ordered.

Proceeding the last conversation, in addition to the magic stones, distribution of materials stripped from demons also becomes part of the conversation. In conclusion, the demon was wiped as expected, because it cannot be arranged on the dining table, the demon's materials will be distributed later in a private room.

One way or another the distribution was completed, while everyone was drunk and full of food, a single man opened the door to Spring Snow. "Clank Clank" Asbel turned his sight towards the sound of the bell, where a familiar face stood.

"Oh, if it isn't Kilik. You came at just the right time!"

The young man named Kilik. He's a member of Ecarlatte Carillon, donning a dull black armor. Though his expressionless face is hard to read, turning around the moment he heard Asbel, an almost unnoticeable smile was revealed. The difference couldn't be compared even if you placed photos side by side, having known each other for a long time Asbel understood Kilik was in a good mood.

"What is that Asbel-san? The right time?"

Kilik approaches everyone at the table, then asks in a monotone voice.

"There was something in today's loot that would suit you, it was intended to be handed to you when coming back"

While saying so, Asbel gives Mira a signal with his eyes. Kilik, redirecting his gaze, caught sight of the magical girl.

*(TLN: “魔法少女” translates into “Mahou Shoujo”. I-is this the birth of magical girl Mira?!!)*

"Cute....."

Kilik mutters in a voice that was inaudible. Mira cheerfully munching on a tart for desert, became flustered after noticing the gaze, and let out a cough.

"I see, you must be a comrade of Emera's group, a dark knight right?"

Mira had only heard from conversations, and referred to the contents with the appearance of Kilik.

"Certainly, I am a Dark Knight however.....Asbel-san, what is the meaning of this?"

"You're pretty lucky"

Asbel stands up, hitting the shoulder of Kilik, as Cyril presents the scythe.

"This is.....? There's a lot of energy coming from it, what's going on with this?"

With the large black scythe in front of him, Kilik becomes wide eye'd. Only Dark Knights could feel the power of darkness, the power of hell fire that seemed to crawl about.

"The young lady over there, wanted me to pass it to someone that could use it. In our guild, you seem to be the only one capable of using it. For the time being, it's yours to use."

While saying so, Asbel passed over the scythe forcefully with a jerk. Kilik involuntarily receiving it, shuddered at the overwhelming power.

"How is it, can you use it?"

Asking Kilik, the scythe is dropped slightly and then set back up with both

hands. Mixing his energy with the scythe, Kilik's body gradually adapts to it.

"This is..... There is a a lot of power, but I can probably still use it."

Mira watched as Kilik answered, letting out a sigh of admiration. Asbel using both hands was only able to utilize it to a certain degree, Kilik however did not waver in the slightest controlling it.

"How's that, jou-chan. This guy is able to use it. I can also guarantee this guy's personality. although visually he seems dark, he's a kind man that donates to the orphanage "

"Eh..... Asbel-san. Why do you know that?"

For an instant, while nearly dropping the scythe, Kilik becomes flustered from Asbels words. Having been an orphan, secret donations were made in order to repay the priest, whom took care of orphanage. However, to Kiliks question,

"It's something all the members knew"

Teasingly saying so, Zef smiles along with the rest of Ecarlatte Carillon, who all gently send thier gaze towards Kilik.

Kilik's expressionless face was completely destroyed as he blushed, Mira was convinced there would be no problem if it was this person.

"Isn't it fine. That person..... Or perhaps I should say Kilik? I'll leave it to you. Devote yourself to using it, moreover please satisfy the children."

"Thats good isn't it, Kilick. You've been approved."

"Well, errr..... Though I understand I can have it, this is quite a thing. I can make use of it?"

"Umu. For the sake of the world, or people it would make me happy if you make use of it."

The scythe was completely different from the previous one used, Kilik was perplexed and embarrassed from his question being answered, straightforwardly by Mira. In response to the expression, Kilik straightens his posture.

"Thank you very much. I promise to never act irrationally."

Receiving Mira's sincerity; the young girl who looked much younger, Kilik accepted the good will without hesitation. The surrounding guests return back to their original conversation immediately after glancing over Kilik for a moment. Emera and the others facing Kilik smiled, watching his expression.

"U..... Umu. You..... are welcome?"

Mira was taken aback from Kilik's serious attitude, after returning the reply she stuffed her face with the tart out of embarrassment.

"That aside, after receiving something this good, is there anything I can do in return?"

Kilik carefully placed the scythe into his item box, while asking Mira.

"Returning the favor....."

It was given only because it wasn't needed, Mira was baffled when considering the favor. But, Kilik not backing down, had eyes burning with determination. There was a huge difference from the emotionless expression when he first returned to the inn.

"That's right. I too, would like to thank you as the guild leader. From this matter, our war potential as increased considerably"

"Nuu"

The leader of Ecarlette Carillon had ambushed Mira, clogging her words. Cyril wasn't able to simply just take the offer. Agreeing with each other, Emera and the rest of the group poured their sight onto Mira.

Mira realized from the intense stares, it couldn't be left unanswered. After considering whether there was anything for a while, a memory was recalled that happened not too long ago.

"If you ask to that extend, then I'll rely on you a little."

"Yes, leave it to me."

Cyril nods at Mira's words. Smiling wryly listening to the conversation, Mira takes out a piece of paper from a sealed letter.

"From today, I want you to investigate for any incident or event, regarding a

few dates. How's that, can you do it?"

"This is gathering information? Among us we have a member skilled at information gathering, so there shouldn't be a problem. Just give us the word"

Cyril takes out a piece of paper and pen after saying so, seemingly as if he's ready to jot down a poem at any time, while waiting for Mira to speak.

"2117 year 9 month 20 day.

2132 year 6 month 18 day.

2138 year 1 month 14 day.

That is all. Don't mind any kind of trivial event. If there is something, I want you to tell me"

As Mira finishes talking, Cyril's hand stops writing, and confirms the dates. After Mira confirms the contents, Cyril puts the pen and notes away.

"Let's leave it to an expert member of Ecarlatte Carillon that excel in intelligence. Also, I don't know the meaning of these dates, however I promise to never leak any information found."

"Umu, that saves me trouble."

It won't be realized easily, the thing that is most important to Alkite Kingdom, the Nine Sages. It isn't something to ask for from adventurers of the guild, just as much as it is for national secret agents that move around unskillfully, on the contrary this person might be good at camouflage. Mira thought so.

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Negotiations ended, with no more topics to ramble on with, the bell on the shops wall rang out signaling it was 8:00pm. Mira looking up to the sound for the first time, checks the time.

"It's already such a time. Takuto it's very late, what time do you have to return to your grandfathers house?"

After Takuto parted from his parents, he had been taken care of in his grandfather's house. Takuto's expression turned strange, after Mira had remembered and asked. Just a while ago the expression that was shown was a

happy one, now the eyes were wandering around awkwardly.

"By any chance, did you come out without saying anything?"

Mira stares fixedly, Takuto startled directs his sight towards Mira. From that appearance, it was clear that nothing was said to his grandfather. And in this particular matter, a child such as Takuto going into a C rank dungeon with an adventurer, there was no way a parent would approve. Mira, spilling out a sigh while tracing her chin with a finger, stares into Takuto's eyes. Takuto, aware that it was something bad, shrugged his shoulders dejectedly.

"When you were told your parents died Takuto, it wasn't only you that was sad. Your grandfather must have also been equally, or much more sad."

"Yes....."

"At such a time worrying, what should you do? Do you want to make your grandfather worried?"

Takuto shook his head from side to side without saying anything.

"That's right. When going out, leave only after saying where you're going. Promise."

While saying so, Mira pats the head of Takuto who seems depressed.

"Yeah!"

Takuto, engraving the words into his heart, nods. "Good child" Embracing Takuto, inside of Mira's warm hug, a hallucination of Takuto's mother buried deep in a distant memory surfaced within him.

"Mira-chan in Onee-chan mode.....-"

"Read the atmosphere"

Fricca snorted directing an intense stare at the two, was held back by Emera's hands.

"It isn't Fricca-chan, Mira has just become sort of mature"

"Oh, what a lolicon. Is that an excuse for yourself?"

"Aree? Are you still dragging around that joke!?"

Zef replies with a refreshing look, Asbel immediately takes up the new title. Zef facing the leader was showing disgrace.

"I want to hear that in detail"

"Zef-san, do you not like big breasts?"

Cyril and Kilik took pursuit, casually exposing his fetish. As a result, Zef's embarrassing title, will be exposed to all members of Ecarlatte Carillon.

"Then, I'll take Takuto back and return"

Saying so, Mira stands up along with Takuto. However, immediately a voice was heard

"Ojou-chan. There's still some material that hasn't been distributed, what'll be done?"

With those words, Mira recalled the materials acquired from the demon. Nevertheless, the materials could be said to not be needed, the eyes of everyone were shining.

"Then, I will come back after taking Takuto"

"Then, I'll take him."

Right as Mira says so, Cyril hearing the conversation of the demon materials, offers to take Takuto instead.

"No, but"

Speaking from the start, because of the promise, Cyril who has no relations to what happened and should not be given any trouble. As Mira is about to refuse, Kilik stands up.

"I'll also go together. Although something like this isn't enough to repay the favor, allow me to help. If it's me and the leader, with the both of us it should be safe"

Certainly, although Takuto's safety was guaranteed Mira was still reluctant.

"Mira-chan if you go, you might lose your way by mistake again."

Mira recalled the recent memory of Emera's teasing, and slightly approved it while bowing her head.



"Mira onee-chan, Emera onee-chan, Asbel oji-san、Fricca onee-chan, Zef onii-chan. That you very much. Right now, although I can't do much, someday I'll be sure to return."

Takuto standing up, bows deeply. Never forgetting today, Takuto made up his mind, and decided to become a wonderful adventurer.

Takuto raising his head from the long bow, hid his determination with his appreciation, with a slightly adult like expression.

"Then see you around. Takuto-kun"

"When I become an adventurer, please instruct me"

"If you become a magician, I'll teach you what needs to be known. So come and learn anytime."

"Oji-chan.....?"

Emera and the group all gathered by Takuto and stroked his head. Takuto, for an instant smiled with the face that was suited for that of a child.

"Well, how to say..... You can tell your grandfather that your parents are still alive. He'll surely be overjoyed. And also, you have three different paths you can take as a Magician. That is to say, you have a precious kind of talent. If, you aim to be one, it is good to visit a tower. You'll be welcomed. However, don't forget to tell your grandfather"

Saying so Mira pets his head last, as Takuto gives his best smile so far, "Yes!" with that reply. For Takuto, it is all thanks to this one girl. Mira answered immediately as she heard the reason, Emera worrying about it also went along with her comrades, and while he was unaware he became surrounded by such good people. Sincerely grateful for the good fortune tied to his heart, Takuto exited the area.

Mira bid farewell, to Takuto under the light of a person shining in the darkness of the night, with a big gift on his chest, being escorted home by the leader and a member of the famous guild Ecarlatte Carillon.

After finishing the explanation to Takuto's grandfather, Cyril and Kilik returned to Spring Snow behind the scenes, as lightning akin to angry words

began to resound.

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"Mira-chan! Not only Takuto, but also welcome me!"

Immediately following Takuto's return, Fricca just moments ago heard Mira's unbelievable words, clinging to them. That is to say, the welcoming reception mentioned upon visiting the tower.

Not only just Alkrite Kingdoms, but the Nine Towers are also the greatest magic research organizations in the continent. Having a little prestige isn't enough to gain entrance.

Even first class adventurers would be laughed at in such a place. Those that are beyond the best that spend their time researching day and night, an eccentric person's home. That is the Silver Tower.

In Mira's case, being the apprentice of Dunbalf the person of the highest ranking, it's clear that the requirement to enter the tower is defeating a demon. Although it couldn't be determined by Fricca, Mira who had mentioned being welcomed could be said to already be influential in the tower. And not to mention, the Silver Tower, Fricca being a magician, that place could be considered a sacred ground.

"Mira-chan, at most just show me a little p-l-e-a-s-e-!"

Unlike Fricca's usual eyes stained with sexual desire chasing after Mira, they were filled with a magician's curiosity and envy as if they were hidden away.

"What! what!, I understand that's why let go!"

Fricca right now, was like a beast pouncing on its prey. Right now as if catching prey, they were filled with vigor not letting go. Although Mira had not been touched, she felt a deep attachment that permeated about, which was acknowledged as something inescapable.

"I love you Mira!"

Emera intercepting the conversation had assumed that Fricca had gotten excited over receiving permission from Mira and was flying about. This talk along with Takuto had settled down.

Settling down Mira and the others ended the party, to gather in Zef's room on the second floor of Spring Snow.

"Now, time for the second material distribution."

Zef, from his item window, began to drag the demon materials one by one onto the top of the table. Two curved horns, eight nails emitting a black luster, jet-black skin, and two wings. Everything gave off a sinister feeling, Emera felt as if they were cursed. However, Fricca who was quiet seemed to understand, that all of it was just in ones imagination.

"However seeing it again like this..... how to say, it's pretty amazing."

"Yes that's right. Even the magic inside the finger nails are considerable. From the appearance both the power and flame are hidden, if you make a magic weapon with this, a very powerful weapon could be made."

Asbel lets out a sigh as he stares at the demon's materials. Fricca picks up one of the nails and fixedly stares at it straining her eyes. Emera who was watching the surroundings quickly reacted to Fricca's words.

"Magic fire sword.....!"

Emera with an unhealthy obsession towards swords, blew off the negative feelings from earlier, and looked at the demon nails scattered on the table with shining eyes.

"Now then, First of all the distribution of these..... Mira-chan, is it really ok to take these? Because of the role we played it's hard to find reason."

".....that is so"

How many times would the question need to be asked to be understood. Emera who had soared with excitement, was brought back to reality by Zef's words. The demon wasn't something they could beat. Contrary to that, if it was just Mira, it would have become a cold corpse, buried secretly in the underground graveyard.

"Repetitive. If it is to become a matter of concern, you should keep in mind the request I asked for a while ago. The information I want isn't something trivial. Presently, I do not have anything better"

At Mira's words, Zef and Asbel look at each other, and shrug. From the very beginning, because of that, Fricca took notes alongside Cyril when Mira displayed the date.

"Leave it to me!"

The fire in Emera's eyes once again light up.

"Well, anyways. jou-chan, take something you like from this. We'll divide the remainder"

".....fumu, I understand"

As Mira answers, she glances over the table. Demon Skin, appropriate for processing into equipment in the armor system .Although there aren't equipment restrictions, it would have an adverse effect if the user had low strength and stamina. Now that this has become a reality, it could possibly be more remarkable. Mira judged that the two stat's did not make a difference for the demon skin. Although it could be processed into material for reinforcing robes, Mira who was concerned visually, had never worn such a robe. It wasn't possible to say with the current clothes.

Demon's finger nails, it had extraordinary compatibility with magic tool and magic equipment making. Wings, they are often used as reinforcement for magic tools and armor. However, there was something that was more compatible with Mira than everything else. Demon horns.

"Then, I shall take this fellow."

Saying so, Mira takes both horns.

"Jou-chan, is it fine with just that? There's no need to be reserved. As for us, anything is a considerable reward."

To have chosen just two horns, Asbel asked Mira after she had retracted her hand. Asbel uttered, that materials of the demons thought to have gone extinct, was traded at a high price. Ancient battlefield like historic ruins, geological formation etc, because the materials of an old demon was rarely excavated. Regarding that now, since the demon materials were still fresh, the value would become much higher.

"I'm satisfied with this. The others are likely too much to handle"

Of course the horns Mira took was still considerable, above all else it was excellent for Mira's refining skill.

"Well, If Mira-chan says so. Then, shall we divide the rest?"

Zef who judged that Mira no longer needed anything else, turned his sight towards the table saying so. At the same time, an outstretched hand on the table, had drawn back gripping the demon's fingernails.

"Sub leader....."

Zef, Asbel, and Fricca turned a cold glance towards Ecarlatte Carillon's sub leader Emera. From around the time the magic fire sword was mentioned, the demon's finger nail was aimed at out of eagerness. Like a dog that had been told to[wait].

"Eh..... because everything is fine, right?"

In the case of swords, Emera became blinded changing completely from the usually reliable onee-chan.

As a result, Emera obtained six fingernails, Asbel took the skin, Fricca the wings, and Zef ended the distribution with the remaining two fingernails and some skin.

"Now then, shall we return? It was quite fun."

Mira saying so while watching the time, as Emera's group bows towards Mira. Mira surprised by the sudden actions, chose to not say anything and waited.

"We're alive thanks to Mira-chan. Again I give you my thanks. Thank you."

Emera let out a shockingly warm smile.

"Thanks, jou-chan. not only this life, but even to receive such things"

"Thank you very much, Mira-chan. Someday this favor will be returned. Tell me your contact information if possible....."

"Me too, because of you I was able to give it up in various ways. Thanks"

As Fricca was blocked by Emera halfway through, Zef in no time at all had taken the back.

Mira was once again directed towards the words of gratitude, with eyes swimming around embarrassingly.

"What? That's not something to be thanked for."

Saying so while looking away. However her cheeks were dyed red while smiling, altogether it wasn't bad.

"Mira-chan, cute!"

Of course, the figure of Fricca not being able to endure, pulled down the curtains leading to a series of certain events.

## Chapter 35: Scarlet Bell

The following morning at the Ancient Shrine.

The previous day, there weren't any traces of a person, but a clue was able to be found. Business with Garrett ordered from Solomon was completed, and progress to return back was to begin once preparations were finished. However because of that, preparations would take some time, thus Mira had gone to the town of Caranach to kill time.

"Good morning, Mira-san"

Caranach's number one Inn, Summer Lantern Mira was spoken to immediately, glancing at the other party quizzically. So as not to stand out, they wore plain clothes and a wide hat that covered one's eyes.

"Oh it's you. Good morning. Coincidence..... it doesn't seem so."

That person was, the leader of Ecarlatte Carillon. Leaning against the wall, he got up to stretch, then walked towards Mira.

"I've been waiting. I'd like to talk with you for a bit"

Cyril without any malice, spoke truthfully from his feelings. Mira wondering why, immediately arrives at the conclusion. It was something Mira desired to know as well.

"You and I, we're both former players"

"Correct. That was fast it saves me trouble."

Cyril affirmed so, directing a carefree smile. Most women would become mutilated if exposed to Cyril's smile, and well-kept features. Moreover from his gender neutral features, Mira normally uninterested in men was shocked slightly.

Apart from Mira with the exception of Solomon and Luminaria, It was pleasant knowing another former player. Yesterday night, because Emera's group was present it wasn't a good time to talk .

"Well then, shall we change locations? We won't be able to talk here"

"Agree'd, let's go to my favorite place"

Mira with a birds eye view of the main street seemed energized, Cyril nodding immediately started to move. Not knowing when Mira would come out of the Inn, Cyril had been on the lookout skipping breakfast. In the meantime, the marble juice was put back into the item box, after deceiving himself the need to eat.

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The favorite place Cyril lead Mira to was, Cafe de Chocola. It was the coffee shop where Emera was first met at. Entering immediately a blend of coffee and cafe au lait, along with a Chinese breakfast course and chocolate tick overload was ordered. Going through a gap in customers eating at one o'clock before scattering back to business, Mira and Cyril secure a seat in the corner of the shop.

"Daring right from the morning aren't you"

"There's always room for dessert"

From Mira's orders, Cyril seemed to have been astonished, to Mira that spouted words only a girl would say. To Mira whom loved sweets, among the words of woman to the occasional incomprehensible behavior, only this was strongly understood.

"However, there is also you. It's surprising to see chinese food in this world's shop"

"That is because, the owner here is a former player."

Mira spoke carelessly unconcerned, rising up to overlooking the shop with a birds eye view.

"I am away right now. is what you can say, since this is a branch office she rarely comes"

"Fumu. That is sufficient....."



To that extent, the person was not critically questioned, there could have possibly been a number of former players passing each other that exist. How many former players have come to this world? Mira was thinking of such things, while sipping her cafe au lait that had been carried earlier than the main dish.

"From your way of speaking, by any chance has not a lot of time passed since coming to this world for you?"

"Umu, It has been roughly a week"

"Just as I had thought"

There are a lot of former players, that are outstanding people. For combat it would be adventurer knights, for production it would be craftsmen. Being a powerful member Cyril grasped as such, however the person whom Emera reported that overwhelmed a demon of earl rank, there was a limit among them. Cyril is somehow able to defeat one of the earl rank himself, however the report was an impossible story of one sided-ly handling it without being injured.

During these thirty years. Former players have been confirmed to be suddenly appearing in this world. It was better to think in that line of thought with certainty, Cyril had guessed.

"It's well understood"

"There are a lot of precedents right? Aside from that, you are Dunbalf-san's apprentice?"

"Ahh..... umu, that is so"

In case of a former player, the possibility of knowing the likes of Dunbalf is high. Mira said it humbly, not wanting the real nature came out to avoid losing dignity.

"So there was such a player, it was never heard or seen of when it was still a game..... Perhaps an acquaintance from the real world "RLF" is it?"

Cyril thought. During the game era, there weren't many players with the same fighting style as Dunbalf. It may be they didn't come out simply to not stand out in the battlefield. Or, there still wasn't anyone strong enough to be on the

battlefield. However, coming to this world with such ability, to overwhelm a demon of the earl class is almost impossible. In other words, they originally already had that power from the start.

On the battlefield with that much power it's possible to cut directly into a high rank. However, the girl named Mira with the same fighting style as Dunbalf, there's no memory of her in Alkite Kingdom, nor is there any information with her being around the Nine Sages. Because even rumors of her existence was never heard of in the game, it leads to suspecting they have a connection in real life. That fighting style is not something you can imitate just by looking. Firstly, the second class, the premise to learn those skills was devised by Dunbalf. On top of that, with Xian expert as the second class, it barely made an entrance. Learning the second class special skills is another factor, since the learning method was never revealed. With that said, the person them-self could be thought to have accidentally discovered it, being an online game he could monopolize it without telling anyone the secret if it's a strong skill. Cyril, along other players, thought such things would surely be hidden.

Such a special skill, that Mira had mastered. In other words, a familiar existence must have taught the secret information. Possibly a connection with a friend, family, or lover in reality. Referring to them as RLF.

"Ah. actually, Mira-san is Dunbalf-san"

Cyril, thinking of another possibility, smiles at his joke. If that were the case, by now Alkite kingdom would have celebrated the return of the Nine Sages, Cyril laughs while remembering when Luminaria appeared in this world.

Mira silently held the cafe au lait in her mouth, in great effort to maintain a smile.

(Extremely correct! What should I do!? No no, judging from his way of speaking it was a joke. In that case, is the correct response to laugh it off as a joke? Or, if I laugh while saying it's the correct answer would it be taken for a joke? Where is the right answer!)

Mira fighting the urge to roll over, creates a huge great argument in her mind. In that short instance, Mira makes up her mind and opens her mouth.

".....Something like that isn't possible. He's a RLF. I asked him to teach me many things in reality. It was separate from the game foundation. Log ins were

irregular, so simply speaking it was unnatural to know about me."

While speaking of the impossibility, Mira improvised a calm collected expression to not be exposed. At this occasion, RLF the word said by Cyril was included.

"I see, so it was such a thing?"

Cyril accepted it without any doubt. More or less, the charge item called the Vanity Case which allows configuring the appearance came to mind. However for Dunbalf, there was a famous story that he had extraordinary feelings for the appearance of himself. Rather than performance, he would choose a robe overflowing with dignity placing importance on appearance over something offering over one-hundred agility. That kind of player would never change his appearance. That preconception was committed.

(Convinced.....? He seems to be.....?)

Although Mira timidly looks at Cyril's expression, the color of clear contempt was not seen. From that appearance, a sigh of relief was heaved for the excuse that somehow worked.

After that, the rest of the order came without further pursuit Mira with shabby impatience, restlessly transported parts of the chocolate cake platter into her mouth.

While the two people ate, a heated discussion from the time of the game bloomed.

"By the way, when you had come to this world how was it? And how have you spent your time?"

During the middle of the talk, words of the Nine Sages come out, Mira quickly changes the topic before anything slips out. At the same time, there was also a good mood. Former players, what kind of life do they have in this world?

"Let's see. Because there wasn't any difference in time, the time lag came ten days after I arrived. Ah, having only just come, are you aware of the first day it began?"

"Fuumu. That's the first I've heard of those words"

"Hmm, the players existing in this world, members have been present since Sept. 14, 2116 Listening to the date when coming to this world confirmed by the players, it is one of the oldest, as well as being the same date of the real world in game. So the beginning of the event was September 14, 2116"

"September 14, was it. I was playing on that day also."

Mira going back over her vague memory, remembers the date when an expired email bill had arrived. Recalling that it was the previous day of that certain date.

"Delayed thirty years, the day you were playing didn't change?"

"It looks like it"

Mira answered a little, considering the time difference, nothing was understood. So that thought was abandoned early.

"I was puzzled at first. The atmosphere suddenly became fresh, and when injured by a demon in battle, it was already unbearably painful. Even if you didn't understand the situation and try to log out, the entry was no longer there. I was pretty impatient at that time.

In a hurry I took refuge in a nearby village, I was stunned for a while. No one I know was close, I was alone and at a loss, in such a case, there was a woman whom I talked to. That is, they were not a player that was confused in the same situation nor were they a friend. That woman was someone I had passed without ever worrying about until now, an NPC."

