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Leading an Explosive Revolution in Another World! - Volume 02

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Prologue

Edit: Oops, this is actually the prologue for next volume, I always hit next chapter and didn't realise.

TL: And here we are at volume 2! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Now, sorry to break your bubble, but don't expect future releases to be as quick. Not that I'll get to once a month slow, I really like the series, so maybe 1-2 on average a week. This round was different because:

- Exceptionally slow week at work as my bosses went on bonus-fuelled holidays. Typically I spend upwards of 80-90 hours including weekends at work.
- Trillion: God of Destruction comes out on Wednesday (GMT +8 here)
- I really wanted to get the first volume out – As you all have read, you really don't know what the story is about until chapter 6-7 – Which makes writing a synopsis that doesn't spoil and isn't subjective a real pain...

Some explanations ahead, spoilers for those who haven't read chapter 7:

- Tess does NOT time travel. Essentially, you can imagine it as the god of fate creating a "virtual reality space" in Tess's dreams where she goes to every night and she has both third person (view of god) and first person (Tess herself) views.
- Molan is not as OP as you might think. He only managed the epic massacre so easily because they were mindless zombies, kind of like how the characters you control in Dynasty Warriors kill all the trash mobs in Musou Mode.
- William failed yes. But what the author wanted to show was that the Mary Sue-esque existence was only human. In the end, he is the same as Molan, both are willing to give up everything for the one thing they cherish the most.

Corpses covered the ground as far as the eye could see, and blood flowed like rivers.

This was clearly the sacred and solemn Oracle Plaza. Yet a cruel sight that resembled a scene from hell was there.

The boy pulled his sword out of the chest of the green haired elf, and turned around slowly.

Innumerable tentacle-like lines of blood grew from the blade, and wrapped themselves around the boy's right arm. The black blood expanded, divided and crawled up to the boy's face, and entered his body through his mouth, ears, eyes and nose. Pitch black filaments seeped out from the boy's skin and wrapped around him, forming a gigantic black elliptical cocoon.

The black cocoon did not stir for a long while, and what happened could not be seen either.

And all of a sudden, the black cocoon explodes, spewing out endless black smoke from within. A silhouette appears within the smoke, its outline seems like a beast, but also like a young man. It emerged from the black smoke and walked towards the survivors, every step sending a tremor through the entire plaza.

“Despicable humans.”

It used the voice of the boy to speak. Intense hatred and pain that felt like it had simmered for thousands of years could be heard, breaking the will of all who heard it.

As the black smoke faded away, the boy's monstrous form appeared before them. Both eyes were blood-red, scales covered its body, a snake's tail with a razor-sharp end and on his arm, a white sword, from which a foot long ice pillar extended. Its form was majestic, and all who gazed at it would involuntarily prostrate themselves before it.

“Thy King thou hath awaited for, hath returned.”

Tess jumped out of her bed, her heart pounding, and clothes soaked in cold perspiration.

She knew this was no simple dream, it was a certain possible horrific future outcome shown to her by the god of fate.

As her breath returned to normal, she withdrew her legs and buried her head

into her knees.

Dense clouds covered the moon, and insects seemed to have all died as the forest was deathly silent. Now was the time for rest, and no one noticed as the world continued to advance slowly in accordance with the predetermined fate, ignoring any attempt to derail its path.

Chapter 1: Sadly, she came just a little too late

“My head hurts...”

“You’re awake.”

On hearing a clear dreamlike voice, I forcefully opened my heavy eyelids. My vision was blurry at first, and slowly cleared up.

What seemed like the rays of the afternoon sun lit up the room. Next to me was a golden haired girl hugging her knees as she leaned her head at an angle and looked right at me. She had a face that would make any artist go mad trying to replicate her beauty, her skin was so white it seemed translucent, and she wore a pure white dress. The rays of light shone down at her from an angle, making her look like an angel that descended from the heavens. If she was indeed an angel, she is definitely the most favoured one of all.

As I recalled that she was the emissary of the god of fate, everything that happened came rushing back to my mind.

“Tina!”

“Calling her name the moment you awaken,” the emissary said with a slightly lonely look, “She is currently being treated.”

“Tina is alive?”

“We don’t know yet, the healing procedure has not ended.”

“I want to go see her!”

As I hurried flipped myself off the bed, the emissary let out a painful whimper.

“You’re pressing on my hair...”

“Sorry sorry.”

Her hair was really long. Not only did it cover the entirety of the bed, it even made a pool on the floor.

“You cannot see Tina Faburando, the healing procedure cannot be interrupted,” she said, “The guards too, will not allow you in.”

My agitated emotions were subdued on hearing the emissary's words. I can't see her huh... Then I'll just bear with it... It's good enough knowing Tina can be saved.

Let's bear with it first, let's bear with it first, let's bear with it first. I recited these words like it was a Buddhist sutra, in order to better calm my emotions down. I withdrew my feet and sat back quietly on the bed.

"Ouch."

"Ah sorry sorry, I got your hair again."

What a pain! I tenderly made a space without hair on the bed. The hair in my hands felt very soft, smooth and light and was really nice to hold and made me not want to let go. But I had no choice but to let go because the emissary was looking at me.

"Your manner of speech is different from in the plaza." I said, trying to make conversation, "I would have thought that you would always speak like that."

"I only use the old tongue in formal situations." She replied.

"I seem to have slept for very long, my head feels very heavy and cloudy."

"3 days, from the Oracle Plenary until now."

"I remember being ready to cut down green hair, and then you stopped me, then after that... I fell asleep."

"You cried too."

"No I didn't, no, I don't remember. So I've been sleeping for 3 days and 3 nights since then?"

"Un."

Speaking of which, I felt an intense thirst.

"I..."

"Un." The emissary immediately replied me without pause, as though she was awaiting my every word.

"I'm thirsty, do you have water?"

“Over there.”

“I picked up the cup that the emissary pointed to. It seemed to be crafted from clay and there was a round-shaped leaf at the bottom of the cup. The liquid that ran down my throat had a tea-like taste.

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“Eh.”

“Un?”

“... Nothing.”

“Un Un.”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“There’s not enough, is there more?”

“There is.” The emissary left the room, brought back a clay teapot, poured me a full cup, set down the teapot, and returned to her knee-hugging position on the bed. The contents from the teapot were a little too hot, and I had to blow away the steam and drink with small mouthfuls.

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“Um,” I said, as I couldn’t take it anymore, “Can you please don’t stare at me?”

The emissary blinked in surprise.

“Why not?”

Are you taking me for a panda! From the moment I woke up till now, except for when you went to take the teapot, your eyes have never left me! Am I such a

rare specimen, are humans a critically endangered animal in the eyes of elves?

“Why are you staring at me?”

“Because I want to see clearly.”

“See what clearly.”

“You look different in my dreams.”

“Dreams? You dreamt of me?”

“Un,” the emissary nodded, “Since half a year ago, I have been dreaming of you every night.”

I violently choked. Wha-wha-wha-wha-what kind of passionate reply is that, is she telling me that she can't stop thinking about me to the point of seeing me in her dreams!? No, wrong, I only just came to this world half a year ago, where did she see me.

“You must be mistaken. The Oracle Plenary was our first meeting.”

“No,” she shook her head, “Every night, the god of fate sends me a vision of what happened in your day in the form of a dream.”

Eh?

“But why do that?”

“Don't know, he never said why.”

She suddenly gave a toothy smile, like a delighted child.

“From the time you got picked up by Tina Faburando till now, I know everything about Molan.”

Everything! My heart gave a shudder, then those things I did in my room while looking at erotic books... She couldn't have seen them right?

“Sometimes Molan does strange things.”

“UWAAAAAAAAAAAA I can't help it, I'm a guy after all! Please I beg you, forget all that!”

Oh God above! Just kill me with one lightning strike! I can no longer live on with this shame! And are You an idiot or a moron, you showed such corrupted images

to such a pure girl, do you not know what is censorship? You are actually enjoying this, aren't You!

"I don't want to." The emissary rejected resolutely, "I don't want to forget a single thing about Molan."

"Why?"

She hugged her knees tighter, and her cheeks were dyed a pinkish red, and she looked at me with the resolution of a warrior that bravely faced death.

"Because, I've loved Molan since a long, long time ago!"

Time seemed to stop.

The birds outside the window chirped cheerfully and freely outside as they looked on the 2 embarrassed idiots in the room. The tree branches gently swayed and a gentle breeze blew in, as the love comedy formally began.

Without any warning at all, I was confessed to by a golden angel. And now that angel was embarrassed, burying her face in the corner of the bed muttering to herself. What a beautiful attack, 200 out of 100 points, I could hear my heart explode and scatter into brilliant fireworks.

Just a moment ago, I was still worried about a mountain of matters, the Tina who was still hanging between life and death, the plaza that was filled with corpses of my doing, how the headmaster and William was, whether Txarango had been utterly destroyed to the point of losing its flag and national song... All this was now relegated to the back of my mind. I remembered that it was the most beautiful season of the year. A scent of lavender wafted through the air, everything seemed to be lazy after waking up in this beautiful afternoon, from the crickets to the dragonflies, nothing hateful seemed to happen and I was enjoying the bittersweet experiences of youth.

Men are such stupid creatures. With just a single confession, their hearts can fly to the heavens, plus the confessor is the great emissary who is an unparalleled beauty across the world. Just when you think she is a divine goddess beyond your reach, she descends to the mortal realm for you. There she sits, not a meter away, you can catch a glimpse of her cute bare legs, touch her soft golden hair and embark on an epic romance that transcends race and status.

Sadly, she came just a little too late, for you already have someone in your heart.

"Keh Keh," I coughed a few times, "The uh, the room is a little stuffy, I'm going out for a walk."

And I'm lost. This forest is just too damn big.

When you're lost, it's best to stay put and not wander about. Upon remembering this, I realised I had walked for a very long while already. Cracking sounds could be heard with every step as fragile tree branches and leaves littered the ground that was covered with weeds that proliferated across the entire forest. The trees I came across on my way were all tall and mighty, like skyscrapers while a multitude of criss-crossing vines would hang down from the tree. They looked so snakelike that I repeatedly got scared out of my wits when I hit my head on them

This was clearly a primary forest. There were many bird chirps and insect cries that I had never heard before. Thinking about it, it wouldn't be strange to meet with a poisonous snake. But while I did not meet a single snake, I did meet a tiger.

It came without any warning at all. The sun was setting and my stomach was growling furiously from hunger as I leaned against a big tree hoping someone would find me. All of a sudden, I felt a wave of warm damp air blowing toward my face. I turned around and saw a pair of feline-like amber eyes right in front of me. We were so close, our noses were practically touching; its teeth baring in a wide open mouth, as if it was going to kiss me.

Because I was so shocked, not a single sound squeaked out of me.

Various images flashed across my mind as I tried my best to recall the contents of a book called [50 rules to surviving in the wild] which I had read before. If I remember correctly, it gave tips on how to escape from a tiger. Ah I remember, it said that if one came face to face with a tiger and the tiger was motionlessly observing you, it meant that you were already in its safety zone and it is recommended that you do not make sudden movements. You should quietly look back at it and slowly retreat without bending, turning or lowering your

head. The moment you turn your back to it, it will identify you as prey and hunt you down immediately. If you kept facing it, it might be hesitant to attack and maintain an impasse as it will have the impression that you are its equal.

This seemed to make a lot of sense to me, and I opened my eyes as wide as possible and stared back at it. It was still cautious, and did not seem to have any intention of leaping forward. YES! I am winning the battle of wills!

As I took a step backwards, *gazi*, my heart nearly leapt out of my mouth from the sound. But it's all good, the tiger has not moved.

Hu... Good, good kitty cat, just stay there.

Second step, no movement. Third step. Fourth step. Fifth step.

Escape is possible! I'll slowly fade away from its sight just like that!

Tch, if only I hadn't left Shuoxue back in the emissary's room. I could be eating tiger steak by now.

Sixth step. I stepped on a slightly thicker branch, slipped and fell right on my bottom.

— SHITTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

All that effort for naught! Yet the tiger did not leap forward. I got up and went to take a look, but it was lying on the ground dead, just a single arrow pierced its skull.

"Dead, haha!"

A red-haired boy that looked to be about my age with pointy ears and a short scar on the left side of his face walked to where I was and waved at me.

"Hello! Dangerous back there eh?"

I shook his hand, "Hehehehehehello."

Holy shit, that scared me! I thought I was going to see Marx! Thank goodness me! [50 rules to surviving in the wild] is too good!

"Why is a human here? Ah, I got it, you are the boy that Lady Tess brought back right?"

My wits were finally coming back to me.

“By Tess, you mean that elven emissary with e tremely long hair?”

“Yeah! Lady Tess is the emissary. Here’s pretty far from Lady Tess’s place, did you get lost?”

“Un... I got lost as I walked on and on, and even met the tiger.”

“It’s a prey that I’ve been tracking for a day. Hei–sho.”

He shouldered the almost 400kg tiger effortlessly, somehow finding the strength from that slim body.

“My name’s Jack.”

“Oh, mine’s Molan.”

“Mo lan? What a strange name.”

“It’s from the tongue of my hometown.”

“What does it mean?”

“‘Ink is finishing’, it means I don’t have much knowledge.”

(TL: I am not shitting you, 墨=墨水, 阑=将尽. Author used wrong 近 in original but the first is correct. In Mandarin, 墨水 is literally ink, but here it refers to knowledge/learning)

“Isn’t that a terrible name huh~”

“Yeah, no idea why my old man gave me this name.”

“My name means ‘smart and handsome’, suits me perfectly right.”

(TL: Sure Jack)

No hint of unfamiliarity at all. Jack’s silly laugh infected me as well and I unwittingly smiled. I like this kind of friendly easy-going guy, always a pleasure to hang out with.

“Speaking of which, your stomach has been growling huh.”

“Wu.”

“Haha, you’re hungry eh.” Jack paused to think for a moment, “My house is nearby, why don’t you come over for dinner!”

“Let me tell you uncle, at that time, it was really, you know, my head just went *weng* and exploded!”

Jack’s family only consisted of him and his father. The house was small, unlike Tess’s, but it was well-equipped, warm and breezy. Jack’s father was called Walter, and it was clear that Jack was a chip off the old block. He was very friendly and warm and all round, a great host, completely breaking the image I had of elves being distant and cold. I sat around the fire with them eating tiger barbecue and drank the red wine Walter made himself. Seems like there isn’t any age restrictions on liquor. We talked about anything and everything, ate the juicy chunks of meat and drank delicious wine as the sun crept slowly down the horizon, leaving an amber afterglow that looked like the sky was alit.

“And so I said, ‘wang ba du zi’, you dare touch my woman? I’ll give you a good one!”

(TL: Untranslatable... And it’s a continuing gag below... 王八犊子 = wang ba du zi, the first 2 letters is basically bastard while du zi is a mainland Chinese insult originating from some region. Wang ba originated from turtle. But if you know Mandarin, turtle or tortoise is wu gui, what happened is essentially intergenerational word play and blending of dialects that led to the modern form.)

“What is ‘wang ba du zi’?”

“It means they are little tortoises!”

“Why do you call them little tortoises? I think little tortoises are so cute, especially how silly they look swimming in the water.”

“Jack don’t interrupt! Moleng was just reaching a good part, let him continue!”

“But dad, he is Molan, not Moleng!”

“Stop changing the topic! Listen to me. Now where was I?”

“You were talking about little tortoises.”

“Oh thanks. Yeah so little tortoises when they swim in the water—No no no! What little tortoises, I was talking about giving them a good one!”

“Yeah yeah yeah! You were going to give them a good one! What happened then?”

“Then? Then I pulled out my dragonslaying sacred sword and slashed right and left, and killed them all, haha!”

“Wowee! Awesome!”

“I don’t believe you! You’re just bullshitting, you look like you can’t even stand against a breeze!”

“Come on uncle, I don’t want to hear that, what can’t stand a breeze, I, eh, my cup is empty, fill me up.”

“Come come come, drink as much as you want, lot more where that came from!”

“Guru guru (drinking sounds)... Heheh, this wine is really addictive.”

“Isn’t it! Geh, it’s our family recipe! Moleng, if I sell my wine in human lands, I can make a pretty penny, no?”

“That is! Uncle, I think you can at least make this much.”

“No no no, add another zero.”

“Eh eh, Molan continue your story, what happened after you killed them? From what you said, wouldn’t there be a war?”

“Yeah, I screwed Txarango over, geh.”

“Not just that! Molan, you can’t go back anymore, you’re a wanted man in every nation, your brain will be separate from you if you are caught!”

“... Right you are!”

“Never fear! Just stay here in the forest of us elves, stay with us here! I’ll take you as my son! All you need to do is chop wood, draw water and some chores, I will take care of hunting with Jack.”

“Aiyo dad! Even if he were to stay, he wouldn’t stay with us, he would stay with Lady Tess! He and Lady Tess...”

“Ah? You are Lady Tess’s man!?”

“Bu, bullshit! I only knew her name today!”

“You’re good huh boy... Even that Lady Tess fell to you, you’re smooth huh! Hai, I too was popular back in the day. But you youngsters should listen to this piece of advice from the old man, when it comes to love, stay faithful and don’t get a harem!”

“No no no, I have no such relationship with Tess! I only love Tina... Oh right uncle, do you elves have any spell that can resurrect the dead?”

“Resurrect the dead? How is that possible! That goes against the natural order! But Lady Tess is divinely powerful, and she has the favour of the god of fate... Maybe she can do something.”

“Eh...”

“Why so gloomy?”

“I’m really worried about Tina... What will I do if she dies...”

“... It’ll be alright Molan, if she couldn’t save her, she wouldn’t have brought her back. There have been many things great people have failed but yet she succeeded!”

“Do you all know where Tina is being treated?”

“No, but I think, it should be the holy lake.”

“Holy lake?”

“Only Lady Tess and members of elven royalty know about it. It is said to be the place that is closest to god. Resurrecting the dead is probably the sort of thing where you need the help of god.”

“...”

“Okay no more gloom, what’s the use anyway? Be more optimistic. Oh, it’s already dark outside. Lady Tess’s place is too far, why not stay here for the night!”

“Sounds good sounds good.”

Dong dong dong

“Someone’s knocking dad, I’ll go get it. Coming coming! Hello—Lady Tess!”

In an instant, everyone snapped out of their drunken stupor and regained their vision and realised what a mess the place was.

Tess pulled her hair as she walked into the room. As she entered, Jack and Walter did their best to fix their drunken expressions and bowed deeply, or so they tried but they could barely keep their balance.

“Lady Tess, what brings you here?” Walter asked as he belched, “Please forgive us for not receiving you properly, we didn’t know you were coming to our humble abode...”

“I’m here for Molan.”

“Te, Tess.”

I kept my head bent low and didn’t dare to look at her because I ran away from her confession... And the worse part was that just catching a glimpse of her made his heart race like a Harley motor. Before the confession, it was still okay but after the confession, I couldn’t resist her.

“You know my name.” She said with a tinge of happiness, “Let’s go back.”

“How did you know I was here?”

“God told me.”

Another dream? This god really likes giving me trouble!

I looked at the father-son pair and tried to communicate to them with my eyes to think of a way to let me stay. Jack was only slightly tipsy, and understood my intent first.

“Lady Tess! Molan is drunk. The journey is so far, why not let him rest here!”

Good one. I quickly lay down on the ground and groaned.

“Is he unwell?” Tess immediately came over. In hearing Jack, and a sweet soothing scent enveloped me, making me giddy.

She reached out and touched my forehead, “Eh, it’s getting hotter and hotter, he really is unwell.”

“No Lady Tess. Molan isn’t having fever, he is just drunk, no need to touch his head.”

What are you running your mouth for uncle! Just let her touch her fill and she will go back herself!

“No need to touch his head?” Tess asked, with suspicion floating onto her face, “What sort of illness is being drunk like? I don’t know what it’s like, will touching his chest help?”

She reached out and caressed my chest.

“His heartbeat is so fast! Are you okay, Molan? I don’t know healing magic...”

Say something quickly to make her go back you two!

“Lady Tess, when one is drunk, receiving a kiss makes it a lot better.”

Oi uncle what are you saying! Have you gone completely drunk!

“It’s true, in the past when I was drunk and out of it, a kiss from my wife brought me back well and good.”

“Is that how it is?”

Tess actually believed it, and softly kissed my forehead.

“His heartbeat is increasing even more! What do I do!”

“That’s because you kissed the wrong place, you should kiss him on his lips.”

You fuckers shut up already!!!!!!!!!!!!

“Lady Tess, just one kiss and he will recover fully? My wife used to always kiss me on my lips too!”

“Yeah! Mom always kissed dad on the lips!”

Both father and son were flushed red but did not take their eyes off me and Tess.

“Kiss!”

“Kiss!”

“...O, okay then...”

“I’m awake! Feeling refreshed! No problems at all! What are we still waiting for? Tess, let’s go back now!”

Just as Tess was about to kiss me, I rolled away and sprang up from the ground, dodging as far as I could.

“Molan you’re okay already.”

“See Lady Tess, I told you a kiss worked!”

“Dad said it!”

You bastards, I’ll burn your shitty house down sooner or later.

Chapter 2: We're going on a trip after eating breakfast!

The first time I was confessed to was in middle school. She was the class representative and I was the vice representative. We could always help teachers run errands, remind our classmates to hand up their homework, organise the class for gymnastics, sports festivals, school festivals and many other school events together. I feel a deep camaraderie with her from slogging it out, much like that of a war comrade. But then at the class gathering on the day of graduation, she confessed to me, and only then did I find out that her affection level had promoted from war comrades. I rejected her, for some reason I can no longer remember; I only remember how sad she looked as she kept crying, her eyes red and puffy like walnuts. After that, she deleted me from her life and blocked out all contact, and we never spoke again.

(TL: This sounds way too real... Like the author's own experience)

How do I reject her so I don't make Tess as sad as Class Representative.

I spied on Tess's sleeping face with the help of moonlight as I pondered this quandary.

"..."

... Right, I'm currently sleeping with Tess on the same bed. Because she stays alone, there is only one bed and no spare mattress, but it's not like I can't sleep on the floor. The problem is a lack of blankets, what if I catch a cold, and even without blankets, what if I get bitten by crawling insects.

I know no defence is tenable, but please believe me when I say I hesitated for a very long while, at least as long as half an hour, as Tess pulled me into bed... Before agreeing. I had already been sharing a bed with Tess when I fell dead asleep after the Oracle Plenary, so another day should be nothing... I just need to steel my heart! In Buddhism, monks had been forced into eating meat to save people but they did so as it was the right thing to do, yeah this is something like that!

(TL: The story goes that there was some robber who chased some folk into a temple. The monk there gave them shelter. The robber barged in and tried to get the monk to release them, he did not kill the monk as he owed the monk favours. The monk naturally refused and the robber said he would give up if the monk ate meat and drank liquor. As he did so, he uttered the phrase which is used here: 酒肉穿肠过佛祖心头坐. Of course, many variations of both the phrase and story exist but the plot is more or less the same)

I was a wreck of nerves and couldn't close my eyes.

I was deeply afraid that if I lost myself to sleep, I might do something in a drowsy state where my inhibitions would be lost. Tess, however, was long in slumber facing the me who was a nervous idiot.

