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*Shikkakumon no
Saikyokenja*

失格紋の 最強賢者

～世界最強の賢者が更に
強くなるために転生しました～

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Shikkaku Mon no Saikyou Kenja

(失格紋の最強賢者)

Volume 01

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Story Description:

In a certain world, there was someone who excelled in magic combat, people called him 『Sage』.

Seeking the strongest combat art, he devoted himself to research every magic and combat arts in existence.

And the conclusion he arrived at was very cruel, 『My body is not fit for magic combat』.

Yet he didn't give up.

He sealed his own soul with a magic art, and was reborn in a far-off future.

And the magic theory in the completely changed world he saw there was of unbelievably low level.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 0: Strongest Sage, Pessimistic Towards His Future Chooses Reincarnation

"27.42 seconds--not good."

I, Gaias, muttered in disappointment.

The thing lying in front of me is the body of a dragon said to be the world's strongest that had destroyed three countries, the 『Great Dragon of Deicide』.

Its smashed figure with burnt holes is nearly 20 meter big, still too big even after losing its original shape.

And 27.42 seconds are the time needed for me to beat it.

--Slow.

From what I've heard, in a far-off domain that's even farther than the sky, called 『Space』, it seems there are multiple monsters far stronger than this guy.

And they're not just twice or thrice as strong. It's said that their life, and defensive power are hundreds times stronger, thousands times if we're talking about their attack power. Literally different leagues. Wasting 27 seconds for this level of monster means that I can't possibly compete with them.

And even if I continue to train forever, I can't ever reach the space monsters.

There are two big reasons for that. One of those is the 『Crest』 I have.

『Crest』 is something that every person has when they're born, it's the most important factor to determinate the magic disposition of a person, it's classified into four crests in accordance to its function.

Among those, the 『First Crest』 that I have is the weakest of them all.

How is it the weakest you ask, its growth room is really small. The 『First

Crest』 is the strongest until you're around eight year old, but the difference between the crest power becomes more obvious as you grow older, and once you've become an adult, the lead the other crests have is awfully clear.

If you ask just how bad it is, one of the terms for entering the prestigious and even all the main magic schools is 『Not First Crest』. First Crest is turned away at the door. You can't even apply for the test.

Nevertheless, right now I'm called the world's strongest magician. There were occasions when I was called 『Sage』 or 『War God』 too.

I've reached this point despite having the First Crest. I thought I would continue to grow endlessly.

Even if I hit the extreme limit of magic power, I thought there would still ways to cope with it.

However, the reality is cruel.

I certainly found several ways to procure battle prowess that surpass the me right now.

However, every one of them is applicable to all 『But』 the first crest.

The Crest that I have already has no room for growth at all.

It took me 200 years before I realized that my growth had stopped.

After that I started to research about 『the way to change crest you're born with』.

This research is extremely easy compared to magic combat.

Since there's no need to predict the enemy or think of tactics to deal with situations.

Thus, this research was the shortest research I had done so far.

『Changing the crest of a human is impossible.』

It only took me two days and two hours to arrive at this conclusion.

During that short time, I proved that I had no room for growth anymore.

And during that time, I challenged the monster I subjugated today to see if something would happen while half giving up.

I unsealed a monster that had been sealed for 300 years on purpose and fought it.

Nothing happened. I did defeat it, but as I couldn't grasp any clue of growth, it was nothing more than a fruitless labor.

--However, it's still too early for me to give up.

A human's crest is set the moment they're born, changing it afterward is impossible.

This is a proven fact.

Then I should just be born again.

I already completed the magic for that purpose a long time ago.

It's an incomplete magic art that only let one carries their memories intact to the next life, they can't choose which crest they'd be born with, but it's enough as long as I have my memories.

I can just train again to gain power in the next life, and even if I'm born with First Crest again, I can just use the art again.

It only took me less than two second to solidify that decision.

Using a rudimentary magic, I scatter letters, 『I'm going to reincarnate. Please don't look for me.』 to the few acquaintances I have, and then I immediately activate the magic to reincarnate.

Without any hesitation I yield myself to the magic that snatches my life.

I pray that my next crest will be any crest but the First Crest.

...By the way, the other reason why I couldn't become stronger was because I didn't have a friend who fought with me, so I didn't know how to fight in a group.

In other words, I was a loner.

Chapter 1: Strongest Sage, Drew a Strong Crest

I woke up in a hard bed. My memories feel a bit fragmented, but my consciousness is clear.

It seems the reincarnation is largely successful.

I jumped out the bed while thinking that and looked at my left arm first thing first.

"--Alright! It's a hit!"

The one there is not the First Crest I'm used to see, but the Fourth Crest.

This crest specializes in close-quarter combat and as far as I know, it's the most suitable crest for magic combats.

I shouted out loud unbecoming of my age. Since the memories of my past life and current life have mixed together, I wonder if my sense also got younger.

No. It's more correct to say that I got influenced by my past life. My memories simply resurfaced, so it's not like I took over someone else's body and consciousness. My proper age is six year old.

I decide to stop getting influenced by my past self or acting like an old man. My personality isn't like that in the first place anyway.

This current me is not the me who was called Sage. Let me introduce myself again.

My name is Mathias Hildesheimer. I am six year old.

I'm Baronet Hildesheimer's....

I got goosebumps hearing what I just said. I really shouldn't force myself. Let's start over.

My name in this life is Mathias Hildesheimer.

Just as the name suggests, I'm the third son of Baronet Hildesheimer.

I'm not familiar with this 『Baronet』 term, but according to the little knowledge the current me has, it seems to be a sort of government worker with lineage system that administers a local region. People also often call them 『Lord』 or 『Master』. If I'm not mistaken, it's a nobility system or something.

Baronet is most likely the second lowest rank, but nevertheless, it's the top position in this region. Yet from the country's viewpoint, the position should only be about above the bottom.

--At least I believe that's it.

"What happened to the world?"

I couldn't have imagined the world in the memories of the current me from the state of the world in my past self.

I never saw even one Magic Tools that were called indispensable in my past life.

There's no flying-type artificial agriculture fairies, no accelerated molecular motion machine for cooking, no magical machinery for construction.

I wondered just how do they live, but the populace plow the field with human power, and raise crops themselves to sustain their life. Furthermore, the present head of Hildesheimer and the lord of this region, my father is also working among them.

It was an unthinkable spectacle during the Magic Era 12700.

Just what had happened during the time I was reincarnating.

...Well, there's nothing I can do complaining about the present environment.

Fortunately, I have memories of this era too, I'm also experienced in living a survival life in building-less forests for years.

I should have no difficulty adapting.

First, I gotta gather intelligences.

It seems the me until now was not that studios, living a carefree life without ever looking around the region nor reading books in my father's study.

Well since my past self also preferred real practices to studying, I guess it wasn't my current self's duty to do that either.

"Hey, Mathi. Do you need something in the study?"

Reich the eldest son called me as I was walking to the study.

He's the earnest one among two of my older brothers. He's 15 year old.

His crest is the Second Crest. It excels in mid-range ranged magic, a required crest in a group battle.

It seems that right now he's not training in magic, I think he'd become a good magician if he just trains.

"I wanna read books."

I replied my brother with my usual tone. He'd be surprised if it suddenly changed.

"Books huh. I think it's still too early for Mathi... Which books do you wanna read?"

"I guess books about combat. And magic books."

Nothing else are more important to check first.

I'm also interested in histories to find out just what happened, but that can do later.

Cause it's possible that new combat arts and magic have been developed when I was in the dark.

However, my older brother Reich's face looked complicated when he heard me say magic.

Then his smiling face comes back immediately and he speaks.

"Then I'll read you a book about battle."

Apparently he ignored the matter about magic.

I'm thankful for his offer, but I can read books myself just fine.

"No, I'll do it myself..."

I opened the study door while saying that.

And then, I looked for books that seemed to be related to combat and magic--.

"...What's written there?"

There were a few books in the study.

However, the problem is the spines of those books.

I can't read them.

I had mastered 27 languages before I noticed it as I continued to battle for several hundred years, but the language written on the books' spines didn't match any of those languages.

I probably can read it if I use Translation magic, but it needs a relatively large amount of magic power and throughput. The me right now can't use it.

Even though I have the knowledge, I don't have the resource to materialize it.

"Haha. I figured as much. Then, I'll read this for you."

After saying that, my older brother Reich pulled out a book from our father's study.

That book seemed to be a sort of heroic tales, monsters that could destroy a country alone appeared one after another, and the main character went to defeat them.

How very enviable. There were also monsters like that in my past life, but they were few far and between.

Share me half of them.

Well, that kind of story is too good to be true and can't possibly be real, this book is just a fiction so it didn't help me understand the situations of this world.

However, I was able to comprehend the language somewhat by comparing what my older brother Reich said and the words written in the book. I've got to thanks Reich.

However, it looks like it'll take times before I could read books about combat arts and such, so I'm going to postpone that until later.

And it might be faster for me to train my magic power until I can activate the Translation magic.

By the way, the spoken language wasn't much different to the one in my past life, so I was able to understand it immediately.

There were several terms I don't understand like [Disqualified Crest] and such though.



After he was done reading for me, my older brother Reich went back to his work in the fields.

In this village, you'll get your own field once you turn 11, and you've got a duty to work there.

Both of my older brothers have their own fields in accordance to this rule.

However, it seems the situation is a bit different in my case.

Right now I don't have a field due to my age, but there's a high chance that I don't get one even after I turn 11.

The official reason seems to be because there's not enough area.

Certainly, this village lacks area for fields, so it's not like I can't understand with just that reason alone.

But, judging from the behaviors of the villagers, my parents, and my other older brother Biffgel, I feel that there's more to it.

My parents were looking at me like they feel sorry, while Biffgel was clearly looking down on me.

Apparently, it's got to do with 『Disqualified Crest』, but my older brother

and my parents don't want to talk about the particular, and I don't want to ask Biffgel. I probably won't get a decent answer even if I ask him anyway.

Now then. There's still some time until dinner.

First of all, I should train.

It's important to train your stamina and magic power everyday you see.

Chapter 2: Strongest Sage, Pity His Elder Brother

First I activate a magic called **【Passive Detection】** as a preliminary arrangement of the training.

Just as the name suggests, this magic can detect magic power emitted by magic items and creatures, it's a magic to investigate the surroundings situation.

Even though there are some things that can't be detect by the magic, it's one of the most used detection magic because enemies won't notice its usage and it consumes no magic power.

And yet, it's actually a difficult magic to master if one intends to improve its accuracy and range.

This magic is crucial if I want to enter the forest since the me right now can die easily.

It's closer to art instead of magic since it doesn't consume magic power at all though.

I was able to activate it immediately. There's no problem at all using it with this body since it doesn't consume magic power.

However, since my control of magic power has been quite lowered, there's a lot of noise, and the detection range appears to be considerably constricted.

The past me could detect within a several hundreds kilometer radius, but I have no choice but to settle with around a one kilometer radius for now.

Well, at the present condition, this much should be enough to evade dangers.

After all, I didn't sense any strong animals, let alone monsters.

"Mathias! Why did you go outside!"

Someone shouted that to me who was triumphantly walking toward the

forest just when I was several hundred meter away from the house.

I knew who it was just from the voice. It's Biffgel the second son.

Apparently, he doesn't like me going outside.

"I can't go out?"

I replied without stopping, or rather, I hastened my pace.

All the present memories tell me. There's no point in keeping this guy company.

"Course you can't!"

Biffgel replied angrily his face became red. To the point that I worry his blood vessels would snap. It'd be nice if they did.

"Why can't I?"

I ask again while quickening my steps even more.

I tried using physical buff magic while I was at it.

It's just a light buff, but good enough to let me walk faster.

"Cause you're a disgrace of our house! Once I succeed the house I'll banish a Disqualified Crest like you at once!"

『Disqualified Crest』 again huh.

Even if you disparage with some unknown term, I don't know how to react.

One thing I know for sure, I was never treated as a disgrace by anyone but Biffgel, and no one ever told me not to go outside.

I did overhear plans to reform Biffgel in our house several times.... But looking at him now, looks like it's not going well.

"What's that 『Disqualified Crest』?"

"You don't even know that huh. Shame on you Disqualified Crest!"

What's the point of telling that to a six year child....

By the way Biffgel is 14 year old. As you can clearly see, a 14 year old

pouring those words at a six year old child shows how abnormal Biffgel is.

Rather, does this idiot really think he will succeed the house. Even if we disregard his bottomless stupidity, you're a second son y'know?

"Then I with my Glory Crest will teach you. Look at your left arm!"

Well if he's going to tell me, I'll hear him this once.

After thinking that, I move my sight to my left arm. Yup, there's the Fourth Crest.

"What's wrong with this?"

"That's a Disqualified Crest. A proof of trash who can't even use magic well! And this one is a proof of those chosen by the magic god, the Glory Crest!"

After saying that Biffgel raises his own left arm up high, showing it to me.

...Uwaa. It's painful to look at. I feel embarrassed just by seeing it, please stop it by all means. If I were a disgrace of the house, then this guy would be the disgrace of humanity, no, of organic matters.

This is bad. Simply the fact that I was born as the same race as him makes me want to die. Should I reincarnate again?

I observe Biffgel's arm while enduring the headache.

Judging from the arm's direction, the thing he wanted to show me seems to be a crest.

I knew what that crest was at a glance.

--It's the First Crest. I'm absolutely sure I'm correct at this one thing. Cause it was a Crest I got fed up of looking at for several hundreds years in my past life.

I send a pitying look at Biffgel.

It's okay, I understand. This guy must have got his personality twisted cause he fell in deep despair at his own Crest, I'm sure about it.

Chapter 3: Strongest Sage, Hunt Monsters at 6

As I looked at Biffgel with pitying eyes, his face became red.

"What's with those eyes! You looking down on me?!"

Nope. I'm pitying you.

For now, I should regard knowing what 『Disqualified Crest』 means and how pointless it is to deal with Biffgel as good results.

I felt like I already knew the later before I talked with him though.

"Oy! Say something!"

This time it seems he's quite displeased at me being quiet.

In the end, Biffgel started to chase me with a raised stick in his hand.

Even though I think disposing of him in the name of self-defense would be for the benefit of mankind, I'd better not be careless considering I don't know the handling of crime in this world.

And thus, for now I should run away.

I strengthened myself with Physical Reinforcement and immediately increased my speed.

I only walked briskly, but it was already faster than Biffgel running with all his might.

"Damn it, wait! gasp, gasp.... Why can't I catch up!"

Isn't that because the magic god chosen one-san couldn't use Physical Reinforcement magic that even a trash who couldn't use magic well could?

That was what I thought, but I didn't say it out loud since I had shaken off Biffgel and entered the forest.

And then I noticed the burden on my body and magic power being lighter than my expectation.

The Fourth Crest is originally a crest well suited for Physical Reinforcement, but this is beyond even my expectation.

"For now, let's hunt some animals."

Animals in this world have magic power in them even though it's of little amount, as they can be detected by **【Passive Detection】**.

Moreover, magic power of animals and monsters carry a peculiar property, that is, we take their magic power every time we defeat them, strengthening ourselves.

Of course, the growth will be faster if you fight a strong monster, yet on top of being hugely risky, there's only a few that can be hunted so I don't recommend this method.

--By the way, it's not like there isn't a way to strengthen yourself using human's magic power, but it's inefficient on top of requiring a very complex magic, thus its usage is quite limited.

It was a magic developed by the past life me, but I didn't use it much at all in practice.

The first animal I found was a bird. I don't know the name but it's a bit bigger than a chicken.

The bird is perching on about a five meter high branch.

I'll shoot it down with magic at once.... is what I'd like to do, but magic range of the Fourth Crest is short.

The me right now probably can't reach that place with magic.

Therefore I picked up a pebble on the ground while erasing my presence.

I concentrate Physical Reinforcement on my legs and take a step forward. Once I had enough momentum, I changed the target of the Physical Reinforcement to my arm and swung it with all my might.

I restricted the Physical Reinforcement like this in order to maximize it to the pebble.

And thus, with the strength and magic power of a six year old, the

thrown pebble reached hundreds km/h of speed.

Even though I was hiding my presence, the bird seemingly noticed me after all the movements I did, but it was already too late.

The bird got hit by the stone in its face and fell to the ground.

At the same time, I felt my strength and magic power slightly increased.

Originally it's not something that can be noticed, it's probably because the growth is big in the first battle.

I neatly picked the fallen bird, cut its head and drained its blood.

It's a precious nourishment. Unfortunately I can't exactly say that the meals in my house are enough to sustain this body's growth.

The protein is particularly lacking.

I plan to strengthen my muscle by breaking them before getting to bed with magic then rapidly recovering them with magic, but it'd have the opposite effect without nourishment. That's very troublesome.

The reason for this situation seems to be a lack of ingredients, but I should be able to eat proper stuff if I bring this back home.

I continued to hunt five birds and left the forest afterward. Earning magic power is important, but it's not good to overhunt either.

Chapter 4: Strongest Sage, Bring Food to the House

"Today's dinner is a feast! What's the occasion?"

During meal.

Castor was in wonder before the sumptuous amount of meat on the dining table.

Only two birds are used in the dinner, but that's still quite an amount for our household of five.

Looking back, after reincarnating, I think the only time we had this amount of meat was during Reich's 15 year old birthday (this country deems adulthood at 15.) "I think it's Mathi's birthday today.... But I don't think these are made to celebrate it right?"

Reich said that.

I was reincarnated when I just turned 6, so technically speaking, the first day is my birthday.

However, like I mentioned earlier, the only time we had a luxurious meal in a birthday was only during Reich's.

I don't think we've had any celebration at other birthdays.

"That's right! This guy doesn't need no birthday celebration! Rather, it should be a sad day to curse his fate!"

Biffgel made fun of me by making use of Reich's statement.

"Biffgel. Be quiet."

And then he was made to shut up.

The one who did that was our father, Castor Hildesheimr. I don't know his concrete age, but he looks around 45.

Even Biffgel can't go against the head of the family, he shuts his mouth.

His face is red from anger.... And I think his voltage is higher than in the

noon, maybe he's dissatisfied. I wonder if this self-proclaimed chosen one of the magic god (14 year old) is that frustrated from losing to a trash (6 year old) who can't use magic well.

"Mathi brought this meat. If anyone has any complaint, they don't have to eat it."

Our mother, Camilla revealed the answer at the right timing.

Father who heard that asks me.

"Mathi brought this? What on earth happened?"