Cyril looking into the distance, continued to talk remembering that time.

"I seemed to look terrible, becoming worried I began to talk. Of course, such actions of an NPC had been considerably surprising for the first time.

But honestly, I had given up at that time, and clung to her. After that for a while, I became dependent in her home, along with helping around the house and getting rid of monsters on a highway and around the neighborhood. After about a year, I noticed myself exchanging greetings people around the village. I at that time, accepted this reality in the truest sense of the word. And I thought the same time, there may be more that I can do.

It isn't possible to make a stand without thinking so, reducing the damage

around the village from a monster, I began to teach the younger people how to fight. It took a long time, but I decided to go on a journey to settle down. It was also for the purpose of finding players in the same circumstances, above all to be more useful, it might have been something shameless. The smiles directed from the village people, it easily dispelled the feelings of the old days. Wanting to see more, and wanting to please more. I accepted such a thing, wanting to repaying the kindness back to the people of this world. But that in itself was self-satisfaction, I couldn't help moving"

Ending, and seperating from the words, Cyril takes his coffee with a gentle smiling face, breathing out deeply looking seriously at Mira.

"It was a journey that began for self-satisfaction, It was possible to know the situation of the other players immediately so it was laughable. The village where I was seems to have been quite the countryside. Beyond the mountain, I was astonished meeting a friend immediately at the adventurer's guild arriving at the slightly bigger town.

I had various things to tell that friend. We heard a variety of changes and events, as a result of the adventurer's guild, I understood that it was a place where I wanted be. I immediately registered.

Then, I continued my travel while receiving various requests with my companion who sympathized with me. Mira-san knows both people, Asbel and Emera. For a little while, we were doing three man requests, and the number of those who sympathized gradually increased. So I took a plunge, and decided to launch the current guild."

The organization of Ecarlatte Carillon. Single mindedly, it was the result of people who took on Cyril's beliefs. Although the person in question, they said it was self-satisfaction, however it wasn't something just anyone could do. Mira gave some feedback admiring the conduct. Along with the reason why it was spoken of here, slight suspicion grew.

"The members increased, and it spread considerably doing it. Nevertheless saving who we can, only the things which this hand can reach. No matter how desperately someone holds out an arm, sometimes it's not possible to grasp and like that it was unable to be caught. Frustration upon frustration, more widely, and more distant I wished for a hand that could reach"

Cyril spoke from the bottom of his heart that seemed to be filled with regret, once again he opened his mouth asserting his words with meaning.

"Mira-san, will you join my guild?"

Briefly, with all his emotions, Cyril spoke his words.

(Fumu, just as I thought)

Mira, passing the sweetness around in her mouth with the cafe au lait, was looking straight into Cyril's eyes. From his expression, the pain and seriousness comes through. Just that, the regret of not being able to save people is deep, and was probably mortifying. Mira also felt that Cyril's words was from his true feelings.

"Rather than unexpected. Not yet, there are still things that I must do"

However Mira, had promises with Solomon of searching out former companions, as a result that would also lead to protecting the country. Mira hearing the story, thought Cyril's actions were fine. Even if a person with the same thoughts became his friend. But however, that wasn't a reason to throw away the wishes of a close friend.

"Is that so..... I knew somehow it would be declined. A useless guy like me. The thing you must do, it must be connected to the dates."

Cyril seems to truly be disappointed, however it was hidden with a burp and smile.

"Umu, that's right. I can't enter the guild, but I can try to promise to help those I encounter on the way that ask. How is that?"

Cyril hearing the words of Mira, at this time gave a wide smile along with saying "Thank you", and bowed.

"As promised, if something is found, it will be reported to the Adventurer's Guild"

"Umu, I hope to get along with you. Also I'll be leaving today, send my regards to everyone"

"Understood"

---

When the two people finished eating, in the place they went of Cafe de Chocola, farewells were exchanged when they split ways. The two people had separate paths, however the direction of their hearts were one in the same.

(Now then, Garrett should be finished with the preparations by now.)

Although it was a short time, looking around the town of Caranach where various people were met, Mira headed back to Summer Lantern.

The current time was slightly before noon. Adventurers and guards came and went on the main street, hard working housewives haggling with baskets was reflected in the field of view. The vibrant streets calmed the mind, promoting Mira to leisurely walk around, suddenly stopping with something catching her eye.

It was there just ahead of the line of sight, one store with nothing on it. It was lined with various goods, thriving with a few people in its own way. Mira approached, and wandered into the shop. While staring at one of the various goods, and wondering why such a simple thing didn't come up, a wry smile to her own stupidity appeared.

Standing in front of the store, it was spread out so that a set hands could grab it, it was a simplified design of the original one, by all odds it was the robe of the sage.

(I've never worn clothes fluttering with integrity. I'll buy things I like!)

Mira who noticed it confirmed the price tag on the shelf for the robe of the wise man that was lined up in the store. Sage's robe replica and brand name was there, the price was 5000 riffs. Whether such a thing had additional effects, Mira from within a variety of shades, chose the most familiar one (Summoner) replica, easily knowing the length, and was triumphant after the purchase was completed.

With a calming skip that was likely unconsciously done, Mira rushed over to Summer Lantern in a trot embracing the robe that was bought. Becoming bathed in attention while rushing with Ground Shrink, a Xian Skill, it took no more than a minute.

When finally arriving at the inn, with a quick greeting she jumped into the room, quickly becoming a figure in a one piece panty. Completely giving up on the bra.

Without the need of patience. The Mira slipped through the sleeves in one go, wearing the replica sage robe that was bought with a large smile that the face couldn't contain.

In Caranach's number one inn, inside the best room. Standing in front of the full-length mirror, Mira looking at her figure nodded frequently.

"I am, cool and cute"

Mira slightly muttered, arranging her hair while grinning.

The name of the shop where Mira came to was [The Moon and Silver Tower Special Product Company Caranach Branch], simply put, it was a souvenir shop of Alkrite Kingdom.

At this time, Mira had not yet noticed the childish appearance, why was there a robe to which the size matched?



## Chapter 36: Report

Requiem City Caranach, departure time 3 days. Nostalgia was felt soaking in the air, as Mira arrived at Lunatic Lake the capital of Alkite Kingdom in the middle of noon, and was guided by a maid to Solomon's Oval Office.

Being circled first by the maids, the feeling of nervousness was felt, as thoughts of being made to become a dress-up doll surfaced, however I arrived at the Oval office with no problems which calmed my heart.

Knocking on the door a maid replies "If you'll excuse me." opening the door. Mira entered the office, and the sound of the door that closes quietly behind is heard.

"Welcome back. It has been about one week. So, what did you find?"

In the room was only two people, Mira and Solomon. Solomon speaking in a tone only with friends, asked while throwing a document from his hand.

"Unfortunately, there was nothing. However there were traces. It could also be a clue."

Mira opens her item list while saying so, and then begins to pick out some of the documents from inside the castle in the Ancient Shrine. Solomon set aside his documents on the desk in the corner roughly, while taking some of the materials which piled up in sequence.

"The law of Phoenix Reincarnation? This is cremation method of an immortal king, and there are whereabouts of the Spirit of the Four Seasons..... What the heck, what was he doing?"

"Thou would understand, if thou saw this."

An answer could not be reached without looking at all the information. Solomon with a crease appearing on his forehead, took the document handed over by Mira.

It was a recording for the use of various recovery items, such as medicine for

the Carved Seal of Death. Lined up from general items to high-quality items, there was no effect written on most. And the only item that had nothing written about its effect, was the Holy Grail.

Thirty years since coming to this world. Moreover, Solomon who was enjoying it as a game, came to an answer just by the description.

"Could he be, searching for the Brilliant Life God's Holy Grail?"

"Umu, perhaps so."

Mira nodding with an answer, began to talk to Solomon of what she saw inside the castle on the sixth layer of the Ancient Shrine Nebula Polis.

"An important person?"

"Possibly."

When the two finished talking, thinking of Soul Howl, worried about a close friend they remained silent for a moment.

Whether there was a change in his state of mind, it is certain to say that Soul Howl will go around the country searching for the Holy Grail.

"The fact that he isn't in there, could mean that he found a clue and is currently on a journey. To find the person, solving the secret of the Holy Grail, in order to follow his trail would be best, what does thou think? "

"Well, I wonder if it's reliable."

First, find the place where Soul howl aims to go from the information, going against the order. That much should be able to be done presently. The two people came to this conclusion, looking at the mountain of materials with a weary expression.

"Even so, it seems hard to examine through this amount as expected. Shall I call someone qualified to do this here?"

Solomon tapped the bell on the top of his desk twice. However, there was no sound from it. But as if it weren't a problem, Solomon returned his sight back the document.

"Nou, Is that a doorbell? There wasn't any sound heard"

The bell on the desk, was a miniture version of a church bell at first glance, the shape hung on a pillar of a small frame with a string attached. Solomon seemed to call someone, making a gesture to ring the bell. But contrary to his behavior, Mira did not hear even a speck of sound from the metal that was played with.

"Hmm? Ahh, this is a call bell. Just in case it's a magic tool, only the specified person can hear it. It's specified, for about one kilometer....."

"Solomon-sama, what would you like me to do?"

In the middle of Solomons explanation, the voice of a calm man arrives from the other side of the door. The voice was familiar to Mira.

"I have a small request for you, come in."

Solomon shifted gears back into King mode, along with changing his tone of voice inviting the person inside.

"Please excuse me."

Opening the door, the man who bowed was a blond haired elf in a black justaucorps, Solomon's aide Slaymon.

*(TLN: Justaucorps, is a long knee-length coat worn by men during the 17th century in France)*

Mira who saw the figure, suddenly recalled the characteristic of Slaymon. It was, knowledge of the ancients and spirits. It was different from skills and was classified as knowledge, it was something intangible yet comparable to rare items. However even if it's just knowledge, if the brain permits it then it could be learned. The starting point of knowledge is heard from someone or a book is read. However the amount of information is enormous. If not for curiosity, people would not be aware of anything at all.

However, there are some people who pursue enormous amounts of information rather than staying complacent. Slaymon is one of those people.

"Welcome back, Mira-sama. Was there any progress?"

"Umu, we've obtained a clue."

At the same time entering the oval office, Slaymon fastens his eyes on Mira

with a good posture and bows. Mira upon receiving it, looks towards the table. Slaymon, seeing what was there, confirmed a large amount of documents piled into a mountain.

"I see, is this or is that the clue? It is quite the amount."

"Seemingly, there is a need for knowledge of spirits and ancients in this article. So I've called you. That can be read and solved hereafter, I want to know information about where to go. If necessary, I'll permit up to rank A for reading in the royal library."

For these 30 years, Slaymon showed great talent for rearranging information and decyphering in spite of knowledge disappearing. For combat, he has trained to the extent of an ordinary man, though for desk work there is no one else who surpasses him in Alkite Kingdom.

"Certainly. If my knowledge is useful, I will work with my body and soul."

Not only as an aide for Solomon, Slaymon was also extremely loyal. He was someone who thirsts for knowledge, Solomon was handed a myriad of documents to be transported using his Storage Skill "Well then, I will use the library." while saying so, he left the oval office triumphantly. Solomon seemed satisfied with a broad smiling grin shelving his manners.

"This however, is only a matter of time."

"Everything is going excellently."

"You mean to say all the right things are in the right place. You know, it's my job to employ people."

To Solomon whom didn't change, Mira shrugged her shoulders, and jumped onto a sofa in a fixed position. Twisting her body around looking for a comfortable spot, apple au lait was retrieved from her item list. At that time, the horn of the demon that was there in the list caught her eyes.

"Ahh, anyways, is it good there is another?"

*(TLN: mira is probably referring to the other horn)*

"Hmm, I don't mind. Was something there?"

Mira turns only her face while laying down, as Solomon answers while

properly preparing documents near a corner.

"Is that so. Although there was a demon on the lowest floor, in the underground cemetery, would thou know the cause?"

".....A demon you say?"

The moment the words left Mira's Mouth, Solomon's expression became steep for a moment.

"Umu, it was a sudden appearance. It was an Earl third rank. Since it attacked I killed it, but why was the demon in that place?"

"Is that so? Well as expected."

For a while, Solomon was gathering documents in the corner of the desk, then a tightly sealed document was pulled from the drawer. Mira rising up, drops her line of sight to Solomon's open file.

"You to what extent, know of the knowledge in this world I do not know, It is said that the demons were annihilated in the war ten years ago."

*(TLN: Solomon is reading from the file)*

"Umu, I've heard."

"It is too early to adapt. But the truth is as you've seen, remnants are surely plotting something while lurking in various places. This is the report. It is something that has compiled areas witnessed, along with traces."

Solomon saying so, arranges and displays several documents from the file. They all had been marked as confidential.

"Fumu, strictly confidential is it not?"

"In general, they were thought to be wiped out. To think the demon's still live, it is known only the upper class of this country and the Guild's Association."

"Is that so....., was it good to keep silent?....."

Mira understood that Solomon's words were something unexpectedly serious, Emera's group crosses her mind. From the words Mira unintentionally muttered, Solomon's expression changed completely.

"Wai.....! Have you told anyone!?"

Solomon reflexively raises his face, sending his eyes in panic to Mira staring at the document at the side of the table. While seeing the rare appearance of Solomon being flustered, Mira spoke.

"Thou are being impatient. And, I haven't spoken to anyone. When I encountered the demon I had companions."

Mira briefly spoke of meeting Emera which started from Takuto. Up until the escort to the Mirror of Dark Aid, along with looking for Soul Howl in the sixth floor. On the way back after finding a clue, the demon suddenly appeared.

As Mira's words flow out, Solomon rises with a nod as if convinced.

"I see. It was found in rough circumstances. However the nail was hit on the head. Ecarlatte Carillon and Takuto-kun as a guild they're good, don't you think?"

"Umu, that would be so. Emera and Asbel, Fricca, Zef. There is also the Guild Leader Cyril."

"I understand. Since there isn't a lot I'll contact the Guild association and manipulate the information, wait here."

Saying so, Solomon headed towards the communication chamber outside of the Oval office. Inside the facility, a long distance two-way communication device existed. \*Player Communication, Various Chat Modes\* were controlled by the system and no longer functioned, this was technology born from Magic Engineering in order to make up for it.

Solomon had left Mira alone, sitting in the chair documents were picked up, and looked over.

The first eyewitness report was in the West Continent, the appearance of a dark person with horns inside the forest ravine above the cliffs, it looked down towards a knight squadron training. It immediately left after one of the knights found it, it was written that it was unclear if it was a demon due to the long distance.

Although Mira also read other reports, a majority of them were suspicious. From time to time, there were some mixed in that had high credibility.

Mira who finished looking over the material easily, aimlessly wandered over

to the window to kill time, the scenery from the view of the king's castle was projected in her eyes.

(This is quite the luxurious view.)

Spread out below the large glass windows, was a crescent shaped lake, the origin of the capital Lunatic Lake. The town development was centered on the lake, from Mira's location overlooking the city, a view of the houses along the city street was vivid and full of life. However the king's castle was located in the heart of the city, so only half of it was seen. Mira, paying attention to a conspicuous facility, leaked out a sign of admiration. It was one of the five elements that Garrett mentioned, Alkite School.

(It's more luxurious than the University I attended.)

Mira, towards the school that seemed like a palace, it reminded her of the meeting and parting of campus life.

Alkite School. It wasn't like a castle but it was a large facility, the study institution had three buildings in the center. The elementary building was yellow with a white border, High School had a red border, and one with a black colored frame was a specialized department. There were many departments for magic judging from the characteristics of Alkite kingdom, it was number one in that direction. Therefore there were a lot of students studying abroad from another country, and children from nobles also stayed at an inn nearby. The best educational institution where everyone yearns to be a Magician. That place was Alkite School.

(Speaking of which, is Takuto attending school?)

Suddenly, the carefree smile of Takuto floats into Mira's mind. Longing for the existence who seemed like a younger brother. After some time thinking about working hard in the future as a magician, Solomon came back to the office.

"How was it?"

"It seems to be alright."

To Mira who asked while her face remained stuck in the window, Solomon answered while sitting in his chair with an expression full of relief.

"Talking to the Guild Association's Leader, talk of the demon has been called off as a rumor. "

"Fumu, is that so. Well, I do not think they would recklessly give out information."

The influence of information given would be understood in the case of Emera who is an advanced level adventurer, as for Cyril the guild leader there would not be any confusion if he were to talk. Mira who thought as much stuck out her chest with a smile, while saying so.

"You might say in such a meaning, disclosure regarding this matter is unnecessary. Among much of the ambiguous information, those who come back alive after a straight confrontation, would be directly decisive."

"Agreed. Also, the reason as for why the demon was in the sixth floor, that isn't understood."

"Yup. It's because basically the information is unclear. The purpose of the demon, right now even I don't know. But well, I wonder if I should try to send an investigation team to the underground cemetery on the sixth floor. I'm interested in what was being done in such a place."

"That might be a good idea."

The only things that were examined, was the traces left by Soul Howl of the Nine Wiseman. Information of the Demon was not attended to. Sending in a formal investigation, could result in discovering something. Mira moving away from the window sits on the sofa and agrees, while leaning forward to stretch.

"That reminds me, the clothes you have on slightly resemble your Sage's Robe but it's different. Is it a purchased replica?"

"Umu, in the town of Caranach."

Solomon watching Mira's figure, pleasantly understood paying attention to the clothes. Facing each other, Mira answered standing up, with an imposing stance. The replica robe's materials as well as the design was simpler, when compared to the real thing it was far overshadowed. However because the shape and color in its entirety was approved of by Mira, that was all that mattered.



"I see, I see. Yup, it suits you wonderfully."

It was just like seeing a girl who admired the Nine Sages and pretended to play around. Soaking himself in his thoughts, Solomon grinned.

"That's right. As expected, the first design really is the best."

Without noticing Solomons intention, Mira throws her head back naturally with a proud look boasting. At the same time, it was remembered that that the real one was left in the tower. After first noticing her body, and assaulting the bathroom with an increased tension for her first time. Because the Sage's Robe was dirtied with goblin blood, it was left in the changing room.

(Returning to the tower to recover it will be the first thing.)

Mira planned ahead while thinking so. Chasing after Soul Howl, that will have to wait until we can determine his destination from the documents. At present, that is the only clue.

Then, should I take goods from the tower warehouse if it's required? While Mira was considering so, the events on the way back from the Ancient Shrine were recalled. There was another thing, that could be a clue to the Nine Sages.

"That's right, that's right, there's something I would like thou to hear, are thou willing?"

"Fine, what is it?"

Referring to Mira, Solomon acknowledged it at once, lightly kicking the desk while sitting in a chair, the caster was moved and left at the window. Solomon considered the case, continually doing paperwork for a long time, he wished to speak with his friend for thirty years.

"Regarding a recent story heard, there have been events surrounding the spirits being attacked, does thou know anything? "

It was heard once from the Magicians Union leader, Leoneil of Caranach, but because Solomon is a king there may be more details. Taken by Mira's words, Solomon who was impressed leaked out a voice of surprise.

"Huh, regarding that question..... Of course I know as far as it has been revealed, first of all the Sea of Trees in the north of Grimm Dart. From now to

about nine years ago, even if there is almost no spirits who lives there any more, the story starts from there."

"Almost..... thou say?"

The Grimm Dart empire that enshrined the god of justice was located in the northern continent. The place is called the Knight's Country by one of Lands of the Three Gods, the Sea of Trees extends up to the Continental Edge in the north, the area can hold three Alkite Kingdoms. Despite the rare existence inside the Sea of Trees, there was a considerable amount of spirits.

"It is indeed to wide to fully explore, even with no people left at the place inhabited by the spirit, there was conversation. At that time the cause was completely unknown, Grimm Dart of course also investigated that subject. But, gradually similar reports began to rise from the surrounding countries. An outbreak of Elemental Eater's sprang forth, it was pointed out that the presence discovered was a subspecies....., a research team was sent to question the spirits who still remained on a certain day, and a group poaching the spirits was found. A knight squadron equipped with weapons, had captured many of the spirits in cages they carried."

"Fumu....., the damage seems big as expected then."

From the Wind Spirit's story, it was understood that a good number of a spirits were attacked and from Solomon's story, it turned out that the scale was terribly big. It should be noted, that the investigation team sent out did not have many fighters, so fighting against an armed group would be reckless.

"The reason for capturing the spirits was investigated in each country, presently nothing has been revealed. A route for human slave trading was checked, but there were no spirit listed. We know of one group, the group who identified themselves as Chimera Clausen.

However, you already know that much right? Who did you hear it from?"

Because the information was never published, in its own way it was a serious matter. But, you aren't necessarily completely cut off, it was public to adventurers of the Guild that were of rank A or higher, rather than money information was also prized. Solomon, had thought it was heard from a member of the guild, who came out and talked, however Mira's answer was a

completely different opponent.

"I met with a Wind Spirit on the way back. It was from that."

"Oh..... Wind..... Spirit-san huh?....."

Mira who uttered words without care, Solomon returned an expression with an open mouth. For Solomon who was of the warrior class, it wasn't possible to talk or look at spirits. The possibilities were there, however the answer was unexpected.

"Moreover, it played with a black cat shikigami."

Mira added in the cryptic joke, speaking about the events on the way back to Solomon. The Wind Spirit heard about the assailants from its companion. It was attacked, but also helped by the black cat shikigami Nyanmaru. Even now, Nyanmaru as the escort is guarding the Wind Spirit. As the story mostly concludes, Solomon focuses on the same point Mira did.

"Nyanmaru?..... That reminds me of Kagura, I wonder if they are connected."

"How is it? It seems that the Wind Spirit has not met the magician. Thou might say, because there is nothing to lose for the clue, wouldn't examining it be amusing? Just in case, The Magician Guild leader of Caranach was told, and the other side was examined."

"Certainly. The Onmyouji who opposes Chimera Clausen. You're interested in this right? Was Leoneil was spoken to about this early? Should I report it and call on several spies later?"

While being lit by the light from the window, a smile of mischief floats on Solomon's face, the back of the chair also happily squeaks.

Mira finished hearing what she wanted to hear, and exchanged idle chat with Solomon after. It was a silly conversation. However, the long idle talk with an old friend was meaningful for Solomon, as he was chased back to work.

## Chapter 37: Lily's Reappearance

The chat which extended for nearly one hour, ended as the consul brought in a large quantity of documents. As a result, Solomons expression changed from cheerful to cloudy.

"Well then, it's about time for me to leave"

Mira stood up, no longer wanting to impose on Solomon, as he directs his gaze slightly.

"Not interested in the work of a king?"

"Does thou think I could do it?"

"Probably not"

Solomon slumps face first into his desk. Mira had the feeling of wanting to help, but she was originally bad working with documents. The problem was being interested in it.

"Soul Howls destination, since we have material regarding that we should find out in a few days. That is because Slaymon is excellent. Also about the mystery of the Onmyouji, if I find anything I'll contact you immediately. For the time being, are you fine like this?"

"Umu, I don't mind"

After confirming the details, Solomon unwillingly spread the documents going back to work.

"I'll be free for a few days after this, want to do something?"

"I think I'll return to the tower, after I properly go sight seeing."

"I see, I see. I'm proud of the city, please enjoy yourself by all means. Ahh, if you bring back the sealed magic stones you've amassed, I'll be grateful probably?"

"I'll remember."

At Solomons laugh, Mira intentionally shrugged her shoulders from the joking answer.

"Ok then"

"Farewell"

After briefly exchanging farewells, Mira left the Oval Office.

---

Now then, where was the castle exit?, Mira looked left and right, in the middle of the hallway. At that moment, a door next to the Oval office opened, from there Lily appeared. It was the maid that had woken up Mira every morning, while staying at the castle.

"Ah....."

"Ara!"

Mira leaked out a voice on reflex, towards the expression on Lily's face.

"It has been a while Mira-sama. Are you finished with business already?"

A grin couldn't help but to surface, against Lily equipped with etiquette of the best maids.

"Umu, I'm on my way out"

"Is that so. Then right now, if you have some time. All of the maids, all of our masterpieces are done!"

"Well....., thou might say"

Mira had realized, something like this would happen meeting with Lily. Under the eyes of a serious woman you couldn't refuse, in that case the only thing you can do is nod and get it over with quickly.

I was guided down the hallway, to the left, entering a room at the end. Lily went further back into the room, in order to get the finished clothing.

The place Mira was brought to, was a room dedicated to sewing narrowly

crammed with clothing. It was a production division located in the corner side of the Imperial castle, inside the sewing room it was very quiet. Meanwhile, Mira was fidgeting, staring at the countless articles of clothing hung on a wall made by the maids. The maid's cloths each had a different design, every set of items had a different charm.

(Third from the second row of the top right. No, even the fourth from the bottom left.....)

Mira examined the maid's cloths with a serious look. Emera would like this, as for this Fricca would enjoy imagining it.

"Mira are you interested in the maid's clothing?"

"Wha.....!? That is, well, how to say. It isn't disliked"

With the sudden voice from behind, Mira who became flustered unconsciously revealed her true feelings.

"In that case, would you like to wear it?"

"No, I'm ok"

Slighting regaining composure, the offer was promptly refused. There wasn't any meaning wearing it by oneself.