Tess isn't the first girl to sleep with me. The first was Shuoxue. Every night in school, I always stuff her into the sheath and lock her in the wardrobe but when I wake up the next morning, I will always find her in loli form beneath the covers. While she does irritate me with her horrible sleeping habits, I don't take notice of anything in particular unlike now, with Tess, where I feel like my heart is about to break out of the rib cage.

I kept sneaking peeks at her, and get more nervous with every peek, but I just can't move my line of sight away.

She really is a work of art, so exquisitely beautiful, how can one not take more glances.

She has the most noble of births, so much so that any human king will kneel before her; her magic is strong beyond comparison, able to defeat me without even using an attack; she is unaware of worldly affairs, not knowing what it means to be drunk, nor what is the appropriate distance between men and women; she has also loved me for a while, and knows every single thing there is to know about me since I've come to this world.

She probably knows I love Tina.

And probably knows that no matter how much I may hesitate, I will reject her in the end.

She's probably pretty lonely, staying here alone, surrounded by thick forests. Including Jack, the other elves all live in the perimeter of the forest, while she

lives in a big house in its depths, and spends her time idling alone brewing her own tea blends, and watching the sun set and birds fly here and there. One day, she dreams of a boy who idles around with no ambitions, her dreams are like a serial and she sees every facet of his life, as though she were right beside him. She finally feels like she isn't alone, that someone is beside her; and slowly, she falls in love.

Tess slept very well, and I could see a faint smile from her slightly curled lips, maybe she is dreaming of me again. How narcissistic of me, I thought as I laughed soundlessly at myself.

That god of fate, why did he have to choose me, choose someone better damn it. He has to be handsome, tall, single with no abnormal fetishes... He must fall for Tess at first sight and be 100% faithful. He must be willing to live with her in the deep forests where no one else is around; and chat with her, comb her hair and do all the household chores for her. He must do all that and more, since Tess is a such a wonderful world class treasure. That stupid god! If it were me, I'd definitely pick such such a guy, and then I'll encourage Tess to snatch him off, and form the perfect isolated divine couple.

That stupid stupid god!

"Master."

"-!!!!"

I nearly screamed out. The only one who would call me that is Shuoxue, and she was currently leaning at the bedside, sticking her head out and whispering into my ear like a haunting ghost.

"... What are you doing? It's the middle of the night, go back to your sheath, I'm going to sleep." I whispered.

"You don't look like you intend on sleeping with that unceasing lustful look at that hairy girl."

"Who are you calling hairy girl, where are your manners?"

"But master taught me to call people like this? You call that handsome prince blondie, and since this oerson has such long hair, I think hairy girl is very fitting."

“You are not allowed to call her that! How rude! Be respectful to your elders! Calling William blondie is fine, calling Tess hairy girl isn’t.”

“If we’re talking about age, I’m the elder here! I’m already more than 10,000 years old!”

“You already said you are eternally 12. So next time, please call her sister Tess.”

“Hmph!” Shuoxue rested her chin on the bed and pouted unhappily, “To think that master is scolding me for the sake of a girl he knows for only a few days, I hate you master!”

“Alright alright.” I rub Shuoxue’s head, hoping to soothe her, “What’s the matter anyway, are you hungry? I don’t have blood for you.”

“No, I’m here to remind you not to fall in love with her.”

“Who are you talking about?”

“Sister Tess. Even though she isn’t a loli, but master was smiling lewdly at her so I’m afraid you might be moved by your lust.”

“Lewd... Lewd my foot!”

So as not to awaken Tess, I suppressed the urge to shout.

I clearly smiled in a manner that was gentlemanly, kind and sophisticated; so much so that you can set a 5 mark reading comprehension question on my smile for test takers to analyse and interpret alright! Why did you interpret it as a lewd smile!

“Don’t fall in love with others! Master!”

“Is it that curse again? No way no, I’m not in love with Tess, no need to worry.”

“Master is such a philanderer, even if sister Tess doesn’t have long to live, I’m still worried.”

I was shocked.

“What’s that about not having long to live?”

Shuoxue blinked, “Her remaining lifespan isn’t long, 10 days more or less, maybe much less.”

“How can that be, Tess is still in the prime of youth.”

But as I recalled that William had told me that every generation of emissaries had short lives, the shadow of doubt in my heart grew.

“I have never been wrong when it comes to gauging people’s lifespans, because my nature is to end them.” Shuoxue said with conviction and sincerity, “Maybe she doesn’t know herself~ But I know, she can only live for 10 days at best. The curse is one thing but I don’t want to see a sad master then. Even though I can take the chance to comfort master when he is sad, not having master be sad is still better...”

Whatever Shuoxue said after that, I could no longer hear anything.

I turned my head back to Tess, but she did not stir and she seemed to be having a good dream. Her expression was tranquil and her fringe parted, revealing the sakura pink mark between her brows.

As morning arrived, the air became cool and fresh. Tess sat up from bed, her hair curling about, and gave small yawns as she tried to clear the sleep away from her mind.

“Good morning.” I greeted her.

“Morning...”

She seemed to suffer from difficult mornings due to slight low blood pressure. The Tess that was hugging her pillow in a daze was cute, too cute. I had an intense urge to rub her head but I held it back.

“Tess-chan~”

(TL: Yes he really uses the Japanese honorific)

“Un...”

“I made breakfast, but I only found chicken eggs and there was no kitchen so I could only make 2 fried eggs using a metal wok over a fire. Took me a long while to get everything together, but at least I made it work.”

“...”

“Tess?”

“... Hu...”

“Don’t sleep!”

I snatched her pillow away and she looked up with drowsy eyes as she reached out to snatch it back but to no avail as I raised it high above her reach. She tried for a while before giving up, and fell asleep as she hugged me instead, rubbing her face against me.

You really are good at sleeping in huh.

“No, time is money, I can’t let you sleep in today.” I threw the pillow away and shook her by her shoulders, “Wake up wake up.”

“... Molan?”

“It’s good you’re awake. Come, let’s eat breakfast.”

Tess gave a look of surprise as she saw the fried eggs on the table.

“So pretty.”

“They should be not bad, I’m pretty confident in my culinary skills.”

Though frying eggs isn’t hard at all, I wanted to show off just a little in front of Tess. This was the first time cooking something since I came to this world and it was a little nostalgic.

(TL: Molan’s “first time” counter: Ate a girl’s homemade food – 1 point to Tina, slept with a girl – 1 point to Shuoxue, cooked for a girl – 1 point to Tess)

“I haven’t eaten breakfast in a whilr.”

“How long.”

“Several... Years? I always sleep till noon, when the cicadas start crying.”

“So today is an exception huh.”

“Because Molan is here today.” Tess bit into the fried egg, “Tasty, hehe~”

Her smile is really breathtaking, it warms my heart throughout just seeing her smile. Yesterday I even thought about avoiding her smile, but now I only want to see it more.

“Tess.”

“Un?” She replied me instantly as always, even when she had something in her mouth.

“Do you only have a white dress?”

“Un, with god around, my clothes never get dirty.”

“Don’t you want to wear more beautiful clothes?”

“Eh?”

“And your hair, don’t you feel like it’s a bother? How about changing it to a more fashionable style?”

Tess leaned her head to the side, her face full of doubts.

“Molan do you dislike my hair?”

“And yourself? Do you like it?”

“God likes it when I wear the dress, and this hair.”

“Don’t care about the fetishes of that god, would you want to have a more fashionable look, and wear more trendy clothing?”

“I don’t know... God probably won’t like it.”

“Who cares whether he likes it or not! I’ve been pissed with him for a while now. Quickly eat, after you’re done, pack your stuff, we’re leaving immediately.”

“To where?”

“The human world!” I exclaimed at Tess, “We’re going to travel throughout the human world!”

Tess’s face showed she was completely lost and did not understand what was happening.

“I cannot leave this place...”

“Why?”

“Because god—”

“Tess-chan~”

I went right up in front of her, held both her hands, and looked at her in the

eye with utmost sincerity.

“I really want to travel all of a sudden! I really really really want to go! But going alone is so lonely, won't you accompany me? Won't you? Won't you?”

Tess looked at me, and her cheeks slowly reddened. She hurriedly withdrew her hands from my grasp and covered her face with them. I squatted in front of her waiting. After a long while, she replied in a voice so soft, it was almost as audible as a mosquito.

“... Un.”

“That's great! Now quickly eat, we are leaving the forest immediately.”

“But,” Tess continued, “To leave the forest of elves, permission from the elven king is needed, or we will be lost forever.”

“That's fine.”

I changed the itinerary.

“After you are done with the fried eggs, we will get permission from the great king, and then go on our trip! Haha~”

Chapter 3: That's right! I'm the prince!

In the perimeter of the forest where the elves lived, there was a particular construct that could be said to be the landmark construct of the forest of elves. It comprised of 2 gigantic ash trees, standing tall at over a hundred meters, looking as though they had sprouted at the beginning of the world. So gigantic they were that just walking one round their perimeter would take half a day. Both trees were entwined about each other, forming a colossal wooden pillar that seemed like it singlehandedly held up the blue sky. Within its vines and branches was a rich and complex ecosystem where many organisms thrived.

Tess began her incantations, and a strong wind lifted the both of us and brought us to the canopy of the colossal combined tree. As a member of the elven race that is blessed with natural talent in magic, she did not need a staff or any such medium to cast her spell.

Before our eyes was a glorious palace, that dazzled like a jewel, surrounded by branches. This was the abode of the king of elves.

As expected of the king of the noble race of elves, how majestic and superior is this? To put your palace on the canopy of the tallest of trees, and be able to look down on the masses through the clouds.

2 guards stopped us at the palace entrance and bowed to Tess.

“Welcome Lady Tess. Human, no weapons may be brought into an audience with the sacred king, leave your sword.”

Come to think of it, that does seem inappropriate. I was about to hand over Shuoxue when I changed my mind and pulled Tess to the side and whispered in her ear.

“Tess.”

“Un?”

“Do you think that the king of elves will agree to let you go out?”

“No.” Tess answered without any hesitation.

“Why?”

“Zkocha has always hated humans deeply, and has forbidden all interactions between elves and humans. When I said before that I was bringing Molan and Miss Tina back to the forest, all his hair stood on end.”

“Is that so, then he will definitely not give permission for a trip outside.”

“Un un.”

“Must it be him that we get permission from?”

“Yes.”

This was troublesome. I have to bring Tess out no matter what as the forest is simply too boring. So no matter what I need permission from the king of elves, but if he refuses no matter what...

“Tess, tell me where he is, I’ll find the king of elves on my own.”

“Eh?”

I assured her as I rubbed the back of her head, “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely get permission, so just wait here for me.”

It took me a very long while as I scoured the palace before I found the king, who was watering flowers in his garden. He wore a beautiful, elegant long robe, with long golden hair that reached his waist. He had a youthful look and was very handsome to the point that one would feel that he is a worthy match for Tess. He detected my presence before I even showed myself and berated as he continued watering his flowers:

“Who goes there! Barging into my palace and bringing your weapon.”

I leapt off the roof and landed right in front of him. His face contorted upon seeing me, into an expression of disgust and hatred that he did not bother hiding at all.

“A human? Are you the boy that Tess brought back?”

“Yes, that’s me.”

“Do you have any idea who I am? I am the 16th sacred king, Zkocha Jan Viktoni.”

It’s not a Chinese name so even if you declare it I can’t remember it. I’ve

already had to remember many people's names, anymore and I'll start mixing them up.

"My name is Molan Faburando, you can call me Molan."

"Insolent human," the elven king raised his voice, "Kneel before me!"

"Stop putting on airs already, I have urgent business with you. I heard that your permission is needed to leave the forest of elves so I came to look for you."

"Oh? You're leaving. How delightful."

"Remember to give me 2 portions, I'm leaving with Tess."

"What!?"

It's standing! His hair is really standing on end! Tess wasn't joking!

"You have the gall to take Tess away!?"

The elven king stared at me with eyes that wanted to eat me whole, which I met head on.

"Un, I want to show her a wider world. A girl like her shouldn't be confined to the forest."

Tess could only emerge from the forest once a year at the Oracle Plenary, and even had to wear a veil which she shouldn't be. She should be proudly showing to the world her beauty, her youth and her radiance in all its glory. Her life is already near its end, how can she just disappear quietly in this mountainous forest when she has never enjoyed walking the streets and other normal pleasures!

Every girl has the right to follow trends and fashions, and no princess should be confined in deep, isolated castles. There should always be a brave prince to break through all the barriers and weather the hardships through to save the princess and bring her out and tour the world. She should be able to experience the most luxurious clothing brand [Isona] which costs 2,000 gold pieces for a full tailored set, the best perfumes from [Feimoor's] where just a small bottle which costs 500 gold pieces can mesmerise the entire continent, the most fashionable hairstylists at Nicksbrun Street, the most comfortable heels at Janemosen, and the most exquisite make up, the most expensive leather bags, the most beautiful

accessories, the shiniest nail polish... All this she has the right to enjoy, so she can become the greatest beauty the world has ever seen, not stay in some stupid castle wearing a lame dress!

That's right! I'm the prince!

It was obvious that the elven king did not share my view as he stared at me in rage, disgust and contempt.

"Tess is the emissary, a symbol of purity and nobility for the elves. She has devoted her mind, body and heart to the god of fate from birth. How can she be corrupted by the filthy human world!"

"What's with such words, humans aren't far off from you lot!"

"Humans cut down the forests, cause widespread pollution without caring to listen to cries of nature; and above all, they wage wars and slaughter one another which is against god's will! That's why the emissary has never been a human!"

"So is it god's will that you isolate yourselves and remain in a backward era that still relies on barter trade!? When Jack said you elves don't even have commodity money, I was floored! In a few hundred years when humanity ascends to the moon, you all might still be stuck hunting tigers and chewing grass!"

I was mad, very mad, "And you even seal off your borders, you... Foolish king!"

The watering can crashed into the ground with a bang, its shards scattering far and wide. The elven king's body was shaking all over and there were sparks big and small all over. His hair had also expanded behind him like a peacock; the flowers scattered and the tree branches shook even though there was no wind.

He held back his emotions and spat out, "...Get out before I punish you for your insolence."

"I haven't gotten the permissions."

"For you alone, yes, Tess, no," He paused, "Stay away from her, filthy human!"

I knew things would become like this, which is why I brought Shuoxue with me.

I drew Shuoxue, and felt weightless upon gripping the hilt.

“Then I have no choice but to use force.”

The elven king laughed coldly as the electrical current on his body intensified.

“You shall learn how audacious you have been, with your body!”

Within a split second, I had already spun about the elf and launched attacks from all directions but not a single one landed. He actually saw through every single move and dodged them all! The elven king leapt up onto the roof while I chased him. Sparks flew all about as my blade met his electric current.

“You’re pretty fast!”

The elven king swung his fist toward my side, forcing me to block with the blade, knocking me back by meters.

“But you are not my match!”

“Don’t blame me for bullying you by using a sword! You fist-using mage!”

“I am a close combat mage, with my main element being that of thunder. Through manipulating the electrical currents in my body, I am able to accelerate 10-20x or more than normal!” The elven king roared, “My speed now is but a mere warm up!”

The lightning crackled like popcorn and a sharp sound rang out. The elven king’s speed increased manifold and appeared in front of me in an instant, and delivered a right hook right in my gut. The sheer force of the punch sent me flying backwards and I landed in the grass. The electrocution made my limbs numb and my smashed gut felt intense waves of pain.

My forte is speed, and it was my speed which let me instantly kill the demonic beast and bathe the Oracle Plaza in blood. But now I was the slow one in the fight!

“I haven’t even used offensive spells yet.”

The elven king walked over to me and bent his head to look down on me, a condescending smile plastered on his face.

“Impudent and arrogant human, so what if you have a weapon?”

He raised his fist up high as he bent down.

“That was for barging into the palace, and this is for humiliating me.”

“Keh keh”

“Do you have anything you wish to say to me? If you are willing to kneel and admit your mistake, I may overlook your transgressions and grant you mercy.”

“You-You-You-You...”

“You?” The elven king looked at me with disdain, “What’s wrong? Go on.”

“You... Fuck you!”

Dream on! I’ll never say “you are right”! You really are dumb, and you are the Qianlong Emperor of the elves! Sooner or later, humans will roll in with their tanks, and by then it will be too late to regret!

(TL: Qianlong Emperor is the 6th emperor of the Qing Dynasty. Though the beginning of his rule was almost like a golden age, uprisings, widespread corruption and poor policies were rampant near to the end of his rule. Most notably, he pursued a severe isolationist policy near the end of his rule that greatly widened the technological gap between China and Western nations that eventually led to China’s subjugation.)

Damn it!

Damn it! Damn it! Damn it...

The gap in our abilities is so much that it is despairing. The powerless sensation I felt during the Oracle rushed forth once more and strangled my heart. So I was weak all this while, weak to the point of ridiculousness. Which is why I lost Tina. Which is why I can’t take Tess out of the forest today. In the end, I can do nothing but run my mouth.

Please put a bit force into your punch and just pulverise me.

I’ve lost everything anyway, and don’t have a reason to live.

Who knows? Maybe if I die I will spring awake at my desk and find out that it was all a dream from falling asleep at my desk while revising. No magic, no elves, just 980 days away from university entrance exam, with mountains of preparatory books at my side. Outside the window will be the same familiar scenery from earth. And I would just forget everything I dreamt and put my

efforts into my studies.

The elven king's fist seemed to descend slowly, like a scene behind the camera. I closed my eyes, and waited resignedly. But even after a long while, no pain was felt.

Opening my eyes, I saw the fist stop just before my nose, as it was blocked by a faint high speed wind. He was not looking at me but somewhere beyond as a weak voice escaped his lips:

“Tess?”

I was elated and turned my head to where the elven king was looking at and saw Tess standing motionlessly at the garden entrance... With a very dark and horrifying expression.

“Don't bully Molan.”

Every word that came out of her was like a razor-sharp ice sword.

I was so touched I was about to cry. I rolled away from the elven king, picked up Shuoxue and got up. Tess's wall of wind was still active and with it protecting me, no attack could reach me and the elven king could not even touch me.

No wonder those beautiful ladies in novels and manga always cling to those heroes who save them as though they are in heat. Now I understand how they feel.

“Tess!”

“Un!”

“I think I love you!”

“... Eh!?”

So faces can get that red huh. You look even more like Guan Yu than Guan Yu himself, and I can see your red face bright and clear even though you're so far away. Tess had covered her face, ran out of the garden in a panic and was now hiding behind the door, refusing to come out.

(TL: Guan Yu is often depicted with very flushed cheeks. No, not Kan'U from Koihime.)

But the wall of wind was still active. I swung my sword a few times to feel it out but it didn't seem to affect my actions in the least. I looked at the elven king who seemed like he had taken a critical blow to his psyche and was sitting in a daze.

"Oi." I called out to him.

What was his name again?

"'chigesha', was it? You see, I now have a sword and a shield, and maybe you have psychological trauma... But don't blame me for bullying you."

Chapter 4: Your head is worth 1 ton of gold

TL: Serious chapter is serious. Also foreshadowing.

Previously on Revolution!:

Molan: [I will show you the world!](#)

Molan: Wait here, I'll be back.

Elven king: With the powers of my mother, Last Order, and the techniques of my father, Accelerator, and my training under Saitama, I give you the One-Accelerated Railgun-Punchhhhhhhhh!!!!!!

Molan: I'm taking her out of here!

-1 minute later-



The human world was in chaos after the Oracle Plenary. The attack targeted at The First Prince of Txarango, William, and Molan's rampage on the delegates had combined body count of 1,073. Of these, many were successors to their respective thrones, regents, and even present rulers. With their passing, the political situation in numerous countries turned bloody, and there were also

many international skirmishes and incidents. The worse, however, was the loss of 567 talented individuals; military experts, educators, magic researchers and many more who were leading professionals or researchers of their respective fields. This loss was an unrecoverable one for the world and it is estimated that human civilisation will be static for at least 50 years.

The culprits for this incident were 2. The first was the green haired elven youth who plotted the assassination of Prince William; he had no nationality, no identity and was identified as a terrorist and destroyed in the Plaza by the emissary. The other was a black haired youth who killed 1,073 delegates; his name is Molan Faburando, no nationality, aged 16, identity is unclear, with no evidence of being accomplices of the green haired elf, currently on the run, originally thought to be a student at St Txarango but investigations showed that St Txarango had expelled him 2 days before the Oracle Plenary and lost all data on the youth. What has been established is that Molan Faburando is a terrorist who infiltrated Txarango many years ago, and is now sentenced to death. All nations have issued a joint warrant for arrest and if anyone has any information pertaining to him, they can provide it to law enforcement authorities and receive an appropriate reward.

On top of it all, the control magic used by the elf brought great terror to the populace as whatever information was available showed that the logic and mechanisms behind that spell was fundamentally different from any branch of modern magic. This meant that it was most likely a relic of ancient times, a time where demonic beasts roamed the land; could this spell's return mean the return of demonic beasts as well? Rumours spread like wildfire across the world, and there were even religious fundamentalist organisations that carried out acts of terror in the name of the Demon King. In just a matter of days, many incidents happened that caused heavy casualties, so serious a threat they became that many nations came together to establish the [International Rules of Engagement for Anti-Terror and Anti-Fundamentalism Organisations], known as the [Double Anti Rules], to allow national security agencies to work together and share information. At present, there are already 27 nations who have included Double Anti Rules in their national legal system.

“The continent is in total chaos, thanks to that I’ve only slept for about 10

hours these few days. Administrative work never seems to end,” William laments as he sets 2 cups of coffee on the desk, and picks 1 up, “Just as I was about to take a quick nap, you came barging into my study.”

Molan picked up the other cup and took a sip, but clicked his tongue and said, “Nasty, much worse than the last time.”

“I made it myself this time, I can’t let the servants see you after all.”

“I am a wanted terrorist after all.”

“Your head is worth 1 ton of gold now.”

“That’s a lot... You wouldn’t happen to be lacking 1 ton of gold right?”

“Haha, I would never kill you, but I don’t really want to see you either. If people get wind of your presence here, other nations can legally send troops marching into my castle on the pretext of killing you and violate Txarango sovereignty. I think I’ll probably have to take back what I told you before, that the castle is always open to you.”

Though he was told that he was unwelcome, Molan didn’t seem to mind. He shouldered Shuoxue, and walked about the study.

“Right,” he said, “The eagle-eyed uncle who caught me the last time, I didn’t see this time.”

“Jeb has been transferred to the Double Anti Organisation. There is information that the largest terror organisation ‘Demon Lineage Sect’, has infiltrated Txarango.”

“It’s good that he’s not here, uncle’s eyes are too sharp. He would definitely detect me and that would be troublesome.”

“If you came back... What about Tina?” William asked all of a sudden.

Molan stopped walking.

“You finally asked about her. I was going to beat you up once I saw you.” He stared at William with murderous eyes, “Whether it’s Txarango or humanity or double-anti or terrorism, it’s all in you. All this happened because you did not protect Tina.”

“If I weren’t tight on time, I would have given you a good one already,” Molan said with his teeth clenched.

William only remained silent.

“Supposedly, she is being treated. Where, I don’t know; how is she, I don’t know; how long more, I don’t know either. Tess refuses to say anything and I cannot get anything out. After so many days, wouldn’t the corpse be rotten by now? Maybe there’s hope? Maybe she can be saved? Perhaps if god himself descends.”