Well now. How should I reply to this.、

Many things could become troublesome if I answer honestly.

Even excluding this territory with its underdeveloped magic, my magic is superior for a 6 year old.

The worst possible outcome would be if I were bound in this territory.

I intend to leave Hildesheimr house sooner or later, to walk the path of a magic combatant.

Even if my name is different int his life, the things I want to do hasn't changed.

If I get known as a convenient magic user, it could be hard to realize that.

"The birds hit some trees by chance and fell down."

After thinking more, I decided to hide my magic.

It's a bit unnatural for that to happen with five birds, but I gotta follow up somehow--.

"Did they fall with their necks cleanly cut, and even drained of blood already?"

It was no use. Mother swiftly attacked.

However, I'll cut through by feigning ignorance here!

"I found some sharp stones and drained the blood myself."

"To five birds?"

"Un. To five birds."

"...Certainly, I didn't see any wound that looks to be a result of battle. It's unusual, but it might be not unlikely to happen."

Alright. Dodged the bullet there.

Next time, I should bring back fewer spoils after thinking through an excuse.

I'm not going to stop supplying the meat. Nourishment is important.

"Abnormal behaviors of birds huh. I hope it's not an omen of something strange happening. ...Come to think of it, Mathi you're 6 now aren't you."

"Yup. Mathi is 6 today."

Reich replied Castor.

"Then, I'll start teaching Mathi swordsmanship from tomorrow on. Mathi is going to leave the territory and all, so swords gonna be essential for you."

That reminds me, Reich and Biffgel have been training swordsmanship with Father.

That training started at 6 huh. That's quite hardcore.

--However, there was more important part on my father's statement.

The part about me leaving the territory.

Chapter 5: Strongest Sage, Fight His Father

"I'm gonna leave the territory?"

I asked my father before I realized.

Just what was my effort to deceive them earlier for.

"...This might be too soon to talk to you about Mathi, but you're the third son after all. You can plow fields in the territory if you want, but if you can use magic--no, I mean, if you can use a sword, you can choose to go outside. I'm sure it's more fun that way."

Ooh. Looks like I can automatically leave the territory if I can use a sword.

Isn't that the greatest ever! Hurray for third son!

It looked like he was going to say magic... is magic no good?

Now's my chance. Let's ask.

"Why not, magic?"

"O...of course magic is fine too. But I think the way of sword is better myself!"

Hmm. Evasive. Is there something with magic and me?

Could it be that this territory really regards the Fourth Crest as a failure--

Can't be. It's impossible if you think about it. Since the Fourth Crest is difficult to handle, that situation might happen if the average age of the territory is 10, but of course there are more adults in Hildesheimr Territory.

It's impossible for any crest but the first crest to be treated as a failure.

Even that First Crest has its strength in something other than combat. I don't think there's any reason for it to be treated as a failure though... well, it is a failure in my particular case.



Next day.

When I got up in the morning, my father Castor and big brother Reich were already swinging swords outside.

Even though father is not using Physical Reinforcement or such his swordsmanship is very clean. His sword swiftness isn't bad either.

This territory is underdeveloped in term of magic, but it seems that's not the case with swords.

"Good morning, father, Reich-niisan."

"Hi Mathi. Good morning."

I went outside and greeted my father and brother who were doing a practice-swinging.

He told me that we'd begin training from today on, but he didn't specify the time. I might be late.

"Is that you Mathi. You're an early bird eh. Were you looking forward to training with swords?"

It appears I wasn't late.

"I wanna leave the territory and become an adventurer."

"I see I see. Normally you'd want to become a knight, but adventurer isn't a bad choice either! Alright, it's a bit early but let's start!"

After saying that, Castor handed me a wooden sword.

It's heavy despite being made of wood, makes me think there's a weight inside.

Castor also takes the same wooden sword in his hand. He was using a real sword during the practice swinging, but we're not going to use them in a practice it seems. Well, it's dangerous without healing magic after all.

"Now, come at me! You win if you can hit me with the sword!"

Castor pointed his sword at me while saying that.

....Eh? Combat practice so sudden?

You're really going to do that with a 6 year old?

"What's wrong! You can use any trick. Try swinging once!"

In my confusion, Castor called me out.

It sounds like he's going to lunge instead if I remain silent.

It's said that Hildesheimr House's swordsmanship training is hardcore, but it seems that's still being modest.

This house's sword education will keep on living in the future.

--I'll do the best I can now.

"Here I go!"

"Ou!"

After declaring that, I purposely moved close slowly at a walking distance to him, without using the physical reinforcement.

An unshapely movement unbecoming of being called martial art.

And then I very slowly rush in and swing my sword from below.

A movement that goes against gravity on top of not using physical reinforcement. The speed of the sword is so slow that you won't feel any pain even if it hits.

It's not like I underestimate him. Looking at the practice-swinging, I understood that Castor was not someone I could underestimate.

In fact, you can even say that he's not someone the current me can win against. The difference of our fundamental body strength is too wide.

I had started muscle and magic reinforcement (similar to muscle strength, your magic quantity will rise every time you use it) yesterday, but that's still not enough to win against a well-trained adult.

That's why, I employed this tactic.

My father Castor tried to block my sword. Looks like he's going real easy on me. His movement is slow compared to what he showed before I got

here.

When I see that, I--activate the Physical Reinforcement that I have saved until now, and raise the output to maximum at once.

It's show time from here on.

Chapter 6: Strongest Sage, Winning Against His Father

Right before my father Castor is going to block my sword, I concentrate the Physical Reinforcement on my legs and stepped in diagonally in low posture.

Castor's sword passed over my head.

I'm short because I'm 6 right now. Opponent that's too short are unexpectedly hard to hit.

And then I stab my sword toward his knee while making use of the momentum.

Compared to slashing, thrusting is hard to block and deal with sheer strength. All the better if the opponent let their guard down.

However--.

"Hmph!"

My father Castor blocked my stab.

I thought this could possibly end the the match, but apparently, my father Castor didn't let his guard down that much.

However, that's also within my expectation.

I activate **【Ground Shrinkage】** without stopping my momentum. I sneaked right behind my father.

"Mu... He's gone!?"

My father lost sight of me.

【Ground Shrinkage】 is actually not a magic that lets you move behind your opponent in an instant.

It creates a blind spot on the opponent's awareness which you use to slip past them, it's essentially a magic that lets you slip through the opponent's awareness for only an instant. That's the **【Ground Shrinkage】**.

This would have used 10 times the amount of magic power if it was with the First Crest, as expected of the Fourth Crest. The magic was invoked perfectly.

It seems being a crest that specializes in close quarter combats isn't just for show.

Even though I knew about it already, actually using one in person made me realize its strength all the more.

I think this had already surpassed the past me before my first 100 years back then. I'm already convinced that reincarnating was the right thing to do with only this much.

However, I don't have time to bask in emotion. 【Ground Shrinkage】 could only buy me an instant.

I stab again with my sword again as fast as I can.

The perfect timing. And a trajectory that's hard to block by human anatomy.

Even in my past life there's not many who could block an attack from their perfect blind spot like this without magic.

However, my father Castor blocked it.

I wonder if the practice swinging he did before I came here was just a warm-up.

But even my father couldn't take this attack from the impossible posture he was on.

As I'm confronting him with the power produced by the Physical Reinforcement riding on my full body weight, I can tell that much from the sword.

I could finally compete with him in power even with all the differences.

Both swords have stopped moving. Neither moving forward nor backward.

That probably only lasted around 0.2 seconds. However, that felt like a

long time for me. It must be the same for my father Castor too.

Afterward, my father began to move. His power transmitted on my sword is increasing as he's twisting his body.

If this keeps up, my sword will probably get pushed away in half a second, resulting in my lost.

With the difference in our physiques, I would have no chance of winning if he retakes his posture, rather you can say that I've fought well.

However, I have no intention of just accepting this fight heading toward such an ending.

My style is to aim for victory by using all of my power even in a mock battle. I'd rather make a bet than quietly accepting my lost.

I construct the next magic in the little time I have.

【Magic Strike】. A magic that loads the sword with magic power to increase its strength.

It's far more powerful than the Physical Reinforcement magic, but of course, its degree of difficulty also jumps up several magnitudes.

I used **【Ground Shrinkage】** to ensure my victory, but even Fourth Crest has its limit. It all depends on luck now.

And I--won the bet.

The invoked **【Magic Strike】** granted power to my sword, overcoming my father's sword.

And then right after my sword hit my father, the **【Magic Strike】** lost its effect, and I fell down as I lost my balance.

My older brother Reich and my father Castor mutter in amazement.

"He won against father....?"

"I had a feeling he might be talented in sword, to think he was a monster...."

Looks like they got surprised.

I feel that my father was going at it lightly.

He probably never thought that he would lose when I hadn't even done any training.

However, this match had a big problem regarding its rule.

"I only took father by surprises, and even the attack just now merely hit you right?"

The rule of the mock battle earlier was [Win if I make a hit]. Therefore, my victory is only in form.

However, if this was a real combat, my attack would only slightly injure father. Even that might not be possible if he wore an armor.

Moreover, my father was holding back at the first strike which greatly influenced the result of this battle. I only made use of that.

I pointed that out in that sense.

"No well. That's true and all, but what was that attack just now? On top of making me lose sight of you, you clearly showed an unbelievable power and speed didn't you?"

"Un? I was just using Physical Reinforcement, **【Ground Shrinkage】** and **【Magic Strike】** normally..."

""That's not normal!""

Why did I get retorted. They got greatly in sync.

Ah. **【Magic Strike】** might have been too early indeed.

"I'm sorry. It wasn't normal. I just got the **【Magic Strike】** right by chance."

"That's not the problem here though...."

This time he puts on an astonished look. Just what did I do anyway.

"First, are those Physical Reinforcement, **【Ground Shrinkage】** and **【Magic Strike】** magic?"

"Un."

"How were Mathi able to use them?"

"...I practiced?"

"No, that reasoning is weird."

Why!?

How can anyone use magic without practicing.

Or perhaps you need permissions to use magic in this world?

"Anyone can do this much so long they practice..."

"Okay! I understand that you have a strange idea!"

"What on earth my nine years of sword training for...."

My father replied with an astounded look at my reply.

My brother Reich muttered something while holding his heads, but I couldn't make out what he said.

"I'll teach you this thing called common sense."

"Common sense?"

I wonder if it's a common sense in this country to regulate magic.

Come to think of it, Physical Reinforcement was used everywhere in my past life, but I haven't seen it being used even once after reincarnating.

"Yeah. Common sense about swordsmanship that is.... I'm not gonna be the one teaching you though."

"Un?"

My father looked at the entrance of our house while saying that.

Looks like Biffgel just came out of the house.

"Oy Biffgel! You're late!"

"Nothing wrong with getting late a bit! I have my circumstances!"

Un. This guy's no good like always.

I don't think there's anything this guy can teach me.

"Shut up! You'd be punished if you were in military! Originally I was gonna impose a harsh training on you today.... But today's your lucky day."

Father exchanged looks at me while saying that.

His face looked like he's plotting something bad.

"2000 push up or a mock battle with Mathi. Pick one."

"A mock battle with Mathias!"

Biffgel replied father with smiles on his whole face.

Looks like he's very happy to have a mock battle with me.

Chapter 7: Strongest Sage, Cautious of his Elder Brother

"So you chose mock battle. Alright then. As for the rule.... the winner will be decided when either of you give up or from my discretion as a referee, okay?"

My father Castor asked Biffgel, not me.

He continues on while ignoring my will.

But well, I think I can somehow win if it's just against Biffgel, as long as there's no some weird rule in place.

"Wait a minute Father."

"What is it?"

"A referee has their limit. You can't say that they never misjudge."

Biffgel said such a thing.

Aa. I know what Biffgel is thinking somehow or other.

He's probably worried if our father Castor be partial to me in his judgment. Father doesn't think too well of Biffgel after all.

It's not surprising for him to say that if he's aware of it.

"Okay then. Let's go without a referee."

Father withdrew quite easily.

Looks like we're going to have a mock battle without a referee. I don't understand what father is trying to do now.

"And also, Mathias probably won't be satisfied with just one match. How about five matches?"

"Got it. Then let's make it five matches."

"Also, I'm confirming just in case, there's no need to hold back right?"

"Yea. 『Both』 of you need not to hold back."

Father told Biffgel that.

Or rather, our father Castor's face began to look eviler every time Biffgel suggested something. He's already all grin now. At the same time, he also looks like he can't believe it.

If there's anything remarkable about what he said, it was probably how the 『Both』 part was emphasized I guess?

...Not good. I genuinely don't understand what father is thinking.

Father made a sidelong glance at the dumbfounded me, gave a training sword to Biffgel and moved to a position a bit away from me.

And then he declares the starting signal for the mock battle.

"Are you both ready? Mock battle, begin!"

"ORAAAAAA! DIEEEEEEEEE"

Biffgel made his move with the signal.

He readied his sword on the front while saying something inappropriate for a mock battle, rushing in toward me.

No need to hold back was it. Guess I should get serious right from the start too.

Biffgel's strength isn't comparable to father anyway, his swordsmanship is also terrible. I can probably win with a frontal attack.

I hit Biffgel's down-swinging sword from the side, turning it away to the left.

"Owa!"

Biffgel lost his balance. You can't be telling me that he didn't think how to cope if he got blocked.

...That can't be. If that's the case then that means his skill is really poor.

This must be a trap. He must be planning to counter me with magic or something when I let my guard down by the obvious chance.

Once I saw through him as such, I decided to get on it.

These kinds of plans become a folly once you read through them.

An action that deviates from the textbook is not efficient, that's why they're not in the textbook.

I swing my wooden sword toward Biffgel while paying heed of any sign of magic.

0.3 seconds remaining until it hits. There's no movement.

0.2 seconds remaining. He still hasn't made his move. He won't make it in time if he doesn't activate the magic right about now though....?

At the remaining 0.1 second, Biffgel showed a movement.

Biffgel is actually closing his eyes at my sword.

It's as if he fears the sword that's coming at him.

Really, there's no way one would take such an action even in a mere sword training.

Did I perhaps overlook something? Did I get myself caught in Biffgel's trap without realizing it!?

Even though that thought flashed in my mind, there's only one action that could be taken in this situation either way.

I throw my hesitation away and swing my sword with all my might.

BAM.

"GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!"

Biffgel got hit by the wooden sword, he screamed and writhed.

There wasn't a trap or anything. My wooden sword made clean hit on Biffgel without a hitch.

Too weak. ...No wait.

The victory condition for this battle was 『If either give up』.

In other words, Biffgel hasn't lost yet.

Moreover, his writhing in pain. It's obviously not normal. It's not something a trained person would do.

Perhaps he's pretending to be in pain to buy some time.

Chapter 8: Strongest Sage, Noticing the Decline of Swordsmanship

I knew what he's doing. Biffgel is buying some time by pretending to be in pain.

Then I just need to keep attacking.

It's either me making Biffgel surrender or Biffgel completing his magic first. This is that kind of match.

After comprehending that, I started to attack Biffgel more with the wooden sword.

--However Biffgel only kept looking frightened and pained, he doesn't seem like he'll ever activate the magic.

After all this, I started to think that it seemed suspicious, so I slightly lowered the Physical Reinforcement and began to invoke the 【Active Magic Detection】 which could detect all kind of magic as long as it's not cleverly hidden.

A reaction of magic power inside the range--can't be found.

"Mathi. You'd better stop right there."

My father Castor called when I was confirming the result of the detection.

When I look again, Biffgel has fainted with bubbles on his mouth.

"...What is Biffgel trying to do?"

"He got knocked out by Mathi."

"Wasn't he showing a chance on purpose?"

"That was not on purpose. He just normally lost his balance."

...Biffgel was that weak huh.

Ah. I think I know what father is trying to tell me.

"I got it! In short, the Common Sense that father was trying to tell me is

that there are people who don't make it even after training like Biffgel!"

"This boy's hopeless! He doesn't get it at all!"

...That's what I thought, but I seem to be mistaken.

"Then what are you trying to tell me?"

"Biffgel's strength."

Look. I got it right after all didn't I.

What's the difference anyway.

"It's not like Biffgel is weak you know. Rather, in the same generation, he's among the stronger ones."

...Eh?

"This Biffgel, among the stronger ones?"

"That's right."

"No, but, father is...."

Our father Castor's strength is not comparable to Biffgel at all.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration if I say that father could win against 100 Biffgels without a single scratch.

"I'm saying this myself, but I'm strong ya know."

No well. The gap between [Strong] and [Stronger Ones] is way too big.

"Then what you're trying to say is...."

"Mathi's strength is clearly abnormal. At least, there's probably no one under 15 who can beat you."

You're kidding me. Regardless of the knowledge I possess, this body is of a 6 year old who have never trained before.

Has swordsmanship declined along with magic?

No. A warrior like father wouldn't have been born if this was a world where swordsmanship had declined that much. Even if he did, he wouldn't be working as a lord at a place like this, but the founder of a great

swordsmanship school or something.

Furthermore.

Some of father's actions still don't match with the explanation he's given.

"By the way father."

I decided to ask him about that.

"What is it?"

"You agreed to all of Biffgel's demands before the match.... Why was that?"

"Ah. I was going to stop at the right part since I was sure that it was going to be a one-sided match anyway. But since Biffgel was too eager to dig his own grave, I let him do as he pleased."

Ah. No holding back and no referee were indeed the same as digging his own grave.

"Well, it should be a good lesson for Biffgel too. It would be nice if his thought process changes with this...."

Father stopped talking.

Biffgel who had fainted opened his eyes.

"Biffgel. Anything you wanna say?"

Biffgel immediately reacts at father's question.

"It's a fraud! There's no way a Disqualified Crest like him could beat me! This guy must have used some kind of tricks! Father, punish this guy!"

He's quite energetic for someone who just fainted.

Father is half smiling while looking like he can't believe him.

Even though I wasn't using a mind reading magic, I felt like I could hear him saying, 'This guy's far gone, something must be done 'bout it.'

No, perhaps, 'This guy's far gone. He might be beyond help already.' is the more correct one?

Father talks to Biffgel while having that expression.

"I see I see. Are you saying that Mathi was cheating?"

"That's right!"

Father who heard that grinned and laughed.

"Then you'll just have to pay close attention to any trick on the next match. I'm also going to watch closely, fight fairly."

"Eh? No. There's no need to fight again...."

"What are you saying. The mock battle has five matches right? You said it yourself."