"Is that so. Please tell us at anytime when you want to wear them. Whichever design you like"

Although there was an expression of disappointment, Lily showed no signs of giving up. Mira, with high praise, pictured herself wearing the maid's cloths for a moment.

"Mira-sama please have a look. This here is Mira-sama's exclusive magic robe set!"

Looking at the costume Lily had spread out, Mira was at a loss of words. From this moment the tendency as a goth lolita magic girl was exceedingly decisive while being on guard with resolution, to cut down bodies in one stroke. In a good sense.

"Hou.....Hou Hou Hou!"

Mira looked as she bit her clothes, nodding again and again.

The clothes brought by Lily, the concept of goth lolita magical girl style remained unchanged, with the original frills and ribbon excluded, it satisfied the important aspects with an embroidered design on pivotal points. And more than anything, it was cutely tailored to be stylish, there were vestiges of SF Chick like Magical Girl fitted into the theme.

Describing it more simply, it was a design magical girl organizations would wear. Black and white no sleeve dress, a coat with purple lines flowing into the black making the set.

"Is this satisfactory?"

"Fumu, this isn't bad"

The clothes were consistent with Mira's taste. Mira was convinced that the power-up version of the clothes came out first, or rather even from its unlikelihood, forgetting the clothes a person wears she answered obediently.

"That's relieving. At night when the prototype was handed over, Solomon taught us Mira's preferences"

"Is that so"

Certainly in Solomon's case he would be able to comprehend taste. On the contrary, SF chick and magical girl came together. And so, Mira recalled carefully, the clothes were similar to a character Solomon highly recommended.

(That guy.....mixed together my preferences.....)

Mira paid attention to the once piece with a white leather belt, the length was short, and didn't cover the legs entirely. With this Mira was convinced it was completely Solomon's hobby.

"Now then Mira-sama, come here quickly"

Lily guided Mira to a corner partitioned by a curtain in the sewing room, while handing over the clothes.

"Would you like some help?"

"No, it's unnecessary"

To Lily with a radiant smile, Mira answered while receiving the clothes, as she entered the back of the curtains. Using the area as a changing room, a big mirror was embedded in the front along with a shelf and hangers on both sides.

Mira placed the obtained clothes on the shelf, and then hung the robe she was currently wearing.

"That matches you very well, Mira-sama!"

"Is, is that so?"

Lily sent the praise in excitement, as Mira emerged after changing clothes. Mira altogether was not bad, confirming the clothes while moving her hands and feet. The clothes from the elite maid troops were made to fit the exact body, so there was no hindrance with movements.

"Now then, I will tell you about the functions"

Lily whom accompanied Mira said as such, standing in front of the table. Several sheets of paper were spread out in front.

"First, creating the dedicated magic robe set, these are the names of the people who helped work with us"

"There is many"

On the paper shown, a lot of names were signed along with Luminaria's and Solomon's at the top. Since there were too many Mira glanced through them, among them was also the name of Thomas the designer of the Accord Cannon.

"Next is this. Magic engineering was used making this costume as shown in its name, this here, has its function written on it"

"Magic engineering.....? Is it not dangerous?"

Mira had heard the words magic engineering, and immediately recalled the great cannon glancing at the clothes. On the other hand, Lily shook her head with no problem.

"There is no need to worry. Contrary to that, there are a lot of benefits and after we would like to dress up Mira-sama.....I assure that you'll like the outfits"



"Hm.....? Dress up, what?"

"It's nothing?"

Mira glared at Lily who quickly corrected herself suspiciously. Lily looked away, with an expression of not knowing. Uninterested, Mira returned her gaze back to the paper.

"Umm, then I will explain. First, from the most important part. In the small case of the one-piece's belt, a sealed magic stone made from magic stones was integrated into the attribute system "

Saying so, Lily slightly exposed Mira's coat, the black center on the buckle of the belt on the one-piece dress was opened. There was approximately enough space to easily fit in one stone.

"Hou hou. This is the real thing"

Mira murmured happily, while opening and closing the buckle.

"This trick was the reason why it was called a magic robe. Really, various benefits can be obtained with the driving force of magic stones!"

Lily proudly explained. However because she was involved in cutting the clothes, Thomas's opinion for the explanation of the magic relationship was received. Originally, Lily without touching on the subject had been begging Thomas to teach her every day.

"Then, I'll explain the effect. Firstly both the one-piece and coat resist's fire and ice. But, care must be taken when it comes to extreme temperatures.

And with a magic stone, the performance will also be enhanced. The effects of a hell flame bird's fire can also be prevented, it seems. At the same time it has an auto repair feature. However there is a limit, if the tear is too large it seems it will not be repaired.

And similarly, by placing in a sealed magic stone, its defense and attack attributes will be strengthened"

Everything was spoken without error. Lily with the conclusion turned towards Mira. Mira, appearing interested spun and ran her fingers over the clothes.

"Hou hou. There are various colors"

Mira was honestly surprised, the efficiency was more than expected. There were details with uncertain points, but it had a lot of interesting abilities. Of course, the sages robe had exceptional performance, but the magic robe set was also at a good level. Judging by the effect, it possibly exceeded the sages robe in defense.

However in actual combat the sages robe was judged as the victor. Above all, the design was still good. However the magic robe had its own charm.

Well, while thinking of having the change of clothes alternatively, Mira pleasingly repeated the clothes performance in her mind.

(Resists fire and ice. There is also the effect of the sealed magic stone)

"However, something as expensive as this, is it ok for me to have?"

With equipment that grants these kind of abilities, it would be considerably expensive. Mira who recalled that, looked up towards Lily expecting an answer.

"Of course. Luminaria-sama paid for all the expenses. Luminaria-sama and Solomon-sama, wished for Mira-sama to have a better appearance"

"Is that so....."

Those two did not say such words. It was a series of commotions with the bitter smiles of two friends at work, Mira showed a delightful smile with her mouth.

(I can't express my gratitude)

It's certain it was done in secrecy, it isn't amusing to express thanks in person either. This time, I shall prepare a gift, new resolve had filled inside Mira.

(Well, the joy of sightseeing today. That will be done tomorrow)

I'll do my best tomorrow. Mira promising so, leaves the sewing room along with Lily.

Afterwards, she was taken to the maids workshop, Mira was loved grandly by the company of maids who had been waiting. All members who engaged in making clothes were present free from duties, with that they were able to play with a variety of hairstyles. If one were to speak about Mira in question, she was lost in ecstasy with the maid's special sweets that was served noisily, in the

meantime the snacks were thoroughly enjoyed.

In the middle of the day, hitting a little past lunch time, Mira's hunger condition was satiated with plenty of snacks.

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As Mira was freed from the maid division, she exchanged greetings with the castle gate guard and proceeded to the bottom of the castle. In order to go sight seeing. Incidentally, since the people in the castle heard of Mira's identity from Solomon, it had been free.

As Mira thought of where to go, the school building she looked upon in the Oval Office came to mind. Although it was seen from a long distance, Mira was interested in structures that had an overwhelming presence, promptly she overlooked the surrounding area with a birds-eye view immediately heading off to the school.

"Where was it....."

As one would expect it was vast, a clear direction was unable to be grasped, Mira restlessly walked while exploring the streetscape. Then before the current Mira, an escort guard on patrol appeared.

The guard escort, meeting a beautiful lovely girl with long silver hair tied on both sides, shockingly his heart throbbed. However, noticing she was the disciple of one of the nine sages whom became celebrated one week ago he bowed in a hurry.

"Excuse me if thou has a moment to spare, how can I get to the school?"

In a timely manner, with the sounds of running Mira rushed towards to the guard escort and asked while looking up.

"This is Mira-sama. The school, cross the bridge in the back over there, on the left hand side of the main street"

"Hou, I see. I thank thee"

Mira turned towards the indicated area the escort guard showed, returning a grateful glance, she trotted in the direction towards the school. The escort guard, was somehow able to calmly respond, seeing off the girl with swaying twin tails, his facial expression loosened in his admiration.

The crescent shaped lake, it could be said to be the symbol of Alkite Kingdom. In the upper class district which was surrounded by the lake, the general district was accessible across the bridge over the lake. At this moment, Mira was rapidly advancing across the bridge. The big bridge had a width of ten meters, had a stone pavement with an earthen yellow color spreading straight out. Splendidly crafted streetlights were set at regular intervals in a sequence, the upper class district that connected to the distinctly characterized bridge was satisfactory.

The lake was large, Mira had arrived at the entrance to the general area after twenty minutes.

"If it isn't Mira-sama. Do you have business in the general district?"

The guard began a conversation. It was a manager of the gate between the general district and the bridge. The gate itself, was not so big to extend in which a single horse-drawn carriage could not pass by. At the same time enough room for the manager on the side was provided.

"Umu, just a tour"

"So that was the case. This city is great don't you think? Anyway, the gate will open please step back slightly"

While saying so the guard entered the control room, and the gate slowly opened. Gradually the town spread open from the gap, it was clearly different from the elegant atmosphere of the upper class district. There were lots of vibrant residents coming and going, it was exactly like a capital.

Mira waved to the guard exiting the control room, and stepped into the east district of Alkite Kingdom's capital Lunatic Lake.

Wide streets stretched and extended straight in front of your eyes. According to the conversation of the escort guard, it's understandable coming through here. Mira, believed in the words and drew out to the main street.

Being referred to as the main street, shops were filled with a variety of articles. In particular, because the school was nearby stationary shops were found sporadically. But, Mira was surprised that the Magic Tool System had shops that took up the vast majority. Wherever you looked magic tools were handled.

Though there were many kinds of magic tools, they all related to general magic. Cane weapons, catalysts for sorcerer's magic, onmyouji ceremonial charms, priests' holy stones or an exorcist's holy water. Other sealed magic stones and various medicines, as well as materials for production tools. Tools with hidden special properties. These are generally altogether magic tools.

Stores throughout the main street, they all dealt with such things innumerable.

Mira was strangely drawn to the exciting atmosphere, as she enjoyed the so-called purpose of sightseeing aimlessly visiting shops, advancing while taking her time.

From the classics in old days, to new items that were never seen, Mira was delighted. To seeing items for the first time, "What is this?" asking shopkeepers, some had smiles, others nervous, and people who explained meticulously.

Mira spent plenty of time window shopping and after a while finally arrived at her destination, the school.

"Huge....."

Her voice involuntarily leaked out. Just like the words, Alkrite School was proud of its vastness on par with an airport. Three large buildings separated by color seemed to be the school buildings, it was similar to a [Picture]. In addition to the school buildings other smaller buildings were seen in other places.

Mira, out of feelings from originally being an adult, had a guilty conscience looking at the dignified school, while staying at the corner of the school gate peeping only at the face of the school. The person herself didn't realize how strangely suspicious she was.

In front of the schoolyard where Mira was looking, students of the school

were practicing martial arts. Some were practicing kumite, while various others were running in the schoolyard. An adult male there seemed to be the teacher, along with tens of dozens of students were dressed in simple shirts and shorts suitable for exercising out of the thirty people. It appeared they were being taught martial arts as a form of physical education. In addition there was another group towards the back. A man and women were teaching, with the figure of students dressed in robes. There were about sixty people. However, because the school yard was too large, the resulting number that was visible seemed less than the actual number.

Mira who had been looking over, seemed pleased. The scale of educational facilities were out of common sense, but it was certainly a school.

"Thy springtime of youth"

It had already been six years since graduating from University, with the surging emotions nostalgia permeated, Mira had involuntarily let out a wry smile murmuring.

"Are you interested in this school?"

Suddenly, a voice hung from outside of view, Mira who felt guilty from taking a peek, shook her body out of reflex. Looking back like a gingerly rusted machine, a cat eared woman with a large bag hanging from her shoulder had gave a kind smile while kneeling.

## Chapter 38: School events

Coming across the cat eared woman in front of the school gate, she had shoulder length chestnut colored hair, blue cat pupils with a striking rounded face, from which a friendly innocent smile surfaced.

In this world, various races existed beside humans. Emera part of the elves, and Mariana who was part of the family of fairies. The woman in front of her eyes was of the Meow group, they excel in kinetic vision, they're agile, and alert. There was basically no difference from humans besides cat ears and a tail, they don't grow tall but have night vision. The race is like that of a cat.

"Ah, you seem surprised. I am Hinata, a teacher at this school. Who are you?"

"I am Mira"

The woman of the Meow family identified herself as Hinata. Hinata smiles with the impression of someone who is glad rather than one of beauty. Mira thought the person of the Meow family had gotten familiar with herself, resulting in her feeling shocked for an instant at the smile Hinata expressed.

Presently, the woman met a girl named Mira, who had an honest and defenseless expression. Therefore, it was a chance to see a different side, of Mira who was still not used to her.

"So it's Mira-chan. It's quite a cute name"

Hinata, showed an even lovelier smile and gaze focusing on Mira's clothes. "Those are, magical girl clothes that are part of a fashion line. Could it be that you want to be a magician?"

Without a smile, Hinata asks. Alkrite School, it was the most famous educational institutions for those who aimed to become a magician both inside and outside of the country.

A young girl peering into the school yearning to be a magician. That was the impression of Mira that Hinata had.

"No, I am already a magician"

Mira couldn't understand Hinata's impression, and regrettably rejected the thought. Hinata scowled from missing her prediction.

"So its like that. Sorry. Ah-, can you tell me what kind of magician?"

Trying to repair the situation Hinata corrects herself. Mira not minding the circumstances straightens her posture, and answers brimming with confidence.

"Summoner"

At that moment, Hinata who had been smiling completely froze. It was because summoners were thought to have no future and was currently declining.

"I see.....un, do your best"

Even so, Hinata refused to show depression, and embraced that feeling. That was because,

"I am also a summoner. A teacher of summoning in Alkite School. Presently..... that.....is the current circumstances. but you know, Creos's current state, without any sleep we're implementing the old ways of contracting. The success rate is amazing. That's why, let's do our best"

Hinata was a summoner just like Mira. In the first place the school was currently in the middle of the teaching hours, but for what reason was a teacher outside? In other words it was that kind of thing.

Apart from being a suitable apprentice of summoning, the current trend was to avoid becoming a summoner and to graduate with other general classes. It wasn't necessary to take classes that had only a few, because simply graduating from Alkite School granted you with sufficient prestige.

Summoning classes were held two to three times a week. it appealed to only people who could not give up on their talent as a magician, and to those who were curious. Because of that, Hinata often went on shopping expeditions to help other teachers.

"Umu. Even while in school"

Hinata declared so, Mira was aware of the decline of summoners casting a shadow over the school. It was also a fact that it influenced the future of some



children.

But it was also helpful that there were those who were entrusted to Creos. Presently, if there was equipment and sealed exploding magic stones, along with the basic Dark Knight, it was possible to capture a Holy Knight without difficulty. Above that, it would take time for the acquired summon to grow.

"Right now, we're still ensuring safety, but one by one the number of students who can summon armor spirits are increasing. Soon, I'm sure our era will come"

Hinata who grimaced with an aggressive frown, sent a serious expression towards Mira.

Sealed exploding magic stones were enough to take down an armored spirit, but in circumstances without anyone's help danger rises accordingly. Making up for that equipment increasing strength and stamina can be used, But there is only enough for one person. Moreover, we can't afford to endanger students.

Creos is currently recruiting people, succeeding one at a time capturing armored spirits. It's a light of hope to many, but a large number of students are still kept waiting.

"What can I do, as a fellow summoner"

Mira, lost in thought strokes her chin with the fingertips of her lefthand.

What can oneself do for the next generation? One would be, to mass produce sealed exploding magic stones. But to make a large amount, a decent amount of money is needed. But even so, proposing the idea to Solomon and Creos could be done.

The problem is equipment for status enhancements. The quickest is to have ready-made things, equipment with the offset to safely fight armored spirits with the exception of the equipment that was passed to Creos from Mira, such as something small prepared in advance from the tower.

"Mira-chan! Mira-chan!"

While thinking about making something by refining with force, Mira was

pulled back to reality as her shoulders were violently shaken.

"Wha.....What?!"

When Mira opened her eyes, Hinata's face had drawn close.

"Th、 this is the bracelet of faith isn't it. Proof of a senior adventurer"

Hinata took Mira's left hand in excitement, and stared with big round open eyes at the bracelet that fit onto the arm.

"Well、 that would be so"

It was different, but explaining would be troublesome so she affirmed the answer. In truth, it was thought that there were no problems in meeting the requirements and adventurers rank to borrow the bracelet.

"Right now I have a contract with the Dark Knight, Holy Knight, Salamander, Dyrad, and Wyvern. Does Mira-chan have contracts with anything other than these?"

Not understanding Hinata's intention, along with eyes full of anticipation, pushed by the momentum of the approaching crisis Mira answered reflexively, "Some". Hinata's eyes changed as if she found something profitable, on her knee's she clasped both of Mira's hands.

"I have a request! It's something small please help me out a little!"

Hinata who had become shorter on her knee's, asked Mira with upturned eyes. Originally something big was needed to effect Mira, this time however it was tremendous. Cute cat ears were repeatedly moving up and down.

"I do not know what it is, but I'll leave it to thou"

Judging from the flow of the conversation, it was something about summoning, in that case Mira anxiously nodded consenting to the younger generation.

Mira was taken into the school by hand, and guided towards a building located on the back of the center school building.

She also received a description of the events from Hinata along the way. It had been said, that today was the Magic Skill Examination date, it was an event

carried out once a month. As the name suggests, it was to review magic, the results were used to determine the use of facilities and expenses on magic tools. Examinations are divided into each type of magic, and the representatives are to show off the magic.

The examination order wasn't determined, but order stuck out naturally as it was announced by score. And every month, summoning placed last. Until now Hinata had been nominated to show off as the representative, but because there was no novelty from the lack of repertoire, there was currently no interest in the existing status quo. And the summoners better than Hinata were absent in the school.

That being said, Hinata had no other contracts besides the ones she owned.

In other words, it was an opportunity to regain the prestige of summoners by summoning anything other than the five that were mentioned. Mira who finished hearing the talk listed the advanced summons in her mind, and placed importance on being as flashy as possible.

(The strongest summon could be shown. In that case how about Emperor Dragon Aizen Faldo? He's a good obedient child. But when referring to flashiness there's Rainbow Spirit Twinkle Pam..... However..... nou....., with this current reality, there's no telling what could happen. nuuu)

"By the way, are outsiders allowed to participate in the school event?"

After some thought, Mira mentioned a question she remembered. She wondered whether or not it was fine for an adventurer that wasn't a student to decide a month's worth of activities for the school.

"Un, it should be OK in this area. After-all, the purpose of the exam is to measure the possibilities of magic, so even if an outsider uses an outrageous magic, it shows the future is promising don't you think?"

"Fumu, so it was something like that"

"Yes it's like that. Wait here, I'll have to change representatives"

"Umu"

Mira was brought to a room inside the big building, there she sat and glanced around on a sofa. On the floor was a grey carpet, along the wall was an analog type clock indicating it was 4:20. The ceiling wasn't very high, and white spheres were used as the lighting emitting a faint glow. As far as it went, it was passable as a guest room. However that couldn't necessarily have been the case, residing in a corner was a white board.

Taking out Apple au Lait from her item box, Mira sips a mouth full and exhaled, "Whew".

"I too will do my best"

Mira talking to herself, revealed an expression that of an elder of the tower, remembering Creos who was also working hard without any time to sleep.

"I've kept you waiting"

The analog clock was indicating it was ten minutes before five. Hinata had come back, as the Apple au Lait had been slowly sipped and enjoyed.

"The registration is complete. Thanks in advance"

"Well, thou can leave it to me"

Mira stood up with confidence, and was lead by Hinata towards the exam venue.

Examination Side of the Waiting Room. Simple seats were provided, and those who were dressed in robes along with their escorts had lined up. Then, a person among them wearing a robe looked back and noticed Hinata.

"Oya oya, as expected summoning is up first. Arriving last with some time to spare"

A man with delicate features wearing a robe had arrived last, muttering with a smile of obvious contempt. Looking back at the words, the others had laid their eyes on Hinata with expressions of pity, sympathy, as well as amazement. Hinata lightly shook her hands, "Over here!", pulling Mira over to a vacant seat.

A small man in red robes clicked his tongue, as his eye brows twitched watching the magical girl sitting in a corner on a seat.

"Ojou-chan, that seat is for contestants"

With a self-depreciating smile, an attendant standing aside the man had a similar expression surface. The others who wore robes responded, "I'll especially keep you company""That's inelegant""Yare yare, it would do you well", there were various reactions, but there wasn't anyone as despised as the man wearing the red colored robe.

Mira had felt the poor criticism against summoners that was much worse than what was imagined. In places where people gathered naturally, people who sneered and soaked themselves in joy appeared.

"I-it's ok. This child is a representative"

Hinata who had been speaking merrily until now, had shut her mouth. The appearance of Hinata who was mortified and trembling entered Mira's sight. For better or worse, it was a merit system. The pecking order had been completed.

"I see. Inside the school house, it's the same wherever. An old man mediocre at best, claiming to be superior without realizing his own worth"

"What did you say?"

Mira glanced at the old man in the red robe, calling such a person mediocre. Darkness had slightly begun welling up in the man's eyes. It was known that summoners had not even been considered in the head count in the past many years.

"Hearing that from merely a child, that's immature"

"Hmph, Furthermore. It is the duty of an adult, to teach a child who runs their mouth some common sense!"

"Oi oi, can't you hold back?"

The man had been scowling paying no mind to the women in the white robe listening, trying to upset Mira he continued to glare at her in an attempt to intimidate her. Further shaking off the hands of a man in green that went over to help, the man in the red robe revealed an even more twisted expression.

Hinata was perplexed at the situation. It was unexpected of Mira to retort back from a genuine point of view.

"The people with no common sense are likely to be those who mention it. Even a goblin would know better"

"That's enough! Who do you think I am!"

"Why, a childish adult of course"

"You bastard!"

Finally, the man unable to stomach his anger stood energetically. The man's smile warped in joy, at the state of Hinata who was trembling.

"Sorry for the wait. Please head over to the venue"

The door opened with the stagnant atmosphere, and a school girl with the appearance of a high school student serving as part of the staff appeared to call the representatives. The man turned his frenzied stare at Mira, as he clicked his tongue walking towards the door.

(Well, I'm also quite childish)

To Mira who shrugged her shoulders, Hinata bowed in apology.

"Sorry, Mira-chan. It became unpleasant....."

Near Hinata who was forcing a smile, a white shadow appeared. Mira looked up, towards the white robed woman snuggled next to Hinata.

"Mary-san....."

Hinata raised her sight looking at the woman. The lady called Mary, seemed to be around the age of twenty. The woman who seemed quiet, had silver hair ornaments with the shape of crosses inside circles attached to her long aqua blue hair.

"You should've known that it would be like this, Hinata-sensei. What kind of intention did you have letting this girl stand in the line of fire?"

Not matching the atmosphere, Mary reproached Hinata with a strong tone. Looking back towards Mira, "Don't worry" replying with a smile. Mira stood and replied back, "No problem".

"Now then, is this child really a representative?"

"Mira-chan is an advanced adventurer, and she has contracts with summons I

don't have"

In fact, because Mira was exposed to unpleasant thoughts, Hinata's cat ears and tail had drooped down.

"How much of an adventurer doesn't matter right?....."

"Well, is it not good enough?.I don't mind, Hinata, thou should not worry either"

Mira interrupted Mary, and gave a smile to Hinata bowing her head.Mary swallowed her subsequent words, and became interested in Mira who seemed to be much more than what meets the eye.

(I wonder, what is it about this child.Somewhat, her words don't seem child like)

Mary recalled, the impression she gave was similar to King Solomon, and then smiled happily.Perhaps, are they partners?.

"But well, they seemed awfully confident, who was that person?"

Mira asked about the man in the red robe, who was producing that kind of atmosphere.What reason was there to be arrogant about?.

"Umm well....."

Hinata had raised her cat ears slightly, briefly explaining it.First his name is Kairos Balon.He is the son of Alphonse Balon, a distinguished family bloodline of Noble Magicians in Alkrite Kingdom.Aside from his natural noble-like attitude, his skill in magic is genuine.Therefore always taking first place in the examination, he tends to look down on other magicians.

(A typical fool of an aristocrat then)

Mira vomited out a sigh inside her mind, there were after-all such nobles in this country, she began to consider if she should sympathize with Solomon.

The pair being slightly delayed passed through a large door, and what seemed to be a circular plaza in a Colosseum appeared.Treading on soil that had slight resistance, a wall approximately three meters in height circled the area.Outside of it, an audience of men and women all well-dressed were sitting lined up.

In the clean atmosphere, a man wearing a white robe stood in the center of the plaza, and inside the front entrance was a puppet knight dressed in armor leaning against it. The ceiling drew a gentle arc, covering the venue in a dome shape. Floating in the North, East, West, and South areas, hollow spheres with bright light illuminated the shadow of all the sides reflected on the ground. Even the wall partitions had faint amounts of shadows left.

Representatives had come closer to the walls on both ends, but only Kairos had been the sight of Mira's irritation.

Mira, Hinata and Mary were on the opposite side of Kairos. As a result, the wall of the opposite side had only the two people with Kairos and the attendant. Like that, Mira slightly burst out in laughter. The person in question himself had misunderstood that everyone would line up with the best magician, "Didn't thou know?".