Ke ke. Molan laughed dryly as he talked on.

“I’ve already prepared myself for the worst, you probably should too, though you will probably be alright, seeing as you still have the mood to make coffee.”

“...”

“Seriously, why don’t you just chase everyone away and just leave the 2 of us alone here, and then we can fight to our hearts’ content. It’s killing me to hold back.”

“... About Tina,” William said softly, “It’s my fault, I’m sorry.”

“Hmph.”

Molan scoffed at William, and resumed walking.

“Have you thought about what to do from now on?” William asked.

“What about what to do?”

“You are a wanted fugitive in all human nations, and now you have escaped the forest of the elves and invited the wrath of the king of elves. You have no safe place, how are you going to live from now on?” Seeing that Molan did not reply, William continued, “All records of you in Txarango has been destroyed, the headmaster has also arranged it such that no one will admit that they remember who you are. And as for your wanted posters, we did some amendments so the likeness isn’t too high but it’s for the best if you act prudently and avoid places with a lot of people and interact with as few people as possible. I can provide you a safe house, and ensure your safety and secrecy—”

“Stop stop, you don’t need to go to such an extent. Just give me some money,

enough for me and Tess to fool around with for 10 days. Of course, I won't return it but thereafter, I will wipe my own bottom and not bring trouble to Txarango."

Seeing Molan pushing himself too hard, William laughed bitterly.

"If I were you, I would have stayed in the forest of elves."

Molan glanced at William.

He had not told William that Tess had only 10 days to live, as he would have to reveal the secret about Shuoxue as well.

If Tess could live a long and full life, Molan would also have chosen to stay in the forest of the elves alongside Tess as he waited for Tina. Then, if Tina were to be saved, he would either enjoy having 2 flowers in both hands and deal with shuraba everyday, or perhaps Tina would leave the forest and come back from time to time, only to see him flirting about with Tess and then he will have to deal with shuraba. If Tina died, then he would erect a small tombstone for her and burn some incense paper and light some candles for her every year while he hugged the tombstone and cry painfully. And then, when he is done crying, he will go and seek comfort from Tess and hold her hand as they return to their blissful lives together. Molan felt utterly disgusted at himself when he imagined how he would act in each circumstance.

(TL: There is no satisfactory English translation of shuraba that brings out the essence of the phrase sadly.)

But he had no opportunity to be a disgusting fellow, as Tess didn't have much time left.

What to do after Tess dies? He felt he had to erect a tombstone for her as well, and would probably build it together with Tina's, so he can save himself the trouble of having to separately burn incense paper. Then after that, he would roam the world, and kill for a living; walking the same path as the Sword Saint, as he awaits the day he is finally killed or captured by anti-terror forces. Then, the world will cheer as his head rolls down the stage.

"Alright, how much do you need? I'll do my very best to help you." William opened his drawer and took out all the gold pieces within.

Molan counted for a bit, “10,000 pieces.”

William’s hands which had started counting the gold stopped short, “Wh, what?”

“10,000 pieces.”

“So many?”

“Female clothing is expensive, and I can’t let her wear stuff from street stalls, no?” Molan shook his head, “It has to be the very best.”

“But, 10,000 pieces...”

“You said you do your very best.”

“Right, I said it,” William rubbed his temple as he sighed, thought for a moment, and pulled out a stack of paper and passed it to Molan, “Use this.”

“What’s this?”

“One hundred gold certificates, issued and stamped by the Txarango royal family. I promise you can exchange each certificate for 100 gold pieces. When you pay using these, even other nations’ merchants will recognise it.”

“You all finally progressed to paper money huh.”

“Paper money? That’s correct, you can see it as paper representing money... Un?” William stroked his chin, “You’re right, if I circulate gold certificates amongst the populace, then we can avoid using expensive materials like gold for money.”

“Eh, un, have fun thinking about that. I’ll be going off first.”

Molan’s face darkened again, and he stuffed the gold certificates into his shirt pocket, held his sword and leapt out of the window without waiting for William’s reply. By the time William rushed forward to the window, there was no longer any sign of Molan anywhere in the castle.

Tess was in a dream.

This was the 7th dream that had the same contents.

In her dream, she was in a dark sinister throne room with stone pillars. Armor

littered the ground. Cobwebs covered the hanging lamps. Everything seemed to have died out as the quiet was too deathly and empty.

A certain ruler was pinned to the throne. The blood that flowed out was already dark red and had flowed to the other end of the throne room, forming a long carpet.

The ruler, who had armor-like scales, and a snake tail with an edge sharp as a sword, sank into eternal sleep. The icy sword fell to the ground, the white light it emitted was slowly dimming.

A golden spear pierced through his body, pulverising all of his 5 hearts, and now he would no longer roar. The scales peeled off his body like a pupa's chrysalis, revealing a weak skinny youth.

Tess held the spear from the other end, and cried in silence.

People rushed in from all directions and surrounded Tess as they celebrated the great moment. They hugged and danced and sang and thanked the gods for the miracle and favour they granted them.

A deafening noise sounded as the throne room began collapsing. The forgotten youth lay on the throne, like a pathetic little dog. His breathing was slight, his colour was gone, and he close his eyes tiredly, never to open them again.

This day would be remembered in history, as the day that humanity, with the help of the emissary, triumphed over the demon race yet again.

As she awoke from the dream, Tess found herself in a spacious carriage. The sounds of a bustling crowd sounded from outside the window, but it sounded as distant as that of another planet. She leaned her head against the door, like a puppet that lost its strings.

Not a single person notices, as the world follows its predetermined fate, ignoring everything in its path, as it slowly turns.

(TL: See this for an impression of the final line: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pnvgWv2xI5M>. Just the first 2-3 lines Alastor says every episode before the OP. I did the best I could but you really need the voice of a powerful narrator like Masashi Ebara or Morgan Freeman to get a feel of the weight of this line.)

Chapter 4.5

Previously on Revolution!:

Molan did 9/11 and now leads a monetary revolution as the chairman of the Federal Reserve of Txarango. The end.

The moment I returned to the carriage, I was hugged. It made me so embarrassed that I refused it like a shy girl refusing the advances of her boyfriend.

Tess dug into my arms in one go, and using all her strength, which is a lot, gave me a bear hug that hurt my waist. I didn't think that she would be such a kid about being alone. If I knew, I might have waited for a bit more before coming back. The more I think about how she's like, the more lovable she seems, and the more my heartstrings are pulled. I was starting to suspect that I wouldn't be able to last these 10 days before doing something to her.

Because I couldn't get out, I gave up and let Tess hug me. At the same time, I recited the Heart Sutra. After a long while on the carriage, she finally loosened her hold on me, and I took the chance to take it out of my pocket and put it on her ears.

"Eh?"

"They're mufflers, used to keep warm during winter. It's a bit weird to wear them now but I could only find these to hide your ears."

Tess reached out and touched them, "So fluffy."

"Can you hear me?"

"Loud and clear."

"That's good. Don't take it off for no reason. As for me, I'm wearing this."

I set a pair of sunglasses on my face.

"Wu, so dark! Tess where are you."

"I'm here."

"Touch."

“Yaaa~”

“Is it a watermelon?”

“It’s my head.”

“So smooth and round. I like it. What shampoo do you use?” I pretended I couldn’t see her head and messed up her hair as I caressed her head.

“I’ve never washed my hair. With god around, it won’t get dirty.”

“That’s convenient.”

Tess was really obedient. She let me tie butterfly knots with her hair, one on the right, one on the left, un, now for a ponytail.

“Where are we going?” Tess asked.

“To Nicksbrun street, it’s at a port city of Txarango.” I replied.

All of the finest hairstylists and make up artists were gathered in Nicksbrun, and made full use of the economies of scale of doing so. It was thus, the biggest haven for hair salons and beauty parlours in the continent. We took the better part of an hour to get here, where a full 2 districts were all beauty parlours and hair salons, with many nobles of various nations passing by on their carriages and even more entering and exiting the shops.

Before breaking off communications with her parents and moving out of the mansion, Tina brought me here once, Then, she was invited to a grand ball and had come here in her dance gown to have her make up done. After she was all done, she asked me if she looked good and I nodded my head like I was grinding garlic with it. Good?! Simply breathtaking and explosive! She stole the limelight and the eyes of everyone at night, and many a princeling came and bowed and asked for a dance. But she coldly rejected them, and pulled the me who was lost and did not know what to do into the dance floor, parting the crowd.

I’ll teach you how to dance, she said.

Tina’s light movements were like that of a butterfly, and had to drag along a snail like me. I kept stepping on her feet, and every time I did so, she would pinch me once. The pain on my shoulders is as fresh today as it was then.

Haha.

I didn't dare to reminisce further and breathed in deeply as I looked at the clientele in the shop we just entered.

"Sorry for the wait~"

The shop owner's fawning voice could be heard, and Tess could be seen escorted by the staff. It had taken a while, and the sleepyhead Tess was drowsy already. The shop owner proudly stood beside her with a "Please look" pose.

"What a beautiful lady~ This hairstyle is just perfect for her!" The shop owner smiled as he asked me, "Don't you think so?"

"Oh oh."

The messy and overgrown hair was now neat and thankfully only reached to her hips now. I specially instructed the shop owner not to cut it any shorter, as Tina's hair was also the same length. Her ends were curled, something the shop owner did of his own accord and was not part of my request. Her fringe was cut neatly and was just long enough to hide the sakura pink mark.

Women really are amazing, just a change of the hairstyle and it's like she's a different person. From sacred to sweet in just a few snips, I stared dumbstruck at Tess.

"And there's also her make up which our shop has carefully selected and put on her~ Dear customer, what do you think?"

On hearing him say that, I pulled down my sunglasses to take a closer look.

"..."

"How is it?"

"What how," I stared at the shop owner who was smiling like he was with his grandson,

"Did you even put on a single damned thing? How is this different from when we entered the shop?"

"No no no~ We put some moisturiser on her, and trimmed her eyebrows."

"Where's the full set I asked for? Just this much and you think I'll pay you 100 gold? Fat hope!"

“Please be at ease dear customer, please be at ease. What you asked for was to make this lady look the best she can, and we tried many things, and changed many styles but in the end, we all agreed that this lady is a natural all round beauty that is the most beautiful in her natural state and any powder or rouge would only besmirch her beauty.”

“You think I’ll be convinced with such excuses by your slippery tongue!?”

I really was. Indeed, I could not imagine a more beautiful Tess. Make up was perhaps, an unneeded thing. If I knew, I would have only ordered the hair salon service and not give the shop owner 60 gold for nothing.

The shop staff all gathered and sent us off. Passers-by along the streets looked on in appreciation, with all eyes glued onto Tess. It felt awesome holding her hand walking like this.

Why do heroes love beauties over empires? Because empires don’t hug your arm, they don’t flirt with you, they don’t rub their face against you like you’re a bolster, that’s why! With such a dazzling girl, so beautiful she is that entire streets jam up to catch a glimpse, and there you are holding her waist, fanning the flames of jealousy by onlookers. This. This beats ruling over 10,000 cities.

“Tess, you like your new hair?”

“Un...” Tess leaned against me, yawning continuously, her eyes filled with tears.

“Tired?”

“A little... Because I woke up too early today.”

“It’s your usual that’s too late. There’s still quite a while before night. Hang on for a little more, we’ll get some clothes nearby, your dress is really too lame.”

“Un...”

I reached my hands out to her and laughed lewdly.

“Hei hei~ I’m a dress up maniac and I’m going to make you try every piece of clothing in the market at least once. You better resolve yourself, hehehe~”

Tess rubbed her eyes and yawned again.

“Okay...”

Chapter 5: I will send servants to deliver solid gold to your household one day

Month of Metal, Third Day, Clear

Today I brought Tess to cut her hair, do her make up and buy clothes.

She looks good in literally everything, is she a clothes hanger. She looks best in blue.

Lingerie was selected by the shop assistant.

I considered at length and finally picked 10 sets of clothing so Tess can wear one each day.

I really wanted to have a tailor-made Isona brand set but it takes 20 days to be delivered, what poor productivity.

Whilst changing, Tess actually fell asleep in the changing room and after waiting for an hour, the shop assistant brought me there.

She said your girlfriend is really cute and I said that I think so too.

Month of Metal, Fourth Day, Clear

Tess has a sweet tooth, just like Tina.

She really ate her fill throughout the day.

Tess's favourite was shaved ice. She would eat one mouthful, speak a little, eat, then speak some more.

So cooling, so good, she would say with a satisfied look.

Her second favourite would be ice cream, and third cakes.

When she eat cakes, she would always get cream all over her face without knowing it.

Just like Tina...

Month of Metal, Fifth Day, Clear

When it comes to tourist spots, they are always crowded, no matter the world.

Want to look at scenery? Nope, only a sea of people to look at.

Tess was afraid of getting lost and held me very tightly, whilst looking very nervous.

But she still got lost anyway.

When I found her, she was standing at the roadside staring at a figure made out of sugar displayed at a stall, her expression all silly and ditzzy.

I bought it for her and she was elated, twirling it around and not bearing to eat it.

So I bought 2, 1 to eat, 1 to play with.

Month of Metal, Sixth Day, Cloudy

Tess lost the ear muffs.

It ignited a commotion on the streets as commoners had never seen the reclusive elves before and everyone and their mothers crowded around to have a look.

But I carried Tess and successfully escaped. I also bought a new pair and put them on for her.

On the way back, Tess was silent and kept her head low, stealing glances at me from time to time, and seemed like she was afraid of being scolded by me.

I rubbed her head and said that she had to wake up early the next day as punishment.

She grudgingly agreed.

Month of Metal, Seventh Day, Rainy

Tess actually woke up earlier than me today!

She said it was because it was a punishment and I remembered there was such a thing. She took it seriously.

Because it was raining, we couldn't roam outside so I took Tess to a drama. It was a love comedy, and it was long and long-winded. I initially thought it was a waste of time but Tess seemed really into it. This was her first time watching a drama and she was watching it with great relish.

When the kiss scene came on, she gasped softly and turned so red even her neck was red. She covered her face with her hands, but continued to peek through cracks between her fingers.

As we came out of the theatre, Tess refused to hold my hand and maintained a minute distance from me. I poked her when she wasn't noticing it and she jumped up immediately and hid far away.

... After watching that shitty drama, Tess seems to have learnt quite a bit and I can't take advantage of her anymore.

If I knew this, I wouldn't have followed this plan.

I closed the diary and stored it in our luggage.

Looking at the clock inside the inn room, the time was just past midnight. Our trip's sixth day was here, and Tess was fast asleep on the bed, wearing her new pajamas, looking like an ordinary girl and not a divine emissary.

Did she have fun these few days? If she did then everything would be worth it. All that effort to sneak into various nations while risking discovery and arrest. There were several times when I was almost caught and when I think back to those times, it still scares me.

I had an itinerary in the back of the diary, with stuff like famous foods to eat etc, in places all over the southeast part of the continent. Because our mode of transport was limited to a carriage, I can only make plans which cover that far. Up till now, we've only covered half the itinerary so we'll have to quicken the pace if we are to finish everything else before time is up.

Not sleepy in the least, I put on my shoes and left our room with light steps.

"Master, where are you going?"

"Why are you following me."

As I was about to close the door, I found Shuoxue in human form since who knows when, trying to sneak out of the room with me.

"I think master is going to some fun place to play."

"You think wrong, go back go back."

“Ei! Why aren’t you bringing me!”

“Shh! Don’t wake Tess up.”

“Why aren’t you bringing me.”

“Because you stand out too much, the moment people see me with a rare white sword, they will know I’m the internationally wanted criminal.”

“Then I’ll just follow you in the form I’m in now.”

“Follow your head, go protect Tess. Let me be alone for a bit.”

Without saying more, I stuffed Shuoxue back into the room and shut her and her protests up by closing the door.

I only realised that I forgot the sunglasses after I left the inn but oh well, shouldn’t be too much of a problem.

I scratched my head, and walked into the bar opposite the inn.

There weren’t as many people as I thought, and the nightlife feel seemed sparse. When we first arrived here, we heard that terrorist activities were rampant here and this probably affected the business of bars and other night entertainment places badly.

I sat at the bar counter and ordered a bottle of red wine which I slowly drank with a glass. Since I came into this world, I’ve fallen in love with the red wine here. Maybe it’s the grapes, maybe it’s the brewery, but the red wine they make is delicious and I don’t get drunk from it easily. Even after downing 3 bottles, I’m still fairly sober.

But today, I learnt that not being able to get drunk is a horrible thing.

“... Another bottle.”

“Alright.” The server opened a bottle and passed me a stack of tissues, “Dear guest, will you need this?”

“... Thanks.”

I took the tissues.

“What’s the ruckus there about.”

“You mean that girl with twin tails? She does not have any money, and nothing of value can be found on her so when our server refused to let her leave, she started yelling saying things like “insolent fellows” “do you even know who I am” and other such rude things. It really pisses us off. If she really were as impressive as she talks, why is she wearing such tattered clothes and doesn’t even have the money for some drinks?”

I tore a gold certificate out and passed it to the server.

“Tell her I’ll pay for her portion and make her leave quickly, it’s too noisy.”

“This, this is...”

“There’s a stamp there, it’s not fake.”

“So, so you are royalty from abroad! Where are my manners... I will make that guest leave at once.”

The server accepted the gold certificate fearfully and ran over to the noisy girl, spoke a fair bit, and pointed over to me halfway. The girl looked over and walked right over to me after listening to the server.

“Thanks there.”

“Leave, why come and bother me.”

“How can I leave just like that? The favour of a single drop should be returned with a fountain. Which royal family are you from? Tell me your the name of your house. I will return this favour one day in solid gold many times over sent directly to your household.”

The girl flicked one tail back and stuck out her chest proudly, and completely did not look like she was in gratitude.

(TL: Imagine her speaking in a Kugimiya Rie tsundere voice) “No need, just leaving me alone is good.”

“Preposterous! I never owe favours to others, as a fellow royal yourself, you understand no?”

I got depressed as things seemed to get troublesome and decided to continue drinking alone and ignored the girl. When she got no reply from me after talking on and on, she got irritated and ordered 2 bottles of red wine from the server.

“Oi, why are you ordering when you are penniless.”

“Finally paying me attention? I may not have money but you do.”

The girl said matter-of-factly.

“Why do I have to buy liquor for you.”

“Because the server drove me away before I could drink my fill.”

“What I meant was, why do you think I will pay for you.”

“1 gold certificate is worth 100 gold pieces! My bill was 7 pieces, you still have 93, so pay for my bill again. I will return it in future with solid gold many times over.”

I was speechless at the sheer thick-skinnedness of this fellow. Forget it, I'll just treat her. I have a lot of money anyway, I still can't believe William actually took me seriously and gave me what I wanted when I said I wanted 10,000 pieces.

Guru guru After downing several glasses, the girl sat there in a daze and came up close to me that I could get a whiff of the smell of alcohol from her.

“Let me tell you something,” She belched, “Don't tell anyone as this is a national secret.”

“Oh.”

“I am the princess of Rosa Kingdom, a very important person.”

“Oh.”

“You don't believe me?”

“I believe you.” I answered patronisingly.

“Hehe~ You are a good person to believe me when no one else has! Saying with such dirty clothes, there's no way I'm a princess... But I'm such a beauty! How can such a beautiful girl not be a princess!”

Now I get it, she's a chuunibyouto case.

“Do you know why I am penniless and wearing tattered clothes?”

“Why.”

“This is a secret of secrets of my nation, so don't tell anyone.”

“Okay.”

She hugged my neck and whispered softly into my ear.

“Because, I ran away from home.”

“... Oh.”

“I used up all the money I had, sold my clothes and even my staff, and as I wandered about, somehow I ended up in this nation...” She lamented, her voice weaker with every word until finally bursting into tears, “I’m so hungry! Wuwuwuwu...”

(TL: Crying sounds)

I resignedly raised my hand, “Excuse me, get me something to eat.”

Food was served immediately, and the girl’s eyes lit up as she flew out and snatched the plate, and immediately wolfed down all its contents.

“Hn, you’re a smart one, I like you! This dish is not bad, but it’s a little salty, and it’s not as tasty as food in the castle...”

She started crying again. “I want to go home! Wuwuwuwu...” As she cried, her hands did not stop as she continually sent the spoon into her mouth and within no time at all, the whole plate of food was demolished.

“Is there anymore...”

“No more.”

“Wuwuwu...”

“Excuse me! One more serving of food!”

In total, the girl ate 4 servings before she was finally full. She rubbed her teary eyes and smiled shyly at me.

“Thanks.” She thanked me sincerely.

“No need for thanks.”

“Hn, kind person, I will send servants to deliver solid gold to your household one day.” And there she goes, back to her flaunting tone again.

This was really too much.

I don't care if you are a chuunibyoutai or a runaway princess. Just please leave me alone. All I want is some quiet time alone to get drunk.

But the girl still refused to leave, and stared at me as she lay her head on the table.

"What now."

"In return for feeding and watering me, I can be a listening ear," She said softly, "to whatever sorrows you are having."

"..."

The girl's voice was kind, so kind that it seemed to float over like a soft feather. She looked straight at me and I found that she had very pretty eyes, with deep black irises that made me think of earth and invoked a strange sense of familiarity.

You are lost and have nothing to your name now and you still have the mood to listen to me. Are you the self-sacrificial Lei Feng now, how about I give you a small red flower as a reward.

(TL: Lei Feng is a propaganda figure used by the CCP, used to promote self-sacrificial behaviour and devotion to CCP and China *etc.* Supposedly he actually existed but whether what the CCP claims he did is disputed.) Though I wanted to reject her offer, my lips still succumbed and opened.

"... I have someone who is important to me. She is no longer by my side and I miss her very much."

As those words left my mouth, my emotions ran wild and my nose felt like it was burning mad as the tears started falling.

Try not to think about it, and live through each day with a smile plastered on your face. That is something that absolutely had to be done. You were bringing Tess about, here there and everywhere, for the sake of letting her wear all the different kinds of clothing she had never worn before, see the various sights she had never seen before, eat the various foods she had never eaten before, and experience the various pleasures she had never experienced before. If all you did was sigh and complain and cry, then who would be the one to show Tess a good time? You have to create enough happy memories for her, enough at least for

her not to have regrets.

Is what I thought, and how I acted.

But I couldn't escape my sadness. From one city to another, from one nation to another, running about a corner of the continent for 5 days and 5 nights; it still caught up in the end. And when it did, it came crashing down and washed away all resistance.

As the rain continued and humidity permeated the air, I came to hide in a bar as I nursed my intense longing for Tina.

After hearing me out, the girl cried noisily as she told me about how she had a beloved older sister who was married out to a far off nation and could never see her again. We both poured liquor for each other and spoke about our sorrows without comforting each other as the lamps dimmed and the raindrops fell down to the ground outside the bar. We argued and yelled at each other until we got tired and fell asleep. The girl lay down on the counter and breathed peacefully and slowly, while I too eventually lost myself to sleep as I hugged my head and shut my heavy eyelids and my consciousness sank into darkness.

Someone forced me awake and I opened my eyes to see myself in a place that wasn't a bar.