Father pursued the panicking Biffgel--

No that's not it. Biffgel was just going inside the grave he dug himself beforehand on his own volition.

"Or rather, Biffgel hasn't given up on the match earlier right? Be glad Biffgel. You haven't lost--"

Biffgel ran away.

Chapter 9: Strongest Sage, Join the Sword Practice

The next morning after that terrible mock battle.

My brother Reich, Biffgel and I have assembled in front of the entranceway, getting ready for practice.

Looks like Biffgel who was late yesterday (our father, Castor caught him as he was trying to run, and then he declared five consecutive surrenders at the speed of sound, astonishing us three) is early today.

Father nodded when he saw us.

"Alright, everyone's here! Let's start the practice right away! First, all of you swing your sword 100 times!"

As told, we took up wooden swords and began to practice swinging.

I don't know what kind of training it is so I mimicked my brother Reich, doing diagonal slashes.

Magic Combatants don't mean that they only fight with magic. Close quarter combats are also important, slashing with a powerful magic sword reinforced with several dozens of buff magic was one of my specialties.

I had repeatedly used diagonal slashes many times in my past life, I couldn't possibly count the number of times I used it in actual battles.

Since I already know the basic, I match that knowledge with my current body for the practice swinging.

"Biffgel, your posture is all wrong, do it like this!"

"Reich, your swinging has gotten quite better, but the part after that is no good! Reduce the interval more!"

Father instructs us while overseeing our practice swinging.

He stopped in front of me.

"As for Mathi...."

Father went silent after that.

".....Nay, I don't see anything that needs correcting. Isn't the sword heavy?"

"No. I think this much weight feels just right."

The important thing is not brandishing a heavy sword, but brandishing a sword with the right weight.

Since I can't change the weight of the sword at present, I'm adjusting the Physical Reinforcement instead.

That's why a heavier sword for the practice swinging only means that I consume more mana to adjust the Physical Reinforcement.

It might be difficult for someone who can't control Physical Reinforcement well, but it's really nothing to write home about for the current me.

"Is that so. Then continue to swing like that.... Huh? If it's that perfect, I guess there's no actual need for the practice swinging?"

...Fumu.

Now that you mention it, that's certainly true.

I've gotten quite used to this body, the current me can already use Physical Reinforcement and **【Mana Strike】** easily. <TLN: Mana Strike was translated as Magic Strike earlier.> I'd like to raise my fundamental strength and mana.

I want to go the forest and hunt animals to increase my mana but....

"No matter what genius Mathi is, he must have a weakness somewhere! First we should look for that!"

Well I should've expected this. This is the time for sword practice after all.

Indeed, there's no guarantee that I have no weakness.

If I'm not mistaken, I was 120 when I started to wield sword in my past life. In other words, I was already relatively able with magic.

Of course that condition persisted while I mastered the way of sword.

The thought of fighting to the limit with just the 【Mana Strike】 never even crossed my mind.

"But, how?"

In many cases, you can only learn the right way to move in battle in an actual battle.

The current me don't have time to design a Simulator which took several dozens of years in my past life.

"Of course by having me as your sparring partner. It'll be a good practice for me too. It's a different story in the royal capital, but there's no one as good as Mathi as a sparring partner around here you know."

Sparring with father huh. That's most welcome.

"So we really weren't good enough to be one...."

My brother Reich seemed dejected when he heard that.

"Don't get the wrong idea, it's just Mathi that's weird here. Reich's swordsmanship is at the level where you can easily pass the entrance examination of the Knight Training School you know?"

And he got encouraged.... I was treated like some kind of weirdo, I'm not satisfied with that somehow.

By the way, it seems the Knight Training School is one of the elite rearing facilities in the current world.

It seems they don't deal with magic and sound stiff somehow, I don't wanna go there.

"Alright, first you can assume that your opponent will swing straight from above the head orthodoxly! Here I go!"

"Wait a minute"

I stop father who was rushing in while shouting out.

What is he trying to do announcing his strategy before the match.

"There's no point if you're announcing your moves beforehand!"

The point of sword stances is using them to flexibly deal with the opponent's movements.

Of course normally you'd change your sword stance depending on your the moves your opponent used, but that is only after you've seen through the their habits and movements, not by believing the announcement they kindly provided.

"No but. That'd be too difficult for y..."

"In real combats, there is no one who fights by shouting 『I'm gonna swing my sword straight!!』 and actually following through that, isn't there?"

"You're right, but you know... No. I was misled by your appearance. I have a hunch that Mathi can do it.... Let's do it!"

"Yes!"



--30 minutes later.

"...I can't find any weakness...."

"Mathi isn't just at the level of a genius is he....?"

In the end, he couldn't find any weakness of my swordsmanship.

Since my fundamental strength and mana are lacking, I've lost in a contest of strength, but that's the weakness of my body instead of my swordsmanship.

It's not really a problem since they will be improved as I continue to train.

"C...Cheat! He must be using some sort of trickery!"

"How again?"

"H...he must have used some kind of underhanded method!"

And Biffgel seemingly couldn't stand losing in swordsmanship to me

anymore, he began to scream out some weird things again.

By the way Biffgel. You can't call that an answer you know.

"So that's what Biffgel thinks. ...Didja know that the easiest way to find out the trick the other party uses is by fighting them. If you insist on treating Mathi like that, you can fight--"

"It was just my imagination."

And he immediately amended himself. Even being unsightly has a limit....

I should stop thinking about this guy, it's not good for my mental health. Think about fun things, fun things....

....I remembered something important.

"Oh right, father."

"What is it Mathi?"

"You said that I could leave the village if I learned the sword, does that mean I can go out now?"

Unfortunately, the Hildesheimr territory where I am now isn't really ideal for magic training--.

That's just something I made up to deceive myself.

The real reason is that I want to see the world.

Even though I've succeeded my past life's memories, a six year old is six year old. It's an age where one holds an interest and yearns for adventures in the world outside.

"I... it's true that your strength is already good enough for that, but don't you think it's too early?"

"I also think that it's too early."

But they objected it.

I also had an inkling of that. It's maybe too early for a six year old child to go outside the territory alone.

"Yeah! Go away! You should hurry up and scram. Rather, leave, now."

Unusually enough, Biffgel seemed to agree with me.

Please stop. Getting Biffgel's approval makes me think that I've made a mistake.

"You can't lead a live by relying on your skills in combat alone. At least when you've turned 15.... No. 12 year old depending on the term. That's the most I could compromise."

"Term?"

Wonder if I have to win against father with a sword.

If yes, I should be able to do something about it in two years--.

"You have to pass the exam of the Second Royal School as a scholarship student."

Chapter 10: Strongest Sage, Recognizing the Value of the First Crest

Exam huh....

Moreover, I have to not only pass it, but get the scholarship.

"Un...."

This is bothersome. I'm bad with history especially. I can't make use of my past life knowledge at all for it.

I should be able to somehow pass the test about magic and such. I wasn't that good at magic circle mathematics, but there shouldn't be anything difficult in a test for 10 year old. National language is safe too. I can't read the writing right now but I should be able to in two years.

....Thinking again, the only problem is history.

"Do we have a book to learn about history?"

"History....? We have some, but what do you need it for?"

"I mean, the exam will have history--"

"There's nothing like that in the Second Royal School exam y'know."

Oh! That's most welcome!

"Then what kind of subjects they have?"

"There's classroom lectures for sure.... But it's not really important. The important one is the practical skill."

"Practical skill?"

Wonder if it's with magic or something.

"Yea. Practical skill. Mathi can just concentrates on your sword skill. Can't teach ya magic and school lectures, but you should be fine so long you've got your sword."

That isn't much of an exam is it.

I don't think I could pass without getting a high mark on at least one

subject in the curriculum.

"Can I really pass with that?"

"Yea. It's kind like a trick, but I proved it myself. Want me to teach you?"

"Un."

"The sword exam will be a practical battle with an examiner. Just beat up the guy who came out. That's the first stage."

"Un?"

It has taken a suspicious turn somehow. Won't it be a problem if I beat up the examiner?

Rather, what's up with my father Castor's behaviors as a noble. I feel that many of them are weird.

"Now now, just wait. I haven't finished yet y'know. Here comes the important one. Once you beat the examiner, someone's stronger than them will come out."

I see. You need to directly negotiate with that strong person and have them acknowledge your strength--.

"Beat that guy up."

I was wrong.

It was a direct negotiation (physically).

"That's all the strategy you need. The total score of the exam was 50, sword skill exam should worth 10 but I got 30 for mine. My score got to 35 with other subjects and I passed just fine."

『That's all the strategy』 must be a mistake.

Or rather, you only got 5 in other subjects huh.

....Well I can use magic.

I'm sure I can get some mark in the classroom lecture subjects, added with that, getting scholarship should be possible somehow....is it?

I don't know if father's tactics are viable or not nowadays, but I guess

there's a merit in trying if it looks like I'm failing in other subjects. This is gonna be fun.

"Father. Don't you think that getting scholarship is too harsh for a term?"

My older brother Reich said that after hearing father.

"Really? I think Mathi would easily get it once he's 12."

"I agree on that part, but there's no need for him to get the scholarship is there...."

"Ah. That's not because of Mathi, it's the problem with our house."

"Our house problem?"

"We got no cash."

Un....

I've noticed it somewhat.

At the very least, there's no mistake that we're not rich.

"But wasn't father quite a big earner in the past...."

"Being a knight is unexpectedly unprofitable ya know. Unlike adventurers. I had got some saving myself, but it was all gone to manage the territory."

"Father...."

Hou.

Putting aside our house financial state, I see that adventurer system still exists in today's world.

For the time being, I've decided on my future career.

"Well, in short you're saying that I should get the scholarship, if that's not possible I should earn my keep myself right?"

"That's the gist of it. As expected of Mathi, you're really perceptive.... Huh? Was Mathi always this perceptive?"

"He's always been smart for his age. I didn't know that it was this far

though...."

Alright. I'll start to earn my school expense from now on in preparation for the future.

....The problem is how.

I don't see any monster around this area, so I can't save up magic stones.

It's not like I can't sell animal fur and meat, but shops that deal with that mostly don't exist in this territory town (it's more correct to call it a village than town.) Even if I wanted to go to some big town to sell them, the current me can't use teleport magic.

It's not like I can't use Storage magic, but that magic decreases my maximum mana point depending on the capacity used. It's fine if I just use it to store lightweight things like magic stones, but it's not suited for long term storing of fur and meat .

....I should make a storage container and put them there.

As long as I use the wood well, I should be able to control it to some degree even without magic tools. I'm gonna amass anything I can find, and sell them when I'm taking the exam.

"That being the case."

After talking with Reich, father opened his mouth once again.

"Time for the training to beat up the examiner no matter which strong guy comes out."

Thus, our training restarted.

This training continued every single day in the morning until the day I left the territory.



Afternoon of that day.

Just as I've decided in the morning, before going hunting, I cut down a tree to make a storeroom to put things I've gathered.

From what I heard during lunch, it seems there's no problem in cutting

down trees around this area.

"Well then. The quality of the wood is...Un. It's complicated."

Since it's not managed, it's a natural forest for better or worse.

It's not particularly good, or particularly bad.

Well, guess it's good enough.

I burnt off the tree with converged flame magic and made several planks from it.

Then I combined them using magic, creating a largish box.

I made one, but.

"...This is terrible."

I realized the value of the First Crest I had in my past life for the first time here.

First Crest is the crest suited for production type magic.

Using magic while knowing that, the results is terrible.

The bonding planes are uneven, and the amount of mana loaded in it is very little.

This box has no problem if it's only used for storing, but I'm likely going to need the help of First Crest if I want to seriously make equipment.

While thinking about that, I hunted some animals today and brought furs and preserved meat to the house.

During that time--

"I got some birds that accidentally hit some trees today too."

"Did they get neatly skinned too in the process?"

"I'm sure that's cause they hit the trees just right."

"Don't you think that excuse is too much yourself?"

"...I do."

"I know that you're strong. I'm not gonna complain you're hunting

animals, bring them here all you want. If there's excess meat, sell it to the villagers, earn your school expense."

With such conversations, I was authorized by my family to hunt.

Thus, my training and strengthening proceeded smoothly.

It was several years after my past memories resurfaced that a slight turning point came up.

A monster appeared in the village's forest.

Chapter 11: Strongest Sage, Noticing the Cold Treatment toward the Disqualified Crest

Half a year after I turned 9.

Thanks to training without a rest, my physical strength and mana have increased nicely.

"Gather the people! Get all the strong ones!"

Biffgel shouted such things when I was just got up in the morning.

Whom was he calling anyway, today our father Castor isn't home.

He might have gotten full of himself since the one who would restrain him isn't here.

However, I don't understand how that relates to gathering the people.

I wonder if he's going to beat me up with number or something. Then I'll neatly counterattack at Biffgel only. I feel sorry for the people who get involved in his mess.

"Mathias, don't come you. Stay still in the house... no wait. You should go into the forest today!"

I was trying to ignore him as I went out of the house, but Biffgel found me.

I probably should've used stealth magic instead of cutting corners there.

I thought of the above for an moment, but the content of the reply was beyond my expectations.

Biffgel encourages me to go outside....?

Don't tell me, Biffgel has finally come to his sense--

"Mathi. You shouldn't go today. A monster has appeared in the forest."

No, he didn't. What, he just wanted me to die huh. That's the Biffgel I

know. I was worried for a second there.

When I heard monster I used **【Passive Detection】** to infer the situation in the forest.

And then, I found a reaction of a monster at a distance that the usual me wouldn't have found.

I found it not because **【Passive Detection】** was in good form today or something.

The size of the reaction was big.

Of course, it's small compared to the powerful monsters I encountered in my past life, but it's far bigger than the reaction of the lowest class monster.

Even in the best case scenario, Biffgel wouldn't last 10 seconds, Reich would probably only able to hold on for 30 seconds.

However, there is a very easy method to deal with this monster.

"Isn't it better to leave it be?"

Judging from its movement looking from far away, it doesn't seem to have noticed the village's existence.

Of course it doesn't look like it's coming either. There's a high chance that it'll just disappear somewhere if we leave it alone.

Once our father Castor comes back, I'm sure he can beat it. There's no point at all in Biffgel specially gathering people and challenging it.

"You think I'll let a monster that tramples our territory go away! I will definitely kill it with my own hands!"

Ooh. It's unusual for Biffgel to say something noble-like.

I saw through your scheme though. Biffgel wanted to make a meritorious deed by challenging the monster.

"Reich-niisan, aren't you stopping him?"

I don't care if Biffgel goes to challenge the monster alone, but I feel sorry for the people.

"I'd also prefer we do that, but I can't."

"Why?"

Since father isn't here right now, the people shouldn't be obliged to follow Biffgel if the eldest son, my brother Reich opposes it.

It seems the people don't like Biffgel either, there's probably no one who would obey him voluntarily.

"That's cause I'm the first candidate for the next head of the house, in other words, I'm the acting lord!"

It was Biffgel who answered my question.

I understand that the next head acts as the acting lord when the present lord is absent, but--.

On top of being the second son, the idiotic Biffgel being the first candidate for the next family head....

"Oh dear, you must be kidding me."

I spoke with weird wordings reflexively.

That's impossible isn't? I look at Reich with that feeling.

"It's the truth, Mathi."

Wh...at...

"Seriously?"

"Unfortunately yes. ...There's various rule for the criteria to select the next head. If it's something that affects magic prowess like the Glory Crest, a second son will be preferred."

Glory Crest huh, the same nonsense Biffgel spouted.

Even Reich is going along with that nonsense....?

I reflexively activates detection magic to check whether someone has put me under hallucination.

However, I couldn't find any trace of illusion magic.

Reich is also not under mind-control magic. Just what's happening here.

"There's a regulation from the country for that.... ah. Here it is."

Reich took out a paper after after saying that.

The title is 『Noble of Eis Kingdom - Basic Criteria for the Next Family Head』, with a big imposing seal stamped on it.

I try to read it. I've been studying while training my strength and magic, so I can read letters now.



Noble of Eis Kingdom - Basic Criteria for the Next Family Head In accordance to the criteria below, the one with higher score will be preferred as the next family head of a noble house.

However, in cases of special circumstances, this isn't restrictive.

Eldest son 5 points

Sons other than the eldest In case they're younger than the eldest son, minus one point per a year difference.

Glory Crest 5 points

Magic Prowess The higher one 3 points

Female -2 points

Disqualified Crest -200 points



....A scoring system.

It is a valid system to compare multiple things for important matters, but I'm not sure if it should be applied here.

No. Leaving that aside, magic prowess shouldn't be what is important to have for a noble. What're you going to do if a magic nerd who doesn't know anything else becomes a territory lord.

Apparently, according to this chart, a second son or a girl could be the family head as long as they have the correct age, Glory Crest and magic prowess.

On the contrary, people who have the Disqualified Crest (If what Biffgel said is correct, it's the crest I have) can't become the family head unless they're 200 years apart with their younger sibling.

Then let's compare Biffgel and Reich in accordance to these criteria.

Reich is the eldest son, +5.

Biffgel is the second son with one year difference, and has the Glory Crest, +4.

--I see. Their positions change depending on their magic prowess.

And judging from what Reich-niisan said, it seems Biffgel's magic prowess is better.

This is, well, that may be so. I've never seen Biffgel and Reich practicing their magic.

And, in case you don't train at all, the First Crest is strong.

Well, since First Crest has a low growth rate, a mere 8 year old would overtake the difference as long as they train properly.

"Then, I'm going too--"

"Don't come."

I don't really mind at all if it's just Biffgel getting himself destroyed, but I can't ignore it if he's going to drag my brother Reich into it.

With that in mind, I was going to participate as well, but I was dismissed within seconds. Well I only said it without much thought since they originally told me to not go.

"I told you to go to forest earlier, but it'd be bothersome if you get in the way.... Alright, you're not to go out of the entranceway this whole day. This is an order from the acting lord. Bye."

Biffgel left the house after adding that.

I can't exactly leave them alone. It seems Reich is following them.

Now then. What should I do now, the acting lord told me not to go out of the entrance way. Since it's an order from the acting lord, I have no choice

but to obey it.

It can't be helped, let's go out through the window.

The acting lord is really kind, telling me that it's okay to go out through anything but the entrance way.

Chapter 12: Strongest Sage, Hit Upon a Good Idea

Biffgel who's forced the poor populace to accompany him triumphantly walks toward the forest behind a villager with the best physique while the other villagers are surrounding him.