Nevertheless, it immediately got better. Since the examination meeting was in a room, the size outside was unexpected.

The competition plaza was about fifteen meters in diameter, and roughly twenty-five total including the audience.

Mira looked around with impatience measuring the size with her eyes, and couldn't help mentioning it was small.

(I can't use my first choice, Aizen Faldo! But the rainbow spirit..... Thinking about dignity, it would be the height of summoning..... More thought needs to be taken into consideration.....)

"Thank you for waiting. From here the Magic skill examination will begin!"

Along with the declaration of the exam committee to start, Mira agonized alone.



## Chapter 39: Magic Skill Review Board

The man in the white robe had given a summary of how the magic skill exam reviewers operated. Mostly, it was something for the guests that were lined in the seats as the audience.

Each representative was allotted five minutes, during that time they were allowed to show off magic.

For attack systems, the doll dressed in armor specialized in magic based defense.

As for the judges, there was a noble who was the head of the board of education as well as a financial investor of Alkite School, and the School's Principal. Besides them, graduates assembled the members of the student council, and school guardians.

The examination criteria was based on the degree of difficulty of the magic, its effect, and the casting speed were important. To a certain degree the appearance was also factored in. The reasoning, was that people had a shallow understanding of magic. No matter how difficult or high leveled the magic was, if the appearance wasn't striking the judging would become dull.

At the same time the examination sampled what the future of that magic profession would be, also indicating how much cost to allocate. Hinata was first, and the available equipment had been decided. It was in fact chosen with priority based on strength and weaknesses.

Influential nobles, merchants, adventurers are visiting as guests for this exam. If a person could show a certain amount of power, it was a chance to obtain powerful backing.

Representatives were chosen out of recommendation, the candidate would stay then perform in the selection test. And if that person was absent, the teacher would play that role. In other words, because Hinata participated every month, it meant there wasn't a summoner relevant. This time, Mira was playing

the part of the representative.

Because the fixed expenses were usually divided between the magicians, there were no exams for Spirit Magic.

"Without further ado, we will begin the exam from the previous Magic Department that had the highest score. Representatives, to the front please!"

The man in the white robe gave the lead to Kairos. With a delayed beat the audience expressed their affection, as Kairos stepped forward towards the center. Applause rung out in the venue. What will that person show us today? a person had asked another, inquiring about the man in the red robe with interest.

"Last time, the magic department showed overwhelming high scores to the others with amazing water magic. We'll be looking forward to seeing what they can show us this time!"

With the brief mention, the man in the white coat moved towards the side of the venue. However, Kairos stopped him midway.

"Hey you, there is no last time, this will be the last time"

*(TLN: probably implying something bad will happen?)*

"Ye.....Yes. That's right. Please excuse me"

"Pay attention"

The exchange of hushed voices went unheard by the audience, as well as the other representatives. But, from the expression of the man in the white coat, Mira had guessed it was something bad and felt sorry for the man.

Kairos muttered towards the installed armored doll that stood opposite of himself, "This is why commoners...". Magic was classified as a specialized attack system. Referring to the overall firepower, it wasn't an exaggeration to say it was the strongest magic system for magicians. Inevitably, the magic was to be exercised towards the armored doll.

"My name is Kairos Balon, I will strive to take first in the examination as the Magic Departments representative. Thank you all, for gathering during this busy time"

Kairos gracefully bowed facing the audience. Why? No one had spoke up about him acting on behalf of all representatives. The other representatives had already given up as it was the usual thing, although it cut into Mira, now wasn't the time .

(Should I call Alfina? Now but, she's likely to be defiant when it comes to this kind of spectacle. It would be better to break the ceiling.....)

"Mumuu....."

Mira as an advanced summoner, had been thinking about one with a personality and appearance suitable to judge.

"Then I'll show it to you!. The brilliance of Original Magic!"

Kairos declared loudly, while sticking out his right hand with a half step towards the armored doll. The magic power which gathered in his hand converged, emerging at the front.

"Burn down all whom you touch, Heavenly Hellfire!"

With his voice, the magic shines in brilliant red, small crimson flames begin to largely expand in his palm. Inflated as big as a persons head, it was aimed at the armored doll, leaving behind a trail as it charged forward. Immediately, it diffuses and countless fireball's pounce onto the armored doll. At the same time the impacts leave roaring echoes, the sparks flutter down decorating the armored doll with burn marks. At the sight of it, the audience let out voices of admiration. Mira frowned with the reverberation still affecting her ears, while directing her line of sight towards the center of the venue.

Kairos was shaking his hand towards the audience, implying it was only just the beginning and to prepare for the next magic.

This time, Kairos was gathering magic in both hands.

"The demonstration seems enjoyable don't you think?. Now then, I invite everyone to a feast of flames!"

Brandishing both hands exaggeratedly, Kairos bounced out a triumphant voice from the reaction of the audience.

"Army of flames dancing in the sky, in accordance to the king destroy all

adversary!"

Again, magic emerged with his voice, a fan shaped ball of fire appeared in the sky above Kairos, and would then be shoot forward after growing to a certain size. A group of flames beat against the armored doll in the wall on the ground, and with a roar it wrapped the venue in bursting smoke and sparks.

(Quite inelegant.....The timing of the landing point was hap-hazardous. For range attacks【Magic: Incandescence】would be more efficient)

As Mira had pointed out, in terms of efficiency Kairos's magic was worse. It might be effective if it's a low level demon, but it was easy to predict and therefore not suitable for actual combat.

However, the judges merely watched the fire bullets sparkle like a meteor shower, and without words the audience had also just been staring. A magician's phenomenon cannot be materialized with only flesh.

*(TLN: kind of like saying, normal people can't cast spells)*

The view had indeed developed into exactly like a feast of flames. When taking Mira into account, it was as if she were a noble bored with money. With all sorts of luxuries, for the time being with money one would joyously grow fat like a filled balloon.

Kairos's magic disregarded actual combat efficiency, and specialized in being flashy. A little less than ten years after the no-war treaty was signed, this was the present condition of today's exam committee.

After the showcase of Kairos ended, each judge gave him a mark. The marks were totaled at the end of the showcase of the representative, everyone had put almost the maximum amount of points.

Kairos returned with a confident expression, looking directly at Hinata and Mira with a distorted grin. Hinata seemed to be completely disheartened, looking down with her cat ears closed. Kairos, pleased with their appearance leaned against the wall opposite of them contently.

After, another representative was shown to the center and announcing his magic.

Number two Holy Magic. As part of the demonstration, it was able to nullify certain attribute damage with【Holy Magic: Shield Skin】applied to himself, after asking an attendant to attack. As for【Holy Magic: Arc Gate】, the armored doll was attacked by an intense beam of light. Simple, with a torrent of dazzling light, it gave a good impression to the judges.

Number three Onmyouji.【Oracle's Revelation: Complete Earth Set • Tree's and Shrubs】was showed first. Successfully using it, the open space changed into a forest instantly followed by【Oracle's Revelation: Complete Fire Set • Rubia Fox】. The fire fox child that had been created, ran around the forest making multiple orbits and assaulted the armored doll.

Number four Xian Expert. Starting off with【Xian • Sky: Collect Flame】a flame was retained in both hands showcasing a type of martial art. The flame had slightly compressed, decorating the space with lines of crimson while the hands moved. The armored doll was finally pierced by the flaming fist, 【Xian • Sky: Impact Wave】had exploded at close range, with fire excitingly scattering.

Number five Exorcism Magic. Open bottles of holy water had been tossed above.【Barrier Magic: Exorcist Formation】the bottles were simultaneously broken with movements, bottle fragments as well as holy water diffused and rained down into the surrounding area. The ground on which the holy power had rained down on, began to shine with a brilliant film of light that appeared dimly. Several bottles of holy water were then thrown at the armored doll, invoke【Divine Law of Exorcism: Blue Flames of Atonement】. With a blanket of blue fire, the armored doll quietly flickered.

Number six Demonic Invocation Magic.【Demonic Invocation: Spider】The ability of a spider was retained in the body. Countless threads were aimed and tied to the armored doll, 【Demonic Invocation • Influence of Evil: Flame Hell Hound】both hands had changed into flaming claws. The web burned with flames running down like a fuse, and the armored doll was wrapped in scarlet red fire.

Number Seven Necromancer.【Necromancy: Rock Doll】A life-size golem materialized and rushed towards the armored doll. An intense clash sound resonated at the same time【Necromancy: Samara Fusion】A pillar of fire devoured the entire area.

The showcase of the seven representatives finished, the armored doll was left waiting for the next representative in the venue burnt. At last, it was the summoner representative Mira's turn.

"Summoner representative, to the front please"

The man in the white robe called Mira to the venue. Towards the increasing voice, Mira had decided on what to summon.

(Alright, should I call that one? I am slightly worried....., well she's the best choice. Maybe.....)

"Mira-chan....."

Mira took one step, while Hinata stared anxiously. Mira turned and looked up at the anxious Hinata,

"Thou does not need to worry. This is merely child's play"

A laugh was mixed in to dispel Hinata's anxiety. Hinata held a smile full of confidence towards Mira, having been discouraged although she was a teacher, she had given herself a pep talk.

"Un, please do so Mira-chan!"

With Hinata's encouragement on behind her, Mira stood in the center of the square.

The man in the white coat moved to the corner, the entire venue had their eyes on Mira. Mira gave a bitter smile, she didn't like being watched, she casually placed her right hand to the side. 【Summon Skill : Formation Limit Arcana】 appeared in the air.

The audience resounded at the same time. Formation Limit Arcana was used only by advanced summoners for body strengthening. Even Hinata who was a summoner opened her eyes widely at the sight. Hinata knew of it's existence, but the skill was far out of her reach. In other words, it was a magic no one in the school could use. Almost all of the people in this place have seen every magic skill, all but this one. Mira had used it easily.

Only the Director, teachers, and a few graduates were able to impressively expect what was going to happen next.

Mira returned her right hand as the Formation Limit sublimated creating a summoning formation. At that moment, several screams rose up. An enormous amount of magic was leaking out from the summoning formation, as it pulsed.

"What.....Rosary summon formation!?"

The school principal rose from his seat unconsciously, with his eyes dyed in astonishment, directing his eyes to the girl who had a light fighting stance.

"Oi.....What is that? So she wasn't a summoner?!!"

"It's only natural to assume as such. Although it isn't clear, that seems to be an upper class summoning formation"

An aristocrat had involuntarily asked the butler next to him, and the he answered back disturbed. The butler was a man who came from the battlefield where he had seen the advanced summoning technique Dunbalf used. The hollow memory was immediately revived from the scene in front of his eyes. The magic that had emerged on the preparation stage, was very similar to the magic formation from his past.

The people weren't able to fathom the situation, and continually raised their voices. Without any concern Mira faced towards the summoning formation, and began to weave together words from her small lips.

[When thou hears mine voice, once thou has received mine thought, I wonder, will thou wake up? I want hear thy voice, to hear thy voice sing. I wish to hear thou sound like that of a bell once more ]

**【Summon : Diva】**

At the same time Mira completed her chant, the summoning formation shun brilliantly like the sun and in the next moment shattered like glass. Among the shining pieces falling like a star, there was a presence. Wearing thin sky-blue clothes on her white skin, with fluttering beautiful silky light blond hair, was a lady who seemed fragile. However her pupils concealed a strong will, along with a dignified sharpness dwelling in her lovely features.

"Ahh, finally we've been reunited, aruji-sama"

The woman appeared with a loose sweet voice, after a young girl came into her view she immediately recognized the master of summons, with a bow she gazed at Mira with wet eyes.

"Umu, it had been a long time. Leticia"

Leticia was the name of this woman. As the name Diva implied, she was an advanced spirit that governed music.

"I've been lonely for a long time..... Aruji-sama..... did you get smaller?"

"No, rather than getting smaller, I think I've changed considerably....."

"Is that so.....? Ah, that's right. I made a song for aruji-sama"

Leticia tilted her head slightly, and began to hum as if she were an innocent child who lost interest.

"♪ ♪ ♪"

(As I thought..... Isn't this quite plain?)

Diva was chosen after being troubled, but Mira was anxious. Leticia was the owner of a very fluffy personality. Even without context, it wouldn't matter before and after. She was last summoned when it was still a game, presently she was humming without any concern.

Mira smiled wryly, remembering the time constraint of this event.

But despite that, everyone had been swallowed up by Mira. Leticia's hum contained high magic power, but it was played very lightly, it was a melody that deeply resonated in your mind, it was also something that was never heard before in her previous life.

"Ah—, It might be better for another time. Rather than that, won't thou let me hear【Melody of the Green Forest】?"

"I'll accept Aruji-sama's request"

Leticia stopped humming while swaying left and right, and immediately nodded to Mira's wish. All of the audience along with the representatives immediately felt as if they had woken up from a dream, as they turned their sight towards Mira. Why was it stopped?



But in the next moment, such thoughts were dismissed as foolish premature feelings.

Leticia who received Mira's request, spread her wings that shimmered like a rainbow made of magic, and began playing a myriad of sounds. The difference waves of melodies and humming overlapped with each other over and over again, it was a song with deep harmony. And Leticia sang along with the song. The singing voice was gentle, but shook the atmosphere strongly, it was as if the reverberating sounds came from a goddess.

Leticia's ability, unlike that of the Dark Knight's and Alfina's, was specialized in long range support. Using different songs to inspire, or heal others.

Presently, Leticia's Melody of the Green Forest had the effect of mana recovery, in other words a song to heal the mind. And it also gave an additional effect, all who hears it would be placed at ease.

Leticia sung for about five minutes from the start before reaching the finale, as it sounded out, the entire audience rose and sent warm praises to the two below on the center stage.

(This, it seems to have quite a high evaluation. Or so it seems.....)

As Mira stood in the rain of applause that echoed from the surroundings, she recalled how the representatives had acted until now. First was showing off, and an attack on the armored doll was the conclusion. While thinking of the request and watching the flow of events, Leticia was waving her hands at the audience giving their praise "Thank you very much!".

"Leticia on the armored doll, **【Requiem of Outburst】**"

Mira called out to Leticia immediately,

"I've received your request"

With that answer, she turned her face towards the armored doll, and issued a very short single note from her mouth.

In the next moment, the audience who stopped their applause at the explosive sound of the armored doll shattering into pieces, their eyes fluttered down with silence.

"What.....Just now"

Someone had finally managed to squeeze out thier voice、 after finally calming down、 they demanded an answer from the principal.The doll which had endured attacks from seven representatives vanished without a trace.Such a powerful skill had never been seen before.

On the other hand、 the principal was unable to suppress his own feelings welling up 、 "Wonderful!"And so、 everyone who felt that word had their hearts stolen.

Once again applause rose up、 Leticia sympathized with Mira"It seems you had some trouble"."There's still aruji-sama's song"Leticia asked for the impossible as she was returning"next time、 let them settle down"Nodding at Mira's words she returned.

## Chapter 40: Glimpse of the Army

From among the ringing applause, a single person glared at the girl standing in the center of the stage. Kairos, Summoning which had eternally been at the lowest rank, he couldn't allow it to be more outstanding than himself.

"Everyone, please wait a moment!"

Kairos became irritated, and jumped onto the center of the stage raising his voice and hands exaggeratedly. From his actions, everyone directed their attention towards his hands. Kairos glanced at the audience, chuckling to himself at the noises of praise directed at someone other than himself as it stopped.

"Don't you think it's strange? A sudden change of representatives on the same day, moreover a child not even suitable for school, did Hinata think such an unknown skill could work?"

(.....What is this person saying?)

Kairos was incoherent, and watching Mira the judges seemed different. It was clear that different summons had been seen until now, excitement had appeared witnessing the phenomenon, the words of Kairos had become a stone sending down ripples.

"Certainly.....Is that really summoning magic? Wasn't summoning only involved with Dark and Holy Knights?"

A judge speaks out a question of doubt. It was, a noble who had only ever seen Hinata's summoning magic. A younger generation that grew up without knowing of the original summoning magic. In truth, the judge that was coaxed by the words of Kairos, was a young person in their mid-twenties. However, as for the present conditions with the influence on points, it was a considerable thing since the people of that generation occupied the most of the judges.

"Outside of the Alkrite school teachers, the only summoners with more power are those from the towers. Such things couldn't be handled by a child, there

must be a gimmick. Surely, Hinata must have become tired of being last every time, and within the attention attracted to the good looks of this child, something was done from behind. Surely everyone remembers the results of summoning from the last examinations"

From Kairos's words of doubt, the judges turn their gaze to Mira. To be incited to this degree, was the viewpoint of the present summoners this weak? Mira stamped on ground with her worried soul.

Mira's ability had been doubted, Mira with the same thoughts as the middle aged man wanted to settle it on a grand scale, and attracted the attention of the venue.

"If you say that much, how would you like to end this in a match rather than an examination?"

The principal had proposed a suggestion. In only moments, along with a groan immediately followed by, "That's a good idea" had been voiced out.

The proposal was immediately accepted unanimously, in particular the match was specially held because of Kairos's protest of Mira.

In preparation, both sides would take a fifteen minute break. However, those that were seated in the meantime excitedly talked before the exceptional match

"Troublesome....."

"Somehow, I'm sorry. Trouble has steadily accumulated"

Mira had returned and was talking to the wall, while Hinata with her head down apologized. There, two certain people had come to visit.

"Goodness, I apologize for this. I intended to settle this without being accompanied"

The person who incited the opportunity of the game, had come with the principal who spoke out. Wearing a tall grey robe, with creased eyebrows, an apologetic expression surfaced on his face.

Seeing the figure, Hinata bows in respect. The principal returned a light bow, and turned his eyes towards Mira.

"I'm sorry, but please stay with us for a bit longer"

The principal smiled wryly. Mira spat out a sigh "Well, it's fine" to which the principal answered back, "I'm saved".

The principal grieved for the current state of the review board. The recent downturn of the review board, was due to the nobles who did not know much about magic. However, there were many influential nobles who invested in Alkite School, until just thirty years ago . . . . people who didn't know about the times of upheaval appeared. A decline in the quality of magicians began to pile up, that was the current state of the school.

Not only the principal, but those who had piled up years of old age were charmed at the scene that unfolded in front of their eyes. It was as if it time had turned back to when all Nine Sages had gathered.

The principal had grasped Mira's ability just watching. In front of that girl's eyes, they were no match. Rumors of Dunbalf's apprentice appearing were overheard.

(The appearance is consistent with the rumors. And this power.....)

By chance it was a possibility. Presently, it was a good opportunity to witness her power.

If it turned out to be the truth, the situation of the school could be reversed. Coming to this realization the principal considered a plan. Defeating the modern day magician Kairos, like a magician of the former Alkite Kingdom, a genuine magician who specialized in everything. And most of all, he wanted him to remember the sense of fun within himself. As such, he proposed the review match.

"Give it your best shot"

"Thou may count on it"

"I also want to thank you"

After the principal left, a representative spoke to Mira. The representatives had surrounded Mira, and with the accumulated feelings of bitterness, they began to cheer for her. The people who were here, they were influential people

who carried the heavy responsibility of changing the opinions of magicians every month. With the unbelievable events, they understood that Mira was not an ordinary person. Originally Kairos should have been able to judge that as well, but his pride as the school's strongest had clouded his eyes. He averted his eyes from perceiving the ability that was the difference of heaven and earth.

"Well, Leave it to me"

Mira answered as she began walking towards the stage.

The break ended with the both of them facing each other in the middle of the stage. Standing between them was the man in the white coat, preaching the rules of the game as the referee.

Accordingly, they are to fight fair and square. Victory or defeat was determined by being unable to fight, or the referee confirming the surrender. The act of depriving one of their life was prohibited. Along with other such things. Originally, there was no such thing as a review game, so the competition rules were applied.

"Someone, please keep watch over Hinata-sensei. In case any strings are pulled from behind me again"

Kairos had deliberately made note of Hinata in a loud voice. If there was even a little moment, he would immediately denounce it. In his words, Kairos's attendant colluded with him in advance and moved next to Hinata.

(It's already over. After a suitable amount of time has passed, it will end in a tie. I don't know what sort of trick that summoner used to show off)

Kairos sent back a gaze towards the attendant, to which he gave a small nod. There was another thought in this preparation. Kairos would not only knock down Mira, he planned to turn the position of summoners into that of frauds. Kairos held in his hands the <Spellbinding Curse> Tool. He would use it immediately just before victory, while his attendant would accuse Hinata of fraud. With Mira nearly defeated, Hinata would likely interfere with the match. It was the perfect display of a crushing defeat, with that Kairos's muddy eyes turned black.

"Now then, the special examination game will begin. Both of you, bow"

Kairos gracefully struck a pose, Mira recalled Leticia, and lifted the hem of her skirt as she bowed. With that lovely gesture, the audience slightly rustled. Mira loved one on one combat battles, and thus had the tendency to respectfully give a formal introduction. Mira didn't know of the difference between man and woman, and therefore decided to mimic Leticia whom she had just seen.

The man in the white robe withdrew behind after glancing at both of them, and at a sufficient distance he raises his right hand.

"Ready.....Begin!"

Kairos began to move at the same time the signal went off. Making a large jump to the rear, magic overflowed in both his hands.

"Army of flames dancing in the sky, in accordance to the ki.....ng!?"

In the middle of Kairos calming chanting. Instantly, Kairos was surrounded by six Dark Knights, with swords pointing at his neck.

"This is!"

The scene which had unfolded in front of them sent a shiver through spine of everyone in the audience. The audience that was able to look around the entire stage, was unable to grasp anything from the beginning.

The beginning was in other words, the movements such as an aria or the convergence of magic.

Kairos had jumped back while gathering magic in his hands. But in the next moment, magic appeared in the surroundings, and from it appeared ominous sword wielding Dark Knights. Involuntarily they blinked, and as they opened their eyes Kairos had been encircled with swords pointed at his neck. No one was able to see what Mira had done.

(What.....Wha What is this. What's going on!? Where did they appear from! It must be that person. That teacher!)

Kairos completely turned his head with suspicion, and glared directly at Hinata. What reflected in his vision was, an expression of astonishment on the faces of Hinata, the other representatives, his attendant as well as everyone

else.

(Damn! What's going on. What the hell did this kid do!?)

Kairos glared at the girl in front of him in frustration. Mira ignored Kairos, and pressed the referee who had become stiff for the judgement.

"What is the verdict?"

As Mira spoke while poking the man in the white robe's cheek, he finally came to senses and raised his right hand.

"Winner, the Representative of Summoners!"

As the voice sounded, applause rose up. The youths who had yet grasped what happened, remained absentminded. In contrast, the middle-aged who had years of experience sent a heartfelt praise to Mira.

"Bullshit!"

As soon as victory and defeat were decided, and after Mira returned the Dark Knights, Kairos uttered in rage.

"What's wrong, Kairos • Balon. are you dissatisfied?"

The venue had fallen silent simultaneously as the principals voiced echoed. Kairos left behind any remains of emotions he held and shouted.

"By all odds no matter how you look at it it's impossible! It's not possible to summon six entities without even preliminary movements! How the hell can a single summoner easily do something not possible! Simply looking you would understand, without collaborators it's impossible! Yes, cooperation, cooperation was involved! Where are they hiding! Come out!"

To Kairos who was ranting on stage, everyone directed a cold gaze. The Dark Knights that had emerged, simply watching gave them goosebumps witnessing the unusual air of intimidation. Even if there were collaborators, to be able to handle that kind of summoning, it was impossible for school teachers. And there were no such summoners in this day and age. Thinking a little, you would find it was largely delusional.

"Cowards! Who do you think I am! I am.....!!!"



Kairos kept spouting nonsense, unable to accept his loss. However, in the next moment on stage swallowed up by the sight in front of him. Once again, Dark Knights appeared instantly as if they were ghosts.

"U.....Uwaaaa—!!!"

Kairos fell on his back with tangled feet, and unconsciously twitched and scoot back in fear. In front were twenty Dark Knights with forty shining red eyes were holding large swords in anticipation of Kairos.

"This degree is....."

The principal muttered in admiration. The high difficult technique of quick multiple simultaneous summons, moreover the reactions of the Dark Knights moving with the summoning. Everything was out of the standard.

"Up to here, will thou truly be able to understand?"

Mira who rapidly consumed her mana, stroked her chin with her finger while feeling some fatigue.

To use summoning magic, some procedures were necessary.

First was the position they would appear in. Within a capable radius spread around yourself. In Mira's case, it was possible to summon anywhere within twenty meters.

Next was choosing a summon. To decide on what to summon on the specified position with timing.

As soon as it's been decided, use enough mana necessary to summon. With this summons would be ready at any time.

And the final step. After summoning, control the behavior of the summon.

This was the basic flow. But this was merely the general flow for the summoning mechanics, for Mira it was exercised all in one step. The theory for the summoning technique, and behavior control of Dark Knights had been built up over time.

The invocation procedure that was simplified, was a technique that could be called the gateway to being the highest ranked magician in any magic. Therefore it was extremely limited to users, as for the people who didn't know, they

would first need to break away from common sense to understand the phenomenon.

This could only be called the entrance, the users who mastered this technique were the existences known as the Nine Sages.

Mira's contained a twist, there was more than one appearance position for summoning the same armored spirit type, and simultaneously in one breath they could be called. That was her specialty. Abruptly, the threat was clear as the surrounding Dark Knights swung down their swords.