My hands were tied behind my back and I was sitting on a cold floor. A mask wearing man was slapping me with a shortsword and said in a low and malicious voice: "Tch, finally awake you drunkard? Better behave, you are now kidnapped by the 'Demon Lineage Sect'."

Chapter 6: We, the 'Demon Lineage Sect', are the true gods

I've been kidnapped!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

How did I get into this sort of situation!!!!????

All I did was sleep for a bit after getting drunk!!!! This nation is way too dangerous!!!!

I, I want to go home...

"What are you crying for!"

A masked fatty walked in front of me, and waves a dagger in front of me.

"Continue crying and I'll stab you!"

"Wu, wu..."

Looking at the sinister light reflecting off the blade, I swallowed back my tears.

"You, you know, do you even know who I, I am, huh?"

"A poor beggar? Hmph, what sort of big shot can you be huh?"

"I, I, wu...."

"No crying! Wuwuwu so noisy! Keep crying and I'll slice an ear off!"

He pressed the dagger against my face, and I bit down on my lips and held my breath, not daring to make any sound.

"Hmph, that's the way."

The fatty looked at me from head to toe with a vulgar look in his eyes.

"You look like a little fairy huh... Little girl~ Ever had fun with a man before?"

He reached out his fatty hands to my leg as he said so.

"-!!"

"Don't you dare make a sound," He said as he slapped the dagger on my face, "behave yourself!"

I didn't dare to make a move as he moved his oily hands across my thigh, pinching here and there.

So disgusting!!!

This damned fatty!!

Save me! Save me please!

Somebody please save me!

“Fuck you!!”

The fatty suddenly howled like a pig being murdered. I opened my eyes timidly, and saw a boy, who had rushed over with his hands tied behind his back, biting down on the fatty's ear.

“Don't bring shame to fat people!” He yelled something inexplicable.

It's the royal boy who paid for my bill!

Was he also kidnapped?

The fatty gasped as he grabbed the boy's neck, forcing him to loosen his mouth, and slammed him to the ground with a bang. The fatty then held his bloody ear and proceeded to beat up the boy with all unoccupied limbs.

“Fuck you! Son of a bitch! Die!”

The boy's face got bruised and swollen all over and lay on the floor like a broken rag doll. The fatty spit at him, turned around and smiled as he reached out to me.

The boy who seemed like he was on his last breath suddenly leapt up like a frog and bit at the fatty.

“Again?!”

The boy took a second round of beatings. After throwing him away, the fatty cautiously approached me.

“Sorry to keep you waiting little girl~ Uncle is com-Owwwwwww!”

The moment the fatty dropped his guard, the boy rushed over and bit him again. They repeated this back and forth, like a game, for almost 10 times.

“Are you fucking finished already!?”

“You’re stubborn yourself, damned fatty!”

The fatty finally gave up on me, and hauled the boy to a corner and concentrated on beating him.

“Don’t just beat my face! Are you jealous that I’m handsome!?”

“That’s right you gigolo! Pretty good at standing up for girls huh? Even when you’re kidnapped you still want to woo girls! I’ll let you show off, I’ll let you show off,” He yelled as he continued hitting, “Oi! Pete! Can I kill this fucker?”

A skinny man was sitting by the window from the moment I had awoke, and was sitting there watching all this while. After being called by the fatty, he stood up, dusted himself and walked over and kicked the fatty away.

“Bastard are you mad!”

“Satisfied yet? If you’re satisfied, stop it already.” Skinny said blandly.

“We have so many hostages, just killed 1 should be fine right!?”

“Anyone else, yes, but not him,” Skinny took out a stack of papers from his pocket and waved them about, “This one is a member of Txarango royalty, he has 10 gold certificates on him. He’s a cash cow, we can get a lot for him. You want to best someone up, find someone else. You want to fuck, find a whore. Don’t stay here and cause trouble.”

“Fuck!” The fatty spat at the boy again, before getting up, “I’m thirsty, I’m going to get some water.” After he said that, he walked to the door, and when he walked past me, he stared at me ferociously.

I curled into a ball, and trembled uncontrollably.

Skinny looked at the boy and returned to his seat at the window without saying anything.

After thinking for a while, I swallowed and got up slowly. Skinny looked at me but did not stop me. I steeled myself and ran over the boy who was groaning.

“Are, are you okay...”

“No,” The boy twitched about on the ground like an earthworm, “It hurts, it

hurts like hell.”

“Eh, thank you, for saving me.”

So polite now, the boy muttered softly.

“That, that is how I usually speak... To have confidence in myself.”

(TL: Originally, she addresses herself usually with 本宮 which is a very pompous way of addressing oneself, and is usually reserved for female members of royalty. Kind of like the female version of 朕, if you know what that is. Here, she slips into using the normal 我. Unfortunately, this is untranslatable and using Japanese romaji here wouldn't be appropriate either.) “Is that so.”

The boy struggled for a while before sitting upright, and leaned against the wall and me for support.

“You don't mind right.” He asked.

I could feel the temperature rising on my face, “No, no, I don't mind, un.”

“He really didn't hold back.”

“Your face... Looks terrible.”

“No worries, it will heal up eventually.” The boy then raised his voice, “Oi, how much do you all want?”

Skinny looked at us silently, and was surprised at being called by the boy, thought for a while before answering: “As much as possible. We will keep asking for more from the army, and when it seems like they can't meet our demands anymore, we will take the money and set you all free. So don't worry, we won't kill you all.”

“What is your organisation?”

“‘Demon Lineage Sect’, our religious doctrine states that the demon race is the founder of civilisation and they are the ones we should be devoting ourselves to and worshipping, not the gods who sit by and watch us without doing anything.”

“Demon race? Demonic beasts?”

“They are a sentient race, an ancient and great race. Calling them demonic beasts is far too rude.”

“What nonsense.” The boy said, tickling my ears with every word as his face was especially close, “Instead of kneel and pray to long extinct beings from 10,000 years ago, why not choose the gods? Though it’s silly nonetheless, at least they are still alive.”

“The demon race is dead, but they are not a race which is so easily eradicated.”

“You think they can be resurrected.”

“Of course, and what’s more...”

Skinny started laughing.

“In fact, their resurrection is imminent, and soon, they will be the strength of the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’.”

Silence descended on the room.

Whether it was me, or the other hostages, they all held their breath.

Skinny did not seem to be lying and seemed like he was talking about a plan that was about to be completed. But was such a thing possible? The strongest, cruelest, most mysterious race which once ruled the world and was wiped off the face of the world by the gods would... Return to life?

Skinny was very pleased at our expressions.

“Let me tell you a piece of unrecorded history.”

As the light from the lamp shook, skinny’s lips moved in the shadows as though darkness was spewing from his lips.

Long before the humans’ era, the demon race had conquered the entire continent for 3 thousand years. Their civilisation was prosperous and warlike, and expanded to all corners of the continent. There were many sentient and civilised races back then, but all were eradicated by the demon race. Only humans, who deigned to serve the demon race as slaves, and the ever elusive elves, survived.

(TL: Kind of feels like pre-Kuhaku NGNL world... Except that the Sora incarnation never existed. And those gods really do love sitting there watching

huh...) The demon race taught humans many things; like laws, governance and the most important of all, magic.

The demon race had a deep understanding of the world as they never stopped seeking to know more, and with more knowledge, they would find ways to use it and further technological advancement and research. This, however, also made them get closer and closer to being the administrators of the world – And becoming a threat to the existence of the gods.

The day the demon race first tried to, and succeeded in, changing the climate was the day that the demon race's demise was sealed. Though it was just a slight change in the pathway of a cold wave, it was an undeniable signal. A signal that meant the demon race had moved from accepting, to adjusting and controlling the weather, climate and also preventing natural disasters. And so, on this day, the gods issued an order that the demon race was to be exterminated completely.

Back then, 10,000 years ago, every god, not just the god of fate, had their own emissary and they followed the oracle sent and began to form armies to wage a crusade against the demon race.

(TL: Presumably from elves, humans and whatever leftovers.) Though they were the demon race's slaves, humanity swiftly switched sides.

The crusade lasted for 200 years. The flames of war consumed everything and left the continent barren. The demon race struggled ceaselessly and fought to the bitter end, but in the end, they fell to the godlike destructive powers of the emissaries and thus the continent was handed over to the new master race chosen by the gods.

Humanity.

The demon race was intelligent and cunning beyond comparison, and could not be allowed to live even if they surrendered. The humans understood this deeply, and immediately began operations to scour the continent and completely eradicate every last member of the demon race. This process too took another 200 years until the last member of the demon race died and humanity was finally and truly relieved of the overhang of its former masters.

And from then on, humanity rules the world.

But humanity had committed 2 mistakes.

First, humanity had not actually killed all members of the demon race. One survived, as he was already dying before humans could find him. He was sealed in a coffin filled with mercury and sealed from the outside with thick layers of chains, and thrown into the sea. He was the 13th prince of the demon race.

Second, humanity had not yet learnt of many things from the demon race. Of these, one was a method to prevent the extinction of the demon race. Those of the demon royalty lineage could use this method to preserve their souls indefinitely and eventually seek a suitable host and revive themselves by taking over the host and finally... Seek vengeance.

Humanity knew naught of these.

Until 10,000 years later, a certain organisation called the Pentacle found a dusty sealed coffin that had its entire surface engraved with words from the ancient language. And from there, the curtains raised as the prologue of what was to come began.

My heart thumped in my chest, and cold sweat ran down my back as I realised I had just learnt about a terrible, ancient secret that had been protected for tens of thousands of years. For Skinny to share all of this, it means that everything was in motion and was unstoppable. I don't even know where I am now but a carefully crafted nefarious plot was about to come to fruition and the world would change forever.

But that would be a change not for the better, it would be an unprecedented disaster.

The black haired boy did not seem to understand the seriousness of the situation.

“Oh, and then,” he asked, as if he had just heard a casual story, “after getting hold of this demon king's fresh body, how do you intend on resurrecting him?”

Keke, he suddenly gave a silly laugh on thinking about something.

“Don't tell me you are going to stick a talisman on his forehead?”

(TL: In Chinese myths, and Taoism, corpses could be raised as zombies and

vampires (jiangshi) and controlled by use of special talismans that are pasted to the foreheads. Please do not go to the local Chinese temple and get talismans and stick them on corpses.) “For this, you do not need to know.”

“Alright then, let’s say you successfully revive the demon king. As I recall, the demons aren’t so hot with humans and the first thing he will do when he wakes up is destroy you lot.”

“Impossible,” Skinny said with utmost confidence, “We have a way to control the demon king.”

“Weren’t you all going to put him on a table and worship him?”

“No, our goal is not to worship the demon race.”

Skinny stood up, and looked down upon us with a look of utter contempt.

“But to make all of humanity worship us.”

“...”

“We will fulfill the wishes of our believers and punish all non-believers. Be it ending all wars or to overthrow tyrants, with the power of the demon king, we can do anything and everything! Instead of the gods who have done nothing for humanity, aren’t we more worthy of worship?”

He opened his arms wide.

“We, the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’, are the true gods.”

“... You’re right, I have been touched by your words.”

“Is that so.”

“But,” the boy continued, “Before becoming gods, you need to first preserve your lives.”

“Huh?” Skinny could not comprehend the boy’s words.

“Didn’t you hear it? Since just now, there’s been a commotion below.”

Now that the boy said it, I noticed that there were indeed faint noises of a fight, and the floor was even shaking.

“No good Pete!” The fatty who left came rushing through the door, “There’s

an elf—Uwaaaaaaaaaaa!!”

Before he could finish, he was slammed to the ceiling, and fell down, blood streaming from his mouth.

A girl walked in from the door. She wore pink pajamas and her golden hair floated behind her, revealing her pointy ears and a sakura pink mark between her eyebrows.

Even in such a situation, I couldn't help but to sigh.

What a beautiful girl...

“Return Molan to me.” She spoke in a voice that was freezing cold, as though a howling blizzard was contained in it.

“You, you,” Skinny opened his eyes wide, forced back by the girl's pressure, “There are 32 people downstairs, how did you get up here!?”

“I defeated all of them.”

“Tess!” The boy shouted joyfully.

“Molan!”

The girl's expression changed in an instant, as though the devil from before was another person, and she shyly smiled with such brightness and warmth it felt like spring had arrived.

“You came to save me!”

“Un!”

Skinny knew he was no match for the girl and quickly ran and grabbed the boy on my shoulder and used the boy to shield himself and placed a shortsword at the boy's neck.

“Don't come over!”

Skinny suddenly keeled over and let go of the bot. He clutched at his chest, opened his mouth wide open and turned about, clawing at everything nearby as his eyeballs bulged and his body convulsed before finally fainted and collapsed.

The girl walked to the boy and untied the ropes.

“I sealed his lungs with wind.”

“You can even do this sort of thing? Tess is really awesome.”

“Hn hn~”

On seeing the beaten up state of the boy’s face, the girl’s eyes turned murderous once more.

“Did they hit you.”

“Just a few times.”

“...”

“It’s okay it’s okay, just a small injury, it will heal when we get back.”

The boy patted the girl’s head, and the girl soon relaxed completely and seemed like a meek kitten.

“You forgot the ear muffs.”

“Ah... I forgot.”

“It’s not exposed yet, there shouldn’t have been anyone harassing you in the streets right?”

“No one at all.”

“That’s good, how did you know I’m here?”

“Saw it in a dream.”

“As I expected. Heihei, I just knew Tess would come to save me.”

“Un un.”

After a while, the boy searched Skinny for the stack of gold certificates and came to untie the ropes off the completely shell-shocked me.

“I’ll leave the other hostages to you.”

He tore off several gold certificates and passed them to me.

“I don’t know if this is enough for you to get home. No matter how or what you fought, don’t ever leave your parents again.”

The boy smiled kindly, with a hint of loneliness behind it.

“I’ll be going now.”

“Wait!”

I called to stop the boy and elven girl.

“What’s your name! Can I still-”

-meet you again?

Seeing the boy hold the elven girl’s hand, I swallowed back the second half of what I wanted to say.

“... Send servants to deliver solid gold to your household!”

“Haha, I have no household for you to send solid gold to. But I can tell you my name,” The boy said, “I’m Molan Faburando.”

“Molan Faburando...”

The boy left, but I repeated his name to myself so as to engrave it in my memory.

“Molan Faburando... Molan Faburando...”

...

“Molan Faburando... Isn’t that the name of the wanted criminal?”

Chapter 7: Just a joke

Warning: If you like Tess very much or if you hate cliffhangers, you might want to wait till the end of the week when I release more chapters before reading (no promises!)

TL: Sad chapter is sad. And Tess isn't even my favourite girl. Will try to pump out more chapters so your read doesn't end on such a sour note. On the bright side, we get some based Shuoxue.

Day 7 of our trip.

Unending rain.

All plans that involved going outside had to be pushed back. There were still 17 programmed to be finished and the time left was just 3 days. In this nation-which-has-some-long-name-I-can't-remember, we had already tried a lot of fun and tasty things and we were supposed to have left this morning but the rain was too heavy and no long distance carriage was willing to depart.

We'd been sitting around the inn all day but the rain showed no sign of stopping. Tess didn't seem to mind, and sat on the bed hugging her knees flipping through picture books. I went to the toilet, then back, and kept pacing the room, feeling unbelievably frustrated.

Tess would give silly laughs as she read the picture books.

"Why won't the rain stop, it's going to be night soon."

"Molan hates the rain?" Tess asked as she tilted her head.

"Before no, but I especially hate it today! You? Do you hate the rain?"

Tess thought for a bit.

"If Molan hates it, then I hate it too."

"What kind of answer is that..."

"Hehe~"

Looking at the innocent Tess, I could only laugh resignedly in reply.

“Is the picture book nice?”

“Nice.” Tess nodded.

“What’s it about?”

“A princess is kidnapped by giants and the prince saves the princess.”

So cliché, I thought.

“The prince is very cool.”

“Is that so.”

“Un, every time the princess is in danger he saves her.”

“Tess is very cool too.”

“Eh?”

Tess was a little bewildered as I walked over to sit beside her.

“You always save me. At the forest, yesterday morning. Thanks much~”

“Welcome~”

Inspiration struck me.

“Tess-chan, let’s dance!”

“Dance?”

“Yeah, it’s so boring, might as well do something fun right.”

“But I don’t know how to dance.”

I patted my chest, “I’ll teach you!”

On hearing my words, Tess closed the picture book and happily nodded.

“Un!”

Actually, I don’t really know how to dance. Tina brought me every time she had a ball but she always says she will never bring me again as she rubs her feet on returning. Every time I step on her feet, my heart hurts and so I fervently practiced but it was no god damn use at all. There are some things that hard work cannot overcome, and nobody is born with talent in every area. As handsome and outstanding as I, Molan Faburando, am, even I have a weakness,

which appears to be dancing.

But teaching a beginner like Tess should be alright.

“Put your left foot forward here.”

“Eh...”

“Left foot here too.”

“Wu...”

“Right foot right foot.”

“Eh...”

Tess faced the floor as she looked at her feet, afraid that she would make the wrong step. Thanks to this, I avoided having to look her in the eye. When she wore heels, she was practically the same height, and with this minute distance, we would be looking into each other up close and things would definitely get awkward.

With no music, there was a less atmosphere and the rain fell heavily and made a great deal of noise as it hit the ceiling and the windows.

Tess’s hair smelt really nice, her eyelashes were long and as I looked at the sakura pink that appeared from time to time among her fringe, many emotions swirled in my heart.

Only 3 days.

If Shuoxue was right, in 3 days, this ridiculously cute girl would die. As the date got closer, I doubted it; no matter how you look she doesn’t look like someone who is about to die. Though she does find it hard to get out of bed in the morning, that’s not a sign of impending death. Shuoxue said that Tess wouldn’t die of natural causes but her remaining life would be forcefully stolen away. The life force that surrounded her was strong but would supposedly vanish completely in 3 days’ time.

Just like a time bomb, Shuoxue said, maybe it’s her fate.

Tess seemed to know nothing about her fate as she clung onto me, her body stiff and her movements clumsy, like an infant learning how to walk.

Soon I wouldn't be able to see her again... I really can't bear it.

How should I bid her farewell. I need to think of something that is awesome, like preparing a hundred poems that so sweet they make your teeth rot, then picking a super first class backdrop like a mountain peak, with my back to the sunset, I'll get down on one knee and hold her hand as I recite the poems with passion and gusto. The birds would sing their song for us, the trees would bend for us and as she holds back her tears of happiness, we will embrace each other. We will then remain in each others' arms quietly and as night takes over the sunset skies, her body will gradually get colder as she finally passes. And this, I would have completed my mission and our trip.

I'll probably cry.

I really really... Can't bear to leave her...

But there's really no way since the book of life and death is not in my hands. At least there's still time. The story hasn't ended and I'll bring Tess and go wild for the next 3 days. The task at hand is difficult and fate doesn't seem to be on my side but I will try, I'm the one this silly girl loves after all. Got to be a man worthy of her love.

"Tess."

"Un?"

"What kind of present do you want?" I asked, "For saving me."

"Present..."

Tess began to seriously consider it.

It seemed like she thought of something all of a sudden and her cheeks turned a deep red. Her shoulders shrank and she buried her head as she stole looks at me and seemed tongue tied.

"Ki, kiki, kikiki..."

"Ki?"

"Kikikikikikikikiki..."

... Kiss. A very very small voice finished the last syllable and she covered her

face very tightly with both arms immediately. Her ears were also red and it seemed like steam was rising from the top of her head.

I heard Tess's wish. Though her voice was softer than a mosquito, I definitely heard it.

— I'm panicking!!

IIII what do I do!!!

Why would you think about getting a kiss? Is it that damn drama? Do you know what a kiss means?

Don't look at me like that, my first kiss is still around!

Do do do I give it to Tess? To be honest, I hadn't thought of rejecting her at all and was ready to fulfill any request but who knew she was so daring! Tess is unfathomable!

Ki, kiss her?

Or not?

It wasn't easy to get a wish she wanted out of her and since I don't want her to have any regrets, I shouldn't hesitate and just kiss her. But though I said that much, when it really came to this, I find it really hard!

Let me think for a bit!

Think about what? Such a good girl to have liked you, she must be blind! She saved you twice, whenever you're in danger she came down from the skies and swept everything away like a tornado as she shouts "Don't bully Molan!" with her heartfelt wish to protect you and her love, wowie just like a valiant prince on a white horse! Didn't you get moved by her! She listens to your every word, where you go she goes, almost as if she is your tail. When you want to go out, you both are out. No matter how tired she is, she willingly takes the role of being your dress up doll. When you want to wake up early she wakes up early too. Thought she may hug her pillow and yawn till kingdom come, she still crawls out of bed. Such an obedient and well/behaved girl, and cute to boot! Such a lovely girl wants to kiss with you, what aren't you happy about? Why are you still putting on airs?

But I can't, I can't kiss her, because I've never... Loved her.

Before I knew it, Tess had backed away several steps and looked at me silently with her hands behind her back.

I'd never seen this expression of hers. Like a small kid who'd waited and waited outside the shop window but finally gave up on the toy she wanted for all this while.

Actually, I'd seen it before come to think of it. When we were in front of the mirror, when we were eating delicious foods, when we were in the carriage, when we were in crowded scenic spots... She always looked at me, and a distant, sorrowful look would flash past.

She laughed all of a sudden.

"Just a joke~" Tess said, "Scared you?"

I didn't know how to answer that.

My heart felt a little lonely and the air felt still and stifling as the rain fell with no end, as though it was going to drown the city.

I inhaled deeply.

"Eh~ Want some shaved ice? Your favourite type. Wait here for me, I'll buy some and get back quickly."

"Master, the rain is very heavy."

I looked tiredly at Shuoxue, who was tiptoeing as she held an umbrella, which I don't recall ever having, for me. As she was short, it didn't help much and I got soaked.

"Let me hold it." I took the umbrella and passed the paper bag with shaved ice to Shuoxue, "Don't steal any."

"Hmph, stingy."

"It's all for Tess."

"Can she even eat this much?"

"Un, so don't steal any."

“Tch~”

Shuoxue clicked her tongue and leaned over to me, to avoid getting soaked by the rain.

“Is this the correct way? Going by the right is nearer right.”

“Let’s take a detour.”

” Oh oh, alright.”

Shuoxue used her right hand to hold the paper bag, and hugged my arm with her left, and began humming happily.

“Tess, she...”

I hesitated for a while, before continuing.

“Probably knew long ago that I don’t love her.”

“Maybe.” Shuoxue answered absently.

“To her confession, I had been avoiding giving her a reply, hoping to give her as much happy times as possible in the days that remained... These actions I took on my own accord, have been hurting her right.”

“Does master hate sister Tess?”

“Never, I like her a lot, but not that way,” I thought, “It’s different, compared to what I feel for Tina.”

“Are you willing to be together with sister Tess?”

“I do.”

“But not willing to kiss her?”

“Un, not willing.”

“Even if that speechless, expressionless, feelingless sister is dead?”

“... Even if Tina is already dead.”

“Speaking of which, why did master bring sister Tess out?” Shuoxue asked as she raised her head to look at me.

It came out of me naturally.

“Because she shouldn’t be in there.”

“Just being nosy?”

“Probably.”

“Even though you don’t love her.”

“Wu, but, when I think about how Tess will die just like that in the forest, I feel she deserves more.”