My brother Reich is on the farthest back.

I wonder if he's an insurance for Biffgel to push the responsibility on when it looks like he can't accomplish the feat.

I follow behind them from about 20 meter away.

It's quite close for tailing incognito, but I've got plenty of magic on my sleeves for this, as long as the other party doesn't use a counter magic.

My aim is of course, assassinating Biffgel--I mean, protecting the participants besides Biffgel.

If as a result, the unfortunate Biffgel dies by coincidence, that is of no concern to me. You reap what you sow.

"And, where's this monster again?"

Biffgel asked one of the people.

"It's in the forest depth."

"Depth, that means.... Where?"

You went on an expedition without knowing that huh....

"We have no idea where it is right now. The monster was sighted quite a while ago, so it might have moved somewhere...."

"Tch, you're useless. --Well fine. We should find it if we just walk around. Let's go guys!"

What a sloppy plan!

Just how vast does Biffgel think this forest is.

If they're just walking around randomly, they might even spend a week

without meeting the monster if they're unlucky.

How long will I have to continue to tag along... was what I thought while following them.

--Two hours later.

"Biffgel-sama. How about we split into groups."

One of the people suggested that, probably because they couldn't find any trace of the monster.

Good job populace!

....However.

"Are you stupid! There's no way we'd do that!"

Biffgel objected.

"What would you do if anything happened to me!"

If anything happened to Biffgel.... er, celebrate?

With that reply, the people can't possibly oppose him, thus the plan comes to a standstill.

"No need for that, my instinct will find it! We're going there next! Move it!"

In the end, it's instinct huh.

It's bad since that instinct is actually right on the money.

I don't know if it's some kind of coincidence, but the place Biffgel and the others are heading to is the same place the monster is also heading to.

Since we've gotten closer, I've grasped the type of the monster a bit.

It's probably a bear or a tiger, a quadrupedal animal that has turned into a monster.

It has a small body for a monster, but that doesn't mean that this monster is weak.

Rather, it's the opposite. If the mana reaction of a monster is big, the smaller their body, the higher their mana density is, and the stronger they

are in battle.

Judging from the scale of this mana reaction, we have the worst case scenario here. I'm not sure if even our father Castor could beat it in a one-on-one fight.

After dozens of minute, the subjugation corps arrive before the monster. They'd enter the monster's field of vision in 10 seconds.

I took some distance away from the subjugation corps when I saw them getting closer to the monster and put myself beside the bear.

The problem is from here.

Since Biffgel gathered the people, they will inevitably fight the monsters first.

I could prevent victims from appearing if I help and defeat the monster myself, but then Biffgel would remain conceited, I could see him saying things like, "He snatched a game that even I could beat." Dealing with things afterward would be more troublesome than defeating the monster itself.

However, I also can't let unrelated people falling victims just because of it.

What should I do, while I was taking the wait and see approach, the situation changed.

Toward one that is most convenient for me.

"That's my game! You guys don't get in my way!"

When Biffgel saw the monster, he stepped forward while ignoring his escort. What's even the point of gathering people then.

Of course the monster has noticed Biffgel after all the clamor.

The bear monster which was showing its back turned around and started to run toward Biffgel.

Facing the monster, Biffgel thrusts his sword forward and begins to shout out some incomprehensible line.

"Fire mana that dwells in my body, become a straight arrow and pierce my enemy!"

Biffgel's mana reacted along with the recited line, and then 'pohyu', with that small sound, a fire arrow flew toward the bear.

The bear runs straight to Biffgel, not even trying to evade the fire arrow.

And then the fire arrow made a direct hit on the bear's eye.... and vanished.

The bear is absolutely flawless, no damage.

Was that.... magic? But it was extremely crude, or rather, poor. No matter how resistant a monster to magic is, there is no way a proper magic that hit one of their weak points, the eye, would leave it undamaged.

The power is bad and all, the conversion efficiency is also weird. The mana that was collected on his hand was diminutive, but nevertheless, it should have been capable of demonstrating power several times higher than that.

To begin with, what was the weird line he recited at the start for?

"Wha...."

"Biffgel-sama's.... Glory Crest magic doesn't work!?"

"That thing isn't a normal monster! It's a Zenith Monster!"

The subjugation corps were astonished to see what had happened.

Apparently, from their perspective, the fact that Biffgel's magic (?) didn't work was devastating. There were even some who fell into panic and ran toward meaningless directions.

Biffgel was seemingly the one surprised the most, he was hit by the bear's claw when he couldn't move, getting blown away several meter away.

Among the people who froze over, the only one who had a semblance of proper judgment, my brother Reich blocked the claw with his sword.

"We're withdrawing! I'll hold it off here! Everyone quickly escape!"

However, their strengths are too far apart.

Reich's sword got pushed back in a blink of an eye. He wouldn't last three seconds at this rate.

...Well three seconds are quite enough though.

I activated one of provocation magic, **【Enforced Detection】** before Reich's sword got pushed away.

Although it may differ by individuals, most monsters use **【Passive Detection】** unconsciously.

【Enforced Detection】 is a magic that pours mana on those monsters to make your mana reaction look big to them.

If it's too weak, they'd ignore it, if it's too big, they'd run away, it's difficult to adjust this magic in a way--but it seems to be a success.

Right after I activated **【Enforced Detection】**, the bear monster separated its hand from Reich and ran at full speed toward me.

"Mathi, why are you here! Run away quick!"

Ignoring the shouting Reich, I kneaded my mana.

Approximately four seconds before the monster arrives. Way more than enough time.

I put both my hands before my chest and concentrate the mana in my body.

I grant directionality to the collected mana while also changing its pressure.

And then I ward off the monster's arm with martial art and hit its heart as we pass each other.

As one would expect, it wasn't enough to defeat the monster, but--its movement dulled, which was enough.

I drew the sword I brought from home and cut its neck with a single stroke under Physical Reinforcement and **【Mana Strike】**.

"Mathi! Leave this to me.... Huh?"

Reich who chased the monster showed a dumbfounded expression on his face when he saw its fallen body.

Right at that time, I noticed the current situation.

Blocked by the vegetations, the other people in the subjugation corps can't see anything but Reich, they haven't noticed that the monster has been killed. Looking at their panicked state, there's probably no one who would notice a slightly awkward act here.

Perhaps this is... a chance isn't it.

I'll push the feat on him!

Chapter 13: Strongest Sage, Feigning Ignorance

"Reich-sama killed the monster!"

I changed my voice with magic and shouted out loud toward the villagers.

"Eh? Eh?"

I lower my voice and speak to my brother Reich who couldn't grasp the situation.

"I'm not here. The monster was killed by Reich-niisan. OK?"

"Why would you do that...?"

"If they found me being outside, it'd only lead to trouble, and I don't need to gain a meritorious deed or anything anyway. Besides, if Reich-niisan doesn't become the family head...."

Just thinking about Biffgel becoming the family head is terrifying.

I wouldn't be able to leave the territory in peace.

"But stealing the credit is--"

"Then please support me so I can smoothly get out of the territory. See you!"

The people were coming here while we were talking.

It would have been all for naught if they found me so I took some distance away at once and decided to watch over them while erasing my presence.

"The.... the monster has been killed!"

Once the villagers had gathered, Reich awkwardly proclaimed.

I'll give him a minus point for looking guilty--but apparently, no one noticed it.

Not saying who killed the monster nets him a point.

Now then, I should go back before someone finds me outside.

--By the way, Biffgel was left with only a slight wound since the monster's claw hit his armor's toughest part by chance.

What a lucky guy.



Two days later.

For some reason, I was called by our father Castor who has gotten back home.

Alone at that.

"Here you are, Mathi."

Once he confirmed that I was present, father spoke.

"D'you know about the matter the day before yesterday?"

"Yes. Reich-niisan beat the monster didn't he?"

"Yeah. Looks like 『Reich』 killed a Zenith-class monster. I saw the body, it was cut splendidly."

"That's cause Reich-niisan is a master swordsman!"

Due to father's guidance, my brother Reich is famous in the territory as a master swordsman.

By the way, Zenith Monster seems to be a designation for the kind of monsters with small body and dense mana.

There doesn't seem to be a precise standard, but apparently, that bear monster is classified as a Zenith Monster.

"Yeah. Not many guys can cut the neck of a monster of that rank in one slash. If he did that with the swords I gave to you brothers--he's already at the level of monster."

"Reich-niisan is really amazing!"

He didn't just check the type of the monster but the way it was cut huh.

This is.... he might have found it out already. Feels like he emphasized

the 『Reich』 part too.

"No. I'm sorry to say, but it's impossible for Reich. It might be a different story in the future, but it's not possible for the current Reich. If there's someone who could do that in this territory, that would be--"

"Biffgel?"

"Don't be stupid. No one else but you could do that."

"...w-what are you talking about."

No well. Though I said it myself, I also didn't think Biffgel could do that.

Bringing up the name of some random farmer old man would have been more persuasive.

"Well, it's not like I don't know how you feel. I'm also the same, I want Reich to be the next family head.... That's why, I won't pursue the matter if you're fine with it."

He even knew my intention.

Since he's going to leave it alone, let me accept the kind offer.

"However, putting aside the credit, the spoil of war should be given to the one who won it over. Dealing with the raw materials is troublesome, so I'll cash it in and give it to you when you're leaving the territory. Reich also gave his permission--or rather, it was Reich that suggested this."

...I feel like I understand why father specially confirmed my perspective.

He would have looked suspicious if he suddenly said he'd give me the materials.

"Now that's clear, I'm giving this to you. The magic stone from the monster that Mathi... I mean Reich defeated. This one's easy to keep and has many uses."

"Thank you."

Father gave me the magic stone and went somewhere.

Magic stone huh.

If it was the past me, I would have processed it myself, but.... The quality would drop severely with a crest other than the First Crest.

I guess I should keep the magic stone with me and find some skilled craftsman to help process it later.

However, the size of this magic stone is tricky. It's a bit too small to make a powerful magic item with yet too big for a general purpose one. Since its purity is not too bad, maybe I should just crush and make it into an ingredient for magic medicine--.

"Mathi, I have a favor to ask you."

My brother Reich called me when I was walking while thinking about the magic stone.

"If it's about the materials, father already--"

"No. It's unrelated to that matter. Those are Mathi's to begin with. It's not about that, I'd like you to teach me magic."

"Magic?"

"Yeah. In order to formally dispossesses the position of the next family head from Biffgel, I have to do it through magic. But there's no one who could teach magic in this territory. Or so I thought.... Mathi, you used magic when you killed that bear didn't you? And it was chantless too."

He noticed me using magic huh.

Although the magic I used back then isn't as showy as something like fire magic, but neither it's invisible unlike **【Mana Strike】**

Of course, I've got no problem teaching him magic to drag Biffgel down.

However, there was a part I don't understand at the end.

"It's true that I can use magic.... But what is 'chantless'?"

Chantless.... Never heard of it.

The magic I used back then didn't really have a name, but I wonder if it has one in this age.

"Chantless is when you don't chant you know?"

"...Chant?"

C-h-a-n-t? It really doesn't sound familiar....

No. Come to think of it, a long time ago, I might have seen the term in some kind of history book somewhere.

I think the book had something like 'you need to recite a set sentence every time you want to use magic' written in it, but since it was too inefficient and pointless, I immediately threw that book away.

Now that you mention it, Biffgel did seem like he muttered some pointless rambling whenever he casted his magic-like thing (if you can call that magic, I think it's a sacrilege against magic.) "You don't know about Chant even though you can use magic....? Chant is that thing Biffgel did.... Would you like to see?"

After saying that, Reich stood before a tree at the edge of the forest and thrust both his arms forward.

"Fire mana that dwells in my body, become a straight arrow and pierce my enemy!"

Reich recited the same exact sentence Biffgel did.

And then, he also replicated the parts where the accumulated mana was diminutive, the conversion rate was the worst, and the extremely weak power.

No. The power is even worse than Biffgel's, probably because of the Crest.

In case you don't train at all, the First Crest (in present time, it seems to be called Glory Age) is the strongest.

"This is what we call a Chant. Since Mathi used magic without a Chant, it's called Chantless. And I think it's a considerably high-level technique...."

--I see.

Magic in the present world is in a lot worse situation than I originally thought.

If the aim is Biffgel's 'that', surpassing it is easy. On the contrary, making it so he doesn't surpass it would be more difficult instead.

However, I need to ask him one thing before I get to that.

"Reich-niisan, do you want to learn magic in order to win against Biffgel? Or do you want to walk the way of magic combat?"

Chapter 14: Strongest Sage, Teaches Magic

"Way of magic combat... No. I want to make the territory prosperous than training heavily in magic. Magic is a mean for that end."

I see.

If he answered 『I'd like to walk the way of magic』, I was going to give him the magic-up set and the hellish stamina training.... But if he's fine with just surpassing Biffgel, I've got something simpler.

"Okay then. First, you should stop using Chant."

When I told him that, Reich opened his eyes wide in surprises.

"Chantless right from the start!? Don't you think it's too unreasonable...."

"The act of chanting itself is unreasonable you know."

The use of magic demands stability of mind.

There is no way you'd be able to properly use magic while shouting those embarrassing lines out loud.

"Then how am I supposed to use magic?"

"Of course you do it by gathering mana like this...."

I gathered mana on my right hand while saying that.

You can do this on your legs and head no problem, but doing it on your dominant hand is easier for a beginner.

I thought only doing this much would be simple, however--.

"Gather mana? How do you do that?"

He doesn't know how to... gather mana...?

My brother Reich, up until now just how did you activate magic then.

Perhaps there's some sort of secret hidden in these Chant things?

"Hold on. I'd like to test something."

While saying that, I put my hand toward the tree that Reich used to test

his magic on.

And then I mimic the chant thing while feeling embarrassed.

"Fire mana that dwells in my body, become a straight arrow and pierce my-"

And then, a portion of my mana gathered on my hand even though I didn't control it at all.

It feels like an outside force forcefully controlled the mana inside my body.

Furthermore, the mana was changing to magic at an extremely inefficient way--it stopped halfway through and the magic activation was canceled.

It seems the conversion that was automatically happening was hindered because I reflexively controlled my mana.

....This is not a natural phenomenon.

Someone intentionally devised this system during the time I was reincarnating.

A system that makes using magic become exceedingly inefficient while also making mana control unknown to people.

But, for what sake?

You'd normally think that they thought up this method to make magic easier to use, yet it's still too complicated. If it's using your voice as a trigger, a simpler keyword would be more than enough, and in the first place, you can easily activate a magic of this scale simply by controlling mana. The assistance has no point.

Judging from the current situation, this is perhaps intended to keep people from learning how to control mana and for the magic development to--.

"Mathi, you suddenly fell silent, what's wrong?"

Oops. I got lost in thought.

I was in the middle of teaching my brother magic wasn't I.

Fortunately, I found the problem. Along with the way to overcome it.

"I was thinking a way to teach you how to control mana.... I found a good method."

"Good method?"

"Un. There's this sensation of mana moving when you're chanting a magic right?"

"I'm not sure if it's the sensation of mana moving, but it does feel weird."

"Try to disturb that. I think you'll grasp the sensation of the movement of mana a bit with that."

"The movement of mana.... I'll give it a try."

After saying that, Reich chanted once again.

The magic still got activated however.... there was a slight disorder in the movement of mana.

"The sensation just now.... Did you grasp it?"

"Somehow or another. I'll try it once again."

Saying that, Reich repeated the same chant.

This time the mana movement truly stopped. The magic didn't activate either.

"Alright. What should I do next?"

"This time, try to move your mana on your own instead of stopping it, without relying on the Chant. I think it's easier if you gather it on your dominant hand."

"Got it."

Reich gathered mana on his right hand. He's got some skill. Enough that it's a waste for him to stop at just being a territory lord.

He would be a fine magic combatant if he just kept training for several hundreds years.

But now's not the time to do that.

"Then next, imagine a flame appearing in front of your hand. If the flame is too big, it won't go well due to the lack of output, thus I think starting with a small one is a good idea...."

Right after I said that, a small flame lit up in front of Reich.

If this keeps up, he should surpass Biffgel by tomorrow even if I leave him alone. Reich's crest is the Second Crest after all (It has no special characteristic at first, however its power will increase along with training.) However, it'll be a waste if I do that, I'll teach him a simple way to practice.

It might even pique his interest in magic combat.

"Looks like you did it. After that, I think you should observe the flame you created and solidify its image."

The most important thing in changing mana into magic is image.

If you want to quickly increase your magic power, the quickest way is to make the image accurate.

...Though since the amount of your mana is closely related to it, you will also quickly hit the limit if you only do that.

"Image? I don't think an image of flame is that complicated...."

"You think so? Try drawing a flame then."

"Okay. It's like this... Huh?"

The thing Reich drew on the ground with a stick was a very haphazard deformed not-like-this thing.

Even Reich seems to understand that there's something wrong with it, but he doesn't seem to know what precisely, and the drawing ceases to look like a flame as he repeatedly tries to correct it.

"See?"

An image is more ambiguous than we think ourselves.

That's why when you try to give it a form, it will take a different shape in

case of drawing, and in case of magic, reduced conversion efficiency.

Accurately comprehend the phenomenon, memorize it and then reproduce it with magic. That's the first step of magic training.

Looks like Reich is practicing it right away. The flame created by Reich who gathered his mana while staring at it looked slightly bigger than before.

"I see. It got stronger.... Mathi, are you really 9 years old?"

"If I wasn't, how old would I be."

The current me really is 9.

If we count the past me, it's thousand, un, hundreds years old.

"No well. I know that you're 9 and all. But looking at Mathi's magic and swordsmanship, it's really hard to think so. I think there's only a few adventurers in active duty that could beat you, let alone 9 year olds. Or am I just being a stupid elder brother?"

Since I don't know the level of the current world, I can't be exactly sure about it, but even I should have some problem against adventurers in active duty.

The gap in things like body size and physical strength is way big too....

By the way, I could already win against my father. That is only if I use **【Mana Strike】** and Physical Reinforcement though.

"Though it's probably impossible to catch up to Mathi, I will do my best. It won't be funny if I can't beat Biffgel with this."

After saying that, Reich restarted practicing magic.

It was one week later that Reich showed flame magic that was several hundreds times stronger than Biffgel's and gained fame as the best magician in the territory.

Chapter 15: Strongest Sage, in the Middle of a Journey

I turned 12 while waiting and training my mana and strength.

It was just right at the time the Second Royal School would hold an entrance exam soon.