"Wonderful"

The principal stands up and voiced out praise, the clapping overflowed to one girl as soon as the others came to their senses.

As for judging, Kairos disappeared with his attendant during waiting period of counting.

Mira received a grand reception from the representatives, pursuing the matter of her ability. A certain person visited the examination venue with their usual excuse like so.

"Oya, has the exam committee finished?"

"It seems like it"

It appeared to the men and women one at a time. A beautiful young male elf with shining blonde hair that extended down to his shoulders wearing a black and blue robe. A woman with blonde hair, in an impressive magic girl style red hood.

Both were well-equipped with features, but above that the venue's atmosphere transformed. The principal and teachers hurried to an open space on the stage with an upright attitude and tense expression. Hinata and the necromancy representative among them was particularly intense.

"Mu. Well, if it isn't Creos"

Mira fixed her eyes on the male elf, calling out to him after a long time. The man sees the figure of Mira moving his face towards the voice, and walks towards her with a smile of surprise.

"Mira-chan.I heard you returned、 but you were the last person I expected to see in a place such as this"

A bow was made to Mira blending in with the representatives.With Dunbalf's absence、 Creos was currently serving as the elder of the Tower of Summoner's.

"Ara、 is that someone you know?"

Little Red Riding hood followed and looked into Creo's face.She had stared directly into Mira's eyes and replied with a smile、 Cute child"、 but soon her expression disappeared.Mira did not remember if she had seen this Little Red Riding Hood before、 and turned towards Creos for an answer.

"Speaking of which、 at that time、 you only directly talked to me.This is a person with the same Elder's position.She is the manager the Tower of Necromancy、 Amaratti-san.And also、 this is the child Mira-chan I've talked about before"

Creos introduced Amaratti、 the red hooded girl that was a managing elder、 and introduced Mira to Amaratti.And with the exchange、 Hinata along with the representatives looked stunned.Why were they talking normally、 as if it were a lovers suicide? Along with other such things.

"Ara、 the lady there.Nice to meet you、 I'm Amaratti"

"Mira"

Amaratti took a step forward、 and with a light nod introduced herself.She had focused on the clothes Mira was wearing in front of her.

"By the way、 that is well made.Could you tell me where you ordered it from?"

Amaratti's height was slighter higher than Mira's.She had slouched as if looking to devour the magic robe set of Mira who remained expressionless.She was also a magical girl freak.She was interested in Mira's smart elegant magical girl costume.

"Nu、 this? It is Lily's group.....the work of the castle maids"

"The castle maid、 Lily.They made such clothes?I wonder if I can make an order.Thank you Mira-san.That's very good information"

Amaratti shows a small smile on her face、 and began walking towards the

principal been keeping track of time.

"Well then Mira-chan, see you again. I came for a quick greeting. ah, there are various things I want to talk about so don't be reserved"

"That is right. There are some things I would also like to hear, it will be good"

"Thank you. Then, Take care"

"Umu"

After exchanging a few words, Creos chased after Amaratti heading towards the principal. Amaratti had already met up with the principal, and were discussing something.

After Creos had joined them, Hinata finally coming loose from being stiff jumped onto Mira.

"Why! Why is Mira so close with Creos-sama!? I mean, what's your relationship with him!?"

Hinata talked wildly as if upset. The representatives nearby had also done nothing to stop it. It was because they also wanted to know the answer to that question.

"We have met before. So there's no excitement. Compared to that, that is fine without greeting him?"

With Mira saying as such, Hinata's ears stiffly stood up and raised her voice "ah". Having been completely surprised she had forgotten.

In a hurry, Hinata ran towards the principal's direction. Mira took out some Apple au Lait gazing at her back, and breathed out a sigh.

Two people came to have a look at the state of the examination committee with much effort. The return of Creos led to an acquisition of applicants for summoners. Amaratti had settled business in the castle, before finishing errands in the school.

A commotion temporarily appeared with the principal, but the count was completed safely, and the result was Summoning had taken first place with the highest score out of all generations.

After, the committee dissolved, and each of them went back to work.

Mira was currently relaxing on a sofa of the guest room of the school with two representatives. In front was the excited Creos and the expressionless Amaratti. Next to Mira, was Hinata with a cornered expression finding it very difficult to understand why she was attending.

(Wh, why is Mira so dignified)

For Hinata who was a teacher, the two in front of her were a far away existence. Facing them with the same eyes, she wanted to fall to the floor and prostrate.

Hinata's hand was trembling with tension, while lifting the tea cup towards her mouth.

"Achuuii"

*(TLN: She burned her tongue)*

The freshly brewed herb tea was still hot, Hinata involuntarily let out her voice. Mira held out a glass of water, as the cat ears and tail rose calmly.

"Thank you"

Taking the glass, Hinata sipped the water to cool her tongue. But in the next moment, she recalled the situation she had been placed in, and turned her eyes upset.

Creos watched Hinata with a grin. Amaratti placed her hand on his mouth, with beaming eyes.

"Are you alright, Hinata-sensei?"

"I-.....I'm alright"

Creos called out, and Hinata replied biting her lips while expanding her cat ears. Mira watched Hinata with a bitter smile, taking a cookie placed on the table, she rammed it into Hinata's mouth.

"Here Hinata. Why is thou nervous?"

"Fuguu"

Hinata flushed down the cookie with water.

"Mou、 why is Mira so calm?"

Hinata who recovered slightly、 replied to Mira. In front of two acting Sages、 how could she be so calm.

"Even if thou asks"

Mira inclined her neck while talking. Honestly、 it was something that wasn't answered even if it was asked、 she had been ignorant of their social position. Although the minimum thing she knew、 was her close friend was the King of the country、 and Creos was originally a servant. It was something that somehow had a sense of discomfort.

(In the future、 I'll have to think about the circumstances)

For peaceful human relations、 Mira had begun to think about compromises.

"Hinata-sensei、 don't worry too much. We've said it many times already、 you don't need to be nervous because we're merely representatives"

"Bu.....but!"

"What is it Hinata. How many times do they have to say it?"

The words were from Creos's true feelings、 because it was something he continued to respect from childhood、 and Hinata hesitated to change her expression. When Mira voiced her opinion、 Hinata stopped thinking with her eyes wide open.

To the other party that didn't get nervous、 how often had she been told to change her way of thinking?. That sinful thing.

"Please excuse me"

Unable to bear the feeling Hinata prostrated. Creos smiled bitterly、 as Mira grasped Hinata's neck and got back on the couch.

"Troublesome. As for me、 I'll talk normally. There are a variety of things concerning the classes and future schedule of summoning. Although I'm talking normally to Mira-chan、 I guess I'm useless"

Hinata slightly reacted to Creos's lonely smile turning her cat ears down.

"Eh? Um、 Mira-chan is there something wrong?"

Why was Mira's name mentioned? Hinata sent a glance towards Mira tilting her neck. The girl reflected in her field of view was very cute, but hid an enormous summoning strength. Judging by strength, it would be normal to prostrate oneself. However her partner was an adventurer. An adventurer respects freedom, and is unrelated to such things. When it came to people with corresponding power like that of the higher ranked, there were only a handful of them.

"Mira-chan is Dunbalf's apprentice. Her ability is probably above mine"

Creos talked with slight envy towards Mira, and Hinata who heard completely stopped thinking.

## Chapter 41: An apprentice and a Teacher

As a result, it took Hinata several minutes to regain her sanity. Mira in the meantime was talking about the situation of summoning magic acquisition to Creos, assessing the the material cost for the creation of sealed exploding magic stones was advised. Creos expressed excitement, and promised to give his best effort.

After the talk finished, Amaratti repeated her questions about the magic robe set, to which Mira dutifully answered in detail. As soon as Amaratti heard about the effects generated from magic stones, her eyes shined as she bit at her clothes. Eventually, Amaratti settled down when they agreed to ask Lily to make a set.

In the midst of the conversation of the three people, Hinata finally rebooted, interrupting by asking about the story details of Dunbalf's apprentice, as the others remained silent.

(Dunbalf's apprentice!? I've never heard of one. But that kind of technique, Creos had also mentioned it.....Ah! Then I wonder, did Dunbalf-sama retire? If that is the case maybe he put effort into the upbringing of his apprentice.

I've somewhat decided on what to use expenses on. Well, it's particularly thanks to Mira-chan.....I wonder if it would be unpleasant to Mira-chan. But I could ask for Creos's input. Uun, it's because it's Creos-sama. Then what about Mira-sama? I wonder what.....It would be surprising. Is it because of a kind of speech? It's awfully impressive.

Amaratti likes clothes, more specifically magical girl fashion? Is that so. The clothes are really cute. Mira-chan.....Although the atmosphere is slightly different, Mira-sama is the same. Me too.....Well, it doesn't suit them.

Rather than that, What am I doing over here!?)

*(TLN: Hinata is following along with their conversation and talking to herself inside her mind)*



Hinata had come to a conclusion after going around in circles in anguish. In front of her was a famous person, he had mentioned he was only acting as a stand-in Sage. But the fact was that he was still one of the highest ranked magicians in the continent, in an event at the Country of the Three Gods a decade ago, a demon that attacked Alkite Kingdom, and being known as the strongest fighting power that fought alongside Luminaria remained unchanged. And, the girl sitting next to that person was said to be above them. On one end, that power was firmly burned into her eyes. At the moment, Hinata was present in the gathering of three people with the war potential equal to a country. It was impossible to be calm.

"Fuumu, as I thought, for better efficiency it seems physical reinforcement products are needed"

"That's right isn't it. I can't allow the students to encounter danger. Using Mira-chan's equipment is much safer, but because of the large amount of applicants it takes a lot of time. I've collected various equipment some time ago, but it's not good enough since there isn't anything powerful"

Conversation with Mira started up again, it was discussion on the upbringing of new summoners. As expected, the content's degree of difficulty of contracting and efficiency is a problem.

"Hou, is the equipment made for body strengthening?"

"Mostly one for vitality and one for physical strength. But because the effect increase is small, we can't guarantee absolute safety so I don't go "

"I see. Then I may try and manage something "

Mira pondered a little, and concluded that some refining could be done. Even if the equipment had a small effect, it was possible to extract and increase it with refinement.

"Really!?"

"Umu, leave it to me"

Creos asked in earnest, while Mira replied with confidence. The exchange Hinata heard seemed similar to personal affairs.

Mira who made up part of the group of four was directed to the Summoners Warehouse Department, and was currently moving through the special study department inside the school. With the lighting and furniture arrangements, it was reminiscent of a noble's mansion rather than a school.

Mira who asked Creos and Amaratti about the school's history, was interested in a variety of different things in it. Behind those three, Hinata nervously followed.

Students who saw their appearance, immediately moved out of the way lining up against the wall with an expression of etiquette. On the other hand, Creos with a bitter smile addresses them "Please excuse us for the disturbance". With this polite demeanor, from people who weren't under the umbrella of aristocracy, not just strangers, but students had also fallen in love with Creos. And it wasn't just Creos. All of the stand-in Sages, were humble, and did not abuse their position. Therefore, some of the nobles hadn't noticed it. The stand-in Sages, were each compared with each other without any words spoken. But, at its core there were many nobles who expressed their thanks.

After they had passed, the students began making noise.

"I understand if its Hinata-sensei, but who was the girl?"

"Aahh, that child was really cute"

"I like Amaratti-sama, but that girl is also good"

"So, who was that?"

Of course it wasn't someone they knew, and many speculations were made. Creos's illegitimate child, one of the three's younger sister, new student, tower researcher, Amaratti's magical girl fashion companion. Everything had been delusions with no connections, but the students happily engaged in conversation.

Specialized Study Basement. Creos stood in front of a dimly lit room inside the warehouse with every other magic department lined up, Hinata opened the door with a key she borrowed from the staff room.

In its own way, parts of the warehouse was in good condition, it was slightly dusty without airflow, and a light smell of paper and metal slightly drifted. This

was because Hinata had cleaned and organized it on a regular basis, as she made effective use of her spare time being a part of the Summoning Magic Department.

"Hinata-sensei. Could you bring out all of the accessories?"

"Yes, please wait a moment!"

With her spine and cat ears standing upright, Hinata tackled a corner of the warehouse. In the meantime, Creos spread out a stand in the center that had been propped up out of use. A myriad of symbols and shapes lined the surface, creating a magic formation. It was a refinement stand.

"Sorry to have kept you waiting"

Hinata held a box within her hands, and placed it on top of the table. Countless rings and necklaces were inside. The materials were common, none of which contained any mysterious power.

"After.....This"

Creos while saying so, took a pouch from inside the warehouse and placed it on top of the table after arranging things. There were turquoise and moonstones, and countless amounts of crystal-like jewelry. It was the materials required for refining.

"Fumu, then I'll finish it quickly. I wonder if all the accessories will be refined?"

"That won't matter"

Mira began working with jewels side-by-side in a predetermined position for this refinement stage, as Creos took notes. Creos and Amaratti had once seen it when they were in the castle with the matter of the Accord Cannon, they had stared and admired at what they saw. However, Hinata wasn't able to understand what was happening.

Hinata was originally taught that refinement required care and time. It took thirty minutes to reform more than one accessory with refinement.

And, it could be said that the true value to refinement, was extracting the special effects that had been affixed to equipment.

Right now, Mira finished processing the accessories into several refining stones and begun her next task. The work detailed the extraction of the effect from the accessories turning it into a stone, and increasing the effect by refining it. By doing so, the sealed magic stone's effect would be upgraded upon completion. The upgrade success rate wasn't efficient, but it would surely be completed with enough repetition.

Approximately ten necklaces had been reformed on the stand, and the stone refinement upgrade had completed.

(This is.....It's refining isn't it!? Although I've seen it several times in practice, this is differently entirely! A mountain of sand is steadily growing.....)

"I'll do it"

Hinata exclaimed, moving away Creos's hand, and substituted in for him in the sand hill removal.

"To have it taken" Creos shrugged his shoulders, Amaratti advised expressionlessly "Please take Hinata-sensei into consideration". Creos had good intentions and normally he did everything alone, but for a person with a superior position, it was impossible for people lower than him to settle down. Amaratti had mentioned the circumstances several times intending for Creos to change his temperament, but it was still quite difficult.

Was it roughly thirty minutes that had passed since Mira began refining? All of the accessories changed into sand, and twelve sealed magic stone's effects had increased on top of the table.

"As I thought, it's amazing isn't it"

"Yes, it really is"

Seeing it again, Creos and Amaratti couldn't help but to raise voices of admiration. Hinata looked at the two who were acting as stand-in sages calm down witnessing the extraordinary phenomenon that altered common sense on its own.

"This has increased Vitality, and this has Physical Strength reinforcement. If the accessories can endure what comes after then it'll be complete"

"Accessories?.....Ah、 In that case then perhaps around here....."

Creos began rummaging around the largest shelf in the warehouse while recalling something、 taking out metal objects and things similar to work tools.

A mountain of miscellaneous things gathered at his feet、 and from the innermost part Creos came back with a tiny box in his hand.

The size of the box could fit in both palms、 opening the lid after it was placed on the table、 simple rings and necklaces without taste were inside.

Creos had created them when he was looking for new ways to acquire summons.As a result、 the failures were resting in the back of the shelf、 but now a time for being useful had come.

"They aren't beautiful、 but because the base is pure gold it should be sufficient"

Gold had high durability in retrospect to refining、 which made it a material that was useful for refining equipment.As Creos had mentioned、 as a base for refining products it was sufficient.

"Fumu、 Certainly.Then shall I use these as the foundation?"

Mira answered back、 taking a gold ring and necklace to carefully refine.When the increased effect was transferred to the accessory、 the sealed magic stones evaporated into colorless dust.

The usage of the foundation was repeated twelve times、 and creating the refined equipment had finished.

"Thank you Mira-chan! It's possible for many applicants to form a contract.Really, thank you very much"

Creos expressed his gratitude multiple times、 expressing a very happy smile taking the refined equipment.And this had also pleased Hinata.She wasn't able to understand what happened in front of her eyes、 but she understood that the accessories with strength reinforcement to help Summoners form a contract was completed.

"I would also like to thank you as a Teacher for Summoners.Mira-sama"

".....Hinata、 what is wrong with thou? Thou seems strange in many ways"

"There isn't anything. I'm very calm"

Hinata who was informed that Mira was in fact Dunbalf's apprentice, did not know how to treat her and as a result showed a confused behavior.

"Uun, is it my fault after all?"

Creos smiled bitterly as he talked. The origin of cause came from telling Hinata without any care.

"Fuumu. In the first place, I don't have a title like them, I'm only an adventurer. There's no need to be nervous"

Mira said while lowering her eyebrows, while Hinata recalled the words that caused her to feel as such. Creos had been told many times, but couldn't change his manners.

After being troubled for a while, Hinata makes up her mind and speaks up.  
"Mira.....chan....."

"What?"

Towards Hinata's voice, Mira responded with a smile. With the position of a teacher, Hinata was weak to the smile of a child. After unconsciously loosening up, her cat ears stood up immediately.

"Thank you Mira-chan. I will do my best as well"

Hinata was relieved of her former expression as Mira was also satisfied, and being fired up once more she thanked her once again.

"Umu, I couldn't overlook the present condition. When you need a hand, you may call to me anytime"

Mira did not spare her cooperation. Developing the upbringing of Summoners was a troubling task.

And on this day, Hinata had unknowingly made a connection more powerful than any other magic department. She would be unable to fathom until much later in the future.

"Mira-chan, what are you doing after this?"

In the middle of the stairs going towards the first floor, Creos asked. Mira had

been thinking slightly about the committee. Was it the result of 30 years? Mira had shown the board of review a magic that wasn't known. Mira recalled with excitement, despite the immature representatives her magic had effectively changed them. As such, it was a matter of wanting to know about the changes that happened in the last thirty years.

"If possible, I would like to look around this school"

Creos was delighted to hear those words "Then....." He immediately stopped as soon as he started talking. Instead of showing her around, he had remembered Amaratti's words.

"Umm, Hinata-sensei. If there aren't any lessons today. Could you guide Mira-chan?"

Hinata's expression brightened from Creos's question, it was a direct conversation with Hinata.

Creos's struggles were continuing to increase, Hinata's current Summoning Magic classes were held weekly. There was a lot of time.

"Please leave it to me, I will accomplish it "

Hinata's cat ears rose in stimulation to her excited reply.

Upon reaching the first floor, they parted from the two representatives. Creos left the school after repeating his thanks many times. Amaratti was asked to give Lily her regards as she left towards another school building expressing her farewell, "Until we meet again".

After seeing the two of them off, Hinata looked back towards Mira fired up.

"Mira-chan, where would you like to go? I can take you anywhere"

Hinata had been fidgeting her cat ears and tail, asking Mira where to go while calming down.

"If possible, I would like to see the practical skill of magicians in a mock battle type environment"

"Practical skills and mock battles?. In that case training practice is ok. Right now it should be the Magic Department"

"Hou、 that may be good.Won't thou bring me there?"

When mentioning the Magic Department Kairos comes to mind、 the charming points of Kairos's magic、 was its originality.One could say that aspect had the largest change in the past thirty years.Mira who was interested、 hurried Hinata along.

*(TLN: so magic department has been used often in the last few chapters, explaining it a little, the magic department that's referred to when making a connection with Mira was 術学科 which is a nonspecific magic study subject/department, while the magic department used in this scene is 魔術科 which means more literally black magic study branch.I guess for future translations, sorcery is probably more appropriate )*

"Un、 it's this way"

Hinata while saying so、 guided Mira to the training building that was adjacent to the specialty department.

They crossed over the first floor of the specialized study department opposite of the school gate、 and came out the back door appearing in front of a building approximately half the size of the school building.It's appearance was close to a gymnasium、 and inside the voice of a person along with roaring sounds could be subtly heard from inside.

The two entered from the front entrance of the training building、 and were greeted inside the lobby as if it were an event for a meeting place.Numerous simple chairs were lined up、 aside from that、 several students were buying drinks or wiping away their sweat.

"Oya、 Hinata-sensei is it.Did the summoning department have a schedule here today?"

From the back of the lobby、 the middle-aged man approached Hinata with his voice becoming louder.With an average face that showed a nonexistent expression、 he asked a simple question with slight tension.

But rather than that、 from the beginning Mira's attention was focused elsewhere.

(Jersey、 a Magic jersey.It's good、 it has such a comfortable appearance)



The middle-aged man was wearing a blue jersey top and bottom. Exercise, house clothes, and even for casual outings. Mira believed the clothes to be very useful.

"Ah, Siegfried-sensei. Good work. No schedule today, but Mira-chan wants to look around"

"Oh oh, was it like that?"

The middle-aged man named Siegfried-sensei turned his sight towards the girl beside Hinata.

(Siegfried's jersey appearance.....)

Mira hid her face, recalling something impolite trying to bear with her own laughter.

"Anyways, Hinata-sensei. Because my name is long, just Sieg will do"

"Yes, but for a new teacher like myself to address a senior"

Hinata answered conservatively. This exchange was not only today's. Siegfried who was fine with just his a nickname, Hinata had modestly declined.

Siegfried dropped his shoulders in regret, and looks at Mira again. As for Mira, she had turned away looking around the lobby.

"Umm, so it was a tour?. As it is now, is it alright for the magic department to train their magic techniques? It would seem to be dangerous for the girl"

Siegfried adjusted his sight back to Hinata saying so. As a matter of fact, the Magic Departments training had only an aggressive nature, and touring would involve risk. However taking Mira into consideration, Siegfried was different than Hinata who knew her ability to a degree, to the cute girl advised he advised with uncertainty in his eyes..

"There's no need to worry around us. Because Mira-chan is strong"

Hinata answered full of confidence, with her chest held high. There, Siegfried recalled a report he had heard a while ago.

"Oh oh, then this child was the representative for Summoning Magic, this is the girl who stole first place"

Finishing his speech, Siegfried rushed up to Mira and held out his hand.

"Nice to meet you, Mira-chan. I'm a teacher of the Magic Department, Siegfried. It's a shame the Magic Department was defeated, you did well"

"U, umu. It was nothing special"

Siegfried with his jersey appearance put on a good-natured smile. Mira held in her laughter, as she accepted the handshake. Mira, who was the cause of the Magic Department placing second, was puzzled about the gratitude expressed. However Siegfried seemed to be pleased with the hand shake, and happily faced Hinata.

"Well, congratulations Hinata-sensei. Creos seems to be doing many things, this is the beginning of Summoning Magic!"

"Yes, Thank you very much"

Hinata seemed happy about Siegfried's congratulatory speech and expressed her own gratitude. And Siegfried who received that smile blushed greatly.

Summoners were currently in a weak position, and Hinata struggled with many things, but Siegfried concerned himself with her in many ways.

Mira became aware of such circumstances while watching. Someway or another, Siegfried seemed to be in love with Hinata. Although they were defeated he had been able to consent to it. When you're favorite person becomes discouraged from taking last each time in the review, worry begins to surface.

"But well, something like that is fine isn't it?"

Mira's ability was reliable. Siegfried who understood consented to the tour

"Thank you very much....Siegfried...sensei"

Hinata bowed, and left to the back of the training building together with Mira towards the practice field. While seeing Hinata off, watching her from behind with no response Siegfried let out a big sigh.

## Chapter 42: School Tour

The practice field overflowed with hot air. The direct heat caused by magic, had been accompanied by the students emanating springtime of youth. The place was filled with youthful vigor, presently two people were training in a simulated actual combat.

"Thy springtime of youth is pleseant!"

Mira who was in a corner of the practice field, rose up to the place swelling with life. Sorcery vs Sorcery. Exploding flames sparks surged above the towering earthen walls with the wind. The school's magical landscape was unique in a way it didn't seem like reality.

For Hinata, it was just a normal looking landscape. However Mira had a pleasant appearance, but slight unease clouded her expression. If you were to spend time as an apprentice, what kind of life would you have? To be molded by the hero Dunbalf, and to have strength at this age, it wasn't an easy task. The thought that Mira never neglected training was imagined inside Hinata's mind.

(Was that why you were peeping into the school?.....But from here on you have freedom, it's only just begun. I'll enjoy teaching things a lot)

Hinata had fired herself up even more, taking a gentle glimpse of Mira who had been focused on the scenery of the training ground.

Hinata had misunderstood one person, the use of magic by the students attracted Mira's interest. It was magic that was used as a feint. One of the students fired off two different flames, a large explosive flame and a thin flame which quickly vanished.

A set of thin spherical shaped flames vanished, revealing an attack of choice hidden undercover. By predicting the opponents actions, it was possible to restrain them with a diversion. Occasionally you could change attributes, to correspond with their goal. Mira witnessed the same kind of scene taking place in different areas.

The magic used from what was recalled, was the basic【Black Magic : Blaze】.It was a very simple thing to attack a target with a spherical flame, consequently that much had been the magic.Mira had yet to see a phenomenon such as magic vanishing midway.

"Nou, Hinata-sensei.Are they using the magic <Blaze>?"

To Mira who had quickly asked about it, Hinata who was next to her had strangely overflowed with motivation.Hinata gave an exaggerated nod,

"That's correct.It's the magicians basic <Blaze>.By doing combat training like today, they can firmly build up the basics"

From the standpoint of a teacher who had helped other magic departments outside of her small number of classes for Summoners, Hinata had accumulated knowledge throughout the school.In response to Hinata, Mira was relieved of her wavering thoughts that weren't mistaken about that kind of magic.