“So you pity her.”

Shuoxue said it very casually.

For some reason, I felt a little angry.

“It’s not pity.”

“Then?”

“... Not just pity.”

“And what else?”

“And...”

And what?

I couldn’t describe it but it definitely wasn’t only pity; there was more, much more feelings.

That was a perfect girl, god’s most precious jewel, but she could only spend her days idling in a cage of trees all alone. Maybe after a very long time someone would finally look for her and find a pile of bones by the window; maybe no one ever will, and no one would cry for her since there would be a new emissary then anyway and just like that, as time goes on, she is forgotten by the world.

Lonely, far too lonely a life.

This wasn’t supposed to be my business, at the most I should have just lamented her misfortune and do nothing more.

But I still did it, despite numerous inhibitions and difficulties, and brought her out, singing and laughing all the way. We roamed about, from Txarango to Pumuirsa, and a whole bunch of other nations. We drank and played and ate,

and I brought her to enjoy all sorts of things she'd never even knew of. Why did I do all that? I wasn't some bleeding heart bodhisattva out to save the world from its troubles.

I recall a certain afternoon, there was a faint smell of lavender, and as the sunlight made the dust sparkle, she confessed to me in all seriousness, and at the end of it, went and hid her deep red face at the corner of the bed.

That's the reason right, is it enough?

"Tess is, for me, a very important person."

I said, every word loud and clear.

"I want to cherish her."

"Then isn't that fine then," Shuoxue hummed nonchalantly, "Just live as you will and follow through with the blade, want to kiss then kiss, don't want to kiss then don't kiss. Who cares if it's lust or love or if you are some philanderer pretending to be faithful."

"I hope that Tina doesn't misunderstand when I explain this to Tina after she wakes up."

"Even though you care about that speechless, expressionless, feelingless mistress, it's just a one-sided love on your end right? I bet she doesn't care about who you are consorting with."

"Uwa, don't aim for where it hurts."

We started fighting under the umbrella."

"Pause pause! It's raining and our clothes are wet. Hold the bag properly, don't swing it about."

"Alright alright."

Thought I didn't love Tess, she was still very important to me. I said to myself.

She was probably very sad, seeing as I cowardly ran away, leaving her alone in the inn.

I'm sorry, please forgive me after you eat the shaved ice. Though I can't kiss you on the lips, the forehead is okay... If it's things like that, I can do it as many

times as you want. I'll do them until your sadness is gone.

As I stepped on deep puddles of water sending water splashing everywhere, I optimistically considered how things would go like above.

But when I returned to the inn, the room was empty.

Tess was gone.

Chapter 8: Sleeping!? If you don't run quickly, you will die!

TL: Super cliffhanger. From here on out, it's non stop plot. But first, more sadness but with some nice Shuoxue pov.

By the time Molan closed his eyes as he lay on bed, it was already the morning of the next day.

Heavy rainfall continued, seemingly endlessly, and the dark clouds made it impossible to differentiate between day and night. Only the clock could be counted. However, Shuoxue was still not used to telling the time as the way time is measured now differed greatly from 10,000 years ago.

Molan had made a terrible mess in the inn last night because of the receptionist's insistence that he had not seen any golden haired elf girl, only a youth lugging his luggage as he left his room. Molan insisted the receptionist was negligent and didn't want to admit it and destroyed the place, and had to escape into the rain before the guards and security came. He continued to ask people in the streets and knocked on doors as Shuoxue followed him. He was in a vicious rage and cursed at the weather and himself constantly, and nearly came to blows with people many times. Finally, he squatted below a street lamp, looking completely defeated, as the rain made him utterly drenched.

Shuoxue walked up with an umbrella.

She's dead, Molan softly said.

Shuoxue thought so too, that for some reason, Tess's fate had arrived earlier than thought and she disappeared completely without even leaving any remains.

To have miscounted the day of Tess's death, Shuoxue was very guilty, but Molan did not blame her. He returned to the inn, apologised and paid for the damages. The soldiers mistook him for Txarango royalty and did not dare to pursue matters further. After he entered the room, Molan sat by the window and put on the ear muffs Tess had left, his shoulders trembling. He did not utter a single word nor did he sleep the whole night.

And now that he was finally asleep, Shuoxue was sitting at the side, eating the shaved ice that was for Tess and glancing over at Molan from time to time.

This is my master huh, she thought.

Even though he is usually so slovenly, seems to lack common sense, and gets emotional easily. But for the sake of the girls important to him, he had done so much at the Oracle and in the forest of elves. Even though he did things without thinking, he didn't seem so bad after all.

And when he hurt, he would hide it deep within his heart and say nothing.

He is a master I can get along with, it would be for the best if he can live long. Shuoxue thought about the Sword Saint when he knelt before the guillotine.

The curse was what she was worried about the most, as she did not want Molan to meet with the same end of being killed by his beloved. Tina and Tess, one already qualified for that position and another had potential. But now that both were dead, Shuoxue need not worry about this for now.

Shuoxue did not think that Tina could be saved. There was no such healing spell that could revive the dead after all. Unless the gods themselves lent a hand. But if they cared about the life and death of human, they wouldn't be gods.

Molan wouldn't give up of course and he might still stubbornly believe that Tina would return to his side soon, and would probably think of a plan to return to the forest of elves when he awakens. Originally he planned on returning with Tess on the 9th day of the trip. But now that she has disappeared, he could not return as the forest rejects all humans.

All my fault, Shuoxue muttered softly.

Not returning was good, Molan would never confirm Tina's status and would keep his hope alive. That way, he would never fall in love again. Shuoxue thought that was the best scenario but Molan would surely hate her though that couldn't be helped.

After she finished the shaved ice on hand, Shuoxue searched the bag for more but there was none left. I'll let him to buy more when he wakes up, tch tch, human food is not too bad at all, Shuoxue thought. Though nourishment couldn't be absorbed from food, looking at it another way, it meant that she

could eat as much as she want and not have any repercussions.

Looking at Molan's skinny back, Shuoxue raised her eyebrows.

What is going on? She said to herself.

Why is Molan's life force so corrupted?

As a sword, Shuoxue could see the life force of people as a halo made of mist that was around the shoulders. Depending on age and health, the mist halo would have different forms. The aged typically have thin halos, which looked like they could dissipate anytime while the young and hale had strong, thick and healthy halos. Tess's halo had a rift which was growing bigger bit by bit. Shuoxue could calculate the time required for the halo to disappear entirely and it would be 10 days at maximum. Perhaps the growth had accelerated when they were out buying shaved ice, and so they could not see Tess's last moments. However, whether it was old or young, elf or human, all the coils were white. Only Molan's was being consumed by a black miasma that was growing stronger.

It looked exactly like the halo of the green haired elf who was taken over by the demonic beast. And it was after the Oracle Plenary that Molan's halo began turning black.

Was Molan being taken over as well? Shuoxue was very concerned about this at first but Molan did not exhibit any symptoms of this and there were no black arms coming out of his body. Shuoxue's concern diminished with time, and only a small suspicion remained.

By logic, Molan could not be taken over by a demonic beast after all since he had not come into contact with the green haired elf's blood. Before he could swing down his sword, Tess had come to stop him and destroyed the elf in a clean manner that left no blood behind.

Good thing Tess had foreseen Molan being taken over and saving him from that fate.

Did she foresee her own end? Shuoxue shook her head. If that was the case then Tess would have brought Molan back to the forest on her own accord before she disappeared.

As for how Tess was treating Tina, Shuoxue had no idea. After sinking into the

holy water, Shuoxue's perception of the world was shut down forcefully. When she recovered, they were already in Tess's room. Tess placed Molan onto the bed, wiped the bloodstains off him, rubbed his forehead, and opened the windows to let the cool breeze in to let him sleep more comfortably. After that was done, Tess carried Tina, whose halo was almost completely gone, out of the room.

Take care of your master, I'm leaving for a bit. Tess said to the Shuoxue in sword form standing by the bed as she shut the door.

When she returned, it was only Tess and Tina's whereabouts were unknown. Tess then crawled onto the bed and sat beside the unconscious Molan, looking at his sleeping face, occasionally giving a silly laugh.

On the second night after the Oracle Plenary, Tess sprang up from a nightmare and scared Shuoxue but after that she saw Tess lie back down and hug Molan.

Wakaka! Taking advantage of master while he is still unconscious, would there be some exciting and hard-to-come-by scenes coming up!? Shuoxue was very excited and watched Tess's every move but Tess didn't do anything and Shuoxue then noticed that Tess was crying softly.

What sort of dream had she seen? Tess buried her face into Molan's chest as she hugged him tightly, her long hair smooth and beautiful, reflecting the moonlight clearly.

She was actually a really good girl. Shuoxue felt sorry for her.

All of a sudden, there was fierce knocking on the door which interrupted Shuoxue's thoughts.

"Who is it?" She jumped off the chair, "The door is going to break already!"

Was it the inn who came back to find Molan because they were unsatisfied with the compensation? The knocking did not sound friendly in the least. If that was the case then it would be troublesome. Molan had finally fallen asleep after great difficulty and shouldn't be interrupted.

Could it be that Tess returned?

That thought flashed past in Shuoxue's mind as she opened the door.

Looking at the people outside the door, Shuoxue was disappointed.

“Who are you people?”

“We are soldiers from the logistics unit!” The man clad in a military uniform standing front seemed very distressed, “Our officer has ordered us to evacuate the people, leave this place quickly.”

“Run as far away as you can!” A soldier from behind yelled.

Shuoxue was bewildered from what was yelled at her.

“But why?”

“Emergency situation! Is there anyone inside?”

The man in the military uniform made to enter the room as he said so but was blocked by Shuoxue who opened her arms and stood at the door.

“There is there is! Master is still sleeping!”

“Sleeping!? If you don’t run quickly, you will die!”

“Why will sleeping for a bit lead to death!”

The uniform man lost it and shook Shuoxue by her shoulders while staring right into her eyes and shouting at the top of his voice.

“Demonic beasts have appeared!! In the area nearby!! If you don’t escape soon, you will be killed idiot!!”

... Eh?

“What? Demonic beasts?”

“Now is not the time to hesitate!! It’s all thanks to the great emissary who is holding back that monster that you have the time to escape. Quickly wake your master up and get the fuck out of here while you still can!!”

“Who did you say it was?”

An unexpected voice rang out, and Shuoxue turned to see Molan standing behind staring at the uniform man.

“Who,” He said in a hoarse voice, his eyes focused and unblinking, “Is holding the monster back?”

Chapter 9: I was once, the human closest to the realm of the gods

Not long after Molan left, a youth stepped in through the open door.

“Hello, emissary girl~” He brought his suitcase to a stop at one side and bowed to Tess.

“After seeing you for real, your beauty is far more what is far more than what I’ve heard.”

Tess cautiously sized him up. His age appeared to be the same as Molan, his hair was long and tied together and his looks were androgynous. He wore a clean, speckless white formal wear and a strange scent wafted from him.

“I don’t know you.”

“I too, have only met you tonight.” The youth shrugged, “When I was small, someone invited me to the Oracle Plenary but I didn’t accept. I not, I would have known you earlier.”

“What do you want.”

“I heard from Pete that an elven girl with a sakura pink mark between her eyebrows attacked their facility. I was pleasantly surprised. I didn’t think I would be able to meet the noble emissary, and so I sent people to follow you.” The youth then walked to the room opposite, “I stay here.”

“Pete?”

“Ah, my subordinate. You taught him quite the lesson.”

Tess remembered.

“So it’s you who kidnapped Molan?”

“Uwa~ Don’t look at me like that, it wasn’t under my order. I only gave them the freedom to do whatever to get some money. Choosing kidnapping and robbery was out of my control.”

The youth squinted his eyes.

“The time you have left isn’t long, maybe... 3 days?”

Tess was shocked.

“How do you know.”

“Of course I know~”

The youth grinned, looking very pleased with himself.

“Since you’re going to die anyway, why not give me hand?”

“With what?”

“Wu, it’s a long story, why don’t you come with me first and I can slowly tell you?”

“No, I’m waiting for Molan to return.” Tess shook her head, “And I hate you.”

“So straightforward? I’m so hurt.”

The youth made a show and clutched his chest with a painful expression, like a comedian doing an exaggerated act. When he was done, he tidied his hair, and his lips curled into a smile.

“Well, I never expected you to come with me obediently.” He threw a tiny glass vial in the air and caught it, “How is it, this hallucinogen smells good right? Those guys at the Pentacle made it, though it has no use on me.”

“Are you okay? Can you see how many this is?” The youth’s figure seemed blurrier.

That was the last memory Tess had before she lost consciousness.

Tess had a sharp headache as she sat up on the bed.

The youth moved a chair over and folded his hands on the back rest as he sat on the chair backwards, sizing her up with an interested look.

“You’re awake, beautiful, welcome to the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’, this is my private room.”

“Wu.”

Tess began her incantations with the intention of blowing the youth away. But nothing happened, and her body felt soft and weak, with no sense of the flow of

mana.

“Eh.”

“Coming at me with a spell full of killing intent, how moody can someone get on waking up.”

“What, happened?”

“Can’t use magic?” The youth grinned, “Because I sealed your mana, that’s why~”

He reached out and pointed. Tess touched her neck, where she found a black collar held together by a sturdy lock. The collar was very strong, and no amount of pulling had any effect.

“Don’t waste your strength. The present you can’t tear it. This was found from the coffin, a 10,000 year inheritance with a performance guarantee from the demon race. It was specially made to deal with emissaries, and seemed to have been made just when the demon race surrendered.”

“Why do you have this sort of thing.”

“This toy and the guy in the coffin was originally with the Pentacle and I stole it from them afterwards.” The youth said as he waved his hand, “Don’t bother asking about them. Those idiots couldn’t decipher the inscriptions on the coffin and didn’t even know that such a great existence lay there in the coffin. Yet they had the nerve to carry out research, and extracted a great deal of blood to use as mana enhancer potions... Come on, that is an ancient demon king for crying out loud!”

His tone was playful as if he was talking about something funny.

“And so I drained them dry, and extracted the precious blood of the demon king from the compound materials.”

“What do you want.”

“Revive the demon king,” The youth’s eyes suddenly gleamed with maliciousness, “I will use the power of the demon race and take back all I lost.”

“ ... ”

“Speaking of which, you really are beautiful. When I finish my first step that is to conquer this nation. Why don’t you be my concubine~ But it’s a pity you are going to die soon, so you can only be my concubine for a few days.”

Tess was silent.

The youth continued, “You have activated the ‘transition’ spell. All the preparatory steps are completed but the last one. The spell cannot be cancelled halfway and you set the ending to be in 3 days’ time. Once the time comes, you will disappear completely, with no trace at all,” He nodded, “And then, a new emissary will be born.”

“... Why are you so knowledgeable about the ‘transition’ spell? That is a secret of emissaries!” Tess stared at the youth, “Who are you?”

“Ah, I haven’t introduced myself yet.”

The youth patted his head, and got up from the chair.

“Just call me Maruko, a pure and proper member of the human race.”

(TL: I left it in its Japanese romaji because translating it into English is just weird because 丸子 just means ball, while leaving it in hanyu pinyin makes it seem like a Chinese name. Note that the author’s handle is 丸子大魔王.)

“You know too much for a human.”

“I’m not an ordinary human.”

The youth didn’t make a sound in reply but various emotions flashed across his face; pride, anger and frustration. Finally, he let a single cold laugh, and he finally opened his mouth.

“I was once, the human closest to the realm of the gods.”

“... What does that mean?”

“You can take it at face value~ Just remember that I’m freaking cool. What can I say, being too awesome makes people jealous, and some bastard separated me into a thousand pieces, resulting in me looking like now.”

“The me that is standing before you is a thousandth of my original self.”
Maruko supplemented.

Tess could not comprehend his words. Separate? How? Use a sword to cut into a thousand pieces? Isn't he a complete person now...

"If you don't get it, never mind. You aren't me anyway, how could you possibly understand?" He said gleefully.

"From what I know, the emissaries were humanoid weapons the gods used to destroy the demon race. With the end of the demon race, so too did the emissaries lost their reason to live. Some died in the crusade, others destroyed themselves in accordance to the will of the gods granted to them by an oracle after the crusade ended. Only 2 gods did not impose a death oracle on their emissaries. One was the god of fate."

Maruko gazed at Tess's expression.

"One is... Who? Haha, I don't know either."

"..."

"God did not destroy the emissary probably because he had a mission for the emissary. But emissaries grow old and die, moreover they have extremely short lives as a weapon of mass destruction. So god created the 'transition' spell and created a link between the emissary and the most long-lived race, the elves, so that when the emissary died, the linked elf would inherit the role of the emissary and carry on the mission. From ancient times, the elven emissaries of the god of fate have had short lives, not because their natural lifespans were short—Elves are oractically undying! Actually its the god of fate who likes changing emissaries from time to time, and so the emissary dies whenever he grows bored of the current one."

Tch tch tch, Maruko clicked his tongue.

"And you, have you bored him already? You can see the future in your dreams, shouldn't you be the one that god loves the most? I heard you carried away a dying girl at the Oracle Plaza and said you would save her... Are you going to link to her?"

Tess did not answer.

"No healing spell exists that can revive the dead. If something can do it, that would be fate." Maruko said softly, "If the gods have a deed they need someone

to accomplish, even a dead man would open his eyes and crawl out of his grave to live once more, until he completed his mission.”

Pa pa pa , Maruko clapped.

“Nooo~ Wayyyy~ Throwing your life away to save others? I’m so touched by you?”

“You are too long-winded.” Tess said coldly, “Let me return.”

“That I can’t do. Without you, how can I revive the demon king?”

“Don’t you have the blood of demonic beasts.”

“Yeah, I do have them,” Maruko touched his forehead, “But there is no soul left in the blood.”

“Every member of the Pentacle has more or less drunk the demon king’s blood, and more or less been taken over by the soul that was living in the blood. The one who was taken over the most was the green haired elf who initiated the attack in the Oracle Plaza. You compressed him into a ball and destroyed him, and the demon king who was about to awaken inside, by throwing him into the pool of holy water.”

“But you didn’t actually succeed.” Maruko said.

“I’m guessing that you opened the wind shield for a single moment to let the ball touch the holy water. And in that opening, the demon king’s soul separated from its blood and escaped. After that, the soul fragments in the bodies of the other Pentacle members also disappeared. Aiya, I killed them for nothing.”

The demon race really is admirable. Even the unexplainable things that almighty gods can’t do, they can. Maruko had endless praise for the demon race.

“Speaking of which,” He stared into Tess’s eyes, “You don’t seem surprised huh... You’ve seen this far already?”

“Un.” Tess nodded honestly.

“Then do you know who the soul is possessing now?”

“Not telling.”

“Hm~ Just curious. If the soul comes back looking for his body, then

that would be troublesome for me. Our plan is to install a false soul into the body, to make it easy for us to control. The original plan was to infuse human blood into the body but alas, the body rejected it.”

Maruko reached out and lifted Tess’s chin.

“But it’s good you are here. Emissary and demon, both originally have similar souls.”

Tess swatted his hand away.

“Don’t touch me.”

“Is there such a need to hate me so much~” Maruko lifted his head to look at the wall clock, “About time we wrapped up, they should have gotten things ready for the ritual.”

He stepped back, and bowed down while he stuck his left hand out, in a pose to invite Tess.

“Let us be off, to awaken the lord who has slept for 10,000 years... And begin our revolution!”

Chapter 10: This is my precious toy

Edit: Mistranslated realm for altar last chapter. Maruko is the one closest to the realm, not altar of the gods.

TL: Last short chapter.

The headquarters for the “Demon Lineage Sect” was an abandoned school.

The clouds still covered the skies and heavy rain poured down, but that did not dampen the packed and noisy crowds. As Maruko brought Tess out of the main school building, the crowds parted for them.

Tess’s beauty drew much praise and mutterings could be heard from the crowd, many of which were rather unsavoury.

“Don’t even think about it,” Maruko said in a loud voice as he held the umbrella for Tess, “She is my woman!”

The crowds quietened down. From the looks of it, Maruko held significant sway as the head of the organisation. He approached Tess and whispered softly to her.

“No need to be afraid.”

“I’m not yours.” Tess distanced herself from him.

Maruko pretended not to hear it.

Everyone in the field wore a raincoat with a signature black cloth. Some tied the black cloth around their arms, others on their foreheads; only Maruko had 2, 1 around his right wrist and another was used to tie his long hair. All large organisations liked to do such things, having members wear an accessory that symbolised their organisation. Those with more financial resources would issue uniforms. The Demon Lineage Sect was, however, rather poor as they had no sponsors and could only choose simple black rags.

But this was about to change.

Maruko and Tess passed through the crowd and came to an empty patch of grass where there was a magic formation several tens of meters across drawn in white limestone. Each intersection was marked by a 2 meter tall candle that burnt in the rain with a strange green flame. There were several weird contraptions outside the formation, controlled by some people standing at the side. In the centre of the formation was a throne, and a corpse sat on it.

Tess held her breath.

How does one qualify to be a true monarch? The corpse was a giant and was 2 meters tall even in a sitting position. A thick pitch black armor that looked like it could swallow all the light in the world encased it.

The majesty it exuded was boundless, like the rising tide of the sea which swallowed the land, driving an overpowering desire in you to kneel in respect of it.

The rain pierced the skies and fell to the ground like swords but it avoided the corpse and landed outside the throne.

Looking from afar, despite it being a corpse of something long dead for 10,000 years, you could clearly imagine it giving a commanding roar and feel fear and awe from it.

This was a true monarch!

“This is my precious toy.” Maruko said as he giggled.

He passed the umbrella to Tess, turned to the crowds and raised his hands high.

“Members of my ilk!”

“Oh!!!”

The cries of the crowd rang out like thunder as everyone got heated up.

“The time has finally come! The ancient demon king will resurrect and be under our ‘Demon Lineage Sect’'s command!”

“Oh!!!”

Maruko clenched his fist as sheer joy floated uncontrollably to his face.

“At last... At last... The hardships we have endured all these years, at last we can conquer the world with the power of the demon race! When that time comes,” He shouted at the top his voice, “We will have awesome uniformssssssssss!”

“Oh!!!!”

“And a big mountain of gold!!!!”

“Girls!!!!”

“Loli!!!!”

“Big sisters!!!!”

“Delicious shotas!!!!”

(TL: No, it really does say shota. The Chinese characters literally do not make sense otherwise) “Oh———!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Everyone shouted their own desires and cheered and jumped before hugging each other passionately.

Maruko coughed a few times from shouting too much and gave a smile when he found Tess looking at him.

“Got to say those words for appearance’s sake no matter what~ To create the mood!”

Tess remained silent.

“Alright alright!” Maruko waved his hands, “Now then, let us welcome the moment we have all been waiting for!”

The crowd quietened down again. Maruko pushed Tess into the magic formation, and with every step, the green flame from the candles would flicker while personnel outside the formation would toggle switches on the contraption. The contraption suddenly started spinning and the limestone totem on the ground lit up unsteadily.

As she neared the throne, cold sweat ran down Tess’s back.

Upon reaching the center of the formation, Maruko took a knife that was on the armrest of the throne and faced Tess.

“Give me your hand.”

“ ... ”

Without magic, Tess could not resist.