Our father Castor was reluctant to have his sparring partner in sword gone, but with my brother Reich's persuasion, I was allowed to attend the exam right away.

Today is the day of my departure.

"Mathi, maybe you really should stay after..."

"Father, don't say something like that this late.... Keeping Mathi in the territory would be a loss for the whole world you know? You could even say that it's a treason towards Loita-sama the God of Fencing."

No no, I don't think it goes that far.

By the way, Loita is the name of one of the gods that people believed in this world.

It's the same name of a swordsmanship nerd I was acquainted with in my past life, so it's easy to remember.

"I understand that, but then.... My sparring partner--"

"Aren't I here if you need one."

"Reich is quite strong alright, but you're just a power fighter! Sparring against Mathi who also has techniques is in a different league!"

Apparently Reich has learned Physical Reinforcement himself from the magic control training I taught him, his power already eclipses father.

But since father has the edge in sword techniques, his winning rate is only around 30%.

"Are you really sure you don't need an escort?"

My mother, Camilla asked.

This time, I'm going to the royal capital together with a peddler who was visiting the village.

If I were the eldest son of a high ranking noble, doing so would have been problematic due to dignity thing.... Fortunately (?) I'm the third son of a poor noble, and a Disqualified Crest at that.

Just looking at the criteria for the next family head, it's easy to comprehend that this country seemingly looks down on the Fourth Crest (nowadays it seems they call it Disqualified Crest.) Therefore, I can move around freely to some extent. Hurray for Disqualified Crest!

"An escort would only be a drag for Mathi."

"But if a monster like back then appears--."

""He'll beat it.""

Father's and Reich's voices were in harmony.

A monster like back then, that bear huh.... That one was killed by me after all, the two knew about it already.

In fact, I probably could beat a monster of that level with my eyes closed.

"Then I won't complain, but.... please be careful."

"Un. I'll be careful."

I said that and got on the peddler's wagon.

"Young master, you're not forgetting anything are you?"

"All set. I'm only bringing a few things with me."

My baggage-like luggage are only a sword, a magic stone, and a leather bag for a wallet. Moreover, the magic stone and the bag are inside the Storing magic. My only real baggage is my sword.

The peddler already carries food anyway, and things I had stockpiled like fur and such have already been cashed in.

Including the materials from the monster I defeated, I've gotten 125 gold

coins and 7 silver coins in total, not sure if that's a lot or a little.

"Let us depart then! Since we don't have a guard as you can see, it'd really help if you tell me when you spot enemy and such."

"Un. Leave it to me."

"How reliable. I've heard that young master is quite strong, I'll be counting on you!"

The peddler said in a voice that didn't sound like he was expecting a thing out of me. His line of sight is carefully looking at the surroundings.

Looks like he doesn't really believe the claim of my father and brother about my strength.

Well, that should be the natural reaction. On the contrary, I would worry if there were a peddler who would believe when someone suddenly told them, "This 12 year old is strong y'know!" and leave him to take care of enemy.



After advancing for half a day uneventfully, I found the mana reaction of a monster.

Although the peddler doesn't seem like he expects me to do anything at all, he did ask me to look out for enemy, I should at least tell him about it.

"There's a monster three kilometers ahead of here."

"Monster....? Haahaahaa. There's no way you'd know it when it's that far away. By the way, what kind of monster is it?"

There's little noise from mana reactions around this vicinity so it's easy to detect a far-off mana from here.

Thanks to that, I can grasp the state of far-off mana relatively well.

"I think the size of the Mana Reaction is a bit bigger than the monster back then. But its body is quite big. Around 4 meter tall."

The atmosphere is different from the monster back then. It's probably a variety of 4-meter class War Tiger or such.

War Tiger is in short, a bipedal tiger.

"Ahaaahaa. Isn't that a Calamity-class then. You sure tell some interesting jokes."

The peddler drove the wagon forward after he said that.

And then.

"...Huh? No, it can't be.... Is it really a Calamity-class?"

We splendidly encountered the monster.

Un. It's about 4.5 meter tall, looks like I got the size a bit wrong.... It's a War Tiger for sure though.

That War Tiger is eating a deer's dead body.

"Dunno if it's Calamity-class or not, but that's a War Tiger alright."

"Why didn't you tell me sooner!"

"Um, I did though...."

I said it as clear as possible, I even heard you replying y'know.

"L-let's run away! Fortunately, the monster is preoccupied with the deer, it doesn't seem to have noticed us yet, if we just pull back now...."

Nah, it has noticed us. A monster's ability to detect enemy is not that shoddy.

We probably look more delicious than the deer to it, it's only postponing things since we don't look much like threat.

However, if we show movements that look like we're trying to run....

"Uwaaaaa! It noticed us!"

This happens.

Since the dead body of the deer won't run away, it's probably prioritizing us who's running away. The War Tiger turned toward us and came rushing in.

But, too bad. The War Tiger seems to think that we're its prey, but in reality it's the opposite. The War Tiger is my prey.

"We've got to quickly run away.... Why are you going there!"

The peddler shouted when he saw me rushing toward the War Tiger.

I mean I can't help it. In exchange of being powerful with magic, the Fourth Crest has short range. I can't fight without closing the distance.

I collect mana while running toward the War Tiger, convert the collected mana into magic and clad it on my sword.

I'm using Physical Reinforcement, **【Mana Strike】** and **【Iron Slash】** magic. I'm now able to use three magic at once since my mana control has improved.

【Iron Slash】 is a magic that increases the sharpness and hardness of a sword. It's inferior to **【Mana Strike】** on its bare form, however it could demonstrate extremely high power if used together with other swordsmanship-related magic buff.

The War Tiger is swinging its sharp claw at me as I'm entering its range. It has enough power to kill me with my current body in an instant with just a graze.

However, it's meaningless if it doesn't hit. A War Tiger's movement is easy to read.

"Your opponent is a Calamity-class--ee!"

The victory or defeat was decided in an instant.

I eluded the large claw and stepped in, and then I thrust my magic-strengthened sword at its heart.

"Alright, subjugation complete!"

The War Tiger slowly falls down.

"No way, a Calamity-class defeated in an instant...."

The peddler muttered in astonishment.

Chapter 16: Strongest Sage, Going to Burn Down the Materials

"Now then. What should I do about this body?"

I beat it and all but I didn't think what I'd do after that.

I tried asking the peddler, but there was no response.

When I look at him, he's stiffened while still in surprises. I wonder if I should take that as no comment.

That means, since it would be troublesome to carry it....

"I should take the magic stone and burn down the rest."

Other monsters would gather if I leave this here, troubling people.

Since it has no more use, burning it down would be for--.

"Burn!? Burning that down is such an outrageous idea!"

The frozen peddler revived when he heard me.

"Um, I'm still taking the magic stone though?"

"What're you going to do with the rest!"

"....Burn it down?"

"Unbelievable! Burning down the materials of a Calamity-class monster!"

...Is that really the case?

I've caught sight of two monsters of this level in the past several years already, I don't think it's that valuable.

"Listen here okay? This claw for example, how much do you think it's worth?"

The price of the claw huh.

If I'm not mistaken this monster has around 20 claws. The peddler is pointing at an especially long one, suitable to be made into weapon,

among them.

If the whole body of the monster is worth 100 gold coins, then the claw would be approximately....

"Around seven gold coins?"

"You got it almost right. That's the price without accounting for the transportation, it would be sold at 10 gold coins in the Royal Capital. You should be able to sell it for eight gold coins.... And with that knowledge, what are you going to do to it then young master?"

"Burn it down?"

"...How'd you come to that conclusion!"

"Cause carrying it would be a pain."

Our destination is still about a week away.

Rather than carrying it on that distance, it'd be better if we just arrive sooner and hunt other monsters at the destination.

Getting the magic stone and the experience point is good enough for me though.

I still haven't really grasped the value of money in this world, but if defeating this level of monster gets you 100 coins, then one gold coin must not worth that much anyway.

"It's eight gold coins you know!? Your average family could live off from one of these for a month you know!? ...I understand. I shall carry it if you don't need it!"

Eight gold coins, 4 months....?

I didn't know that gold coin was worth so much. If that's true, discarding these would be a waste indeed.

While I was thinking that, the peddler put his hands on the baggage that was on the wagon and started to drop them down the ground.

"What are you going to do with the baggage?"

"Isn't it obvious. I'll throw away the baggage I have now and transship

the materials on."

No no, that'd be a waste in itself.

"Then I'll take it with me."

"...How would you do it?"

"Like this."

While saying that, I use Storing magic and put the whole body away.

Your maximum amount of mana decreases in proportion of the used capacity when you use Storing magic.... Well, it's only until we arrive at the royal capital anyway.

My maximum mana has decreased by half, but I feel that this much should still be enough somehow.

"That's, it can't be.... Storing Magic!?"

"Yep."

"『Yep』 you say...."

Just what part of Storing magic that's surprising anyway.

It's not really user-friendly, and it's quite an elementary--.

Wait perhaps, the chant thing has had a negative effect on this too.

"Well at any rate, meeting a profitable monster like that was really lucky of us."

"No no, it's not 'lucky' okay? Normally we'd have died you know?"

The peddler clamored about something, but it's not like we died, and we've even got ourselves some valuable materials. If this isn't what you'd call lucky, what is then.

Hope another one comes out as well....

Guess I should pray to the god. I don't know the god who's in charge of monsters though.

Chapter 17: Strongest Sage, Finish the Peaceful Journey

Looks like my prayer didn't get answered.

The one-week peaceful journey ended as we arrived at the royal capital.

"...What a peaceful trip it was."

"What's peaceful about a trip where a Calamity-class came out!"

"Only in the first day, and there was only one of it wasn't there."

"Even one of them is a huge disaster okay? If something like that appears often, this country would be destroyed okay?"

That's way exaggerated. There won't be enough countries in the world if that level of monster can destroy one.

Two or three Castor, my father, should be enough to defeat that level of monster.

"By the way, where should I bring the monster body to?"

I'd like to sell it, but I don't know where.

"Let's see. Normally you'd want to bring it to the guild, but a 12 year old can't register with them.... If it's alright, would you like me to purchase it? I can pay 150 gold coins for it."

"You sure?"

I thought it'd be 100 gold coins judging from the monster I beat in the territory.

"I'm super sure. That's already more than profitable enough for me."

"Then, please do."

Even if it's haggled down a bit, I don't really mind it this time.

The one who beat and carried it was me, but it was the peddler who told me its value.

Well, I simply don't know its market price though.

By the way, my way of speaking gradually return to the original me during the trip.

I'm not in the territory any longer. There's no need to speak the way I used there here.



After handing over the monster and cashing in, I parted with the peddler and went to the town blacksmith.

One of the exam main points states that I should bring my own weapon.

The sword I have right now is partly for training, so it's not well suited for real combat.

I'm not sure if this exam requires that much preparation, but better safe than sorry.

I haven't really checked the reputation of the blacksmiths here, but this place is the royal capital. The competition here is probably not kind enough to let a poor store survives.

I should get some good stuff if I just randomly walk in a blacksmith store.

...There was a time when I thought that.

"...Hmm?"

I muttered when I walked into some random blacksmith.

The quality is terrible. The swords lined up inside the store window are indeed better than the sword I currently carry, but they are all of questionable quality. Furthermore, they're not augmented with magic at all.

It'd have been understandable if they were swords made by apprentice blacksmiths.

However, since I was an owner of production Crest in my past life, I had forged countless swords during my lifetime so I know. These swords were probably made long after they started blacksmithing.

The prices are generally 5-10 gold coins. Judging from the value of money the peddler told me, these aren't cheap. I'm amazed that they could survive in the royal capital.

I gave up on this store and went to the next one. I'd rather use a sword I forge myself than those swords.

However, the next store and the store after that and the one after that were all the same. Apparently, magic isn't the only thing that has declined.

If the next store is no good, I'd give up and forge one myself.

Right when I thought of that, I found a small old blacksmith store.

The signboard is also quite small, normally you probably won't notice that it's a blacksmith store.

However, right now it's easy to find this store.

"I beg of you! The exam is tomorrow! Without a sword, my friend would..."

I heard a desperate-sounding voice from inside the blacksmith store.

The person was referring to themselves with 『Boku』 but judging from the voice, the owner should be a girl.

"I'd like no more than making it myself--but magic swords are nothing like common swords, they ain't something I can forge alone. Get it already."

"Please do something about that!"

I could hear another voice that sounded troubled (probably the storekeeper.)This smells like trouble. I really should give up and forge a sword myself.

When I passed the shop while thinking that, the swords displayed inside the shop caught my eyes for an instant.

They're good. The swords in the first store can't even be compared to them.

The current me probably can't reach those levels without any

equipment.

...I can't pass this by.

I went into the blacksmith for the sake of obtaining a proper weapon.

Chapter 18: Strongest Sage, Asked for a Magic Sword

The one making clamor inside the store was a girl of around 14 year old with beautiful silver hair.

She's still negotiating with the storekeeper.... Or rather, the girl is hounding him even though he already said he can't.

I ignore the two and check out the swords in the store.

Every one of them is well made. Their average price is around 15-30 gold coins (about three times the first store's swords') but if we consider the quality, even 10 times of that is still fair.

However, even though the normal swords are fine, the magic swords are a rip off. They're asking 300 gold coins for one but the magic augment is way too sloppy.

Well, I'm gonna use a normal sword for the exam though. Considering my power right now--.

"The boy over there!"

The girl called out to me when I was checking the swords. Maybe I should have erased my presence.... No. They'd mistake me for a thief if I did that in a store.

"What is it?"

I dunno her reason to call me, but for now, let's respond.

"Can't you do magic augment or the like?"

Magic augment.... Don't tell me, this girl is thinking of asking someone she just happened to see to make a magic sword?

I'm neither this store's storekeeper or blacksmith y'know?

"Oy oy, don't go and bother my customer now...."

The storekeeper seems like he can't believe it too.

Now then. How should I answer her.

If it's of the same level as the magic sword in this store, then even me and my Fourth Crest can do it.

However, judging from the mood right now, I'm pretty sure the girl is definitely going to ask me to make a magic sword.

Normally I should pretend that I can't--however, the girl said that she was going to an exam tomorrow.

And the Second Royal School entrance exam I'm going to is for tomorrow.

In other words, this girl is a potential classmate of mine.

Which means, I should accept her request.

I don't want to be a loner like my past life.

"You said something about an exam tomorrow.... Is it about the Second Royal School exam?"

After thinking a bit, I responded her question with a question.

"That's right! But we got attacked by monsters on our way to the capital, and when Rulii used her sword to protect me, it was..."

"Her sword broke?"

Swords are fundamentally a weapon for attacking.

It's not unusual for it to break when you forcefully use it to guard.

That's why I'm here, to obtain a good sword.

"Un. And that's why I was gonna get her a new one but Rulii's sword was a very high-ranking magic sword, no one's selling it."

"So you're trying to make one yourself. Does it have to be magic sword? The swords here are quite well-made, should be enough to clinch the exam..."

"It looks like a normal sword, around this long and weight 300 gram. Could she?"

The girl spread her arms, showing a length that was clearly mismatched with the 300 gram weight.

"...There's no substitute for that magic sword indeed."

It's a magic sword that was referred as 『Lightweight Longsword』 in my past life.

They're extremely long and thin swords augmented with magic such as 【Toughening】 and 【Iron Slash】, they're reasonably strong and powerful so they were popular among magicians and swordsmen that favored extreme speed.

It would be difficult to replicate its ease of use with a normal sword. In other words, the swordsmanship her friend has trained up until now has been rendered useless. I don't think her friend could pass the exam.

It's possible to make the same sword with a special kind of metal, but it's not something that can be gotten in a short notice.... alright.

"I can do it, augment."

"Really!?"

"No no, that's impossible. I understand if you feel sorry for her, but ya can't just lie about something ya can't do."

The girl was elated, the storekeeper smiled wryly at my reply.

"You're right, it probably won't go too well.... But if it's of the same level as the magic sword over there, I can probably manage."

I said that while pointing at the least shoddiest magic sword in the store (still run-off-the-mill though).

The storekeeper smiled wryly when he heard me.

"Oy oy, that magic sword is the best augmented swords we have in this store, it's the pride of the guy who did the augment y'know?"

"Yeah. That's the best one here, next is this one, after that it's.... this and that I think. They're more or less the same though."

The storekeeper who was smiling wryly had his eyes wide open when he

heard me.

"Ya got it right.... By the way, which ones are the better ones among the non-magic swords?"

"This is the best, this one's the second, this one's the third.... but they're all of good quality so they're mostly similar I think. There should be no problem in buying any of them."

It's not a compliment, I really think so. The swords in this store are all good on the whole. It's just that the magic swords and the augment that are bad, but the base, the swords themselves, are well made.

"....Okay I got it. Lad, yer discerning eye is the same levels as a professional blacksmith. But, no matter how ya look at it, there's no way ya can augment magic swords at yer age. I don't like to say this, but it's a problem with yer Crest."

Looks like he recognize my judgment, but that has nothing to do with magic sword augmenting, is what he wants to say.

It's true that The Fourth Crest is unsuited for augment magic but that doesn't mean that it can't do it. If it's only of the same level as that sword, I've no need for the First Crest.

"No. If it's only at that level, even I can--"

I opened my mouth to tell him that, however....

"Beis-san!"

The girl interrupted me.

"What is it?"

The blacksmith storekeeper replied.

Apparently he's called Beis.

"I'd like to order a sword. It's this long and weights around 300 gram. And a hole that fits this magic stone.... Where do you think it should be?"

The girl turned at me after saying that much.

"Don't tell me, that means...."

"I'm going to bet on you!"

"Yer sure? Even though the sword can be reused, the magic stone will be gone fer' good if the augmenting fails y'know? And yer' asking that to a lad you just met...."

"But I have a feeling that he'll make it happen. My intuition is usually right on the money. Boy, I'm counting on you for the augmenting!"

I did say that I could do augmenting but I never agreed to do it.... I can't really refuse with this mood, can I.

"Leave it to me. Please make the hole at the center of the guard."

"You two are ignoring me huh. ...I'll finish the sword in 30 minutes. It'll cost ya 40 gold coins and you've gotta pay in advance. I'll guarantee the sword's performance, but I ain't got nothing to do 'bout the augmenting result okay."

"Okay!"

Looks like the blacksmith gave up arguing with her after seeing the girl's state.

He took the presented gold coins and went inside the store.

I could hear the sound of blacksmithing after a while.