"There are two types of explosions, the one that goes out midway, is that one not different?"

To Mira who had spoken out a sense of doubt, Hinata spoke up after pondering with her head tilted.

"Mira-chan, do you know the basic invocation process of magic?"

"Umu.Selection, specification, consumption, invocation"

That was the basic process to invoke magic.It was a series of steps that was required to be performed to cast magic.

First was to select the magic you wanted to use.Then specify what to use the magic on.And then the required mana was consumed.Finally triggering the invocation after the series of steps.The process was slightly different from summoning magic, but was required for chanting advanced magic.

"Not just summoning magic, but to have knowledge of other types of magic.Just as expected.The one that vanished midway was just an ordinary one, in the process of consumption, if the necessary mana isn't fully consumed that phenomenon occurs.When it's invoked in a state where it hasn't consumed

the required mana, it disappears midway unable to be maintained. But instead, because the consumption of mana is less than the required amount, the invocation procedure is faster and is used as a feint, or to restrain movement"

Hinata who finally seemed like a teacher, boastfully explained feeling proud of herself.

"I see. That kind of technique is surprising!"

Mira was genuinely impressed by the explanation. In the game era, the trick of suppressing mana consumption didn't exist. It was either one or none. When using magic, mana cost was always the same without any exception. However, now that the world had become a reality, even that law had collapsed. Magicians could now discover new possibilities.

"Then, if mana for summoning magic was reduced, what would happen?" With eyes full of expectation, Mira brought up another question. Hinata closed her cat ears with a \*petan\*, and stared into the distance with a clouded smile before gently speaking.

"A head.....an arm.....a leg.....some parts come out, and then disappears "

Parts appear and vanish. With timing, a shield could be used when calling inanimate objects for a moment, it was a phenomenon that made summoning magic less threatening when using less mana.

"Is.....that so?....."

In response to the answer, Mira decided to call a Dark Knight while regretfully bowing to Hinata, to test the sensation of suppressing mana.

(Fuumu, half.No, I wonder if about half is good)

Mira placed into her view, a place that was not too far from where she was.

**【Summon : Dark Knight】**

Suppressing mana consumption with her senses, an image had also incorporated in the process. From the unusual limited magic, the intense presence of only the Dark Knight's head emerged. Momentarily, the Dark Knight's eyes met with Hinata's, and a small scream was heard, after the head

vanished.

(So this is the feeling of reducing mana consumption. It's not so difficult)

In a single experiment, Mira had grasped the sense of reducing consumption. For Mira who had mastered countless techniques, it was simple to change the consumption rate of those skills, and among them new magic could be created.

If there were no problems, Mira could think of other possibilities. It was in her nature to obtain those results.

**【Summon : Dark Knight】**

This time, the dark knight holding a black sword with its right arm emerged from the magic with reduced mana. The second experiment, emphasis on the step of designation was put into consideration. Mira's result had succeeded.

(Fumu, this is also satisfactory. Now then)

"Hinata-sensei. It may get slightly dangerous, thou may want to step back"

"eh? u, un"

Although it was just a portion of the Dark Knight, it had momentarily emitted enormous amounts of magical energy which caused Hinata to lose the feeling in her legs and drop to the floor.

Mira took into account the experimental results, while building the process. She had given form to that elaborate magic, staring an empty unoccupied space.

**【Summon : Dark Knight】**

A hollow black arm holding a large sword in its hand received Mira's will, and appeared from a small magic formation. However, the situation this time was different from the previous one. The arm rose upwards holding the large sword.

"Eh!"

Hinata raised her voice involuntarily at the sight of it. And in the next moment, the arm slammed the large sword against the ground violently, and vanished in the blink of an eye.

"Fumu, it seems to have been successful"

Mira stroked her chin with her fingers, murmuring to herself satisfied with the results. The black arm that appeared in the nearby area left behind in Hinata's gaze, had presently shattered the common sense of beginners. A huge scar was firmly carved on the ground as evidence.

Processing the steps of summoning magic, specifying the location, summoning a specific body portion, consuming mana, and invoking. It was possible to summon a Dark Knight like this. But, it was only a summoning. After, the summoned body could be instructed to attack or defend. And this was a separate magic. If mana consumption was reduced, they would vanish before you could instruct them, which was why it was merely a pretense.

However Mira's was different. In the case of Mira who had outstanding performance technique and was able to simplify the process into a single step, the arm was able to receive the command before being summoned and immediately swing down its sword.

"Mira-chan, just now!?"

"Hinata-sensei, it is still dangerous"

Hinata with a startled expression ran up to Mira, and Mira spoke with the intention to continue experimenting, while looking at an empty area.

**【Summon : Dark Knight】**

The scene that unfolded in front of Hinata had cornered her common sense. Six arms appeared from a circle, and swing down large swords at a point that played a key role. The impact force was enormous, almost at the same time the dust swept the area, it caused a flame explosion to disappear. It left a large crater.

And it wasn't just Hinata who was at a loss of words witnessing the experiment. All of the students of the Sorcery department in the same training area had stood there stunned at the extraordinary power.

The students from around the beginning of the first Dark Knight summoning had been focused on Mira. To suddenly witness an object emitting massive amounts of magical energy, there was no reason not to be worried. They were

completely entranced by the phenomenon that occurred one after another. And then they had finally noticed, in front of them was the girl who had stolen first place in the examination representing the Summoning Magic Department. One of the factors that led them into realizing it, was the person next to her was Hinata.

The students of the Sorcery Department had already heard about the results from the exam. And they were secretly glad that the disgusting person known as Kairos had lost. Sorcery took second, although this was a place to think, Kairos was arrogant towards people in the same department. Such a thing couldn't be helped.

In front of them was a girl who had blown Kairos away. Combined with her cuteness, her evaluation rapidly increased. Mira however, was not yet aware of that fact.

(With this, I could use it in combat if I try a little more. Fumu, adjusting the mana consumption? With the game's system that seems to be gone, it could also be possible to do the opposite and increase it. This time, shall I try many things?)

Mira felt the experimental results had good responses, and wrote down future experiments on an agenda in her mind.

The students whether or not they were able to comprehend anything, unconsciously took a step back with their eyes on Mira who had her attention on the training field.

After a long time, Mira had finally noticed she had attracted attention, and immediately sprung out of the training building running on her heels.

To the students who were left stunned while watching the back of her figure run off, Siegfried motivated them with rough words. Next month, they would defeat that little girl and take back first place.

To that, there were people in doubt. In the first place was that really summoning magic? The summoning magic Mira had displayed was on a different level than what they had previously experienced. But since they were unable to deny the events that happened right before their very eyes, they returned to training. At the least, they wanted go beyond what was in the



present.No matter how much time they had it wasn't enough.

The students wouldn't give up after witnessing Mira's grandeur, and resumed training at the sound of Siegfried's voice.As it was, defeat couldn't be avoided.In their eyes, dwelled a hidden light that aimed for the heavens.This was the original appearance of the Sorcery Department.Led by Luminaria, the students chased after her back filled with vigor, stirred up by the overwhelming sight that had unfolded in front of their eyes.

After Mira had run away from the training grounds accompanied by Hinata, she had begun to look at the school life of magicians.

The school taught engineering and battle skills in addition to general education, it was a place on the continent where knowledge was abundant.The students choose what suited them and learned.And the content which included the specialized department was much deeper, it proved to be the best educational institution for a person aiming to be a magician.

Various research was done in regards to techniques, technology would be developed to study Mira's unknown skill.The magic that Kairos used had its appearance strengthened together with its current caster, it was called <Synthetic Magic>.

Mira had eyes shining with curiosity, as she repeatedly asked Hinata questions related to the progress of new technology.What does this and that do?Hinata's teaching soul began to ache with such questions asked, she utilized her knowledge of the other Departments she had gained helping them to describe them in great detail.

In the Sorcery Department, synthetic magic was being developed enthusiastically.

In the Holy Magic Department, currently they were making preparations for a journey to the Holy Land.To learn Holy Magic they would need to visit many enshrined gods.

The Onmyouji Department, there was a problem with training intermediate and higher level Onmyoujis, they were lacking in spirit leaves for creating talismans.

The Exorcism Department, they were capable of launching holy water using the air pressure created with Magic Engineering, guns capable of shooting holy water was developed.

The Demon Invocation department, it was revealed that a person's character and aptitude influenced the assimilation rate, and the extent of influence was still undergoing research.

The Necromancy Department, along with the contract with the Rock Doll, and development of usable tools is carried out.

The Xian Arts Department, after enrolling they learn would hand-to-hand combat early. As a result, they are all in good physical shape, and actively seek combat with weapons.

The Spiritual Magic Department, they could manipulate the weather, specifically light sources to grow vegetables have been studied.

The Summoning Magic Department, it was already known that Creos was recruiting people who want to learn summoning magic, they were in the midst of promoting contracts with armor spirits in a historic battleground.

While touring each department, Hinata talked with dignity. By the time the touring had finished, the after school view was wrapped in vermilion. The school also had club-like activities, an athletic club sweating out their springtime of youth, and in a club room under the setting sun students passed time doing whatever they pleased.

"As I thought, it isn't possible to visit everywhere in a day"

"It was worthwhile. It was fun, Hinata-sensei"

Mira answered with a satisfactory smile to Hinata who was slightly tense.

"Uun, thank you for taking part in the examination. This is for you"

In the palm of Hinata's hand, she held out a ring of silver. Mira took Hinata's hand and softly closed it.

"This time, it was for the future of Summoning Magic. It is not to the extend thou would need to show gratitude"

"But, it was my request"

"Then how about guiding me around the school another time?I still have yet to see enough"

Mira replied with a smile.After having guided Mira、Hinata recalled when they had first met.It was the appearance of a girl looking into the school.

"Un、leave it to me.I'll thoroughly take you around!"

While energetically raising her cat ears、Hinata had set into her heart、to apply for permission to guide Mira around the restricted areas.

"Then I shall be off"

"See you again.Come back anytime"

After exchanging farewells、Mira walked down the middle of the school path.Hinata watching from behind as she walked away quietly whispered、"Thank you"along with fighting spirit that rushed back into the Summoning Department.Because Mira had created refined equipment for strength enhancement、a tour of Creos's Summoning Magic acquisition would increase.The preparations were already done.Surely、it was believed that Mira was connected to the answer.

Hinata harbored strong thoughts on that apprentice、while dashing down a corridor in spite of being a teacher.Even without noticing Siegfried's refreshing dinner invitation.

Mira watched the students applying themselves to club activities in the schoolyard、above was the sky dyed in crimson.She had only planned to peek a little、but had instead spent most of her time inside.Soon it would be nightfall、she wouldn't be able to explore other places.

While thinking of what to do、Mira passed slightly beyond the school gate.A shadow rushed over in a trot、overtaking her and revealing herself.

"So、you're still here"

The girl resembling Little Red Riding Hood spun indifferently to the words.It was one of the stand in sages、Amaratti.Her business in the school had also ended、and she was headed back.

"Fumu、it seems so"

Amaratti not worrying about Mira being surprised, inclined her neck and moved her face closer bending over.

"By the way Mira-san. I wonder, do you wear underwear?"

After staring at Mira's chest, Amaratti glanced upwards "Or do you have that sort of hobby?" And continued raising her skirt.

"I wear this"

Amaratti returned a regretful smile, what was the cause? She sent a gaze towards Mira while speaking. Facing each other, the blowing wind had rolled up Mira's skirt, and she lightly shrugging her shoulders,

"I don't know how to wear them"

She answered obediently. Amaratti slightly smiled with the surprising revelation. In the area, the two of them were unaware of the uproar they caused lifting their skirts.

"So it was like that. Then, I'll show you"

With her words, Amaratti hastily began unbuttoning the clothes, and Mira quickly took her hands in a hurry.

"What is thou doing!?"

"I've already said it. I'll show you. I'll remove mine once, so watch carefully where it attaches"

It was impossible to approve of it. So in other words, it would mean to continue directly looking at Amaratti's chest. Originally it would be pleasing to see, but the location was bad. You couldn't just expose the upper body of a girl in the center of public view.

Mira refused intensely, saying she would ask Lily about it later, in order to somehow convince her.

"Don't forget to ask for an example"

"I understand"

Mira replied back to Amaratti who was completely obsessed with the maids specially sewn magic dress despite lightly waving back.

In the next moment Amaratti showed a happy expression、  
Invoke【Necromancy : Rock Bear】.In the blink of an eye a stone bear appeared in front of Mira.

"Well then、 Let's meet again"

Amaratti replied while jumping on its back.And the stone bear walked onto the road in front of the school gate in a grand manner.The city inhabitants merely followed the spectacle with their eyes with excitement rather than confusion.

Amaratti had left so abruptly it left Mira in a daze、 she was once again able to see the difference from game and reality.The Valkyrie Alfina、 as well as the Musical Spirit Leticia、 conversation with them was originally impossible.It could be that what wasn't possible was now possible.As for the action of Amaratti just now、 it was included in the things that were now possible、 in short she would also be able to ride on a summon.From the inhabitants reactions、 it suggested that Necromancers moving around like that was common.

(By chance、 the worry of walking is no longer present)

Summoning magic didn't quite have anything for riding purposes.But that was during the game era.As long as it was a figure you could get on there were many choices.

There was no choice but to try it.Mira had thought so、 while recalling the figure of the previous Amaratti.The reaction around her could at any rate be conspicuous.

Mira thought that kind of situation was no good、 and suppressed the aching thought、 she would conclude the experiment in a less conspicuous location.

(Now then、 what shall I do?)

With a lot of new knowledge、 Mira wanted to organize it.Therefore it was also a good time to get some rest.

First and foremost location that comes to mind is the castle.They would prepare a bed to use overnight.However、 after much effort coming to this world、 staying at an inn greatly caught Mira's interest.

Especially so, if it was an ordinary Inn. Ecarlatte Carillon was based at the Spring Snow Inn, it was both an Inn and a tavern. Until now Mira had stayed in a private room inside the tower, a room in the castle, camped in a horse drawn carriage, and slept in a grand hotel known as the Summer Lantern. It was all far from being ordinary.

(I'll casually stop by an inn for a night. It will be a delightful taste of being an adventurer)

Casual conversation with the inn keeper, and a meal inside a lively dining room was often well described in stories. Mira harbored a feeling of yearning for such a place, while looking for a common inn running under the approaching dark night.

## Chapter 43: The First Ride

Slightly near the school, an inn had revealed itself to Mira. Although it was small, the inn made of wood with a stone signboard had a warm feeling. The owner was a middle-aged man running the shop with his wife and two daughters.

The first floor was a dining room where dinner was served just as Mira had wanted. It wasn't only just cozy inside the inn, the food was outstanding and intelligent conversation could be made with the owner. With one man and three women the situation was delicate, they shed tears for the girl who looked younger than their daughter, there was some slight pity for Mira.

The present condition of magic wouldn't be known until morning. The sounds of birds chirping had woken Mira, as she slowly got up she made plans for day.

(As I thought, there are still many places I have yet to see.....)

Yesterdays scene resurfaced in Mira's mind. Amaratti had calmly ridden on the back of her <Rock Bear>. At the same time, hot excitement surged out. It wasn't able to be done until now. Now that Mira had been able to stay in a simple Inn, her highest priority now was to ride on the back of a summon.

Mira left the room wearing her Magic Robe set, now that she had been able to accomplish her goal. A titillating aroma filled her nose half-way down the stairs, she peeped into the dining room with her expectations rising. Many seats in the dining room had been filled with guests enjoying breakfast. In such conditions, Mira's face loosened at the indescribably warm scene of both parent and child working busily from morning.

The inn Mira had stayed overnight was called [Moonlight Pavilion of Nature's Beauty], The owner had mentioned that Moonlight Pavilion was the dining room, and Nature's Beauty referred to the rooms. Mira had asked why it was divided, the Moonlight Pavilion was hosted by the owner, and Nature's Beauty was managed by his wife. The daughter was also worked in both sides.

"This morning is quite lively"

Mira sat down at the counter talking to the owner while recalling yesterday night's conversation.

"Ooh, if it isn't Mira-chan. Good Morning! Well, it's close to the peak time"

The owner heartily laughed. Mira returned the greeting "Umu, good morning" with a puzzled look towards the owner who tilted a bottle of Muscat au Lait.

"It's a little service for the cute Mira-chan. But keep it a secret from my wife and daughter"

The owner lifted the neck of the bottle after shifting his eyes around the surroundings. Muscat au Lait was the shop's specialty, the owner had remembered that Mira ordered five cups successively. Because she enjoyed the shop's original product, he became slightly generous.

"Then I shall gratefully receive"

On Mira's tongue, danced the wondrous flavors of the Muscat. Acidity was moderately mixed with the sweet milk, melting her delighted taste buds.

On the breakfast menu was bacon and eggs, along with a slice of bread spread with strawberry jam and pumpkin potage. The owner's daughter seemed happy watching Mira delightfully wipe off ham from her mouth after finishing. Luxurious meals were good, after all such a general menu was suited for her personality. Mira drank the Muscat au Lait, while embracing the commoner's impression.

After finishing breakfast she went outside, walking towards the outskirts of the gate. In order to experiment with magic, she determined it required a large location. The main purpose was to shorten travel time by riding on the back of summons. When thinking about the sky, it was concluded that only things that could fly fast were qualified. That required a large area.

After walking about an hour, she had come to the front of the high walls surrounding the capital Lunatic Lake. In front of Mira's eyes, the towering solid metal gates were slightly open in the center. This gate opened in the morning, and closed at night. Right now, it was still in the middle of opening.



Mira couldn't settle down and moved in place, while waiting for the gates to slowly open. Along with Mira, there was a line of merchants and adventurers nearby. Looking at the gate the mouth had only opened halfway, expressions of irritation were found on those nearby.

As the gate finishes opening, an officer comes out to direct the traffic and people waiting begin to move. Mira had gone with the flow, and came to a wide grassland after deviating from the path. It was the Muscat Grassland that opened east of Lunatic Lake. As the name implied, the Muscat Garden spread out endlessly.

Pushing through towards the inner area with a sweet scent faintly drifting, Mira arrived at a place that wasn't populated. Two hours had passed since she left the inn.

(I won't stand out here)

It was a vacant average sized thicket. It was surrounded by trees away from the main road, and because summoning wouldn't pose any problems in this area, Mira nodded to herself after confirming the environment. Shaking off the impatient feelings, she thrust her right hand forward.

**【Summon Skill : Formation Limit Arcana】**

Four Magic Formations continuously appeared from her right hand. Touching it with her left hand she spun one rotation, allowing the <Rosary Summon Formation> to sublimate.

[Darkness born from the abyss, yearning for the distant light. Bred below the white clouds, longing for the distant blue sky.

The bird's origin, leaving behind untainted ripples in the distant blue. The dream's origin, recalling memories of a supreme ruler carved into reincarnation.

Longing beyond the layers of time.

Like bundled wings worn inside a dream.

Come, soar into the heavens. My beloved child]

Resonating with her voice the summoning formation soars up, creating a halo

covering the sky. The light gradually expanding in diameter resembling silver scales, a sound reverberated in the sky.

### 【Summon : Emperor Dragon Aizen Faldo】

An enormous amount of mana distorted the space surrounding the halo, a tail as large as the trunk of a tree emerged. The tip of the tail was similar to a shining blade, the energy scattered and shaped itself. Subsequently, two legs with black nails appeared, covered in silver scales, followed by the arms, wings, neck, a pair of gold dragon eyes that directed its attention to Mira.

The halo shattered into particles revealing the ruler of the blue skies, it landed in front of Mira lowering its head. The Emperor Dragon drew its face in closer to Mira, taking a good look at her with its large round eyes it opened its mouth.

"Father.....Since when have you become a mother?"

Regardless of the appearance, while raising its neck mischevously, it took some time and effort letting out a calm deep sounding voice.

"Well, It's a long story.....Honestly, is that how thou should act towards thou savior?"

"Father.....If Mother says so, I will comply. I am glad to also have a mother"

While saying so, the Emperor Dragon rubbed against Mira narrowing its eyes, with its voice ringing from its throat. The appearance was like a child fawning over his mother, and in actuality Mira was something akin to a parent.

The egg was first obtained in the remains of a Dragon's Valley. It was secured after going through a number of trials, and the Emperor Dragon that hatched was currently making sounds of joy.

"I.....I see. Well.....Umu, then it is fine"

Mira lowered her eyebrows, and began patting an area that could be called the lower mouth. One way or another, she was mistaken as a mother that names their newly born child. Nevertheless, Mira was caught in the occasion, looking up at the Dragon's Wings which extended thirty meters with sparkling eyes.. Flying in the sky on top of a dragon, those were the kinds of things you

wished for in things like fantasies. Right now, it could most likely be done. Her heart danced with joy.

"It has been a long time, Aizen Faldo. Has thou been good?"

"Yes. I've been well, but not being able to meet with mother has been hard. Did you forget about me?"

Speaking affectionately, he exchanged conversation with Mira. Aizen Faldo laid down at ease, and approached with a lonely reply.

"Is thou really such a spoiled child?"

Aizen Faldo vigorously jerked his body around, asking triumphantly. Aizen Faldo was a good obedient child, but he was never dependent.

"When mother was still father, you had once said something. Fathers teach love strictly, and mothers with a gentle caring love. That's why, don't act spoiled. But now that father has become mother, may I be spoiled?"

"Muu....."

Mira looked up into the sky as an old memory surfaced, Aizen Faldo had pinned her down with his words. When Aizen Faldo hatched from his egg, he was immediately disciplined with spartan like training. Originally, there was no need for Mira's intensely harsh training. It was simply an act of nonsense that held no meaning, but Aizen Faldo had remembered her words from that time. What's more, is that he demanded the kind of love that had yet been provided.

(What should I say..... Umu, at that time it was about the feeling. However, this is the result of raising him.....)

Aizen Faldo who fawned over her, did not suit the name of Emperor Dragon. Mira recalled the bitter memory of asking Luminaria to take a screenshot of Dunbalf and Aizen Faldo with his majestic wings spread open, showing off a dignified atmosphere with the Tower of Moonlight in the background .

"A considerable amount of time has passed, but this child still needs to be looked after "

As Mira gently brushes him while saying so, suddenly Aizen Faldo begins to shine brilliantly in silver light.

"Mu, What?"

Mira held her hand over her eyes squinting until the light fades. In front of her, stood a young man with short silver hair. A young man, so beautiful it wasn't enough to call him a prince. The complete appearance was something more like an angel or god.

Mira stood absentminded and the youth who still had an innocent smile ran and jumped, clinging onto her. Moreover he was nude.

"Mother. With this form, I'll be able to embrace mother's love entirely"

It was the deep calm voice from Aizen Faldo who had been in front of her until just now. Mira, who was being hugged intensely was somehow able to peel off the young man who was making joyful noises.

"Thou would be Aizen Faldo?"

"Yes, that's right mother"

The beautiful youth smiled answering he was indeed Aizen Faldo. Mira stares intently at the wonderful transformation, unable to think.

(A dragon transforming into a person, this is truly a place of fantasy. As far as it's concerned, perhaps there are people who can also transform into other things. This is quite pleasant)

Mira brushed the head of the young man, Aizen Faldo, who was behaving visually like a child.

(This is too uncomfortable.....)

She cursed the words from her past spitting out a sigh not delighted, at the pleasant man who snuggled closer. But even so, Aizen Faldo was something akin to a son she had brought up with painstaking effort. Even if she refused it, and restarted the spartan training, it was a fact that he was left unattended for thirty years. From hereon after she would think of a way to deceive him in the future, but would for now let him do as he pleases.

Mira allowed him to act spoiled, and spoke up at a suitable time.

"Incidentally, I have a favor to ask of thou, does thou mind?"

"Of course Mother. Please ask me anything"

Aizen Faldo answered with his pupils shining even more. He who has not been called on for a long time, it was a joyous occasion to be relied on.

"I would like to fly in the sky. Would thou give me a ride?"

Soon after Mira had asked, Aizen Faldo opened his eyes wide in surprise, and stood up with a big smile.

"Of course. It's been my dream to carry mother into the skies!"

Aizen Faldo danced with joy, immediately turning back into a dragon emitting the silver light. As he crouched his body, he wagged his tail like a dog.

"Now then, please come mother"

Aizen Faldo held out his left hand..... Along with his left forefoot, Mira quickly ran up his back using them as scaffolds. Mira confirmed it step by step, his back was covered with silver scales spreading down towards the ground, until now it was impossible not to be impressed.

"Then without any more delays!"

Aizen Faldo restless stood up, and the view rapidly increased. Mira lost her balance to the shaking that was similar to an earthquake, she quickly grabbed onto a scale.

"Don't move so suddenly"

"Sorry mother. I wasn't able to hold still"

Aizen Faldo's apology lively resonated. While overflowing with excitement, Mira sat down in a position where it was easy to sit.

"Let go, Aizen Faldo. Let's soar into the sky"

"Yes Mother!"

Mira expressed herself while suppressing her excitement, Aizen Faldo suppressed the wind as he expanded his silver wings, after lowering his body he immediately jumped and began flapping his wings. The surrounding forest bent under the occurring wind storm, seeing off the ruler of the blue sky rise up with

the increasing dull sound of wings beating. Every flap raised their altitude, and Mira finally raised her voice in excitement unable to control herself anymore.