“I’ve already infused into his body the demon blood I extracted so what you need to do is simple.”

Maruko made a cut on one finger each of the corpse and Tess, the pain making her crease her eyebrows. Maruko then grabbed Tess’s finger and stuck it to that of the corpse so the wounds were touching.

Tess felt a curious sensation, like touching ironsand.

“Just press down like that and wait.” Maruko said.

He glanced at Tess, “What is with that expression of yours, did you think I would really kill you by draining your blood dry to feed my toy? I wouldn’t be able to bear doing so~”

“The demon race has a strong desire to live,” Maruko continued again, “With just a few drops of fresh blood, their corpse can be coaxed awake. But they like putting on airs and refuse to accept human blood. Even dumping after several pails, he wouldn’t even open his eyelids. But the soul doesn’t seem to care and attempts to possess anyone. To have such a difference in behaviour between the corpse and the soul, could the demons actually be tsunderes?”

(TL: Recall that there is soul in blood)

“Because,” Tess answered, “Because the souls guides the body and the demons would never allow a human soul to enter.”

“But when one’s soul is finding a host then that’s okay because it’s the one controlling anyway? When you say it like that, it makes sense.”

“How do you plan to control him after he revives.”

Tess finally asked the question that had been nagging at her.

“Without a strong soul to control the body, it would just rampage about without end.”

“Of course it’s by using magic~”

Maruko tapped his forehead with a finger.

“The Pentacle’s magic, I know it too.”

“... ‘Control’?”

“That’s right~ For the sake of learning how to use the intangible cultural heritage left behind, I had to give up a lot of things. The way magic works in demons is completely different from humans and so I had to rearrange my organs to learn their spells. From then on I said goodbye to the fire magic I was so proud of~”

(TL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intangible_cultural_heritage) Maruko continued.

“That green hair is really too lousy. To think that he is an elf but can only control a single person for several minutes.

Looking at Maruko’s gleeful look, Tess probed further.

“And you?”

“Depends on the target, but if it’s this 2 meter tall guy... One day maybe~”

Tess was so shocked she couldn’t say a word in reply.

What exactly was this youth? He looked like an ordinary human, but was gifted in magic beyond elves. Even the elven king Zkocha did not know of the “transition” spell but this youth knew everything about it... He said he was a thousandth of the whole, then how powerful and horrific was the original him?

Nobody dared to say a word as they concentrated their fullest attention on the throne. After a long while, there was no sign of the corpse reviving, and Tess began to doubt whether things would go like Maruko said it would.

The god of fate had not told her these things through dreams, and she had guessed that her mission was to destroy the demon king that would revive, but since there was no dream that showed a scene of slaying the ancient giant, the corpse would likely not revive.

Looking at Maruko, his face was filled with doubt as well.

Was it a false alarm?

The field was completely silent.

Tess suddenly realised something was wrong. The sound of rain was gone.

The weather had not turned for the better. All the rain had stopped in midair, forming a sphere. People's clothes looked like they were being blown but there was no wind. Maruko's expression seemed fixed, and looked like a lifelike oil painting. Sweat from his chin formed a drop, but did not fall, as if it had frozen.

The world had stopped.

Badump Badump

A powerful heartbeat broke through the silence between heaven and earth.

(TL: I used English onomatopoeia for the heartbeat as it was more apt.)

Chapter 11: My god! You are totally blinded by love!

TL: When I first read this volume, I had the impression that Tess was just some generic dereedere wish fulfilment character but there was always something that felt wrong about that impression as I read on. It's always nice to see more 'human' characters after all and I liked this chapter for that.

On the 11th day of month of Metal 05:15 hours, a 2.79m tall demonic beast clad in impenetrable armour appeared in the port city of Kama in the Jacquedini nation. With his appearance, the people in Kama developed collective insanity and many lost their reason and attacked all those around them. It was utter chaos in Kama with a large scale riot and most modes of transportation were inaccessible. It was estimated that about 70,000 people lost their lives in the riot, with tens of thousands more injured.

(TL: Trying to transliterate 杰囚迪尼布鲁汀兰卡 and failing is suffering...) At the center of the riot was the 2.79m tall demonic beast mentioned before who led about 2,000 people who committed looting, murder, arson and theft along the way, and was the cause of all the casualties. His power was monstrous and he was both ferocious and cruel. Whether it was Jacquedini troops or the International Double-Anti squad that came later, all were helpless before it.

The riot continued for 11 hours.

When it ended, the largest international terror organisation "Demon Lineage Sect" claimed responsibility for the attack, and proclaimed their sovereignty over Kama.

11:07 hours the next day, representatives from the various human nations gathered in Rosa for an emergency meeting.

"William, it's you representing Txarango again huh, no way you aren't the next king eh."

"Please don't say such things Your Highness Shifa. My father's health is ailing and my brothers are busy with governance. As the one with the most time to spare, it was a given that I came."

William closed the 2 large wooden doors of the meeting room, and bowed deeply to the table where the representatives were seated.

“William Txarango Brusti reporting as the representative of Txarango for this meeting. Please forgive me for being late as the journey was exceptionally long.”

“Take a seat, you are the last one.”

“Yes.”

William walked to the seat reserved for the Txarango representative.

The king of Rosa sat at the front of the eastern column, and said while stroking his beard, “Now then, let us begin. Per the pleas of help from the king of Jacquedini, I have called on all of you for an emergency meeting with the aim of discussing the resurrection of the demonic beast, the riot that followed and the appropriate actions us humans should take in response.”

“I beg of you, please help me! I have lost the biggest port city of my nation which was also the economic centre!” Jacquedini’s king cried out, “That demonic beast is far too strong, my humble nation’s power alone is insufficient to deal with him! Please help me!”

“Stay calm, Tierson, we will all definitely help.” The king of Rosa comforted him.

“Our nation has already helped though? We had representatives in the Double Anti squad.”

“Prince Shifa, the 340 member Double Anti squad could hardly make a dent!”

(TL: Though they call him prince, I think he is the crown prince, which is why William addresses him with respect) “The Double Anti organisation has not even been around for 10 days, they are not a force that can be counted on just yet.” A king interrupted.

“So now you’re blaming me? In any case, my nation has already contributed, there shouldn’t be anymore demands, no?”

The Rosa king looked at Shifa, “Shifa, I know you have certain opinions towards Rosa after the last skirmish but this situation is extraordinarily serious and concerns the welfare of all nations. All of you must put aside your differences

and meet this problem ahead of us together!”

“Our welfare you say? We are over 9,000 kilometers away from Jacquedini!”

“Your Highness Shifa,” William said, “It took less than a day for the “Demon Lineage Sect” to conquer Kama. At that speed, it would take them at most a month to reach your nation.”

“William is right. The goals of the “Demon Lineage Sect” cannot be just Kama. The amount of human and financial resources they invested into reviving a demonic beast cannot be for the sake of such a small ambition. Jacquedini is an ally of Rosa, I will naturally send out troops to help. I beseech all of you to look ahead and join my efforts in exterminating the “Demon Lineage Sect”.”

“I agree,” William was first to raise his hand, “Txarango will send troops.”

“The son-in-law and father-in-law are of course in agreement... But so am I, I will send 50,000.”

(TL: Remember that William is engaged to the (I think) third princess of Rosa)
“70,000.”

“40,000.”

Every representative raised their hands in a flurry to agree. Only Shifa was left. His eyes swept through the table and he grudgingly raised his hand as he clicked his tongue.

“Alright alright, we will send troops as well.”

“That’s good. We will sign a formal agreement which will include the code of conduct for our armies.” The Rosa king stroked his beard with a pleased expression, “Our armies are there for the sake of assistance, please don’t have any wayward designs.”

“If the demonic beast is so powerful, sending a larger army just means sending more people to their deaths right?” Shifa scoffed.

The Rosa king did not seem to mind.

“We have to try nonetheless. And we humans are no longer the same as we were 10,000 years ago.”

“I heard the emissary stood at the frontlines and stopped the riot?”

“Right, 2 minutes after the riot happened, the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’ used announcement magic to issue a notice to the citizens of Kama, saying that thanks to the efforts of the emissary, the riot would be paused for 30 minutes and they were allowed to evacuate. Thanks to that, casualties were minimised.”

“Why was it stopped for only 30 minutes?”

“Maybe the emissary left halfway.”

“No, according to my information, there were no eyewitness reports of the emissary on the frontlines.”

“I too have received no such information.”

“I as well.”

“No eyewitnesses doesn’t mean the emissary wasn’t there, if not, why did the riot pause?”

“Or maybe,” William said slowly, “The emissary was captured by the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’ before the riot began.”

Everyone stopped their discussions and looked at William.

“Perhaps there was someone controlling the riot, and the emissary was with him, and that person promised to pause the riot because the emissary pleaded with him to do so.”

“... That, does make sense.”

“How can that be!” Someone yelled, “How could the emissary have been captured!?”

“She is the servant of god!”

“And the elves have extraordinary magic abilities, with the emissary being the strongest of them!”

Everyone didn’t believe in William’s guess. William didn’t dare to believe it himself, having seen in person Tess’s magic. The sturdy wall of wind that had stopped both Molan and the green haired elf and how she had decided their fates in mere seconds. To have captured Tess, the ‘Demon Lineage Sect’ would

have to be a far more powerful organisation than they had thought.

If it was really like that, then no matter how many bodies the humans sent, they would all die for nothing.

William suddenly thought of Molan.

(TL: William best grill)

If Tess was in the hands of the “Demon Lineage Sect”... Then what happened to Molan?

All of a sudden, someone burst into the meeting room, looking very flustered.

“Report! Emergency! Emergency!”

“What happened?” The Rosa king asked.

The man who came was panting and sweating profusely.

“The ‘Demon Lineage Sect’ has just announced that, in 30 minutes, they will invade another city!”

Maruko turned the magic tool off and rolled his shoulders.

“As you requested,” He said to Tess, “I will halt all operations for 30 minutes and let the citizens evacuate.”

“Un.”

“Now that the troops are all gathering in the new city, Kama’s streets are really quiet and we can take a nice slow walk~”

“...”

“Why don’t you come closer, you will be drenched if you stand too far.”

Maruko approached Tess as he held the umbrella but Tess retreated a step for every step he took.

“Aiya, how heartbreaking.”

“When are you letting me go.”

Tess asked. Maruko knows her every move with the collar she was wearing, and thus could not escape.

“What’s the rush, don’t you want someone to pass the remaining time left with you?”

“Not you.”

“Haha~ Then who do you want?”

Tess didn’t answer, and Maruko broke into smiles seeing her.

“The one called Molan right? Killing 1,000 people at the Oracle, un, not bad but still a long way to go before reaching my level.”

“Molan is more handsome than you.”

“Really? Don’t think so.”

“And taller.”

“Wu... Because I hate milk.”

“You are the one who is far behind Molan.”

“You really like him huh.”

“Un.”

Though all Tess did was nod honestly in reply, it only made her look ridiculously cute.

“What do you like about him?” Maruko asked in a light tone.

“... Everything.”

“Uwa~ So mushy!”

Where did it begin? Tess thought.

The first time she saw Molan was about half a year ago. In the dream, he was curled up in a street corner with nothing but pieces of rags and his thin clothes, covered in snow. His face had frostbite and his eyes had lost focus as he had already given up on living.

Tess was curious about god’s intention, could it be that this boy was someone important?

And thereafter, she would dream of him every night. As Tess saw his daytime activities, it felt as though she lived them with him.

The boy possessed a never before seen power, and could move as fast as the wind when he held a sword or knife. In the beginning he used this power to play various pranks, which made Tess laugh so much she awoke from her sleep and would immediately close her eyes, anxious to get back into the dream. The young mistress who took him in found out by coincidence, and punished him. The way he looked as he knelt on the washboard and held his head was way too cute.

The boy hated sweets, and every time he played truant to visit sweet shops, he would always get goosebumps as he looked at his plate. He also hated cockroaches, and would scream like a stuck pig when he saw one in his room. He liked red wine, writing diaries, and also singing in the shower... Tess was very shy at first during these but she later got used to it.

Before she knew it, she fell in love with the boy.

She loved the him who would do anything for his young mistress.

Tess would see the boy every night, and when she saw him giving a silly smile as he stole looks at the young mistress, Tess's mouth would also curl into a smile.

Although, it did also made her feel very lonely.

On a certain night when thick clouds covered the skies, the boy transformed into a frightening monster as thick black smoke filled the skies and the earth trembled, Tess sprang up and finally understood god's intentions.

Fate can only change the route it takes, but not its destination.

Try as she might, Tess was unable to change the fate of the boy from being fully possessed. Just when she thought that every possibility was covered, a new one would always appear. The same ending always happened, and having to see the same dream of how she would impale the boy on the throne as people rushed in and cheered seemed as though fate was laughing at her futile efforts.

If the boy's fate was to be killed, at least... She didn't want to be the one to do it.

So Tess brought the dying Tina back to the sacred lake and linked with her, to transfer the wretched, cruel fate to her.

Tess felt that she was very selfish.

Maruko stopped walking.

“Let’s look at clothes.”

He opened the glass door of the shop and pushed Tess in.

The shop’s cupboards were broken but the goods did not seem to be too damaged. Near the display rack, there was someone devouring a corpse on the ground and raised his head in alarm on hearing a sound, his eyes red and malicious. On seeing Maruko, he threw the piece of meat in his hands and hurriedly walked out of the shop, all the while showing respect to Maruko.

“Are they being controlled by you.”

“Nope,” Maruko shook his head, “I’m only controlling the demon king.”

“Then why did they lose their reason and attack other humans in a frenzy?”

Towards Tess’s question, Maruko spread his arms wide open.

“Because when there is a monarch, there must be subjects.”

After folding in the umbrella and placing it by the door, Maruko walked up to the display racks and looked through the womens’ clothing.

“Your clothes were picked by Molan right? No taste~ Clothes are not necessarily better because they are expensive, just knowing this makes me better than him.”

“Come come come.” He picked out a set of clothes and showed it to Tess while smiling widely, “Try this set! It’s so much better than what you’re wearing now.”

“No, what Molan picked is much better.”

“My god! You are totally blinded by love!”

Cannot be reasoned with, Maruko muttered softly.

“Just put it on, you will understand when you look in the mirror.”

“No.” Tess said resolutely.

“Why?”

“Because I don’t want to.”

“Just try them on.”

“No.”

“Try.”

“No.”

“Try.”

“No.”

“Molan’s clothes are so ugly yet you won’t try.”

“Not ugly.”

“Ugly.”

“Not ugly.”

“Ugly as hell!”

“Not ugly at all!”

“His taste is so much worse than mine!”

“You are so much worse than Molan.”

Maruko broke down.

“Why! Why! I was once the human closest to the realm of the gods, why can I not match up to an idiot!! Because I am incomplete!? Because I am only a thousandth of what I was!?!?”

He knelt on the ground and reached out to the heavens.

“Damn itttttttttttttttt!!!”

Suddenly, someone flew past the cupboards and smashed into the display racks, making such a loud sound that scared Maruko so much he stopped shouting. It was the man from before, but he had only half his head left and was buried in the clothes, and did not move. Maruko was stunned and looked outside the shop.

“... Speak of the devil.”

Tess was surprised and turned around happily.

A familiar figure walked over from the streets. He held a long sword and his body was shaking as he walked unsteadily in tattered clothes soaked in rainwater and blood. He was covered in countless wounds that were healing rapidly.

Tears streamed down her eyes as she yelled with all her might.

“Molan!”

“Tess, I’ve finally found you...” Molan licked his torn lips, “That fellow behind you, is he singing to the chandeliers?”

Chapter 12: My toy is amazing right

Tess ran over and hugged me, and rubbed her face against my chest.

Honestly it hurt a lot but I couldn't say it. I had been searching for her all over the city and there were red eyed crazies and black cloth wearing terrorists about. I even saw a demonic beast that seemed like both human and beast, and only observed him from afar as I did not dare to confront him. In these 2 days, I had killed a lot of people, and was nearly killed many times as well, and thus my body was on the brink of collapse.

“The thing on your neck... Did that pervert do anything to you!”

What the fuck, a collar! What a high level toy! Fucking hell I swear I'll castrate that fellow!!!

Tess did not reply.

She had slipped into unconsciousness, and slid down against me onto the ground.

The long haired boy dusted his knees as he stood up.

“I used the collar to make her sleep. Don't get too excited, I didn't do anything to her.”

His smiling face enraged me.

“You have a black cloth, are you a terrorist.”

“Yes, I am the boss of the 'Demon Lineage Sect', you can call me Maruko.” He said, giving a proper greeting, “I've heard a lot about you, Molan Faburando, and you are even dumber than I imagined.”

He clicked his tongue.

“You aren't that much taller than me.”

“Why did you capture Tess.”

“I wanted her blood for reviving the demon king.”

“Didn't you all thought of a plan already, I heard it from your subordinate

when I was kidnapped.”

“We did, but it failed and she happened to be around. So she’s called Tess? It suits her.”

“Revive the demon king, then proclaim yourselves to be gods?” I scoffed, “Such a late stage chuunibyou.”

(TL: There really isn’t a translation for this...)

“Huh?”

“A disease of the mind, refers to the kind of people like you who just think of nonsensical situations all day instead of studying.”

“Well of course you wouldn’t understand... You mundane commoner.”

“I don’t want to either, I don’t care whether you want to be god or demon king and cause riots or revolutions. It has nothing to do with me, just don’t hurt Tess.”

“I didn’t hurt her, I even let her sleep on my bed while I slept on the sofa.”

“Need me to commend you on being gentlemanly?”

I carried Tess and began to withdraw while being cautious of Maruko.

“You continue doing your thing, bye.”

“You can leave, Tess stays.” He said with displeasure.

I hugged her tighter, “On what grounds, she is mine.”

“No... What I want, is mine!”

Maruko’s eyes changed instantly into a blazing red which lit up the entire shop.

The streets suddenly began shaking and faint sounds of footsteps came from outside the district. The sound grew louder and louder, and the shaking got more serious.

Who was rushing over!

What sort of giant was rushing over!

Just then a broadsword came at my fringe, and I dodged on instinct. I didn’t see anything at all! 1 second ago, there was no 4th person in my field of vision!

It was the demonic beast, and our distance between each other was less than a meter. His attack missed by a hair's breadth and I was sent flying by the air current from the follow through.

I used the sword to support my body, but the demonic beast had begun attacking again. This time, he used his shoulder and charged at me like a large artillery shell. I blocked it with my blade and was sent flying out more than 100m while behind him was mere wreckage, as the streets were severed from his charge.

"Keh!"

I vomited out clumps of fresh blood which dirtied Tess's white cheeks.

"Bastard!! You could have hurt her!!"

"Then put her down." Maruko said, as he walked over slowly while holding an umbrella.

"My toy is amazing right."

"Keh, Keh..."

Can't win.

Time to escape.

I turned and ran. While holding a sword, I can reach speeds of up to 30 meters per second.

But the demonic beast chased me down quickly and grabbed on my leg and pulled back, while Tess slipped out of my grasp.

"Damn it!!!"

The demonic beast threw me into a building and ran up to catch Tess. By the time I climbed out of the wreckage, Tess was already in Maruko's arms while the demonic beast was kneeling by his side, like a guard waiting for his orders.

"Eee, disgusting."

Maruko took a handkerchief out of his pocket and wiped the bloodstains from Tess's face.

Don't touch her!

I couldn't speak a word as my organs were a total mess which Shuoxue was healing as quickly as she could.

"Master... Master..." She kept calling out to me, with a hoarse voice.

"Are you okay? Seems like you are dying eh~"

I had finally used the sword for support and got up but my legs turned to jelly and I fell to the ground again. Shuoxue could heal any injury but at the cost of my stamina, both mental and physical.

My physical condition was way too poor. Before transferring, I was subhealthy exam preparatory student; after transferring I became a subhealthy delinquent. Though I gained somehow gained a strange talent, I lacked a strong physical body to match it. In this world, many strong warriors existed while I was weak as an ant.

(TL: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suboptimal_health) It's like this again. It's like this again. It's like this again!

I'll put everything I have left into 1 last charge! Maruko stood unmoving as the demonic beast stood in front of him and waved his fist, sending me flying like a sand bag.

The broadsword was thrown out and stabbed my right leg, pinning me to the wall.

"I could kill you, but Tess will be angry at me, so forget it."

The demonic beast reached out and put Maruko on his left shoulder and stood up straight slowly.

"Bye bye~ Don't bother us again."

Blood flowed into my eyes from my forehead, making my vision blurry, and as the demonic beast's figure grew smaller, Tess was getting further from me. I couldn't do anything, not even pull out the broadsword on my leg.

A suffocating sense of powerlessness again.

I had had enough, but what could I do.

The leopard can only watch and lick its wounds as the lion takes its prey.

The Qing Dynasty troops could only watch as the Caucasians crashed in with their battleships and burn their lands, rape their women and slaughter their parents.

(TL: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eight-Nation_Alliance. Just a historical reference, I doubt the author actually has anything against Westerners/Caucasians given that almost all the characters apart from Molan and Maruko have English names.) And you can only see your girl in the arms of someone else, have her hair messed by someone else, have her face caressed by someone else; and disappear amongst the ruins.

Because you are too weak, you lose anything and everything.

The cold rain poured down from a bleak sky with no end on a ruined desolate city.

The world seemed to have ended.

After a very long while, I cried.

“Molan Faburando.”

Someone called out my name all of a sudden in a very familiar voice.

I raised my head.

And saw.

Another me.

Standing. In. Front. Of. Me.

“Want some coffee?”

William brought 2 cups of freshly brewed coffee into the room and set them on the table.

Every time he went out to battle, he would brew coffee. He loved it, and would take it black. He is a premier example of the saying that mature men have a taste for bitter things. William got tired easily, as he was the type to squeeze out any time he had for state affairs and war, like now as the grand marshal of the Txarango reinforcements sent to Jacquedini. In a role where sleep is scarce and work is plentiful, having a cup of hot coffee to boost the tired nerves is much

needed.

(TL: Coffee is good but I drink litres of water when I need to work till the wee hours, which make my colleagues think that I'm a monster) His overuse of stoneform magic, which slowed the functioning of his organs, was also one reason for his constant fatigue.

“Okay.”

Shuoxue took 1 cup and drank it down without hesitating.

“So bitter.”

“Isn't it too hot?”

“Not at all.”

“I just made it.”

William tried the coffee in his cup, but it was still at a temperature that could not be swallowed.

Shuoxue looked stunned for a bit, “Oh, it got cold when I touched it. My body is ice after all.”

“Your looks do give one an icy feeling...”

William looked at the bed.

“He hasn't woken up yet?”

“No.” Shuoxue shook her head with a worried look, “Master has been unconscious since the demonic beast left. No matter how much I try, he won't wake up.”

The one lying on the bed was Molan. 4 hours ago, William brought troops to launch the 3rd wave of attacks on Kama which failed yet again. During his retreat, a soldier had reported finding unaffected civilians who were trapped. Rushing to the site, William saw Molan pinned to the wall by a broadsword, his body limp like a rag and did not seem alive. The red eyed hordes had surrounded the area and were eager to consume him but a little girl with snow coloured long hair was defending him with a sword sheath.