"Oh I haven't introduced myself. I'm Alma. Alma Lepsius. I might have a family name but since I'm the third daughter of a small noble household.... Well, frankly speaking, I'm just a commoner! Un! I don't wanna get married off into some weird place so I left of the territory!"

What a terrible self-introduction.

Following after her, I also introduce myself.

"I'm Mathias. Mathias Hildesheimr. I might have a family name, but I'm the third son of a small noble household. In short, a commoner. I've got no field to plow so I went out of the village. Call me Mathi."

Mine is even more terrible.

Well, having no field to plow is the most whatever reason for me to get

out of the territory though.

Truthfully, I just wanted to become an adventurer sooner.

"By the way, this Rulii who uses the sword in question is,"

"She's my friend, we left the territory together.... It's the girl over there!"

Alma pointed outside the store while she was talking.

Apparently, the person in question will make an appearance.

Chapter 19: Strongest Sage, Realizes His Lack of Experience in Life

Lured by Alma's line of sight that went outside the store, I also looked outside.

There's a girl around Alma's age with blond hair--

C...Cute!

"Alma, did you have any luck with this store? I couldn't get any myself. Maybe getting a magic sword augmented by tomorrow is--oh my? The gentleman over there is...."

"This is Mathi-kun. He's gonna do the magic augmenting for me!"

It was a perfect strike.

No wait. The other party is 14 year old y'know? Think of my age. My age right now is.... Huh? It's 12. There's nothing weird about it.

Let's forget about that. First, I need to calm down and introduce myself. Be natural, natural....

"I-it is an honor to have met you, my name is Mathias Hildesheimr..."

"Why'd you act so polite all of a sudden...."

Alma retorted me. She's exactly right.

What am I getting shaken for anyway. Even if the current me is 12 year old, the fact that I have a thousand and several hundred years worth of memory doesn't change.

I'm going to use my experience in love affair from my past life here--
Huh?

When I think about it again, my experience in the past life mostly didn't have anything related to love.

No. Let's think about it again, carefully.

I was alive in my past life for a thousand and hundreds years.

Time without a girlfriend, a thousand and hundreds years (equals, my lifetime in my past life + my lifetime in this life.) I see. It's only natural for me to be like this then. Even Biffgel's experience in combat is still slightly better compared to my experience in love.

For now, I've got to introduce myself. When I think again, I should just do it like I did with Alma earlier.

"I'm Mathias. Mathias Hildesheimr. I might have a family name, but I'm the third son of a small noble household. In short, a commoner. I've got no field to plow so I went out of the village. Call me Mathi."

Alright. T'was a perfect self-introduction word-to-word identical to the one earlier. This is nothing if I just calm down.

But... There's no response.

I look at the girl, her face is red with a blank expression.

...I wonder why. Did I anger since I recycled my introduction.

No. Her expression is too unusual for it to be that. Perhaps, a magic criminal lurking in the city used a hidden mind magic on--.

"Are you alright Ruli?"

While I was converging a detection magic, Alma got close to Ruli and poked her cheek.

How enviable--I mean, that's dangerous! Even though they're rare, there are types of magic that can infect with contacts!

"...Ha! I-I'm fine. M-my name is Ruli Abendroht. I-I don't have a fiance or a boyfriend! I would love it if you call me Ruli...."

I see. She's got no boyfriend huh.

It's a nice information for me, but I wonder if that's something you'd tell in your first meeting.

...Perhaps there's such a custom in some parts of the world. I can't think of any other reason for it.

"Nice to meet you, Ruli."

"N-nice to meet you!"

"Yup, now that we know each other, let's get back to the topic!"

Once we were done, Alma cut in with eyes that looked like she saw something heartwarming for some reason.

...I didn't think about it the first time, but looking closer, Alma is also quite--.

No. Let's not think anything unnecessary, yes let's.

"Mathi-kun would augment the sword for us now, Ruli, do you have that sword with you?"

"Mathi-kun would? Mathi-kun is around the same age as us right? Don't you think that's too much...."

"My common sense also agrees with you.... But my intuition told me to leave it to him."

"I suppose it can't be helped if Alma's intuition says so."

It comes through her with that. Is Alma's intuition really that accurate I wonder.

"This is the broken sword. This sword has been passed down in our family for generations, they said it couldn't be repaired...."

Ruli took out a long sword that had been split in two from its base.

The sword's magic augment is most likely a lesser version of **【Toughening】**.

It's considerably better than the magic swords in this store.... But, it still doesn't look like a powerful sword.

"I'm really sorry Ruli. If only I noticed it sooner...."

"The two of us were saved thanks to Alma's intuition. It's unfortunate about the sword, but thanks to Alma and Mathi-kun, it'd make it in time for the exam anyway.... Would it make it in time?"

Ruli asked me that.

"Of course. Once the base sword is complete, I could do it immediately...."

I don't know the market price for the reward.

I actually don't need any reward since it will be done in five seconds though.... But I shouldn't do that.

Augments from a Fourth Crest was equal trash in my past life, or rather, it was treated like a harmful act that would only waste magic stones and equipment.... But if we consider the price of the swords here and their states, it's hard to say that the augment is worthless.

But I feel it'd only lead to problem if I the price I asked turned out to be too expensive later on.... Right, I should do that.

"As for the reward, let's just say that I'm lending you one."

"Y-yes!"

Looks like she agreed to it.

I would probably learn the value of the augmentation later anyway, I can then decide what the compensation would be.

If it's cheap then that's fine, if it's expensive, that means I've lent a favor to a noble family. For someone without any connection like me, it would probably come in handy.

"Ou, I've got the sword ready here."

I turned around and saw the storekeeper carrying a lightweight longsword.

He's much quicker than he promised, but there doesn't seem to be any problem with its quality. He might have said 30 minutes to leave quite some room for any error.

"Then let me start the augmentation. Could I have the magic stone?"

"Eh, you're doing it here right now?"

Alma handed me the magic stone while saying that.

I'm doing it right now, the augmentation won't take any time anyway.

It'd only be several seconds.

"Yeah. It'll be over in an instant if it's only this much. The augment magic should be similar to that sword's right?"

After putting the magic stone in the sword, first I synchronize the metal's mana with the magic stone's mana. This is a process called Mana Conditioning.

Next I augment it with magic. The types of magic are... **【Toughening】** and **【Iron Slash】**. These two are the most general purpose ones the current me could stabilize.

By the way, the magic swords in this store are most likely augmented without doing the Mana Conditioning first. That's probably the biggest cause of the terrible quality.

A magic augments who doesn't know this process is like a blacksmith who doesn't know how to do tempering. They should give up the business at once.

"Well, this should do. Go on and try it."

I said that and gave the augmented sword to Ruli.

"So fast!?"

"Oy oy. There's no way you coulda done it that fast...."

"That's right. Even the fastest augmentation should take 10 minutes at least. If you just swing it like this--"

While muttering, Ruli took the sword and swung it lightly.

"You can easily tell whether it's been augmented...."

This time she swings it a bit more powerfully.

And then her eyes opened wide.

"No way!? It's really been augmented!"

That's what I've been telling you....

Chapter 20: Strongest Sage, Creates a Magic Sword

"T-that only took like five seconds didn't it? Just what kind of trick did you use? Did you maybe prepare a magic sword beforehand and secretly swap them?"

After checking the magic sword augment out, Alma asked me.

What do you want me to say....

"I just augmented it like the usual though?"

"You can't call that 'the usual'. I can assert that."

"No no. It's usually like this you know. ...Don't you think so Storekeeper-san?"

The magic swords sold in this store have skipped a process in their creation after all, I'm sure it only took them two seconds to complete one depending on its creation.

You might call it slow, but calling it fast is just--

"I'm in agreement with the young lady here. It's just impossible. ...But the sword really has been augmented. I've made that sword myself so it's impossible for me to mistake it, nor for it to get swapped. And the conclusion we can gather from those facts is...."

"The conclusion is?"

At Alma's question, the storekeeper replies with a serious expression.

"Lad, won't you be a magic augments?"

"I won't!"

I replied instantly. I went all the trouble of even reincarnating myself to get a crest suited for combat, like I would take a job to do these poor augments.

Ask that to someone with the First Crest please.

"Then please do it for today! Augment my swords! Of course I'll pay ya handsomely! How does 300 gold coin for one sword sound!"

However, the storekeeper keeps on hounding me.

I'm only here to buy a sword, why did this happen.

"Hold on, it's true that it was very fast, but isn't 300 gold coins a bit too much? An augmentation that's the same price as the magic sword itself, that's not gonna be profitable at all isn't it?"

It seems Alma found it hard to believe too.

"That's normally the case, but.... The augmentation of that sword looks different than the usual somehow. Young lady, would you like to test the sword?"

"Let me do it!"

With that flow, we went to the back of the store to test the new sword.

The object of the test is a scrap wood. She's holding the sword on the side, ready to swing it vertically down. It'd be harder to fail here.

I'm worried about the test object instead, it's just too fragile....

"Here I go!"

Ruli greatly swung the sword while saying that.

No wait. If you put that much force against mere lumber--.

"Huh?"

SWISH, the lumber cut in two along with that sound, and the sword plunged down into the ground with most of its force intact.

Then it hit the ground and stopped after sinking a bit.

"W-what's with that sharpness...."

"Hold on there, that's just weird...."

The two were surprised at the result of the test.

And the girl who wielded the sword herself is dumbfounded.

"...Eh....? I felt no resistance at all, so I ended up swinging the sword to the ground.... Ah, the sword's!"

Ruli pulled the sword off the ground while shouting and checked the sword's condition.

"The sword would be chipped if I used it like that.... There's none!"

"On the contrary, the stone looks like it's been cut a bit...."

Alma picked up a stone on the ground and muttered.

"500 gold coins, no 1000! Please augment my sword, just one is enough!"

"Just what kind of augments did you put on this!?"

"Don't you think it cutting stones is just weird!?"

And before I knew it, the three inched on me without giving me a chance to cope.

I'm only here to get a sword, why'd it come this, really.

"For now, calm down! Don't talk all at once! First, I augmented it with **【Iron Slash】** and **【Toughening】** magic. It's not unusual for a sword to cut stones with these two augments."

"It is unusual! Isn't multiple augments the national treasure-grade! How would I ever pay back such an augmentation...."

And Ruli was extremely shaken.

This, national treasure-grade? That's really weird. If a magic sword created in five seconds by a Fourth Crest is national treasure-grade, then this world would have been full of national treasures.

"Please calm down. There's no way this thing is a national treasure. It's just two augments you know? A proper magic augments would laugh this one out...."

"Mathi-kun, are you being serious?"

Alma interrupted my explanation with a serious look on her face. Of course I'm serious.

"Of course I am. Augments from this crest don't worth much. A magic augments with the proper First Crest... I mean, Glory Crest, should be able to pull off 10 to 20 magic augments right?"

Judging from the ambiance of Ruli's mana, she's most likely a First Crest. As long as she trains properly, she can probably do this much in just a few years.

10 augments should be possible in 30 years, 20 should be attainable in just 200 years.

"No, that's impossible."

"This kid's off the deep end. Someone gotta do something about him fast..."

"10 and 20, that's a tale from the world of myth...."

Why. Why do they react like this.

Is this also an adverse effect of chant magic? Is it due to that thing that this world now treats a mere dual augment as national treasures?

Now that I see it's gone this far, I feel like this is a malicious act by someone.

Right now, I won't be surprised even if you tell me that the demon or such has infiltrated the country and made it so magic declined.

"OK I got it. It's useless to preach common sense to the lad. We should talk about something more productive now."

The storekeeper put the second chaotic situation into order. As expected of a storekeeper. As an adult, he's reliable--

"That being the case, I'm beggin' ya for an augment. Your reward will be the whole property I own...."

Or not. He just went back to the beginning. Only that the amount of money being offered rose astronomically.

Un.

Just do whatever you want.



In the end, the magic augment cost 1000 gold coins and I only did it to one sword.

All this money of which I've no aim to spend at is piling up inside the Storing magic. Well, gold coins aren't too heavy so it's not like it troubles me even if they pointlessly multiply.

At first I wasn't really going to ask for that much money from the storekeeper either, but I decided to after recalling the price of magic swords in his store.

An eye for an eye, a rip-off for a rip-off.

I'm gonna look for a motivated First Crest user, and teach them the art of augmentation. In this present world, it appears that I have to raise a craftsman myself if I want to obtain a strong weapon.

While getting rolled up in such an affair (?) along the way, I got to the day of the exam.

Chapter 21: Strongest Sage, Get Left Behind by the Examiner

"You have 60 minutes for this exam! Begin!"

There would be written and practical tests and the written one was the first.

Probably due to the amount, the test isn't divided by subjects, everything has to be done in 60 minutes.

To be frank, I didn't prepare anything for this test. Or rather, I didn't know what kind of subjects would be in the test.

Thus, I'm completely improvising on-site.

From what I've seen, the test is about national language, magic circle math, and simple geography. And also combat arts.

The first two were all rudimentary so I didn't have any problem.

One of the question for the magic circle math was obviously on a whole different level than the rest, but well, it's still within the elementary level.

The map was also shaped like the one I was familiar with in my past life, so I didn't have any problem regarding the topology.

Well leaving aside the fact that the map was quite inaccurate, and that the drawn part was quite narrow with rest blackened out.

The problem was with the combat arts. Of course, it was my main field of expertise in my past life, but I'm not familiar with the arts used in this era.

'Write about Loita style swordsmanship', you ask. Hell if I know that.

....Let's just write some random things.

Conveniently enough, I had a sword nerd acquaintance with the same name in my past life. I just wrote the combat art she talked about and her way of fighting as is.

I abridged it though since it wouldn't have fitted the answer column if I

wrote the whole thing.

The written test ended like such and the practical test is finally starting.

First, it's of swordsmanship. Just as I've anticipated, it's a practical battle against an instructor.

"Next, Ruli Abendroht!"

"Yes!"

My turn is right after Ruli.

Ruli went into the exam room with the magic sword I augmented yesterday.

The instructor who's in charge of the test is carrying a common sword. The blade part has been ground out, probably as a safety measure.

"Swordsmanship examination, begin!"

With the signal, Ruli stepped forward and thrust her sword at the instructor.

It's an extremely basic move for a lightweight magic sword user. Of course, the instructor had predicted that too as he leisurely blocked Ruli's sword.

With a clank sound, Ruli's sword was flicked away, creating an opening on her. The instructor aimed at that moment and tried to thrust his sword at Ruli--but he did not succeed.

The instructor did try to thrust his sword. However, the instructor wasn't holding a sword, but the remain of a sword that had been broken on the middle.

Well, I guess this is the obvious result when a common sword clashes against Ruli's magic sword.

"Mu?"

"Eh?"

However, the two people in questions didn't expect this themselves.

The atmosphere in the exam room stiffened along with the dumbfounded voices.

The instructor pulled himself together first. He doesn't seem to be a swordsmanship instructor just for show, he swings his shortened sword at Ruli while still in confusion.

However, this time Ruli reacts properly and blocks the instructor's sword.

With a clink sword, the instructor's sword got even shorter.

"Ei"

Ruli thrusts at the instructor once again.

The instructor blocked it.... however, his sword broke again, completely losing its blade. The grip is the only thing left of the instructor's sword.

The instructor looked at his own sword with an amazed expression and held his hands up afterward.

"I give up. I heard that the sword passed down in Abendroht house was powerful, but this was too much...."

"This is not that sword though...."

"It's not?"

"The sword passed down in my family was broken recently. This one is a new sword."

"Now that you mention it, it does look newly made.... rather, isn't that a sword from Bass's store. Is it a new product?"

"It's not exactly a new product, but there's another sword with the same augments at that store... Huh? Where's the instructor."

"I'm gonna buy the sword right away! Yakato, do the rest!"

The instructor abandoned the exam and ran to the school's gate immediately after he said that.

The other examiners tried to bring him back in a hurry, but none could catch up to him.

The instructor ran off somewhere just like that.

Only Ruli, the examiners who's in charge of recording the result and me are left.

"...What should we do now?"

If the instructor in charge of the recording were a warrior, he might be able to act as a stand-in but his movements and build suggest that he's a magician.

Whom should I beat up now?

"Err, I'm a magician so I can't step in as the examiner...."

"In that case, I will take up the role."

The one who came forward was a man at the prime of his life who had been watching the exam at the corner of the room since awhile ago.

His build isn't too bad. He should be a good match against my father Castor.

"Ga-Gayle-sa--"

"You've got no problem with me right?"

The instructor was going to say something when this Gayle-san made an eye signal, then he looked like he understood something and went silent.

Who the heck is Gayle.

Chapter 22: Strongest Sage, Defeats an Unfamiliar Person

"You're Castor's son huh. His exam was terrible.... You're not gonna tell me that you're trying to pass the exam with only the practical test are you?"

This Gayle old man seems to know my father, Castor.

"That's exactly it. And so, what would you do?"

"Haahaahaa. Figured as much. Then I'll let you pass the exam regardless of the other results if you can put up a good fight against me. If you can do that much, the school higher-ups shouldn't have any complain.... If you can put up a good fight that is."

Gayle showed a smile like he was really enjoying it while saying that.

That said, it's not the same sarcastic smile that Biffgel occasionally showed.

If I have to say, it's closer to the smile this race of people called battle junkies show when they're up against someone they can have fun fighting against.

Well, the real combat addict would have attacked first before attempting to talk, so it's a little rude of me to call this old man a combat addict.

Still, a good fight huh. Apparently, he's severely underestimating me.

Ah. I forgot another term.

"Sorry. I forgot one thing, I can't just pass the exam regularly. I've got to pass as a scholarship student."

"...Is it money problem? I can see that you're reasonably capable just looking at your body. There're ways to pay for your tuition while you're attending the school y'know?"

"If I want to attend the school at my age, I have to enter as a scholarship student, that's the condition."

When he heard that, Gayle nodded like he understood.

Well, in reality, money was the biggest reason for it though.

"Aa. That sure is something Castor would say. Normally, this school accepts 15 year old children after all. Ordinary 12 year old can't apply, but there's no problem if they're extraordinary. Well, even if you don't get the scholarship, I'll talk to Castor about it depending on this fight.... Now then, are you ready?"

I still don't know the identity of this Gayle old man, but it appears he holds quite the authority with him.

He's been saying 'good fight' all this time, I wonder what'd happen if I beat him up.

....I should try it.

"I've always been ready."

"That seems to be the case. Then, allow me to--start!"