"Amazing Amazing! Aizen Faldo! Thou is the best!"

"I think so as well!"

Looking at the ground, Mira couldn't contain herself.....and began patting the back of Aizen Faldo. He also rejoiced greatly being praised by his mother, and further increased the altitude. Eventually the distant horizon was able to be seen, at the sight of it Mira let out a sigh of admiration.

Mountains, forests, camps, cities, castles, being high in the sky, everything spread out far into the distant blue sky. It was pleasing to the eyes. It was different from the real earth which was covered in man made structures, in this world harmony and coexistence spread about.

(Being able to see this much, it's very significant.....)

Mira engraved the current living world into her heart, and gazed at the direction of the Silver Tower. After going through the trouble to summon him to soar into the sky, she directed her next destination.

"Now, Aizen Faldo, take to towards the tower"

She pointed Aizen Faldo towards the direction of Tenma City, Silver Horn, and he roared with understanding and joy. And as he changed angles little by little while flapping in flight, he began to emit a faint light.

"Get ready Mother!"

After raising his voice, he instantaneously flew beyond the speed of sound. In an instant he jumped passed the mountain range that separated Silver Horn from Lunatic lake, while leaving supersonic shock waves passing through the scenery rapidly.

Mira had been shaken off.

"What in the world———!"

Suddenly, the sensation of falling down into the bottom of a pitfall was felt, Mira saw off Aizen Faldo who became a point in the distance. She enjoyed the feeling of floating while free falling, and sighed while her hair and clothes

fluttered about.

(It's to be expected.....When thou suddenly exceed the speed of sound.....I should have told him to fly slowly)

Aizen Faldo was at the summit of summons that could fly, because of this Mira decided to call him, and without thinking she had forgotten the laws of physics out of sheer excitement. The thing called inertia.

Aizen Faldo who noticed she was gone returned from the other side of the mountains, and gradually the figure of his outline increased.

"Mother—! I'm sorry—!"

He slowed down and caught Mira on his back while bleeding tears. Aizen Faldo fearfully turned his neck, gazing at Mira riding on his back. With a visible expression of grief on his face, Mira smiled,

"Well, that sort of thing happens. Sorry, it was so comfortable I had forgotten"

"Mother—. Sorry—"

Aizen Faldo returned the apology with another apology in a tearful voice.

"Ok ok. Then next time fly slower"

"Yes Mother!"

Because of the slight failure, he gradually increased his acceleration, and flew towards the tower at a moderate speed.

Under plain view the mountains flowed, Aizen Faldo passed above the store Silver Wand that Garrett had recommended flying through the sky. Although the passing scenery seemed slow, they were in fact flying faster than a horse-drawn carriage, and in order to avoid the wind pressure Mira had clung to the back of Aizen Faldo's neck.

(Cold.....)

Currently, high in the atmosphere the temperature was colder than the ground. She could avoid the headwind from the front, but she couldn't avoid the wind coming in contact with her body. Mira shook her body slightly, and

closed the front of her coat.

(Next time, I should prepare protection against the cold)

While Mira was lost in thought, the silhouette of the Nine Tower's appeared from the side of Aizen Faldo's neck. She had become aware, she hadn't been heard of since the first day of coming to this world. In other words, it would be her first time seeing Mariana since that day.

(After only thinking of deceiving her....., I wonder if I should reveal myself to Mariana)

Mariana hadn't heard anything from Solomon in the past thirty years. And she continued to wait for Dunbalf's return. If there was the possibility to return to her original figure she had been willing to wait, but the reality of it was that the vanity case wasn't transferable. What it meant was, the possibility of turning back into Dunbalf is almost nonexistent.

Dunbalf wouldn't be stuck in the City of Phantom Beasts forever. More than anything, she wanted her to feel relieved. She didn't want to continue deceiving the character she had created.

While on the back of her son, Mira prepared her resolution inside her heart with the world spreading below.



## Chapter 44: Confession

"That reminds me, how has thou lived until now?"

Mira presented a question to Aizen Faldo as they traveled in mid-air. During the time it was still a game, there was no explanation for character backgrounds, when they were summoned, and when they were sent back. However now that it has become a reality, it wasn't so simple.

"I lived with friends in the Capital of Dragons. During my time there I learned how to transform into a human. I've heard that compared to the form a dragon, you can suppress more energy. It seems to be called energy conservation"

"Hou, is that so? Human transformation in the Capital of Dragons....."

Mira paid attention to two unfamiliar words. First, during the game era there was no such thing as the Capital of Dragons. Judging from his tone of speech it was possible to imagine. A place filled to the brim with dragons. But when it came to human transformation, as what had been seen, other than that there was absolutely no idea. If one had previously known of it, Aizen Faldo's transformation wouldn't have been surprising.

"Someone taught thou human transformation?"

A dragon transforming into a person has never been had never been heard of before.

Judging from the transformation effect, it felt close to Demon Invocation magic, but the problem was a dragon using a magician's magic. Only humans could handle the nine different types of magic. Alternatively, it was also possible if a person was of mixed blood like Creos. Be they Monsters, Spirits, or Demons. Additionally, other various intelligent races possessed original magic. If that were the case, the existence of transformation magic would be exclusive only to dragons.

A thought occurred that it was developed recently within the past thirty

years, but Mira was interested in the being who had taught it.

"If I recall....., it was long ago. A human woman had suddenly come over to the Capital of Dragons. I've forgotten her name, but we spent some time together, she boldly approached and talked to us and gradually took good care of us.

One day, there were complaints of a food shortage and nothing to hunt, the woman said it was because of a famine, and it was now time to conserve energy.

We didn't understand the meaning, she told us a way we could live on with smaller amounts of food. That was through human transformation. While in human form we would become much weaker, but food consumption became proportional to that, because of that the food problem was gradually settled"

"So that's how it was....."

Aizen Faldo finished telling the story about that woman to Mira. Thinking of the words "conserve energy", she may have been a former player. It was highly likely that it was regular magic used by humans. If that were the case, it would mean that Aizen Faldo would be unable to use that kind of magic. It could also be a dragon exclusive skill, and that person simply informed them of it. Did the woman develop a skill that even dragons can use? Or did she learn of it and tell them? ..... Or was it something entirely different?

In other words, it was a skill that original players didn't know of.

(I really want to ask Solomon)

To what extent has this world evolved? The outlook of it made Mira's heart throb.

"After that, for several years, because I hadn't heard from mother, I travelled around human settlements looking for mother"

"Unuu.....Sorry"

Mira groaned and apologized for having made Aizen Faldo worried.

"It's alright. We were able to meet, but where in the world has mother been?"

Aizen Faldo spoke in an uneasy tone, and asked Mira a question that was unlikely to have an answer. In actuality, thirty years had passed since Mira's character make-over.

"Honestly, I do not understand it well either. Thirty years had passed by the time I noticed"

She spoke in a manner unable to recall her memories. Aizen Faldo looked slightly puzzled over the answer and retorted, "That's quite mysterious", as sounds rung out from his throat. Being separated for thirty years was a small matter now, because Aizen Faldo was able to reunite with her.

As Mira watched the border of the horizon, while listening to the sound of Aizen Faldo whistling through the wind, she thought of calling her other summons and greeting them.

Traveling one-thousand miles by carriage towards Demon City Silver Horn took two days from the Capital City Lunatic Lake, but riding on top of the Emperor Dragon Aizen Faldo in the sky had taken only 2 hours.

In the vicinity of Silver Horn, in a small opening of the forest, the Emperor Dragon slowly descended as he projected a large shadow. The forest heaved from the wind pressure that came in ripples, and a countless amount of birds scattered flying away in every direction. Aizen Faldo's silver scales glittered in the sunlight, as he cautiously stepped onto the ground quietly to lay down, stretching his left leg.

"Mother, we've arrived"

"Umu, sorry for thy troubles. Thou are a good child"

Mira verified the feeling of the ground as she swung down from Aizen Faldo's back to his left leg as she pat the tip of his nose. Aizen Faldo joyfully purred from the back of his throat and smiled.

(With a fuzzy coat it would be perfect. From here, movement shouldn't be a problem.)

"Mother, will you call on me again?"

"Of course, please take care of me from now on."

"Yes Mother!"

Aizen Faldo's voice burst open and echoed out, as he was wrapped in light. Mira had dismissed him. Slowly his contours blurred, he returned back to the city of dragons as if it was reflected in the shadow of the fog and disappeared.

"It will take thirty minutes on foot"

Mira mumbled to herself recalling the terrain's topography she saw while in the sky, as she stepped towards the thickly growing trees aiming for the road.

The purpose was to clearly see the nine towers at the end of the road.

After the scheduled time passed walking, Mira put off her original purpose and peeped into a shop that was on Silver Horns main street.

(That mana water is cheap. And this stardust fruit, placed inside such a common shop.....thirty years is a long time. I don't want to leave this.....)

Mira checked the displayed goods one by one. Prices were half of what they were from the old days, and moreover, individual trades were more natural if it was a rare item. As Mira went around shops, she thought it would be better to abandon the former sense of values.

About two hours had passed since arriving at Silver Horn, as she finished checking the current prices.

Slightly past noon, Mira entered a nearby coffee shop feeling hungry. While taking a break, many different races appeared in her view and slowly passed by, as she sipped her hot chocolate. There were many local magicians, narrowing her eyes along the city street, it was a place that prospered as a touring location, and she quietly stored the spectacle in her mind.

Mira finished and left the coffee shop after paying. The nine towers visually looked close, however in actual fact they were still far off.

(Now then, I suppose I shall be off)

Making up her mind as she continued walking, Mira cut off the temptations of shop attractions and immediately left for the Silver Tower.

It was located in the district of the towers, away from the commerce area but

still bustling with tourists during noon. When Mira arrived at the square in front of the tower at during peak times, it's surroundings were full of countless tourists. Various races, and magicians who wore high ranking equipment scattered around the area.

Mira laid her eyes on children who were frolicking about. They were children who ran around playing with wooden sticks. Shouting an unknown aria while waving the stick, a man who seems like a parent falls down unnaturally. And the child wearing a replica robe of a Wiseman.....raised his stick in triumph.

Mira who saw the scene, remembered her own figure a few days ago. The figure of her-self walking with her chest held high wearing the replica robes.

(Roleplay costume?!)

Mira who realized the truth felt completely embarrassed, so much that she thought of rolling on the ground in embarrassment inside her mind. Her expression twitched as she calmly understood something as she watched the children play happily. Whether or not she was seen, she looked up towards the sky with empty eyes.

Shaking off the embarrassment, she ran and stopped at a gate. Looking up at the gate, she leaked out a voice of admiration, tourists were also at this place.

The public observers wouldn't disperse immediately. Mira looked around her surroundings, and took out her Tower Master Key from her inventory and held it up at the gate. The surrounding voices began to clamor, as the gate opened in recognition of the key. It was only natural to be confused, only research workers, advisors, the stand-in sage, and the sages were able to open the gate. Other than that, people passing a rigorous inspection were given a temporary pass.

The researchers were superb magicians in regards to the people that were concerned, they held influence on the level of nobles in the country. Furthermore, the stand-in sages had a much larger influence, they were treated as equals of the imperial family when it concerned the Nine Sages.

In order to enter that place that had such people, even influential royalty would have to clear the wall known as the inspection. However, a complete stranger to the public eye had come to the gate and opened it.

After Mira opened the gate casually without thinking about the present situation, the atmosphere abruptly changed as she held the key overhead. She felt everyone's gaze pierce her back sending shivers down her back.

(Did.....I do something wrong?.....)

The cold sweat streaming down her face signaled Mira to dash through the gate as she suppressed her expression.

Before the gate closed without a sound, the tourists were able to see it opening for the first time and went wild with joy, celebrating the good luck. For the first time, someone was able to view the inside of that place whiling making lots of noise, subsequently a researcher inside kneaded together his eyes in opposition. A wave of excitement washed over every corner of the square, people who were able to witness it directly were glad, and lamented for the people who were unable able to see it.

In the site where the Nine Towers stood lofty. The tower that shun in silver attracted tens of thousands of tourists every month. In the past it had been an important war base, but now it had devolved into a tourist attraction garnering national interest. After an antiwar pact was concluded, tourism increased.

Mira faced directly towards the Summoner's Tower, while glancing sideways at the researchers immersed in their study.

Several researchers chased after the figure of the girl with their eyes, as she went inside one of the towers. The Tower of Summoners, and a lovely girl with silver hair who had been discussed as Dunbalf's pupil. People who were originally interested in only research recalled Dunbalf of the Nine Sages, and the heroic saga's he left behind. The Nine Sages were a supreme existence for the tower's researchers, the magic they used were also different. The people here also had no objections to summoning magic.

In the past, the towers had people who worked together mutually with friendly rivalry trying improve themselves. That will had been inherited.

"Dunbalf-sama's pupil?. They should be able to help revive Summoning Magic"

A researcher muttered. It was someone who worked together with the stand-in sage Creos, and explored his contracting method for Summoning Magic. It

was regretful that it didn't bear any fruits of merit, but they would entrust it the existence known as Dunbalf's pupil.

Tower of Summoning, First Floor. Mira traveled straight through the deserted halls and entered the top floor with the central elevator. Third floor, fourth floor, fifth floor. Mira constantly repeated deep breathing exercises in order to calm herself, and when she finally made up her mind, she stepped forward into the top floor.

She stopped in front of the assistant room before entering a private room. She intended to confess everything to Mariana.

Mariana believed that Dunbalf would return and continued watching over everything for thirty years. And despite being known as his pupil, taking out materials was still rejected without direct permission. Permission would be given if she designated as such, but she didn't want to lie to Mariana anymore. There was also the feeling of wanting to let Mariana be relieved.

Mira raised her right hand, and lightly balled her hand into a fist, when suddenly the door to the next room over opened, Creos with his fluttering blond hair had appeared.

"Oya, if it isn't Mira-chan. Did you have business with Mariana?"

Creos with a happy smile approached Mira, just as she was going to knock on the door.

"Umu, something like that"

"Is that so. Un, afterwards could you set aside some time for me? I want to address the continuation of the things from the school about Dunbalf-sama"

"Afterwards will be....."

While talking, Mira stared at Creos, and thought now was a good opportunity since he was currently present. Concerning the problems inside the school, the current situation of summoners, it was convenient to be recognized as Dunbalf.

"Umm excuse me, is there something.....ah, Mira-sama"

As the two people talked in front of the assistant's room, the door opened. A girl in maid clothes with twin tails similar to glistening sapphire stealthily

peeped out from the door, it was Mariana.

Only certain guests, and people knew how to operate the elevator to bring them to the top floor. It was natural for Creos to be in the Tower of Summoning. In other words, in accordance with the voices the person was visiting. If there was business to be had with Creos, they wouldn't talk while standing there. That meant that they were there for Mariana.

"It has been a while, Mariana. I have something important to discuss with thou, does thou have time?"

"Yes, of course. What would you like to talk about?"

"Tis a slightly complicated story. Let's discuss it inside. Creos, thou must come as well"

While Mira talked, she had taken out the master key. Mariana gazed at it nostalgically and replied, "Understood" as she left her room.

"I as well? Ok, is the work room alright? I'll get the tea"

"Fumu, that will be fine"

Creos proudly declared so and went ahead and opened the door to the work room. Mira placed the tower key back into her item box, and went inside together with Mariana.

Mira settled down in front of Mariana and Creos, sipping her share of the amber colored liquid served by Creos. As a refreshing mellow fragrance spread around inside her mouth, and passed through her nose, a small breath unintentionally leaked out.

Creos watched joyfully as his expression loosened in satisfaction. Mariana extended her hand towards a cup along with the other two and nodded in understanding.

"Now then, this will be a poor roundabout conversation. So I will say it briefly....."

Mira placed her cup on the table along with her introduction.

(What will these two think after hearing this.....After turning into such a figure.....)



As Mira emptied her lungs, she forcefully opened her mouth again rejecting the bad thoughts that came to mind.

"I am not a pupil. I am Dunbalf himself"

She said it as sincerely and earnestly as possible. With her mind made up, she turned her eyes straight at the two in front. Facing each other, the two of them rummaged their brains slowly taking in the meaning of those words, Creos had become absentminded from the strange contents the words held.

"Umm.....so in other words, Mira-chan isn't Mira-chan, but Dunbalf-sama right?"

"As for mine name Mira, it's just an alias for this form. Well, it's reasonable to be skeptical at first"

Creos slowly and carefully observed Mira with his eyes with a perplexed expression and groaned.

Mariana had kept silent with a blank expression, rearranging her words.

"Is.....is there any proof?"

Mariana's words were suitable for the current condition. No matter how much you could insist on it, without proof it was just an invalid statement. There was no need for anymore words if you could show the impossible.

"Fumu, that's right....."

Mira placed a finger on her chin, and thought of the quickest way to convince them.

Evidence that only Dunbalf would have. It had already been assumed that the tower key was obtained by having it transferred, so that was out of the question. Because of that, she wouldn't be able to use items as proof. Cash shop items were also untradeable. In the first place they also held no meaning as all players had access to them.

There was also the method of showing off Dunbalf's power, however, because she had already mentioned she was a pupil it was reasonable to assume that kind of power was natural. Even if she had showed off her powerful summons, she could only be regarded as an 'excellent pupil'.

Anything she could use was likely impossible. Mira looked over her item list and status looking for something that could become proof.

(I could summon Alfina, and have her speak on my behalf.....However, forcing them to speak with compelling force could be said. Words alone won't suffice for decisive evidence.....)

After closing her menu, she was able to see both of their serious looks. Mentioning stories long past would be irreverent, it could be brushed off as just stories told by her master.

Mira realized that providing proof of herself was something hard to do.

As far as Dunbalf was concerned, Mariana's expectations had repeatedly come into Mira's view.

(Mariana.....fairy-kin.....Mariana of the fairy-kin.....)

In that moment, Divine Blessing's floated into her mind.

"That's right, there was that!"

"Mira-sama.....?"

Mira vigorously stood up, stopped right next to Mariana, and bent over presenting the palm of her hand.

"Sprite's Divine Blessing. It's given only to one person throughout a lifetime. Mine proof will be updating that Divine Blessing"

Mariana realized the meaning of those words, and became startled at Mira's words.

The Sprite's Divine Blessing was special contract, it resembled a vow between a man and woman, both accepting each other as their companion. The effect of the Divine Blessing differs from fairy to fairy, but it was impossible to break that vow. However, that vow had a time limit. When both parties mutually shared that connection, a Divine Blessing is born. Its effect lasted for three days, but it was possible to update and renew its effect. The renewal of this blessing will become the proof.

If she could update the Divine Blessing, it would be the absolute evidence that tied Mariana to Dunbalf.

"I see. Mariana certainly gave Dunbalf her Divine Blessing. That is to say, if Mira-chan can materialize the blessing....."

The girl in front of them could very well prove herself to be Dunbalf. Creos's expression turned dull as he grumbled, if there were any complaints from Mira he would fall into a predicament. With shaky hands caused from the tension, he grabbed a cup to drink the contents in order to maintain a calmness.

"Understood"

Mariana's lips quivered quietly as she matched her left hand with Mira's right and closed her eyes. Mira had also felt some slight tension, after blinking numerous times, light gathered and overflowed on her hand.

".....Fumu"

It was the reaction of the Sprite's Divine Blessing being updated. Creos who had guessed it, looked around the area confirming an escape route.

A design of a small feather slowly appeared where the light converged on the back of their hands.

"Update.....it was done"

Mariana opened her eyes widely and gazed at the back of her hand, she held her hand to her chest with great importance. Mira traced the proof of the blessing in satisfaction with her fingertip, "With this....." her voice was clogged with words. The Mariana she saw had tears overflowing in both of her eyes.

Mira recalled her first time meeting Mariana when this world became a reality, She had been touched to tears at that time.

"Sorry"

Mira directly faced her while saying so, and gently touched her cheeks. Mariana was slightly shy, but happily held onto Mira's hand

"We are finally able to meet!"

She cried out with a smile. Overwhelmed with happiness, tears streamed down constantly, as she continually rubbed Mira's hands over and over again.

## Chapter 45: Post Confession

It had taken a while for the truth revealed to Mariana and Creos to settle.

Mira confirmed the two had digested the situation after explaining what happened.

It was caused by an item containing a special power. When the box was opened, her form changed into her current figure. It seems that the same item is necessary to change back, however it was possible it no longer existed.

She was unable to reveal these facts immediately in fear of being spited by them, so to speak.

Mariana was the first to speak with some slight anger.

"I could never despise Dunbalf-sama. Such a terrible thought is unthinkable!"

"I think so as well, Dunbalf-sama"

Creos drank his fifth cup of tea as he agreed with Mariana.

"We of the fairy-kin do not judge a person based on their looks. Whatever form Dunbalf-sama may take, I will serve you no matter what for rest of my life"

"I don't mind at all either.....On the contrary, I became less fearful while in front of you"

Although Creos was simply agreeing with whatever Mariana asserted, his eyes were unwavering.

"But, the box that can change a person's figure.....By chance is it a type of Artifact?"

Creos closed his eyes in thought. A powerful tool with an effect to change a person's figure does not fundamentally exist. Creos thought that if there was such an Artifact, it was probably a miraculous relic given from god.

When it was still a game, the existence of some Artifacts were confirmed. It

was the reward for a difficult quest, or a drop from a transcendental class Demon, of course it wasn't anything like a Vanity Case.

You could say it was close to something given from God. In other words, a charge item received by the admin.

In any case, it wasn't possible to say it was a purchased item that allowed you to alter your character, in the present world it was meaningless.

"Perhaps, I was too careless"

Mira had supported the artifact story because it wasn't quite a lie. It was a good starting point by understanding it was a magic item able to create a miracle.

"Ahh, also. Do not talk about this matter to anyone"

"Certainly"

"eh, why? If everyone is informed of Dunbalf-sama's return to the seat of the Nine Sages, won't the future of summoning magic become secure?"

Unlike Mariana who obediently obliged, Creos prompted a question. It was reasonable to say, however Mira understood Solomon's words. Although she was the same person, the image was too different. The two of them understood only because they were the closest to Dunbalf, while other people wouldn't willingly accept it. If the masses were unable to accept it, it would become difficult to move around as one of the Nine Sages. If that were to happen, searching for the remaining Sages would be impossible. Sooner or later she would return, however now wasn't the time.

"Fumu, then....."

After organizing the information, Mira spoke about everything. The two of them were worth trusting, and by believing in her they would become closer.

The relationship was different from the conventional one. It was the level of kinship.

"There are only two others who know this. Solomon and Luminaria. Presently I am following Solomon's request of looking for the remaining Sages around the world"

"The Nine Sages, you say!?"

For Creos, it could be said to be an abnormal situation.

The disappearance of the Nine Sages was the biggest event that happened in Alkrite Kingdom, but as far as Creos knew, there hadn't yet been any cases of a country performing a search. They were the Kingdoms greatest fighting power, but searches had been nonexistent. There were several speculations about it, but there was one common rumor among the strongest adventurers. It was....., currently they weren't in this world. This rumored theory had been authenticated and spread around as the true answer.

Creos had also come across the rumor.

But, King Solomon the ruler of the country and Danbulf of the Nine Sages himself were looking for those individuals. The firm belief that the Nine Sages had vanished would no longer hold, for they were somewhere in this world.

"I cannot move around as one of the Nine Sages. In conclusion, I ask of thee, can I entrust everything to thou?"

"Of course! If it the return of the Nine Sages, I will happily do so"

Creos trembled in excitement from Mira's words, and recalls the time of when all Nine Sages were together. Creos couldn't help getting excited as a simple Magician, thinking about the time of the Golden Age's Silver Tower's, and how they could return.

"In any case, Dunbalf-sama will leave once again"

Mariana quietly mumbled a few words. Her quiet voice reached Mira during the moment of silence. After coming back and bringing tears of joy to this girl, she would still have to leave again. Even so, it was an important mission that would influence the nation, and it couldn't just be thrown away.

"I'm sorry. It was selfish of me to mention"

Towards Mira's expression that was hard to describe, Mariana apologized and immediately smiled without a problem. However, her eyes contained loneliness.

"I understand your feelings Mariana. However, this is a serious matter that

concerns the country. Besides, Dunbalf-sama is here. It was different until now. Surely you can be happy knowing that alone"

Everyone along with the advisors will represent the towers until the return of the Nine Sages. The Nine Sages were originally abnormally odd people, they had absolute trust for their representatives and advisors. Creos seemed to try to persuade himself and spoke,

"Don't you think?" while directing a smile towards Mira.

"Then, I promise to return as frequently as possible"

Mariana and Creos felt nodded in relief hearing those words. Mira placed the cup of cooled tea into her hand and held it against her mouth, she smiled wryly as coming and going would become difficult. However, she was also met with a slight warm spreading inside her heart.

"But....."

Uttering a small sound, Creos turned his gaze towards Mira motionlessly with a serious expression.

"What?"

Mira gazed back puzzled. Seemingly as if it were funny, Creos revealed a happy smile filled with fascination.

"It feels strange to call you Dunbalf-sama while in that form. And because it's a secret, is it better to call you Mira-sama in the future?"

"Nu....."

The tip of Mira's eyebrows came together as she squinted in worry. What Creos had mentioned was reasonable. Regardless if it were kept secret, the information would still somehow leak out.