After saving the 2 of them and bringing them back to his base camp, the little

girl claimed to be Molan's friend and when William asked why she called Molan master, she said she was actually Molan's maid. The little girl's name was Shuoxue, and seemed familiar but William paid it no heed, and instead questioned the little girl on what happened to understand the situation.

"Miss Shuoxue, please continue taking care of him. I must share this information with the other commanding officers."

William closed the door as he left the room.

The situation was dire. The emissary was in the hands of the "Demon Lineage Sect" and her powers were sealed by some tool. The humans had hoped to borrow her strength but in the end, she had been captured before the riot just like they had guessed.

In the battles thus far, the demonic beast had bested hundreds, thousands, and even tens of thousands of troops. Because of him, the combined human armies had to retreat with their tail between their legs every time. This one was far more horrific and powerful than the sample copy William had faced off against half a month ago. Troop morale was extremely low. If they could not destroy him, humanity could only watch as Jacquedini falls into ruin city by city.

But there were means to break through this situation. The demonic beast moved under the control of the leader of the "Demonic Lineage Sect", Maruko. There was no such information on such an individual but Shuoxue had said that he seemed to have no combat strength. If he could be found and dealt with, then the demonic beast could be stopped and the emissary would be regained.

"I've sent out scouts, the target is a 1.7m tall youth about 16 years of age with long black hair. If we find him, the battle can turn in our favour." William said to the commanding officers at the meeting.

"That's great!"

"At least we don't need to die for nothing."

"What do we do before then?"

"Strengthen the defences of cities around the perimeter of Kama, and hold on till we find the boy!"

“Not just defence,” William said, “We also need an appropriate attack.”

“How can we possibly fight that monster!”

“No, what I mean is to delay them, not to conquer the city.” He took a sip of coffee before continuing, “After issuing the notice that they would invade Pulo in 30 minutes, the controller Maruko was still in Kama. The distance between Kama and Pulo is not a distance that one can cover by walking in 30 minutes. Maybe the demonic beast can do it but Maruko is only a normal human. He is clearly hiding outside the battlefield and if we continually send troops to attack Pulo and bring the frontline there while giving up Kama, he should let his guard down and choose to stay longer at Kama. This way, our scouting operations will have a greater chance of success.”

“... That makes sense.”

“I agree with what William said.”

“I agree as well.”

Everyone else present hurriedly agreed in response.

William nodded with a pleased expression, “That’s good, put the heavy infantry in the surrounding cities for defence, deploy 5,000 men to launch roaming attacks on Pulo and withdraw all troops sent to attack Kama.”

“Now then,” He said, “We can only hope that the scouts bring back optimistic news soon.”

“I don’t agree!”

The meeting room doors were kicked open and William turned his head to look.

“Molan?”

Molan walked in from outside, and rolled his shoulders unhappily.

“Sorry, I used my feet on instinct.”

“You’re finally awake.”

“Un, had a good sleep for once, it was really good and now I’m all energetic again.”

Molan stretched his back. To this unruly guest, the commanding officers were extremely furious.

“Who are you! Do you think you can rudely barge in just like that in this military conference!?”

“I was listening in from outside, and couldn’t take it anymore.” Molan said to William, “No delays, no waiting, I took 2 whole days to find Tess and that sissy, do you think your scouts are faster than me? I don’t have that sort of time!”

He slammed his fist on the table.

Only William was not angry, “What are you thinking?” He probed Molan, “You seem to have a plan.”

“Attack Kama with all forces, use everything and anything, and find Tess.”

“Are you an idiot!”

“You want to go in from the front!?”

“We can’t beat the demonic beast at all, are you asking us to die!”

The commanding officers were hopping mad and were eager to kick Molan out. Molan remained completely calm and said quietly.

“I’ll take care of the demonic beast, you all just need to take care of the small fries.”

“You?”

William was surprised at his sheer confidence, which exuded from his words like that from an arrogant monarch.

Or perhaps an insufferably overestimating retard. William recalled that he was just beaten up by the demonic beast yesterday.

The conference room broke into laughter.

“Just you? Hahahaha!”

“Are you of age yet?”

“Have you graduated from a magic apprenticeship yet?”

“How about warrior training?”

“Get out now! This is not the place for some snotty brat to talk big!”

Molan waited for them to finish laughing, his face placid.

“Whether you believe it or not is up to you, I can defeat that demonic beast.”

He repeated his words, increasing the emphasis.

“The me now, can defeat him.”

Chapter 13: Let's go!

Molan sat down on a chair, crossed his legs, seeming completely relaxed.

"Anyone in with my idea?" He asked.

The commanding officers stared at him in silence.

If it were you would you agree? An unknown brat tells you to leave the ancient demonic beast to him, and will definitely thrash it until it cries for its mother, and even asks you to send out all your brothers to fight alongside him, that victory is reachable and is at hand.

Whoever believed that would an utter moron.

Obviously the commanding officers were not morons, and so they threw Molan out of the conference room.

Molan leaned against the door frame as his spittle flew.

"Give me a knife! Just a knife is all I need to prove myself!"

"Proves you are retarded!"

They forcefully booted him out, and locked the doors after that.

William did not stop them, as he couldn't believe Molan so quickly. Though he greatly appreciated Molan, the matter at hand was far too large and concerned the lives of tens of thousands of troops for him to believe Molan on a whim.

William gave a light cough.

"... Let us continue our discussion..."

Molan returned to the room and sat down on the bed with a very dissatisfied look.

"If only I'd brought you along." He said to Shuoxue.

Shuoxue was currently stuffing her cheeks, which were round and bulging, and did not understand what Molan was talking about.

"Eh?"

“They don’t believe in my strength.”

Shuoxue swallowed, “What strength?”

“I said I could destroy the demonic beast, but they turned their noses up at me.”

“About that,” Shuoxue rubbed her ear, “Master, are you going to fight the demonic beast?”

“Yeah, if not how do I get back Tess.”

“But... You will die...”

Molan looked at her, got up and walked over, and rubbed her head.

“No way, I’ve become much stronger now.”

“Really?”

“Un, so I won’t die. But those people in the conference room won’t help me so it’s going to be a bit troublesome.”

“What do we do then?”

“Do it ourselves.” Molan gave a small smile.

“Are you done eating? If you’re done, then go back to sword form. We’re leaving for Kama immediately.”

“Wait wait, one last bite... Okay!”

Molan gripped the hilt, and swung the sword a few times in the air. Not bad, he said to himself.

“Now that I think about it, when you become a sword, where is what? Is the blade the head or is the hilt the head?”

“Master is currently gripping my breasts, so rough.”

“Uwa!”

Molan hurriedly loosened his grip.

“Just kidding, hehe~ When I’m in sword form, my only body parts are the hilt and the blade, no breasts, so don’t mind it.”

“You don’t have breasts either when you’re in human form.”

“Hmph! Having is none is fine anyway, since you like flat chests, you lolicon.”

“Lolis are justice after all.”

He suddenly thought of something.

“No can do, there’s still something else to do.”

“What is it?”

“I have to change my clothes, I can’t see Tess like this.”

After the battles over the last few days, his clothes had become utterly torn, and even seemed like an abstract painting, and covered little enough that he would be hauled in by the police if they saw him walking on the streets. This was William’s room but all his clothes were too big for Molan. This was not a problem, and he easily found his way to the army base’s stores, knocked out the guards at the entrance, and proceeded to find suitable clothes.

“Master, won’t they make a fuss when they wake up.”

“Don’t care, I’ll be long gone by then.”

“You really don’t consider the consequences when you do things huh.”

“Just taking some clothing. It’s their fault for not having surveillance and alarm features.”

While replying shamelessly, Molan took out a set of clothes and compared it to his body, still too big, he threw it aside and continued his search.

Finally, he found a fitting white military uniform, and wore a raincoat over it to prevent his new clothes from getting dirty during the impending fight.

“Fits very well huh.”

“Hnhn~”

Clothes were to people as saddles were to horses. Wearing broken rags onto the battlefield destroyed your morale before you even began, so you must always try and wear something more imposing.

Moreover, he was going to save the golden angel who was kidnapped by the

big bad, and should appear before her in as cool as handsome a manner as possible. Zixia wanted an unparalleled hero, in a suit of golden sacred armor, to ask for her hand on a rainbow cloud. If the one that came then was an unclothed monkey, then that would be a pure comedy.

(TL: Zixia reference – https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Chinese_Odyssey)

Buttons all done nicely, hair neatly combed.

“Let’s go!”

Molan was brimming with confidence.

It was now the 13th day of the month of Metal, 14:00 sharp. The time left until the “transition” spell finishes the last step is just 10 hours.

Chapter 14: I want it taken off in front of me

My father isn't very educated and works long hours at a small company for low wages to support our family that consists of me, my father and my mother. He doesn't have many hobbies and in his free time, he doesn't really read or surf the net. Instead, he would always call me to come to him and then he would bullshit with great relish about his glorious past.

–Your mother was the most beautiful flower of the class. Of all the girls, she had the biggest eyes, a high nose bridge, great grades and an uncountable number of suitors!

–Then how did you woo mum?

–Your dad has skills! One summer day, your mum hadn't come to class for a while and I felt very empty inside so I asked the teacher and the teacher said that your mum had got into accident and broke her leg so she had to rest for a month. I was devastated. In a month, I would graduate and would have to go to the North of Guangzhou to look for work. Then I wouldn't be able to see your mum ever again, how can that be?

–Wait wait dad, so you have always had a crush on mum but only made progress when you were graduating? Isn't that a bit too lousy of you?

–What do you know, this is how you do it, get to the goal in one shot! Don't interrupt, let me continue.

–Go on go on.

–So I asked for her address but her village did not have proper roads so I had to climb 3 mountains before I got to your mum's house. When I went in, she was sitting on her bed reading a book and was very surprised to see me. She said, Qin Dong Sheng why did you come to my house? I said that I came here to bring you to school. She said her leg was broken and couldn't go to school. I said I knew and from then on I would carry her to school, and carry her back after school.

–Ho!

–Your mum laughed and said Qin Dong Sheng why are you so silly, my house is

so far away from school, if you carry me, won't it be too tiring! Forget it! I shook my head and said no way, I must definitely bring you to school. Your mum asked me why.

–How did you answer?

–I said, because I liked the way you look while studying in class.

–Aiyo oi!

–Hehe, your mum didn't say much in reply but she didn't reject my offer though she didn't really believe it either so I had to prove myself in actions. Every morning while it was still dark out, I would leave home to climb 2 mountains to school, then another 3 mountains to your mum's house. Our homes were in opposite directions from the school. When I knocked on the door, your grandfather was shocked and your mum laughed in the house, and said that Qin Dong Sheng you dummy you actually came! I said, but of course! I said I'd carry after all! And so every day I carried your mum across mountains to school, and again back to her house, and didn't miss a day!

–And then and then?

–And so as I carried her to and fro... Your mother soon carried you inside her.

–... What the fuck!

–And so we married thereafter.

–My god dad! Holy shit, I thought mum was touched by your actions and got together with you but you devious bastard! It's that isn't it! My mum had a broken leg and couldn't run away and you took advantage of her in the wilderness, and she had no choice but to marry you!

–Nonsense! Your mum kissed me first, we both had feelings for each other... Though it was me who stripped her first... But your mum didn't reject my advances! In the end, she was won over by my determination.

–Wasn't my mum underage then!? How could you do it you animal!

–If I didn't you wouldn't be around! You better be grateful to me.

Just then, my mum shouted from the kitchen.

–Qin Dong Sheng, where did you die to? Get out here and wash the vegetables!

–Okay wifey!

My dad got up from the sofa.

–Lan, I said a lot but what I want to get across is that, for the woman he loves, a man must be willing to overcome any difficulties that may come! If you can't even climb a few mountains a day for her, how can you say that you love her?

–Is this you encouraging me to find love early?

–NO! Do so only after you get to university! I just want to tell you ahead of time how to be a man.

–Qin Dong Sheng! Where are you!

–Coming coming~

My dad went into the kitchen with a fawning look.

This was something that happened a very long time ago. When he shared this story, he would straighten his slouched back and you could see a gleaming light in his eyes behind the thick glasses. As he smoked the lousy cheap cigarettes, smoke would spew out, and the past would come out easily from his mouth.

My dad taught me that a man has to overcome any difficulty for the woman he loves. I listened closely, but was unable to do so.

If I had killed all those who were controlled the moment the green haired elf casted the control magic during the Oracle Plenary, then Tina wouldn't have to die. I blamed William for not protecting her, but the one who should have protected was me.

So what if they are royals and officials, so what if there are world wars, no matter what comes, nothing is more important than Tina.

I cannot make the same mistake again, that fellow said that he would take up part of my body and I agreed with no hesitation. You want my body take it, just help me save Tess. I have killed many, many people. All of them were red eyed delirious people who scampered out from every corner and would surround and attack me. Before they became like that, they were all ordinary folk; a

hardworking mother, a filial son, an honest innkeeper, or a useless street bum... And they all went mad and came for a piece of me after the demonic beast appeared.

But I did not have the time and leisure to be bothered about all this. While killing them would just take 1 slice, knocking them out would take a lot of time and that wS something I did not have. I had to save Tess before she disappeared but later on I promise I will prepare a fitting eulogy for all of you.

“Shuoxue.”

“Un.”

“If Tina doesn’t make it, let’s be wanderers.”

“Okay~” Shuoxue promised happily.

Another red eyed man came charging. I cut his neck and the blood spilled out onto my face which I used rainwater to wash off.

“You need blood, so I’ll be an assassin.”

“That’s good that’s good!”

“We’ll only kill the good guys, not the bad guys.”

“Un, bad guys never disappear anyway.”

Another 2 red eyes came, and I dispatched them with 2 slices. This district had hordes of red eyes but no black cloth “Demon Lineage Sect” members. Tess wasn’t here either, time to switch to a different place.

“Half a year ago, I never thought I would one day become a thousand man murderer and cut people like tofu.”

I shrugged off the enemies and ran down the streets.

“You’re too sharp, there’s no resistance whenever I’m cutting something.”

“Isn’t that good?”

“Not bad. If I had to experience the feeling of the resistance of flesh against blade, I would be a lot more disgusted than I am now.”

“You just need to get used to it.”

“That isn’t something I’d like to get used to.”

“You said that you become strong when you wield a weapon.”

“Not just any weapon, only swords and knives.”

“Those are used to kill, that is master’s destiny.”

“Wu, when you say it like that, it sounds very cool.”

“Hehe~ Master’s destiny is to kill, and so is mine, we are a perfect match for each other!”

Shuoxue was very happy.

“For me, if I don’t kill, I’ll die.”

“From hunger is it.”

“Un, only human blood can give me nourishment. And if I don’t get to drink after a long while, the chip on my blade will grow and eventually I’ll break.”

“No problem.” I thought for a moment, “When it comes to a time when I can no longer kill people, I’ll kill myself first and let you sleep again before you die of hunger, hahaha~”

“That sort of joke isn’t funny you know.”

“Geh.”

“If you are planning to kill yourself, please starve me to death before dying.”

“...”

“Having to remain behind while my master dies. This sort of thing, I don’t want to experience it a second time.”

Shuoxue said softly.

“We’ll see how when the time comes!” I said, ending the topic, “I found people with the black cloth!”

200 meters straight ahead! Currently sifting through stuff in the streets!
Numbering at 10, not a problem at all!

I charged right in front of them in an instant and slew the nearest first.

Their comrade fell so suddenly, they couldn't even react in time.

"Jack? You—"

Before he could finish, he fell down soon after, his sliced carotid artery spewing out a column of blood. Of the original 10, only 1 was left, and he kept looking around in a shocked state before hastily pulling out his weapon.

"Wh-wh-wh-wh-sho is it!?"

I stopped a meter away from him.

"I have a question."

"Mi, military uniform! Are you a soldier!?"

"Where is your headquarters?"

"I'll never tell you! I swear on my life to protect our boss Maruko!"

"Then, go see your comrades."

The blade flashed and the man fell to the ground hugging his head.

"AAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH my ear!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"I'll give you another chance, I'll count to 10."

"Haa— Haa— I I I will never tell you!"

"10."

"Fuck off! Fuck off I say!" The man frantically tried to crawl away as he failed to stand up, "Don't come near! I'll never say!"

"9."

"Boss will kill all of you! You are all just a bunch of weak idiots! We, we have the power of the demon king!"

"1."

I sliced off his right arm.

"HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH it hurts! It hurts it hurts it hurts! Fuck your mother! Did you swallow 8765432! I'll fuck your mother! I'll fuck your mother!"

"Oh right, I forgot those. Well then let's start afresh, this time it'll be the left

leg.”

“Kill me! Just hurry and kill me! You bastarddddddddddd!!!”

I ignored him and coldly cpoke.

“10.”

“Why the fuck are you counting! Just kill me with one blow! I’ve had enough!!!”

“5.”

“What about 9876!? Where did 9876 go!?!? Was your fucking math taught by your PE teacher!!!???”

“2.”

“Hiiiiiiiiiii!!! | | | | | | | | |—”

He was howling in a hoarse voice.

“For the sake of realising a world where doing lolis are legal, I will not say anything no matter what!!!!!!”

...

“Oh? How do you intend to do that?”

“Boss promised us, that after we conquer this nation, we can add any clauses to the new legal code!”

“You joined a terrorist organisation for this?”

“So what if I did!”

This... I was deeply moved.

“Shuoxue,” I said, “Turn into human form, wear the gothic clothes, just like that time.”

“Why?”

“Just do it quickly.”

Shuoxue obediently did so.

The man was stunned at the ravishing little girl of about 10 years of age that

appeared before his eyes out of nowhere. He looked at her from top to bottom, before locking onto her thighs, his eyes gleaming.

“If you tell me where the base is,” I smiled deviously, “I’ll give you her underwear.”

“What did you say master!?”

“... Are you for real?”

“How can I give it to you!”

“Be quiet Shuoxue.” I pressed her head, “For real, just tell me.”

The man sank into silence for a long while.

“I want it taken off in front of me.”

“Deal.”

“Master!”

I laughed together with the man, and when Shuoxue turned to look at us, her faced turned scarlet and there was fear in her eyes.

“You rotten degenerates!”

She yelled out, as she abandoned herself to the cruel fate that awaited her.

Chapter 15: Return Tess to me

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

“How did you find me.”

“I have my ways.”

The headquarters of the “Demon Lineage Sect” was an abandoned school. When I found Maruko, he was standing on the veranda enjoying the rain alone under an umbrella.

“Where is Tess?”

“Not telling.” He showed his trademark smile.

“... Then I’ll beat you until you do.”

“Big words there~” Maruko was completely unfazed and continued to spin the umbrella, “I should have killed you the last time, you are far too irritating.”

“Unfortunately you didn’t, and now it is I who will be doing the killing.”

“You can try~”

The veranda shook and the demonic beast emerged from behind Maruko; likely he had crawled up the surface of the building. The broadsword he brought was smashed down at me with full force. I blocked it head on and was sent crashing through several floors.

What the heck is with that strength!

There was no spare time to think at all as the demonic beast wrenched open the ceiling and jumped down the hole. If I had to withstand that weight, I would become a 2 dimensional person!

I quickly kicked away the stone blocks on my body and rolled to the window which I smashed and jumped down.

“Shuoxue, I’m counting on you!”

Piercing the sword into the building, and gripping tightly to the hilt as I fell,

rubble fragments flew into my face as a long line was carved into the building.

The landing could be considered a success. Though I fell on my right leg, and most likely broke it, Shuoxue could heal it up in no time.

“I too can do Hollywood stunts!”

There was no time to think any more idle thoughts as the demonic beast followed me through the broken window and stabbed the broadsword towards me, not paying any heed to landing at all.

His movements were too fast, even faster than the elven king who could insta-kill me. I couldn't expect to stack up damage through an advantage in speed to wear him down and if I were to avoid his attack now, he will definitely catch up to me before I can launch an attack on him. Then that would either lead to me being defeated by a blow to my back or if I were to dodge, then I would be worn down and be defeated anyway. Either way, avoiding his attack is not a good idea.

So I shall turn this threat into an opportunity and attack instead!

Badump. Badump.

I stood where I landed without moving, and readied my stance to take the demonic beast's blow head on.

He was falling right above me, but it could be seen as he rushing towards him as well. As hard and ferocious he may come, my sword will meet him with just as much force!

“Witness my true power?”

I slashed out toward the sky just as the giant demonic beast hit the ground.

As the dust settled.

“– Master!!”

Shuoxue yelled out from the sword.

“Your, your waist!!!”

I touched it, seems like there was a big chunk missing.

“It's nothing, just a piece of meat...”

I smiled as I was very pleased.

“I did take an arm off him after all.”

The right arm of the demonic beast that was separated from it was lying on the ground. The blood that gushed out from the wound was a cloudy black, like ink.

The black blood made me think of the experiment sample I faced before. Its blood was green, smelly, and sticky and still made my hair stand thinking about it and I almost lost my skin trying to wash it off.

Badump Badump Badump Badump. The heart in the right side of my chest was beating vigorously, like a very efficient tractor.

This power was really great.

“I didn’t lie to you eh Shuoxue? I told you I’m going to beat the shit out of him.”

“Wowee~ That really showed me up!”

The one who praised me was not Shuoxue but Maruko who was giving a strange cheer and clapping as he walked out of the stairway exit.

“The scales of the demons can’t even be penetrated by the best mages you know!”

“They are a bit hard when I’m cutting him, and took quite a bit of effort.”

“What sudden growth! What did you eat?”

“I used a cheat,” I answered, “Return Tess to me.”

“No no no, surely you don’t think you’ve won already?”

Maruko laughed, which seemed inexplicable and strange.

The demonic beast that was unmoving until now suddenly stretched its tongue out. That appendage was actually a tongue! I thought it was some giant snake that sprang out of his mouth and jumped away. But he wasn’t after me, his tongue wrapped around the arm and retrieved it back to his mouth like a crocodile.

He bit the arm and swallowed it whole.

“...”

Even if you're hungry, surely you don't have to eat your own arm right!? That is probably your girlfriend as well!

The demonic beast licked its lips with satisfaction and I finally understood why it did so. At the place where he was cut, a new arm was slowly growing out!

Maruko walked to the demonic beast's side, and lovingly caressed the blood covered new arm.

“‘Rapid Recovery’, the demon race's spell, I learnt it from the Pentacle. Limbs can grow out within seconds, making the best healing spells of humans seem like child's play.”

He stared at me, with a meaningful look.

“You know it too?”

I touched my waist area, the parts that were torn out were as good as new.

“... Guess.”

“Huhu, interesting~ If both sides know Rapid Recovery, and fight to the death, what would happen huh?” Maruko said with great interest.

As he said those words, the demonic beast slowly got up, his breath loud as thunder.

“What a pain...”

I tensed up my body and paid attention to his every move.

I know, that this fight, had just begun.

We fought for god knows how long.

The ground was riddled with pits and large pieces of bloody flesh were all over, some red some black, the red was mine and the black was the demonic beast's. There was so much blood that the rain could not wash it away.

Our bodies were repeatedly destroyed and regenerated as we crossed swords and fought tooth and nail.

I leaned against the school building wall and sat down as I gasped painfully,

lowering my guard.

My brain was showing signs of severe hypoxia, and I was utterly exhausted. Rapid Recovery had used up a lot of my mental and physical vitality. Its core logic was to use energy within the caster's body and channel it towards regeneration, and the burden on the caster's body would only increase with repeated usage.