Gayle plunged at me while saying that.

Looks like he's holding back quite a bit since the other party is a 12 year old. I can see that he's considerate enough to not injure me.

If I make use of that, it's easy to decisively and quickly end the match.

However, that'd be meaningless. This isn't an actual fight, but an examination.

I'll win this head-on and make him recognize me. I'm pretty sure the current me has the power to realize that.

"Aren't you underestimating me too much?"

With these words, I used Physical Reinforcement and activated 【Mana Strike】 while blocking Gayle's training sword.

By the way, you're allowed to use magic that strengthen your body and sword in the swordsmanship test.

This rule must be in consideration of magic swords.

"Mwu!?"

Gayle had his sword repelled and his body lost its balance.

However, he immediately regained it and took some distance away.

"Castor was quite dangerous himself, but you're even more of a monster huh.... Alright. I won't hold back either. I'm not gonna tell you to get out of this unscathed, but at least try not to die, you got it?"

"Gayle-sama!"

The instructor who was in charge of recording shouted in bafflement, but Gayle didn't mind it at all.

The fact that the record keeper doesn't try to stop Gayle at all even though the situation clearly deviates from an exam probably shows that this Gayle person holds quite the authority.

Gayle fiercely plunged at me while I was thinking that.

There is no more shred of holding back in his movement. He's most likely stronger than my father.

I block his his sword head-on.

I can barely surpass Gayle's strength by using both Physical Reinforcement and Mana Strike together.

No. Even though he's doing it unconsciously, he's circulating a portion of his mana on his body, strengthening it, so his power is slightly higher than mine.

However, I can easily overturn this small difference with skills.

I slightly retreat while blocking and ward his sword sideway.

Gayle was trying to push ahead.... I activate **【Mana Layer Lubrication】** while matching his movement.

Just as the name suggests, **【Mana Layer Lubrication】** is magic that creates a layer of lubrication made of mana on the surface that makes a sword slips easier, but only for an instant.

However, the effect is huge in a sword-locking contest where even a

small difference of strength could tip the balance.

Gayle's center of gravity got slightly weakened because his sword was suddenly slipping.

I didn't overlook that chance and stepped in at once, thrusting the tip of my sword on Gayle's neck.

"...I give."

Gayle declared his defeat.

I put my sword away when I saw that.

"Ga-Gayle-sama, lost? ...He held back didn't he....?"

"Gayle-sama looked like he was serious halfway through the match.... My eyes could barely catch up with it, I wasn't even sure what happened...."

It seems the record keepers haven't grasped the situation yet--well, Gayle will probably do something about it. Or rather, why's there a lot of magicians working as record keepers in the swordsmanship exam?

My practical swordsmanship test ended with that question in my mind.

The next one is the practical magic test.

...By the way, I still don't know Gayle's position even now. I wonder if he's the vice-principal?

Well, I'll probably find out once I get enrolled.

Chapter 23: Strongest Sage, Giving up Hitting the Target with Magic

"Next, Ruli Abendroht!"

"Yes!"

The practical test for magic seems to be about hitting a target.

We have to hit five targets 30 meter away in any order.

From the explanation given before the test, you're given 10 chances to shoot at them all, and the less you use the chances to hit them and the higher the damage you give to the targets, the higher your score will be.

It's an orthodox method to test the basic of long-range attacks. Something similar to this existed in my past life.

However, the targets are quite big. Enough that it's harder to miss them instead.

As long as the output suffices, you'd quickly learn how to hit non-moving targets like these. I wonder if the presents age puts more importance to the mean rather than the end.

By the way, my turn is after Ruli yet again.

"Hit the targets with Fire Arrows."

"Yes! ...Fire mana that dwells in my body, become a straight arrow and pierce the enemy before me!"

Following the instructor's order, Ruli chanted and then a fire arrow hit one of the targets.

I think her power and efficiency are a bit better than Biffgel's. Well, I suppose it'd be difficult to put a lead over someone else when both use chant magic that automatically controls your mana.

Ruli repeated the chant afterward, hit the five targets and then she declared that she was done.

The rules states that you can shoot the targets up to 10 times, but it

seems she's going to stop here.

None of the target was destroyed, but it seemed Ruli was satisfied with the result as she went out of the exam ground with a satisfied look on her face.

"Next, Mathias Hildesheimr!"

One of the two examiners called my name.

"Yes!"

"Hit the targets with Fire Arrows."

I've been thinking about it since Ruli's test, why should it has to be fire arrow I wonder.

I'm quite sure they didn't state anything about the type of magic you have to use during the explanation of the exam.

"Is using other magic than Fire Arrow not allowed?"

"That is not the case, however, it's the easiest magic to control, therefore--"

The examiner saw my crest halfway through and then his face changed to that of a pitying look.

"...Please don't lose hope. You might still be able to pass if your other tests went well."

For some reason, he's already assuming my failure.

I'm planning to clear this test though.

"I just have to destroy the targets right?"

"That's right.... Can you reach it?"

"I can't."

The Fourth Crest does have a short range for magic.

Let alone 30 meter, it can barely reach even 1/3 of that.

The other crest would have no problem hitting a target 30 meter away, you can say that this test has the worst compatibility with the Fourth

Crest.

However, that doesn't mean that I can't pass this test.

There's no need to hit the targets with the magic just because they're targets.

"Then--"

"I can destroy the target even if I can't reach it.... By the way sensei, you'd better get away a bit. I will control the direction but it won't be perfect."

I began to construct a magic while saying that.

A powerful and complex magic incomparable to magic like 【Mana Strike】 and other lesser magic I had used up until now in the current world.

"Eh?"

"I think you'd be safe if you step another five meter back."

It's not a magic that can be used in an actual combat since it takes too much time to construct.

Being able to talk like this during the preparation means it'd been over if this were a battle.

In addition, one shoot of this magic will exhaust most of the mana the current me has.

However, it's more than enough to pass this exam.

I completed the magic construction right when the examiner went outside the range while looking dubious.

"Then, I'm going.... Hmph!"

A gigantic magic circle appeared in front of me when I activated the magic I had constructed.

The magic circle began to rotate right after, and explosive flames started to gush out of it.

An explosive blast that possesses enormous amount of heat devastates

the surroundings, dyeing my view red.

It's obviously overkill just to destroy those poor targets.

However, this is fine. The main part of this magic won't reach the targets after all. The maximum range of this magic is 10 meters.

I'm going to destroy the targets using the shockwave of the magic.

Now then. And the result is---

"...Huh? Did I overdo it...?"

I didn't know what the targets were made of so I constructed the magic with the assumption that they were of mithril alloy just in case, but I might have raised the power a bit too much.

The ground where the targets were placed have completely disappeared, you can't even tell where the targets were originally located.

The schoolyard where the exam is held is even worse off.

One part of the ground has evaporated into a vitrified crater.

It's still at the level where it can be quickly repaired with magic, but this looks a bit bad.

"...Huh? How strange. What's happening here....?"

I turned at the examiner to ask for the result, but he rubbed his eyes, hit his own head and did some doubtful gestures while muttering weirdly.

I made sure that the shockwave was mainly directed at the targets and barely reached the examiner though.... Did I make a mistake somewhere?

"Err, are you alright?"

I approach the instructor while preparing to use healing magic.

And I investigate his condition by looking at the mana reaction in his body.... I don't see anything odd.

"It doesn't seem that I'm alright. I'm seeing a hallucination. I'm seeing a hallucination where a Disqualified Crest blew away all the targets and created a crater in the schoolyard. And he wasn't chanting. Or is it my

eyes. My eyesight must have gone bad."

"Sensei, it's not a hallucination."

"Reis-sensei, I heard a huge sound just now, what just--what the hell's this!"

The other examiners who came after hearing the sound didn't put the situation under control, it raised more confusion instead.

It took another hour for the uproar to settle down and for the result of my exam to be decided.

By the way, I didn't get punished or anything.

『Do Not Destroy the Schoolyard』 was fortunately not written in the exam rule.

I felt bad to leave the schoolyard as is so I quickly mended it with my remaining mana.

I had a feeling that the examiners who saw that had an astounded look on their faces, but I'm not going to mind it.

I had run out of mana, I would be helpless if I said something unnecessary and had to redo the exam.

Chapter 24: Strongest Sage, Ponders the Term 'Perfect Score'

The next day after the exams full of happenings.

I went back to the school to check the result.

Looks like it's ordered by scores.

Since I didn't prepare anything at all for the written test, my name would probably be on the end of the list even if I passed.

With that in mind, I check the name from below.

Looks like the lowest passing mark this time is 27.

Since it's a bit lower than my father, Castor's score, I should pass if that Gayle old man could pull some strings.

But I couldn't find my name no matter how many times I look at the list.

I see. I failed....

Looks like I got deceived by that Gayle old man. I thought he looked like he could be trusted so I put my hope in him....

But I'm a loner after all. It seems I don't have the ability to judge someone's character.

"Ah, Mathi-kun! Did you see the notice!?"

I heard a familiar voice while I was wallowing in despair.

No, there's no way I can mistake this voice. It's Ruli's.

"...Notice? No. It seems I've failed the exam, so I'm going back to my home--"

"You didn't fail! Mathi-kun, you're the top scorer!"

Saying that, Ruli pointed at another paper stuck slightly above the announcement paper.

Titled, 『List of Scholarship Students』.

The very first one is my name.

"Oh.... I passed! I passed!"

Don't tell me, this notice.... The notice for scholarship student is separated from the normal ones!?

How incomprehensible! I almost misunderstood I failed here and went back home!

"And we're in the same class! Class A!"

Ruli gleefully held my hands after she said that.

Even though I seemingly made her mad in our first meeting, it seems we've reconciled somehow.

Apparently she hasn't noticed that she's holding my hands, but I'll be keeping my silent for this happy occasion.

Leaving that aside, I see that the classes are written next to the name of the scholarship students.

However, they're written rather unintelligibly.

There are four classes written next to your name, 『Adventure Class』, 『Magic Class』, 『Swordsmanship Class』, 『General Study Class』 and each has an alphabet next to it.

By the way, Ruli's are, 『Adventurer Class A』, 『Magic Class A』, 『Swordsmanship Class A』, 『General Study Class A』, while mine are 『Adventurer Class A』, 『Magic Class S』, 『Swordsmanship Class S』, 『General Study Class: Blank』.

The adventure class seems to be from the total score divided in two, but the other classes are apparently separated in accordance of each scores.... Except for me.

Or rather, what the heck is blank.

"By the same class, are you talking about the adventure class?"

"Yes! The second royal academy's adventure class is--"

"whiste. Oh they're holding hands~. I'm heating up here~. Ah, I'm also in

class A, be kind to me too okay~!"

"Hands...? Ah, I'm sorry! I wasn't thinking...."

Alma broke in when Ruli and I was talking, and pointed out our hands.

And then, Ruli noticed her hands holding mine and separated them.

Dang it, Alma.

...By the way, what did she mean by 『Heating Up』, I wonder. Did we start talking about flame magic while I wasn't paying attention?

"So, what were you two talking about? Maybe, I really was in the way?"

Yeah. You are in the way. I know a magic driven by rage from my past life, I feel like I could activate it right here and now.

"Y-you're not! I'm glad that Alma passes and we're in the same class!"

Right. No one would want to grasp the hand of a loner like me, Alma who noticed must look like a savior to her....

....Not good. The trauma from my past loner life is about to be revived.

"By the way, don't you think Mathi-kun's class scores are weird somehow?"

"Really?"

"I've never seen Class S or blank space, and all your scores exceed the limit!"

I haven't seen the scores themselves since I was preoccupied with failure misunderstanding.

As pointed out by Alma, I look at the column where my scores are.

Total Score 257 of 50

Swordsmanship 120 of 10

Magic 75 of 10

General Study 62 of 30

These scores are weird indeed.

I mean, every one of them exceeds the full score.

By the way, the second place is Ruli with 47 score. I would have been able to pass even without the sword if it was like this.

"...What the heck is that. A misprint?"

"This is too much for a misprint.... Most of them even way exceed the limit!"

"The swordsmanship score is probably well justified."

I was perplexed, Alma was shouting, Ruli muttered.

"Is that Gayle old man really that strong?"

He's certainly stronger than my father, Castor, but I'm not sure if defeating him is enough to make the score went from 10 to 120.

Even if we consider the fact that my father got 30 for beating up the examiner, beating him should only get me 50 at most.

"Gayle.... Don't tell me, Gayle the knight commander?"

"I'm telling you exactly that! Knight commander-san who came to inspect the exam took the examiner's place who went somewhere to buy a sword! And then Mathi-kun beat up knight commander-san!"

Eh, that old man was the knight commander!?

No. There's no way. Knight commander should have been stronger than that.

If the knight commander is only that strong, one dragon would be enough to destroy this country.

"I thought Ruli wasn't the type to joke around, I really wanted to retort many things there..... Well, since your name is written here, they probably won't revoke you passing anyway, all should become clear on the entrance day!"

Ah, this girl stopped thinking about it.

Un. I'll do just that too. That's it.

Chapter 25: Strongest Sage, Gets Targeted

The day of the entrance.

I left the inn I had been staying at up until now and went to the academy.

The academy has a dormitory, I'm planning to live in there from today on. My luggage is inside the Item Box.

I'm a bit worried about my weird classes though.... Well, I should be able to manage somehow.

A lot of students who appear to be freshmen have gathered at the academy's entrance.

We haven't been given our uniforms though so I wouldn't know even if there were other party in it.

"Lemme see, was there going to be an entrance ceremony or something?"

I checked out the board near the gate, it had an announcement for the entrance ceremony to be held in the schoolyard.

There's really one, entrance ceremony. Honestly I'm not good with long speech, I've got no choice but to bear with it.

Let's ignore what the big-wig's saying by coming up of an idea to better improve Fourth Crest magic usage efficiently.

I went to the schoolyard while thinking that

However, my expectation was betrayed in a good way.

The principal who was standing on the stage during the entrance ceremony didn't look like someone who had been assigned to be the principal of a royal academy.

A scarred face and tempered muscles. He's a war veteran no matter how you look at him. There's probably no one in this world who would think of him as a 『Principal』 when they saw him. They must have a screw loose in their head if there's one.

By the way, his name seems to be Edward.

"I don't like long speech. I'll leave this and that formality stuff to the bunch at the First Academy."

And that was the first thing the principal who was standing on the stage uttered.

Wonderful. Including my past life, this might be the first time I've seen a big-wig who doesn't talk too long.

"Ability is everything at the Second Royal Academy! Unlike the First Academy, your households or crests hold no merit here! If there's anyone bringing anything needless here, I'll go and fix their guts myself!And unfortunately, 10% of the students at the Second Academy lost their life during the enrollment. You've got to be strong if you don't want that happens to you! This school will provide the right environment to make that happen. Young chicks, polish your power! ...That is all!"

....Was the Second Royal Academy a military academy?

The entrance ceremony ended with that question in my mind.

There was no roll call, and no other big-wigs that came out besides the principal.

Judging from the calm attitudes of the other students, the second royal academy might have always been this kind of place.

It's convenient for me personally.

"Students of Class A, please gather here!"

"Class B over here! Come at once!"

After the entrance ceremony was over, people who seemed to be teachers came to the schoolyard and began to gather the students.

By class, they probably refer to adventure class, I guess I'm going to the class A.

"Alright, everyone's here. Class A's classroom is over there. Follow me!"

We're all following the teacher from behind. I think there's around 20

people in Class A.

I saw familiar faces in the form of Ruli and Alma among them, but after seeing that militant speech, no one seems to be in the mood to chatter pointlessly, everyone is silent.

That principal would probably hit you if you did that in front of him. Well, I think I can evade it though.

"Here's your classroom. Your homeroom teacher will come not long after this, wait inside until then."

Apparently, the teacher who guided us wasn't the homeroom teacher.

We get left behind in the classroom and wait for the homeroom teacher.

Just when the mood turned delicate as we weren't sure how long we should wait, the classroom's door was powerfully opened.

And the man who mightily entered the open door declares loudly.

"I'm the one in charge of this class, Edward. Nice to meet ya."

...Huh? Our homeroom teacher is the principal!?

First time I saw a principal working as a teacher. Wonder if it's common in this present time.

"O, yea. You probably know already, I'm the principal here. There are times when I'm busy, the assistant teacher will take care of you then. By the way, the idiot over there is the assistant teacher."

The principal pointed at the man slightly behind him.

There's a fist-like mark on his face.... Putting that aside, feels like I've seen his face somewhere.

"This guy is an idiot who abandoned his post during the exam to buy a sword, but he's good enough with a sword. Ask this guy anything whenever I'm absent."

I see. I thought he looked familiar, he was the examiner from that time huh.

I looked at his waist to ascertain whether he was able to buy the sword

in the end, but the sword he's carrying seems to be a different one.

Well, the sword I augmented should get an eye-popping price after all, I'm not surprised that he couldn't buy it.

"Also, I've got to apologize for one thing. There was a mistake in my entrance ceremony speech."

Mistake? Is he going to tell us that 10% is actually not the mortality rate but the survival rate?

"I said young chicks at the end of my speech, but that doesn't apply to all of you. There's a guy who obviously isn't a chick mixed among the new students this year. I'm not gonna say who that guy is.... Well, you'll probably find out soon."

The principal grinned at me after he said that.

I feel like I'm being targeted somehow.

Perhaps he's holding a grudge at me for destroying the schoolyard. And after I repaired it and all.

"By the way, our school encourages teachings between students. You're free to pick a fight with anyone you find interesting. That's the quickest way to probe each other's ability."

....Can you really call that teachings.

Even though I was a loner in my past life, I still understand that a communication that's born from a fight is weird y'know.

"Well, you guys are going to form parties often as long as you don't drop out to Class B. Introduce yourself at that time. We can lend you the combat training ground if you need it...."

Do not want.

I felt like I could hear the whole class saying that together.

....Or rather, you can drop out of the class huh.

Chapter 26: Strongest Sage, Gets Surrounded by Teachers

"Now introduce yourself starting from... Well anyone's fine. Alright, Mathias the top grade of the school year! Let's start from you!"

Looks like the principal is calling us by our names.

He's not calling the surname probably because your houses, upbringing and such are irrelevant in this school.

If there's someone with a famous noble name or something among us, the other students will be conscious of that person even if they don't intend to after all.

I'm in agreement with the goal and only tell my given name for my introduction.

"I'm Mathias. Just call me Mathi. Err..."