"Umu, Certainly..... Then, while I'm in this form, please refer to me as Mira"

"Understood, Mira-sama"

Mira had told the two, if a person's true colors bloomed, they would have to decide whether or not to trim them off. Creos felt strangely uncomfortable knowing a secret from one of the nine.

"Are you fine Mariana?"

"Yes. There's no problem"

Mariana answered while protectively touching the featherlike pattern that appeared on her left hand with a fingertip. It was the proof of connection, the Sprites Divine Protection. And in front of her was the person she held dearest. For the Fairy-kin, it something they valued more than anything else. The difference between names was merely trivial.

"Well then, with that said. I will be away again, I hope to rely on thou"

"Please leave it to us"

"I'll so as much as I can"

Mariana and Creos excitedly nod in earnest. However, in the next moment, the sound of a bell echoed throughout the room.

"Mu, what is that?"

"This, it's a magic communication signal!"

Creos stood up and rushed towards the desk of the work room, and opened a black box turning a lever on one of the devices inside.

"This is Creos, the acting sage"

[This is Jozu of the Silver Horne guard patrol group. We seek emergency instructions from the tower]

The voice of a slightly indistinct man was incoherent. The voice seemed to be exactly the kind heard over a telephone. Mira and Mariana listened to the voice in silence.

"In any case, what's wrong?"

[Well, a huge dragon appeared in the sky roughly three hours ago, it came near the vicinity of the residents. In order to confirm it, we searched the outskirts in groups but the dragon wasn't found.

But, in an empty area northwest of the forest we found a large trace of it. We widened the search range in that place, but were unable to find anything.

It seemed we were mistaken after searching, but there was communication



of a large dragon that left the area after making the round trip back through the sky several to Silver Wand a few hours ago.

It is likely to be identical. However there hasn't been any information whether or not its flown away, there is a high possibility the large dragon is hiding and excels in concealment magic.

We cannot do anymore with our power alone, but with the help of the towers more can be done]

"Dragon.....?. From the district of Silver Wand, Perhaps it also passed by the vicinity of Lunatic Lake....."

[Yes. It's very likely]

Lunatic Lake could be seen over the mountain range of Silver Wand. After hearing the report with a foreboding feeling, Creos turned his sight towards Mira for an instant.

In that moment, Mira quickly evaded his gaze. Bringing the cup of tea to her lips, she noticed that its contents had been drained and quietly placed it back onto the table trembling.

"....."

From Mira's reaction, Creos had concluded something.

"Leave the minimum number of people and standby until further contact is made and return. Besides me, who else has been informed?"

[As ordered. In addition to Creos-sama, we've also contacted Luminaria-sama]

"Ok. I will get in touch with Luminaria-sama here. Please return to your post"

[Understood. Please excuse me]

The sound was cut off, and stillness filled the room.

"Mira-sama, you were in Lunatic Lake until yesterday correct?. What means of travel did you use to come here?"

Creos seemed shocked as he closed the black box, but had sent his gaze towards Mira with an expression of curiosity. It was the face of someone who

understood everything.

"Umu.....ahh-.....well.....it was....."

"Ah、Mira-sama could it have been....."

From Creos's way of speaking and Mira's reaction、Mariana came to the realization.And with that decisive factor、Mira bowed her head in resignation and began to talk.

"I rode a little on..... Aizen Faldo....."

"As I thought、so it was Aizen Faldo-sama.....Something like that would cause an uproar"

While traveling around with Dunbalf、Creos had met Aizen Faldo on numerous occasions.The bold、massive figure that exuded an overwhelming presence.If such being was seen around human cities、it was impossible not to cause an uproar.Mira had intended to be careful.Therefore she summoned him inside a forest near Lunatic Lake.However、it wasn't enough precaution in human society.People were unable to bear the darkness at night、even more so when an existence that could harvest lives by simply playing around.

"I will convey this matter to Luminaria-sama.Mira-sama、please be a little more prudent in the future"

"Umu.....sorry"

Relief washed over Creos looking at Mira's troubled figure、as he quickly left the room.

(The report came at just the right timing.I was able to escape before being confronted about the matter of my complaint before.

Nevertheless、to ride on Aizen Faldo、it was completely overdone.Certainly、it seems that it'll become lively here again from now on)

Creos、with a feeling that skipped about、was headed out towards the Tower of Sorcery.

"Mira-sama hasn't changed at all since the past"

A smile bloomed on Mariana's face as she remembered the distant past in which Dunbalf overdid everything in every meaning of the word.Mira smiled

awkwardly in embarrassment with a short reply "A warning is sufficient enough".

(Aizen Faldo. In the end, I may not be able to call you too much in the future)

Just before sending him back she said declared herself be under his care, but thinking about the current situation it wasn't possible to readily summon him. Inside of her mind, Mira apologized and would convey it to him in a secluded area. Although large, he was considered as her lovely child.

After Creos left, Mira and Mariana were alone. Mira unintentionally gripped the tea cup, while remembering the contents were already drained, it may have stemmed from the tension that she couldn't understand. Mariana caught a glimpse of it and curtly stood up taking the two cups, "I'll make more tea". Mariana headed to the corner of the room where an exclusive Magic Machine, that Creos had prepared to make tea sat. Mira watched, staring at her back as Mariana's small figure retreated.

(Isn't this like being a newly married couple?!)

In this case however, which was the husband and which the wife? Mira was worried about such a simple thing. From another perspective, they could be a gentle looking older sister accompanied by their free spirited younger sister.

"If you please, Mira-sama"

"Umu, thanks"

As Mariana placed the cup on the table, Mira thanked her and quietly drew the cup near her lips.

"Fu~....."

The fragrance quickly spread inside her nose, as Mira regained her composure she directed her attention towards Mariana who had reseated herself.

"While I've been away, you has managed to clean and care for my room. Sorry for the trouble"

"No, it was no problem at all. It is my duty"

Mira apologized for her absence, while recalling the words of Solomon which

stated that Mariana believed he would one day return and continued to wait. However, the current Mariana naturally smiled, and the two began their heated recollection as their conversation blossomed.

As Mira finished hearing about the emotional past thirty years of Mariana's life, Creos who finished handling the uproar returned.

"I've returned. There is no need to worry about the matter concerning the dragon, I've glossed over the incident with Luminaria-sama"

Creos happily smiled at the two in the room, as he reported himself in,

"The atmosphere seems enjoyable. May I join?"

While talking, having left his cup on the table, he began brewing a new pot of tea to serve.

"By all means, I would like for thou to join"

A woman's voice had come from behind Mira. A woman with crimson long hair wearing a sage robe with black lines fearlessly stared at Mira.

"It's like a family reunion"

She recognized the beautiful woman as her close friend. As Luminaria teased her, she embraced Mira from behind.

"I've forgotten the face of my grandchild, ojii-chan"

Bringing her face in close, she softly opened her lips whispering in her ear, "Seems like you've told them both. Were you able to prepare yourself a little?". Receiving tea from Creos, she quickly separated one of her hands. Slurping the tea, a satisfied smile appeared on Luminaria,

"For this memorable reunion, I'll treat you to dinner. It'll be alright, let's have fun!"

Having been forced into it, they met in front of the Tower of Sorcery half past six, as Luminaria sprang out triumphantly in preparation.

"As forceful as ever....."

Although Mira smiled bitterly, she was thankful for being able to talk about old memories while conversing with Creos.

"To consider the best course of actions, sorry.Creos"

"No.....It was nothing at all....."

Mira apologized for the course of events in a grumble as she conversed.However Creos began to strangely sweat as she continually apologized, in contrast Mariana had been grateful.

Three people had arrived in front of the Tower of Sorcery as scheduled.It was an astounding sight, a representative along with a tower advisor had gathered together.People randomly appeared to greet them, along with researchers handing them tools as a pretense for the revival of Summoning Magic.It could all be described as one word, selfishness.According to Creos, if they didn't have a certain impact, then no contract would be made.While supporting the ideas it was beneficial not to forget about your own profits.

Mira confirmed again that there was no change.

"I've kept you waiting.Please come in"

Luminaria appeared energetically at the door, and invited them inside the tower.

"Does thou not go out to eat anywhere?"

"There are some things you can't speak of inside a general shop.The things you've experienced from adventuring.I want you to tell me in detail"

"Fumu, so it was like that"

Events that occurred during adventures.In other words, the appearance of the demon and the Wandering Spirit.The three of them were guided into a private room on the top floor by Luminaria.

Although it was furnished with a simple appearance, there were elegant items lined up nicely, it displayed a side completely different from the usual Luminaria.After all, Luminaria was one who wasn't concerned about appearance.The private room had been furnished by the tower advisor with good intentions.It was the advisor who had an excellent view of living aspects.

And that very advisor, Litaria, had finished arranging dishes on the table.Tonight's dinner was all prepared by Litaria.

"Sorry to have kept you all waiting. I look forward to hearing the story about Dunbalf-sama、Mira-sama."

"Ah—、Umu.well、In future....."

Mira answered with an unsure expression、recalling what she had said during their time of parting.

Mira had the lead role in telling her story of her adventure during their dinner.

Whereabouts of Soul Howl、appearance of the demon that were said to have gone extinct、the Spirit kidnapping incident、it was all things that were unable to be said in a general shop because of the many ears and eyes that would surround them.

Litaria kept a close watch on Mira happily、watching as she conversed. Mira eventually reached her limit and revealed her truth、to which Mariana and Creos confirmed、Litaria who listened became rigid and required suitable time to recover.

Aside from those stories、she also spoke of the events inside the school to Luminaria and was immediately scolded. Apart from Mira's stories、talk about the resurrection of Summoning Magic went underway and Luminaria was asked to assist Creos. As for Creos、strangely he was once again unable to stop sweating profusely.

In exchange for Luminaria's help、she requested for a collection of a set of catalysts. A snow crystal and the scale of a pale dragon、along with three kinds of Icicle Spears.

There was no way to reconsider things、as Mira went with it、and the four continued to talk about national secrets of the country while leaving out Litaria.

## Chapter 46: Wedding Night

The casual dinner that had become a strategy meeting had finally finished, and Mira returned to the Tower of Summoning. It was currently just past ten o'clock at night, as Mira lightly yawned from sleepiness.

(Shall I take a bath and sleep?)

After having considered such things, Mira took out her Tower Master Key in front of the private room, and before anything else Mariana quickly opened the door.

"oh oh, thanks, Mariana"

"It's not a problem"

Mariana briefly replied. However, her expression after opening the door in such a long time for her overflowed with happiness.

"Well then, I'll go to sleep and prepare for tomorrow's summoning acquisition. Good night, Mira-sama. Mariana-san"

"Hou, is there anything I can help with?"

"No no, I couldn't trouble Mira-sama over a simple schedule check."

"Fumu is that so? Then good night. Until I finish my investigation, I leave this tower in thy hands"

"Yes of course, leave it to me! "

Creos replied proudly, and returned back to his work office. Mira entered her private room, and went into the dressing room.

"Mariana, thou has also done enough. Please take a rest in bed"

"There is still a bath. Allow me to wash your back"

Mira replied while opening the door of the dressing room, as Mariana with built up tension stuck onto Mira's back.

"There is no need for thou to go that far"

"Allow me to wash your back"

"No, as I was saying....."

"Allow me to wa—"

"Umu, alright. Let's get it over with....."

Mira reluctantly replied with a wry smile under Mariana's unwavering dedication.

(Well, it's just washing my back. There's no reason to forcefully decline)

Despite her being a tactful assistant, there was no reason to decline company. While facing each other, Mariana displayed a pent up desire to serve Mira, paying attention to even the slightest effort she made.

Mariana quietly helped Mira who struggled taking off her magic robe set, neatly placing the beautifully folded coat onto the shelf. The one-piece that took elaborate effort to put on, had been easily taken off with Mariana's helping hand. Wearing only panties, Mira went into the bathroom.

Mariana finished organizing the clothes Mira took off, and naturally hung them.

The results would be that Mira's bath time will be dictated by Mariana.

Mariana who was almost nude had been diligently giving unwanted care. Mira's eyes wandered around in a fluster looking away from Mariana, whom had most likely placed trust in her.

Mira, lacking in proper judgement became more conscious, as the nerves in her back became more sensitive.

"Here comes the last wash"

"Umu"

Mira continued to return all of Mariana's words with affirmation, as she was washed from head to toe.

Occasionally Mira felt something soft touch her back and arms. While Mira's entire body was washed, and her body became ticklish, she was somehow able to withstand it while on the verge of losing self-control.

Mira had been made to be forcefully aware of how pretty Mariana was.



She washed her back in return. It could be said, that Mira's slowly built up fatigue forced her to jump out of the bathroom to escape. A simple thin robe had been prepared for her in the dressing room.

(As one would expect.....)

Putting on the robe, Mira sat on a sofa enjoying Apple au Lait, grateful for Mariana's good points.

While playing with the robe, as she thought of various ideas about summoning magic, Mariana in tinges of red had finished bathing and came out.

"This will be washed by the end of the day"

"Umu, I'll leave it to you"

Mariana in a robe similar to Mira's carried in her hands, the magic robe set folded up beautifully along with her maid clothes and undergarments. While watching Mariana, the word 'wash' had caused Mira to remember about the Sage's Robe.

"That reminds me, I left a robe here last time"

"At that time, I finished washing it and placed it inside my room. I'll fetch it"

Mariana courteously bowed while speaking, and returned to the adviser's room to get the clean Sage's Robe.

(Preparations for sleeping are completed)

Mira stood up and lightly stretched after leaning against the back of the sofa.

With sleep preparations mostly finished, Mira plopped herself down on a bed, and after a while Mariana returned with the robe in hand.

"It is here"

"Umu, thanks"

Mira politely received the folded Sage's Robe. In Mariana's hand she noticed something else. On the surface was cloth. A beautifully decorated fluffy cylindrical object bulged out from her arms.

"What is that ? "

"It is a Pillow"

Mariana answered as if it was something obvious. After confirming what it was, Mira wondered why it was brought along. However, there was only one reason.

"Did thou, want to sleep here ? "

"Yes"

"However. To lie down with a woman..... A man and a woman"

"Mira-sama is a girl at the moment. Aren't there no problems in particular ? "

"Nuu"

It was said to be not a problem. However she had come to the realization, to spend a night together with a lovely girl like Mariana, she would have to endure her lust. For Mira, Mariana was a partner she should never lust over.

But, Mariana's awareness was different. Mariana was offering all of her body and heart. In the first place for fairy-kin with the mark of the Sprites Divine Blessing, it gave the feeling that the host, Mira in this instance, was akin to a spouse.

"Sharing a bed together with me, do you hate the thought of it ? "

Mira had fallen silent trying to processing the situation, and Mariana who felt lonely looked down slightly and asked in a saddened voice.

"I don't hate it. But.....umm"

Of course such a reason didn't exist. Mira had immediately denied it. But she was ashamed of her own desires. If she had been told about sleeping together beforehand, she would have prepared the resolution to do it.

In conclusion, the choice to reject Mariana was no longer left. Mira made up her mind, "Ok"and approved of it while moving aside some pillows and lying down towards the left-side.

Mariana placed her pillow down in the vacant spot and gracefully slipping into the bed.

"I'm glad to be able to see you again"

In the bed where two heads lined up, Mariana's voice shook as she murmured. When Mira turned around towards the voice, Mariana's eyes began to become slightly wet.

(thirty years of neglect.....)

Mariana had been selfish suddenly requesting to sleep together. The words 'thirty years' itself was short, on the other hand it was a long time to live through.

"Sorry"

Looking at the cloth with an embroidery of the paradise of gods, Mira apologizes again. In the next moment, Mariana touched Mira's abdomen.

"What's wrong ? "

Feeling ticklish, Mira's body twitches, as she turns her gaze towards Mariana. Mariana's face had come close to her own. Towards Mira who seemed confused, Mariana placed her other hand in a different place.

(What.....the heck is going on ! )

"Mira-sama.....once more"

Mariana whispered into her ear, while she placed her right hand behind Mira's abdomen. Closing her moist eyes, a faint stream of light leaked from the bed.

"so that's what it was"

Grasping Mariana's hand and placing it in front of their faces, she ignored the slightly disappointing unsure feeling, and felt relieved. Looking at the back of her hand with a bird pattern, they both exchanged gazes.

"What did you think it was ? "

"U....., nothing in particular"

Mira quickly averted her eyes, while Mariana unintentionally laughed as she held onto her hands a little tightly.

In conclusion, the proof of their bond was strong. Mariana repeated the update many times, and every time she smiled joyfully. Mira however,

reproached herself for having impure thoughts。

Mariana was pure。 She genuinely missed her。 After understanding、 a feeling of cheerfulness broke through to Mira、 as she felt relieved。

"Mira-sama"

"Yes ? "

"Nothing"

Mariana responded with childish laughter。

"What"

"I wanted to try it once"

The two of them illuminated by the faint light、 naturally conversed about things they liked and disliked until they fell asleep。

The following morning。 Mira awoke refreshed。 Getting up、 her mind was clear、 and recalling yesterday night's events she blushed in embarrassment。

"Nu、 Already awake ? "

Mira turned her eyes to her surroundings and noticed the trace of Mariana's pillow。 Opening her menu she confirmed that it was slightly past 8:00am。

Lightly stretching、 Mira overlooked the morning scenery from the window with sunlight pouring down。 Narrowing her eyes、 she was satisfied with bustling city streets filled with vitality、 and noticed a faint sound coming from the living room。

It was the standard morning filled with excitement。 Mira opened the door of the bedroom drawn to the sound。

"Good Morning、 Mira-sama"

Mariana greeted her in the usual maid clothes preparing breakfast。 Tableware set for two were placed on the table as a delicious smell wafted around。 Mira had always longed for this kind of morning、 and stood still forgetting about time。

"Is there something odd ? "

Mariana asked Mira who was directing a heated gaze. Mira lost in her delusion, was pulled back into reality by her voice,

"Nu.....No, it's nothing. Morning"

Mira, avoiding eye contact, escaped into the bathroom. It could be said that she had harbored a delusion of a newly wedded life. Stripping off her robe, she went about her business.

As Mira left the restroom, Mariana had in her hands the clothes which had finished washing.

"Now then Mira-sama. Please change clothes"

Without any time to waste, Mira was first given underwear, which she put on. Taking off the robe, Mariana looked at Mira who had become nude and commented.

"By the way, Mira-sama. There were no chest undergarments, do you not wear them?"

The undergarments Mira wore at the bath and in the evening had only been panties. That alone was thought to be troublesome, so Mariana had inquired about it.

"I don't know how to wear them. I have them only to have them"

"Do you have them right now?"

"Umu"

Mira briefly answered and took out a bag filled with extra clothes from her item list. The bag contained several articles of underwear for extra clothing, and was divided into two parts. Used and unused.

(I forgot to take out the ones to wash)

"Is this for washing?"

As soon as Mariana saw the bag, she immediately noticed and took out several pieces of undergarments packed disorderly. Everything was simply designed.

"Umu, shall I leave it to thou?"

"Of course"

Mariana answered naturally and simply folds it, a washing basket would be brought from the changing room.

"Is there anything else ? "

Mira took out the Magical Girl style clothing, and threw them into the item box along with the Replica Sage Robe. It had been unnecessary, however the first was a present from the castle maids, and it was thought that a child would be pleased with the replica robe.

"I'll leave this to you as well"

"Certainly"

After placing them into the basket, Mariana removed a few brassieres.

"The size.....it seems good"

"It was from the castle maids"

Mira explained she had also been taught how to wear them once, but had honestly forgotten. Immediately, Mariana stood up with one of the brassieres in her hand.

"Then, I'll teach you"

Mariana approached Mira with overwhelming pressure, and quietly received the lecture.

After being exposed to a sense of shame by Amaratti, Mira made sure to listen to Mariana's explanation this time. Being shown an example once by Mariana, Mira tried several times herself whether or not she was able to learn.

She repeated it tens of several of times. Afterwards Mira acquired the technique of wearing brassiere's.

Mira was delighted to learn something and expressed her thanks, while Mariana had gladly wore a smile on her face.

After putting on underwear it was past the time for breakfast, Mira sat down with Mariana at the table after putting on her magic robe set.

As Mira relaxed with a cup of hot chocolate after the meal, the tone of a bell began to ring at a fixed interval in the room. The sound continued to repeat itself again and again.

"What is that sound ? "

Mariana stood up at nearly the same time Mira asked her question,

"That is sound of the Magic Communication device. I'll listen to it"

While talking, she opened the shelf next to the door, and inside was a similar magic device that Creos had used. As Mariana turned the lever on the device, a high pitch tone sounded out connecting the communication.

"This is the Tower of Summoning. I am the Tower Adviser Mariana"

"This is Alkite Castle's assistant Slayman. Is Mira present?"

Through the magic communication, Mira had been told that the materials she brought were deciphered, the first destination became clear and to come to the castle for the finer details.

After the communication, Mariana lowered her eyes in loneliness.

"You're going already?"

"When work is done I shall return immediately. Thanks Mariana. As long as I have thou, this is where I belong "

Mira spoke with sincerity, recalling her embarrassing experience between the two of them last night. Mariana slightly nodded and drew in close to Mira, taking her right hand. With the Sprites Divine Blessing flickering, the both of them nodded and smiled to each other quietly.

Going back to the castle, it would be faster to fly. But because it was cold she needed warm clothing, and went together with Mariana to the warehouse to look around. Mariana picked out the most suitable coat. It was a surprisingly soft coat with snow-white fur. The size was for Dunbalf, it was much too large for her present figure, but if it were used only for wrapping her body to block the wind, it would be fine.

Next, the two of them went into the refining room, taking the sealed exploding magic stones that seemed useful for contracting summons along with

sealed magic stones as a gift for Solomon。

(Honestly, with the convenience of communication magic, thou should tell me the location without the need to meet directly。 What other reason is there for us to meet?。 He would probably want the sealed magic stones)

Mira prepared what was necessary, while she about the possibilities。

"Now then, shall we?"

Creos urged them to hurry with a lively voice。

"I wanted to show you how to do your hair if possible"

"Umu....., that.....it'll have to wait until next we meet"

With numerous ribbons in Mariana's hands, she spoke with disappointment。 Finishing the last of the preparations, what kind of hairstyle would Mariana consider while doing Mira's hair。 Creos had come to the private room, because he would accompany her until the school。

The conversation using the magic communication was heard all throughout the top floor。 It wasn't made for private use, so it was convenient。 Because of that, Creos heard that Mira would be heading towards the castle while in his work office, it had come at good timing so they would go together。

With slight shivers running down his back, Creos entered the elevator with Mira。

"Ok, Let's go"

"Yes。 Please return safely"

Mira spoke with slight embarrassment, as Mariana gently smiled。 Creos tilted his head in wonder, as to why the two of them had such an atmosphere from last night until today。

In front of the Tower of Summoning。 A smaller carriage than normal was placed aside, along with a horse that was unhitched。 It was exactly the size to fit one person, it was made of wood and metal, and had a door and window。

Creos stood before the carriage,

"Mira-sama。 Using Aizen Faldo will not be good"



After warning her again, he motioned her towards it.

"I know....."

Despite the sulking, Creos summoned something within the sky.

**【Summon : Garuda】**

As the magic dispersed with a gust of wind, a large ominous bird which shined in the colors of a rainbow appeared on the carriage.

"Hou.....。 Garuda huh? So thou will be riding on Garuda"

"No, I will be riding on this. Garuda will be flying with the wagon"

Creos boastfully replied to Mira while looking at the bird that was bigger than a house as he opened the door to the carriage. In a sense, a carriage specifically for the sky. It could also be a bird-mobile? Because it flew in the sky it was hard to place it as a flying car, however Mira was excited.

"ho hou ! So that's how it is. With this, the coldness in the sky and getting a sore rear end will not happen!"

Inside was a small table along with a spacious seat, the workmanship seemed to guarantee comfort.

Mira jumped into the carriage thoroughly enjoying the comfortable seat repeating a word to herself, "Good, Good".

"Although it is for one person, because Mira-sama is small, perhaps I can enter as well. Would that be fine ? "

With Mira's circumstances, the feeling of being a father figure welled up inside Creos as he smiled kindly.

"Are you fine with it ! ? "

"ehh, perhaps it will be alright"

Mira's innocent face glittered, the answer was that Creos would somehow enter the wagon. Mira cheerfully moved to the corner, and space enough for exactly one person was possible. Creos sat down, "it doesn't seem to be a problem"and shut the door.

"To the Capital, Lunatic Lake"

When Creos tapped on the wall, the sound of beating wings resounded.

"Is it flying? Is it flying ! "

Mira excitedly looked around the surrounding flowers that streamed in the wind from the window. And as large gusts of wind beat several times, the scenery of everything become smaller and smaller, as the light feeling of floating was felt. Mira stood up and peeped out the window, as they rose higher and higher with every flap of it's wings.

Creos was unable to feel the dignified atmosphere of Dunbalf, but watching Mira's back, a desire of wanting to protect her sprouted.

"oh oh ! The tower has already become so small. This is great, great. How can I obtain one of these ? "

"This wagon ? This....."

Mira separated herself from the window, and eagerly asked a question. Creos had a craftsmen from the castle make it, so it was possible to get the same product if necessary.

She was enthusiastic about it, Mira took out two Apple au Lait's and handed one to Creos, they would enjoy a relaxed journey together.