The demonic beast need not be concerned with this side effect as he was being controlled. Just like how the people controlled at the Oracle Plenary would awaken shortly after being knocked out, Maruko could forcefully continue the battle as he controlled the demonic beast, until the body was finally destroyed.

I only realised this when I fought, and it looks like I can no longer endure until the moment the demonic beast's body breaks.

He wielded his broadsword and came before me, looking down arrogantly at the me who was like soft mud.

"To have held on for so long, not bad." Maruko stood behind the demonic beast, and spoke with a tone that had a tinge of mercy, "I'll let you rest easy."

"..."

"I hate you, I really do. Why does Tess like such a useless trash like you?"

"... Keke."

I think my laugh must have sounded really base.

"You really are pitiful..."

"Who's the pitiful one here? Tess is in my arms, and you will never see her again, much less take her back."

Maruko's face twisted into an unhappy expression.

"No, why must I get angry over someone who is dead?" He seemed to have accepted something, and laughed once more, "You're just barely holding on, why not I cut it off first? Who knows if you still have the vitality to heal it back~"

"Nah, forget it, too troublesome. I'll just kill you once and for all."

Maruko changed his mind and the demonic beast raised the broadsword.

"... Thanks to you."

“What?”

“Thanks to you, I remembered something.”

I breathed in deeply, and eked out all the power I had left!

The distance was short! He cannot dodge this!

I held the hilt with both hands, and launch a fast and furious attack aimed at the demonic beast’s heart!

“Some organs... Cannot heal back!”

(TL: Recall back in Volume 1 where Shuoxue tells Molan that she can’t heal his “trunk” back) The blade reached the demonic beast’s chest, it was tough! Very tough, much tougher than any other part! Just this ambush is nit enough to pierce through!

But this isn’t all there is!

My right heart pulsated at breakneck speed, almost like it was going to break out of the ribcage, and an immense power filled every part of my body. At the same time, an unbelievably intense pain threatened to engulf me as I was exceeding the limits of my body of flesh. Tiny scales started to appear on my skin. I roared out with rage and concentrated the power onto my arms.

“IYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!”

A clear tearing sound could be heard.

A foot long ice pillar extended from the blade and pierced through the demonic beast’s chest.

I could feel its heartbeat from the hilt, it was strong and vigorous but was rapidly weakening.

In the end, it went silent.

“... I won.”

I declared my victory softly.

Not expecting my ambush, Maruko’s eyes grew wide and he looked at me like I was a monster.

“... Your power is...”

“I told you I used a cheat...”

I couldn't pull the sword out, and I gave up and walked towards Maruko. My muscles were hurting all over, and I could barely control my limbs from trembling and walk in a straight line. My right heart was still beating but it was slowly relaxing.

“Return Tess, to me.”

Maruko stepped back with every step I took.

“No.”

“Must I beat you up once huh!? Let's see what other strange ancient magic you know.”

Maruko looked into my eyes, and broke into a smile.

How could he be smiling now.

“I'm definitely beating you up!”

“I'm afraid you don't have a chance~”

Just as I was considering the meaning behind his words, a black shadow flashed between us. My stomach suffered a heavy blow, and I flew backwards as blood spewed out of my mouth. As I shakily crawled up from the ground, I saw the black shadow's form.

He pulled out the ice blade and threw it to the side.

“– How can that be!?”

Impossible! The demonic beast did not die!? I clearly destroyed his heart! Following what Shuoxue said, important organs cannot be regenerated!!!

“Just look at you~”

Maruko broke out into uncontrollable laughter.

“Hahahaha you idiot! Can you be even stupider than this???”

“Wh, what?”

“Who ever said that, my toy only has 1 heart?” Maruko finally had his fill of

laughter and looked at me with utter contempt, " Let me tell you~ He has 5 hearts okay. If you don't destroy every one of them, don't think you can slay him!"

I sat there in a daze.

What the heck!?

What kind of thing has 5 hearts!?!? You can't do this!! Isn't this cheating!?!?

"Why didn't you tell me before!"

"Ha? You didn't ask. Now it's my turn."

As he finished his words, the demonic beast stepped closer, and waves of water rose as he stepped into the puddles with his metal shoes.

As I was unarmed, my abilities were back to that of a normal person. I could only watch as he swung his broadsword and the stench of death emitted from his body came crashing down on me.

"Wait wait!" I called out, "This isn't fair!"

"What the hell."

"Who knew he had 5 hearts? Information in this game was incomplete and this fight is unfair!"

"So what if it's not fair, don't tell me you want me to give you 3 moves? Are you retarded?"

"Since you cheated, so will I."

I gave a small smile.

"Surely you didn't think... That I was alone in this fight?"

The demonic beast stopped just 1 meter away from me, and knelt down, his head hung loosely like a sculpture.

Maruko opened his mouth as he looked behind him.

"And how many hearts do you have huh?"

Shuoxue walked out from behind wearing her gothic clothing, and licked her finger on the hand she pulled out from Maruko's back.

“So sweet!” She seemed to like it, and licked her fingers a few more times.

“... Who?”

“My sword.” I replied Maruko.

“Why didn’t... you say...”

“You didn’t ask~ So I didn’t tell you that Shuoxue can take human form.”

“Alright alright,” I shook my hand, “Enough nonsense, while you still have your breath, quickly tell me where Tess is.”

Chapter 16: (No title)

TL: Feels chapter beyond any you have ever read so far. While some parts of volume 2 have not been written/paced very well, I pretty much enjoyed it and I think its been a great ride so far.

At the courtyard that was some distance away from the battle, there was a lake. A stunted tree with golden-yellow leaves grew nearby, and seemed like an undying sun as it shook in the rain. This was a udumbara tree (fig tree), a special mutation in this world. When its leaves were in full bloom, fragrance would fill the air and the sight was astoundingly beautiful. St Txarango Academy had many of such trees in its grounds and the view from the classrooms was that of a breathtaking golden sea.

Tess danced under the tree, with no umbrella; her rain-drenched clothes revealing a beautiful full figure.

Maruko hadn't been enjoying the rain on the veranda, he was admiring the sight of Tess.

She danced the ballroom style I taught her, and walked and turned clumsily. I hid behind the tree and felt an urge to cry as I watch.

Just then she fell, and broke her high heels. She did not try getting up, and looked at the lake in a daze instead as she sat by the lake hugging her knees.

I took off my raincoat and inspected the uniform underneath. No stains, alright.

I crept quietly behind her.

"Tess." I called out loudly.

Tess turned her head around happily and I hugged her tightly.

"Molan! You came!"

"Un."

I pushed her wet hair back and rubbed her soft white cheeks as an irresistible

urge to kiss her floated to my head.

And I did, as my lips left Tess's forehead, she turned red and was at a loss for words.

"Eh? Eh?"

"That dance isn't supposed to be done alone."

I used the key from Maruko to unlock the collar and tossed it into the lake.

"Come, let's dance together."

I pulled Tess up while she was in my arms as she leaned against my chest.

"My shoes are spoilt."

"Take them off, I'll take mine off too."

Our dance was a little awkward and we swayed slowly to the beat of the raindrops as they hit the surface of the lake.

"I don't like this kind of shoes." Tess whispered.

"I see, sorry for only buying high heels."

"It's okay."

"Did Maruko hurt you when he captured you?"

"No."

"Did he do anything strange to you?"

"Strange?"

"That is, geh... Touched you?"

"I didn't let him touch me."

"He really was a gentleman like he said huh." I nodded, "I defeated him."

"Molan is so awesome."

"Hehe~ Un, of course."

I was a little bashful.

"Tess."

“Un?”

“Dragging you out of the forest just like that, did I trouble you?”

Tess shook her head.

“No, I’ve always wanted to play with Molan.”

“It’s a date,” I corrected her, “We are having a date.”

Tess did not seem to understand what that phrase meant and I laughed resignedly.

“I’ve known Tess for 13 days, but Tess has known me for half a year huh.”

“Un un.”

“Do you like the clothes I bought for you? Though it was a shame I didn’t get Isona.”

“I like them, they are very light and comfortable.”

“Shaved ice?”

“I like that.”

“The sugar doll?”

“Un un, it’s very pretty.”

“Then what about,” I steeled my skin, “Me?”

Comrade Tess has killed in action.

She clung onto my clothes, and buried her red-hot face deeply into my chest.

“I li, li-li-li-li-like you the most!”

“Hehe~ That’s good.”

“I really like Tess too.” I stopped walking and hugged her tightly, “... Sorry.”

“Eh?”

“I’m so sorry...”

I put a lot of strength into it, and didn’t know if it hurt Tess but I didn’t dare to loosen my hug as she was already semi-transparent.

“I’m sorry... I came too late...”

Gleaming lights that looked like twinkling stars departed from her, like fireflies, before fading away gradually.

I had taken too long, far too long. We were supposed to have 3 days. There were so many more things I wanted to do with her in the back of the diary and so many more things Tess doesn’t know. The Demonic Lineage Sect just had to appear then and destroy all my plans.

I really want to blame someone.

Why does she have to receive such treatment? She doesn’t know how to dance, nor does she know how to sing. She still had some picture books left to read and a few boxes of cake she was leaving. I hadn’t brought her on a boat to see the lakes and the sea, nor have I yet to bring her to see the sunrise and sunset at the top of a high mountain. Of the 3,000 painting scrolls, I only brought her to see a few and yet she was so happy, as if she had seen the whole wide world. Why does she have to disappear?

“Don’t cry.”

Tess reached up and wiped my tears away. She smiled warmly and as the lights enveloped her, it looked like she was an angel that had descended to the mortal realm, and was now returning to the heavens. Even the night sky seemed to be sorrowful at Tess’s departure as the horrible unending rain diminished and a light breeze blew.

The rain stopped and the clouds parted, and moonlight flooded the landscape.

The world seemed kind all of a sudden.

“For Molan to be able to find me, I’m very happy.”

“ ... ”

“When Miss Tina wakes up, Molan must be happy with her.”

“... Tina... Can live again?”

“Un.”

Tess nodded.

“When I disappear, she can live again.”

...?

... What did she say?

“What do you mean?”

“Molan.”

Tess hugged my waist, and by now she was so transparent I could see my feet through her.

“This is the only way.”

“Transition”?

Mission?

Secret of the emissaries?

Only fate can reverse death?

But why must you do this?

“Why must you sacrifice yourself!!!”

“Because... Because...”

Tess was stammering and I pushed her away and stepped back.

“I’m not agreeing to this!!”

“Molan!”

I really want Tina to live again, and my heart is torn by my longing for her, but how can I sacrifice Tess! She died with pride! Though she broke off contact with her parents, until the very end, she was the noble Miss Faburando! She died for her name, how can she be revived using this sort of method?!

“What ‘transition’ spell.”

I drew my sword and my right heart which had lay to rest began beating once more. Black blood flowed through my veins and gathered at my right eye, corrupting my vision.

Close the left eye, and see the world with the new right eye.

Clouds. Tree. Lake. Tess.

Every meter... Every centimeter... Every decimeter... Everything is revealed before me!

(TL: Trace on!)

I can see it!

About 10m above Tess, there was an inverted funnel about the size of a man that was sucking away the lights from Tess's body. There was a large stopwatch behind it and as the needle moved closer to a red line on the face, Tess became more transparent. Magic formations large and small were spinning around the funnel, creating a multi-coloured spectacle.

Is this that spell?

I swung my sword up! A force seemed to surround the funnel and I hit a wall of air which repelled me.

I just knew it wouldn't be easy! I quickened my right heart and black blood flooded my veins, and my skin tore as scales sprouted forth.

I jumped up again and swung my sword at the wall of wind which made electrical sparks splash forth. The sparks surrounded me and burnt my skin and clothes, as flames burst forth on me.

"Don't—"

Tess's voice disappeared in the middle. Her silhouette was almost gone entirely, she seemed to be crying and shouting something but I didn't have the time to care about that.

I'll definitely save you!

I am no longer the me from before! You and Tina, I don't want to lose anyone!

Incineration! Heal! Incineration!

It hurts it hurts!

The speed at which I was being destroyed by incineration was greater than my healing. My limbs were fast giving way but the needle was almost at the red line! Have to go harder and faster! If only I can break through this wall of wind, I can

destroy the funnel and stop the spell! If I lose my limbs, so be it! Incinerate me all you want, I won't stop until I get past this wall of wind!

For what did I agree to the contract! It wasn't for the sake of cowardly hugging my head as I trembled in fear, it was for the sake of protecting the girls important to me no matter what! 'Transition' magic? Are you kidding me? I'll let it taste death! I'm breaking through no matter what! I'm breaking through no matter what!!

20%!

15%

Why is this damn thing so fucking hard!!!! Fuck you fuck you fuck you fuck you, come onnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn!!!

13%!

10%!

A crack appeared on the wall of wind! The flame rose again! Bloody hell, have I become the sun now!!!?? Fucking open up already!!! Open quickly damn it!!!!!!!

8%!

7%!

It's open it's open! It fucking opened finally! Come on open bigger!! Please I beg you just open a little bigger damn ittttttttttttttttt!!!!

5%!

4%!

Just a little more just a little more just a little more just a little more!!!!!!

Just a little bit more to the funnel!! Just a little more and Tess can be—

“Master!!!!!!”

Shuoxue cried out.

The sword was deflected away.

I fell towards the ground.

The funnel was still functioning.

lent a fucking hand!!!”

Pi Pa (TL: Shattering sound)

A clear sound of glass shattering rang out across the night sky like a wind chime. 2 black arms that did not belong to me tore out of where my shoulders were and smashed the funnel. The needle stopped just before the red line, at 0.5%.

“Transition” had been stopped.

Chapter 17: (No title)

TL: And here we are at the end of volume 2! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. As of release there are only 7-8 chapters ahead so I might be thinking of picking something else up after I've caught up. I don't have anything I like as much as this series that compels me to translate it so if you all know anything nice, you can comment the title and link and I'll take a look. Stuff I don't read: Yaoi/Yuri, Female Protagonist (Exception: Shinsekai Yori and Sabriel trilogy), Gender Bender (traps are okay), Xianxia, Wuxia. Anything that doesn't have these are all things I read though I read a fair lot and the one reason why I started translating is because nothing I find interesting is left...

Tina opened her eyes.

"This is...?"

She was lying in a lotus flower, with a leaf that spread out above like an umbrella and sheltered her from the dense vapour.

The lotus flower grew out from the bottom of the lake and was as wide as a double bed. Loud sounds from splashing water could be heard from close by as there was an unceasing waterfall nearby.

The lake was not large, and dense mist covered its surface. On the shores were towering mountains and a dense forest from which the noisy chirping of birds could be heard.

"You're finally awake!"

A little boy with immaculately combed hair stepped on the lotus leaf and poked his head in to peek.

"Kester headmaster..." Tina looked at the boy's face, "You're here too?"

"That's right, Tess got me to look after you."

"Look after me?"

"Because the transition ritual can only be completed if you stay in the sacred lake. Tess went with Molan so she got me to do it." Kester broke into a wide

smile, “Thank me now!”

“Thanks...”

Tina did not understand what was going on but she went with the flow and thanked him anyway.

Sacred lake? Transition ritual? Molan was also nearby? Who is Tess?

She only remembered going to the Oracle, and an elf had used a strange spell there and she had taken an attack for the Prince.

“...Didn’t I, die?”

“You did die.” Kester said, “But you revived!”

He pushed up close.

“Let me see your forehead.”

“Ah?”

Kester parted Tina’s fringe without waiting for a reply.

“Eh~ Seems like it worked, but then something seems different.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Well this works too!” Kester nodded as he spoke to himself, before facing Tina.

“You have a pink mark here,” He touched his forehead, “But only half.”

Tina felt even more bewildered. She moved to the edge of the lotus and looked at her reflection in the water. There was indeed a pink mark, like half a flower petal.

What was going on? She was about to question Kester, when she saw that the waterfall parted and there was a cave from which someone was running from.

That someone was Molan, and he leapt onto the lotus and seeing Tina he was stunned for a moment before being completely elated.

“Molan? You—”

—Came. Before she could finish, Molan had flown in and pushed her down.

!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tina couldn't push Molan off, and wanted to kick him between his legs. But she realised Molan was crying on her shoulder, his tears drenching her clothes. This big boy was hugging tightly with all his might, as though she would disappear the moment his grip loosened. Tina thought of the winter night she took Molan back to the carriage from the streets and how he held onto her hand as tightly as now, afraid she would change her mind and abandon him again.

When she thought of this, she hesitated and gave in, and decided to give him 10 seconds.

"... It hurts." Tina muttered softly.

Molan finally stopped, and flew into the air.

"Let, let me down!"

His limbs were struggling like he was trying to swim as a formless wind carried him up and stopped him from taking advantage of Tina.

Tina watched the spectacle before her in a daze.

"Big brother, mama said that boys can't bully girls."

A cold voice that still sounded childish floated over. A little girl walked out of the cave, and the waterfall closed behind her.

Tina had never seen such a pretty little girl. Looking at her, she felt as though she had seen the essence of spring. She wore a pure white one piece gown, with bright golden hair that was longer than she was, with small pointy ears poking out of her hair. She was short and appeared to be 8 or 9 years old, with breathtaking features, of which the jade green eyes which were big, round, bright and clear, seemed to surpass any jewel in the world.

Was she left behind by the gods?

The little girl squinted at Tina, and hopped from leaf to leaf as she made her way to Tina.

"So you're the sister Tina that big brother was crying to see? You really are here in the sacred lake huh."

She stood before Tina and looked up into her eyes. Tina looked back at her and saw a petal shaped pink mark on her forehead.

“Hello.”

The little girl greeted Tina.

“My name is Tess, mama gave it to me.”

(TL: In case anyone somehow doesn't get it, this is actually Tess. 100%. Trust me, I've read ahead. And yes, in case you are concerned, Tess does not disappear from the story but less focus for now. She got the equivalent of 2 volumes after all.)

Maruko leaned against the rail at the rooftop and watched over what happened at the lake.

“To have forcefully stopped the unstoppable ‘Transition’ spell huh.”

His face was expressionless.

“The soul has entered his body... Possession stopped at 20%? Why did it not progress? And the soul is even moving according to the host's will... Why?”

“Irritating, I cannot make sense of it.” He clicked his tongue and looked downwards.

Another Maruko lay on the ground unmoving, as the demonic beast knelt beside him, its body had 5 large holes bored into it, 1 had traces of frost around the wound while the other 4 had burn marks.

Maruko played with a fireball in his palm and sighed.

“Useless fellow. And you still need me to wipe your ass for you. What sect what lineage, did you think you were playing house or something?”

No trace of emotion ever showed on his face, his features were so fixed that they seemed like they were sewn onto his face.

“Instead of using demonic beasts, why not use humans.”

The fireball in his hand burnt strongly, engulfing his whole body.

“Next up... Is me...”

As the flames subsided, the rooftop was empty.

Because of me, the god of fate now has 2 emissaries.

A portion of Tess's life was transferred to Tina, allowing her to live once more. After the "Transition" spell was stopped, Tess turned from a ball of light into a 9-year-old little girl.

By right, Tess should have retained the half spirit form. According to the headmaster.

What is a half spirit form? I asked.

A ball of light with sentience, the headmaster answered.

In the end, Tess did not maintain the form of the ball of light and instead became a little girl with long hair clad in a white one piece gown, essentially a mini version of Tess before she left the forest.

I felt that she could maintain a physical form because the god of fate loves her too much and wanted her to continue being the emissary.

I call the Tess that became small little Tess. Little Tess's memory and powers have all regressed to that of when Tess was 8-9 years old. She can't remember me, she can't use the almighty wall of wind, and she keep talking about her mama. Speaking of which, where is her mum? I would actually like to meet her.

Because mama told little Tess that humans are bad, she has been very cautious of me. When she told me, big brother don't come near me! I was completely defeated.

Simply... Marvellous!

An angelic golden haired little girl calling me big brother!

I, I, I feel like I've reached the peak of life!

Little Tess wasn't willing to bring me back to the sacred lake in the forest of elves to find Tina. I cried and begged and knelt but she wouldn't, as she said her mama told her that humans cannot enter the forest! Later I bought a bag of shaved ice for her which she loved and when she asked for a second bag, I said I would give it to you after you bring me to the sacred lake and she immediately

agreed.

By the way, little Tess remembers the headmaster so that means that they knew each other before she was 9 years old.

Little Tess insisted on staying in the forest and the headmaster got the king of elves to take care of her before taking me and Tina out of the forest. To be honest, I really can't bear it and asked little Tess to give me a hug!

And I got blown away.

(TL: Again, I repeat that Tess is not written out, she will return)

After losing the command of their leader Maruko, the headless "Demonic Lineage Sect" was decimated by the 13-nation coalition army. Some were captured, some escaped, and some committed suicide, as the coalition army swept through and swiftly regained the conquered cities. According to the international Double Anti code, all members of the "Demonic Lineage Sect" were executed. After the demonic beast died, all people with red eyes regained their reason. As their acts were not of their will, the international courts did not sentence them to any punishment.

The Jacquedini king gave a speech and launched a celebration in the rebuilt capitol, with all commanding officers in the coalition army as guests of honour to receive the thanks and gifts from the people of Jacquedini. 7 days after the "Demonic Lineage Sect" was exterminated, I returned to St Txarango once more.

William said that my killing of Maruko was a great feat and could offset my previous crimes greatly. But as I was originally given a death sentence, my status was now reduced to that of a slave.

You still have slavery!?! I was hopping mad.

Eh? We've always had it? William said as a matter of factly.

From what I've heard, the international courts sentenced me to hard labour doing land reclamation works for life but Rosa stepped in and used its international clout to request for a lighter sentence. The courts convened again, and sentenced me to slavery for 30 years, which left me with no rights during this period.

Slaves can't go to school unless their master is accompanying them so I can only carry my chains into class when my master has transferred to St Txarango.

"Today a new student has transferred to our school. She has come a long way from the great nation of Rosa and is a distinguished member of the royal family of Rosa." Mr Hvaler stepped away from the front of the class, "Give everyone an introduction your highness Alisha."

"Un."

Alisha swung her ponytail back, as she lifted her head up high and stuck her chest out.

"I am the 4th princess of Rosa, Alisha Rosa Czedtofani. Everyone, please do get along with me without minding my status! And this is my slave."

She pulled the chain on my neck, "Molan, you greet them too."

"... Oh."

I answered her listlessly.

"Everyone, it's been a while. I'm Alisha's slave, Molan Faburando, please do get along with me without minding my status..."

Please you all must get along with me like before! Don't drop a stone down the well I've fallen!

"Good boy good boy~"

Alisha smiled as she rubbed my head.

Tina sat at the front, with her look sharpened suddenly at the sight. I quickly avoided her eyes.

Half a year ago, I would never have thought that one day I would be toyed by fate so much that I become an inferior human!

But it's still good, after coming to another world, a lot has happened and I've had enough experiences to have stories to tell for a lifetime. And the people I treasure are all alive and kicking, that's good enough, what's better than being able to live?

Hehe~

This world has Tina, Shuoxue, and little Tess. Not bad.

If only I didn't have to eat leftovers and sleep in the stable, then the world would be great.

...

... Fuck.

What a backward civilisation.