Come to think of it, I haven't prepared what to say here at all. This is my first self-introduction in hundreds of years after all.

...Well, there should be no need to say superfluous stuff since this school is kinda like a military academy. Guess I should just tell my combat orientation.

"My crest is the Fourth Crest... I mean. Disqualified Crest. My specialty is in the short-range magic and physical mixed combat. Nice to meet you."

The crest isn't commonly known as the Fourth Crest in the present age, so I called it as they would.

The classroom rustled a bit after hearing my introduction.

"Magic and physical mixed combat, what's that?"

"Rather, can Disqualified Crest even use magic?"

"I also have Disqualified Crest and I can't use magic you know?"

The principal is grinning to see the classroom.

However, it doesn't seem like he's going to explain about short-range magic and physical mixed combat and the Disqualified Crest.

"Next! The runner-up, Ruli!"

After my introduction was over, the principal looked down at the paper on his hand and called Ruli's name.

That paper probably has our grades on it.

"Yes! My name is Ruli. I'm good with magic and a little bit with swordsmanship. I want to become a magic augments! Um... Nice to meet you!"

Ruli introduced herself while looking slightly tense.

The classroom rustled again, though not as loud as with mine.

Apparently, it's rare for a First Crest like Ruli to be wanting to become a Magic Augments. The First Crest IS the crest for Magic Augments though....

The current world values Crests the complete opposite.

It's so bad that I begin to suspect that someone with a malicious intent made it this ineffective.

"Next! Ace!"

"Yes!"

The class continues with the introductions.

All the second to seventh ranked people had the First Crest.

And five of them besides Ruli wanted to become magicians.

"The next one's the last. ...Alma!"

"Yes. The name's Alma. I've got the Regular Magic Crest so I'm aiming to become a warrior. Though I can't win in either magic or sword against Ruli.... I've got some confidence with a bow though...."

The introduction was quite unfortunate somehow. Well, I guess it's only natural since the other party is the runner-up of the whole school year.

The difference in their swords' performances is also quite huge.

And for some reason she's aiming to become a warrior even with the Regular Magic Crest which is well suited for magic.

"And that's a wrap. Anyone has a question?"

"Sensei, I have a question!"

Alma raised her hand.

"What is it?"

"Mathias-kun's scores on the passing announcement were weird, was that a mistake!"

"Ah. That huh. The weird one here is Mathias, not the scores. How he is weird, you can check for yourself during the practical lesson. For the time being, S class and A class will have joint lessons. I've got talk about that with you, Mathias, come to the principal office later."

After such and such, our first homeroom ended and I was taken to the principal office.

What do they want from me I wonder.

"Alright. I see that everyone is here."

A lot of adults were already inside the room when we entered.

They're most likely this school's teachers. Several faces look familiar from the exam and the entrance ceremony.

30% are of scholar type, 40% are of magician type and 30% are of warrior type huh.

The fact that there's not even one mixed physical and magic combat type slightly bothers me, but they have good balance if we put that aside.

"Sorry for being so sudden, Mathias, please solve this problem. And this too."

The principal said that and handed me a paper with two problems.

And then, the scholar-type teachers begin to observe me as to not miss

even a beat of my hand movement.

One of the problems is the same problem from the entrance exam back then.

Perhaps they're doubting me of cheating.

Fortunately, both of the problems are of rudimentary magic circle mathematics. The first problem can be solved in 20 seconds as long as you know Pythagorean theorem. The next problem is a bit more complex, but three minutes are enough to finish it.

I write the formula on the provided paper and derive the answer while being careful with mistakes.

Well, I can do it with my intuition without calculations for this level of magic circles.

Rather, magic circle maths are the basic for magic augmenters, they won't be able to do even fivefold augmentation if they can't do this much.

I finished solving the problems while thinking that.

"...In...an instant...!?"

"Oy, is this correct?"

"It's an unsolved problem. There's no way we can make sure of it unless we construct the magic."

"But I can't see anything contradictory at the very least. Perhaps this is...."

"The teacher in charge of magic augment should be able to test and confirm it shouldn't he?"

"P-please wait, I'll bring back magic stones for experiments!"

The principal office clamored the moment I finished the problems, some teachers even ran off somewhere.

Huh? This seems different from them doubting me of cheating somehow.

'Did I do anything wrong', I looked at the principal with that in mind.

"Principal-sensei, this is--"

"Mathias, do you know what you just solved?"

"The problem in the entrance exam of this academy and the extended version of that problem right?"

The principal grinned when he heard me.

"That is certainly a question in the Second Royal Academy's entrance exam.Under the assumption that it won't be solved that is."

"Assumption it won't be solved?"

"Yea. It's there for us to see how far would the participants think it through, even if they can't solve it. ...You seem to have done it though."

Such a simple problem is assumed to be unsolvable, what a weird thing to say.

If magic augmenters can't even construct this level of magic circle, that means no one in this world can make a proper magic sword.

Don't tell me that the magic swords in Bass's store are treated as proper ones, there's no way, nuh uh.

"Let me tell you the correct answer. The first problem is a question in the Royal Magic University entrance exam, the second problem is an unsolved problem that hasn't been solved even after the country gathered the entire magic scholars."

....Ha?

Chapter 27: Strongest Sage, Notices the Possibility of Magic Revival

That simple problem is an unsolved problem!?

"You must be lying!?"

"No, it's the truth. Moreover, the examiner whom Mathias beat in the swordsmanship test is the Knight Commander of this country, and you'd have gotten full score just by destroying one target with 10 shots in the magic test. We gave your score 75 due to various circumstances, but there were some who proposed that you should get 500."

What's with this situation. Are they trying to deceive me?

Or rather, what's up with giving 500 out of 10. What's even the point of full score then.

However, it doesn't seem like this is a joke looking at the other teachers around.

The magic augment teacher and a man who seems to be a teacher are engraving the magic circle I drew on the magic stone with very serious expressions, and the other teachers around are watching over them earnestly.

In the first place, there's nothing to gain deceiving me like this.

Well, let's hear them out for now.

"Then, assuming what you're telling me is true, what would you do?"

The principal and the teachers must have some kind of objective to call me in this situation.

Dealing with this after knowing that won't be too late.

"You must have your own circumstances to possess that much power at your age. We're not going to inquire you on that.... But, we'd like to ask for your cooperation."

"...Cooperation?"

"Yea. To tell you the truth, This Second Royal Academy is actually undergoing an existential crisis.... Though well, it's not like the academy will disappear, it's probably wrong to call it that."

"What kind of situation is it?"

"You know that this country has two Royal Academies right?"

"Well it's called Second Royal Academy after all."

If there's Second Academy, First Academy must also exist.

Unless it's been destroyed or something.

"That First Academy is the problem here. The present noble bunch apparently don't like the way things are run on the Second Academy. So they're trying to force this academy to follow the First Academy's system. They've got better result with their system too."

...Fumu.

I wonder if the country intervenes with the education in the Royal University too.

"I don't think it's a bad idea to change the education system if it brings on results."

"You're correct. So long as the result of that education system is assessed through a proper mean, that is."

"...Is it not the case?"

"These papers have the valuation of the First and Second Academies and the list of reason for that valuation. Ascertain for yourself whether it's correct or not."

He gave me several pieces of papers.

The first paper has the cooperators' names, the royalty's and something like a seal.

I turned that paper over and doubted my eyes.

In this country, selected students from the First and Second Academies are to participate in interpersonal combats to compete for superiority

once a year.

So far, so good.

For some reason, those selected students are limited to the second year elementary students and below.

We're first year elementary students, it seems the interpersonal combats will be held a month after the school term started, so there's 13 months of time between our enrollment and the interpersonal combats.

It's way too early for those students to be the ones that decide the outcome of the interpersonal combats.

"Isn't this just too hasty?"

"You think so too huh. We teachers are also in agreement. A year after enrollment is not yet the time for students to participate in an interpersonal combat. Even if they have experiences of crossing swords in training, it's just too short of a time to teach them the peculiar techniques in an interpersonal combat."

Even if the current world's common sense is full of mistakes, the thing this principal said is correct.

The basic of combat is against monsters.

After you've learned anti-monster combat, the ways of interpersonal combat is completely different. You could even say that there's hardly anything in common between them.

That's why, it's pointless to teach students the interpersonal combat techniques before the anti-monster ones. Harmful even.

Even if you have countermeasures for the problem, after several years, the ones who've got the anti-monster techniques nailed will win overwhelmingly. What a load of bull.

I turn the page while complaining at the organizer of the interpersonal combat.

The so-called 『Research Results』 of the First Academy are listed on the page. Not one of them comes from the Second Academy.

However, every one of those research results is about chant magic, worthless stuff like slightly increasing the power of the known chant magic, discovery of new ones, or slightly shortening the chant.

Something like those can be done by simply adjusting your mana if you just use normal magic (in other words, without chanting).

These kind of things are 'research results' huh.

"...What do you think?"

"For now, I understand that the ways the First Academy do things are out of question. But why is there no research result from the Second Academy?"

The First School's results being worthless doesn't necessarily mean that the Second Academy is worse than them.

Why the heck there's not even one research result.

"We have them. However, none of them is recognized."

The principal replied with a bitter look on his face. The other magician-type teachers also looked mortified.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Magic research of the current academic society equal research about chant magic. Anything besides that isn't recognized."

"...In other words, the Second Royal Academy is researching chantless magic?"

"That's right. This is the result. ...Isn't the 『Physical and magic mixed combat』 you talked about in the classroom is the objective of what we're doing?"

The principal handed over a thick bundle of paper to me while saying that.

The content was rough but it certainly looked like they were seriously researching about the way to use magic without chanting and its practical use.

And although the method to train for it can't be called efficient at all, it's been polished enough that you can't say that it's off mark either.

If what the principal said is true, this Second Royal Academy is trying to take back chantless magic in this world where chant magic has spread widely.

Yea. The Second Academy is certainly much better than the First.

"I've heard about your chantless magic and seen the earth magic you used to fix the schoolyard myself, that's a feat impossible to replicate with chant magic..... And, the thing we need most for the education of chantless magic is result. We'd like you, Mathias, to be the result."

Judging from the flow of conversation, by result he means for me to enter the interpersonal combat huh. Since the participants are limited to second year elementary students and 『Below』, I can enter it.

Interesting.

Improving oneself can only be done by yourself, but nurturing powerful ally isn't possible if you're alone.

And there are students who haven't been completely entrenched in chant magic in this academy. I'm sure they can quickly learn the proper magic if we start right now.

This isn't bad for me. Or rather, it's just what I ask for.

"I understand the gist of it. But do you mind if I ask for three conditions?"

--However, there are still some things that can be improved upon. I will only nod if they can agree to at least some of those conditions.

Chapter 28: Strongest Sage, Negotiating

"...Depends on the conditions. Of course we'll try to accept them if possible, but we cannot promise without hearing the conditions first."

A wise answer.

Makes him way more trustworthy than being hasty.

"The first one, I think there are many things that can be improved upon the magic written here. I'd like to discuss about that."

The most pressing problem is the fact that the method written here doesn't mention anything about the way to manipulate mana.

They're probably not familiar with the concept of mana manipulation since their mana get automatically controlled to form a magic by simply chanting.

"We'll accept that. Right now, Mathis is probably the only one who excels at chantless magic in this academy. We should have been the one who asked even."

Instant reply.

Well, it's not like they will accept everything I ask after all.

"Then onto the second condition; chantless magic lesson is not to be limited to swordsman-type students, but also of magician type. Also, chant magic is pointless, I will have you stop teaching it."

"...What do you guys think?"

The principal contemplated for a bit and then he asked the magician-type teachers.

The magician-type teachers discussed between them for a bit and then they turned at the principal.

"To be honest, we think it's going to be difficult. The chantless magic we're researching is designed for swordsmen who cannot use magic in the first place. Currently, Mathias is the only magician whose chantless magic exceeds chant magic, thus we are in the opinion that chant magic is

appropriate for the present magicians."

Well, I figured this would happen. They wouldn't agree if they were suddenly told that the chant magic lessons, one of the main curriculum along with swordsmanship, they've been doing since forever is to be stopped.

I had anticipated that they wouldn't completely accept this condition from the start. I was just trying to see how far they would take it.

"Then how about teaching chantless magic along with chant magic?"

"That might be feasible, but teaching chantless magic to students who haven't got the basic of chant magic driven down might bring bad influences on them."

"...Then how about teaching applicants from Magic Class A along with students who aspire to become swordsmen? Magic Class A students should be able to handle chant magic well enough already, and there should be no problem if it's limited to students who apply for the lesson."

"That would be all right!"

"That one should be acceptable. We cannot completely remove chant magic, could you make a small concession on that part?"

"I understand."

It's more than enough.

As long as even a part of the students learned chantless magic, they would see its advantage, and that should become the impetus for chantless magic to propagate.

There's no need for everyone to learn it right away.

"Well then onward to the third condition.... There's a small dungeon underneath this school right? Please allow me to enter it."

I noticed magic reaction peculiar to a dungeon when I came to this school. It's most likely a small scale dungeon with weak monsters inside.

I don't know more than that with my current magic detection, but even a

dungeon with no special characteristic is an important hunting ground for the current me.

Because that means I can kill monsters, strengthen myself and get materials and magic stones without even leaving the school. It might even become my source of funds.

"By the dungeon underneath the school, you mean the Aeslat Mid-Dungeon huh. You're obliged to enter that dungeon even if you don't want to on your second year anyway.... Are you saying you want to enter it right away?"

"Yes. After all, going against monsters is the best combat training."

"...To be honest, I think you'd have no problem in the upper floors of the dungeon with your strength. Even disregarding your chantless magic, there's nobody in this academy who could defeat the Knight Commander with a sword. If Mathias isn't allowed, that means no one is."

"Then--"

"But as a school we have our policy, only a group of five people or more is allowed to challenge the dungeon. Allowing someone going solo would be difficult."

Solo isn't allowed huh.

Well, it's not like I don't understand what he's saying. Entering a dungeon alone is definitely a special case.

Entering alone means doing everything yourself, stuff like gathering materials and such will slow you down.

Furthermore, the mortality rate goes up since even taking a rest would be hard to do.

If I'm not mistaken, statistics in my past life showed that the number increased by three times.

Even without the statistics, it's only logical that having a certain number of people would ease dungeon-capturing.

Working under the premise that the other party members have been

trained enough not to be a drag, that is.

"...Then how about a group of three people?"

The known minimum configuration of a party in my past life was three people.

Two combat-type, and one in charge of support with the First Crest.

Well, it doesn't mean that you can't go with five.

"Three people huh. Well I'm sure we can tolerate a bit in that case. But we can't let it be known that you get a preferential treatment, thus the three people would have to take a test, they'd be allowed to enter the dungeon no matter the party if they managed to pass."

Looks like he's agreed to it.

"By the way, what will be the test about?"

"It's a simple test of strength. It'd only be a bit harder than the enrollment test, we're going to confirm whether all of the party members meet the requirement to get promoted to the second year level. Your party will be allowed to enter the dungeon if they can demonstrate combat prowess higher than the current second year."

Sounds easy.

Once they learn chantless magic, they should be able to easily surpass your average student.

Well, with my communication skill, getting the party members is hard enough though.... Either way, I'm sure there would be times where I need to struggle with this party stuff within the first 400 years.

If I have to challenge it sooner or later, doing that now should be better. The school has created an excuse for me to do it after all.

Chapter 29: Strongest Sage, Demonstrates Chantless Magic

The day after the negotiation.

I went to the schoolyard in my uniform (I got them before leaving yesterday. It was free for scholarship students!) in order to participate in the first chantless magic class.

Originally there was no class for the day after the entrance ceremony, but it was hurriedly put together due to the insistence of the magician-type teachers.

"How many participants do we have here?"

We're going to have a test rather than a class today, the objective is to let them know the power of chantless magic and teach the basic of mana manipulation.

An optional class in a holiday. And it's about chantless magic that hasn't had actual results yet.

I asked a nearby teacher while thinking that even getting five students would be good.

"We have all members of Class A and one swordsman student. A lot I'd say."

"...The swordsman aside, isn't there quite a lot of magic class students?"

"That's because chantless magic is the yearning of every magician. If there's a possibility of learning one for themselves, it's only natural for them to jump in. Especially in class A's case, you can't get accepted to it without having quite an ambition and talents."

"Then why didn't you try to teach chantless magic to magic students before?"

"That is exactly why. They might neglect to train chant magic if they knew that chantless magic was possible. We couldn't teach the magic students about chantless magic until we were sure of its strength. Though,

thanks to you, we have largely verified the power of chantless magic."

Something like that huh.

Well, the fact that many people gathered here is a good thing. If there's this many people, two of them might want to form a party with me.

"Also, lots of teachers will also be attending. There are only 17 students in Magic Class A, so there's probably more teachers here."

"The teachers?"

"We tried to practice the chantless magic you taught us in the schoolyard after school yesterday."

"So, how was the result?"

"That's, well.... You can look forward to it."

The teacher looked unusually happy.

Apparently, it went well.



"Alright, looks like everyone's here."

After saying that, the teacher sticks 12 targets on the ground.

Unlike the ones from the entrance exam, the target marks are quite small.

They don't look that sturdy, but they seem to have exchangeable parts, it appears that they can be recycled.

"Then we will now begin the chantless magic class.... That said, many of you here have probably never even seen chantless magic since its usage isn't well known.... Therefore, we will ask someone who can perform chantless magic to demonstrate for us."

"Yes!"

The students replied all at once to the teacher.

Their eyes are sparkling, signifying their interest in chantless magic.

They really do yearn for chantless magic.

"There you have it Mathias, please destroy all those targets with chantless magic."

I stepped forward as told.

The students looked perplexed when they saw me.

Only Ruli and Alma were waving their hands at me.

"Mathias, the top grade Mathias? His magic practical score was amazing.... You mean that wasn't a misprint?"

"The guys from class A heard the principal said that it wasn't a misprint."

"Rather, that's a Disqualified Crest right? He must be a swordsman, not a magician."

They're bothered by my crest after all.

I didn't feel contempt like I did with Biffgel, but apparently the notion that Disqualified Crest is unsuited for magic is a common knowledge in this world.

I knew that it was deemed inferior just from its name.

...Well, in order to fix this misunderstanding, showing them would be better than using words.

After thinking that, I ignored the students and went to the target.

"May I begin now?"

"Yeah. Anytime you want."

After getting the affirmation, first I raised my leg strength with Physical Reinforcement and jumped up.

And then I jumped once again in the air using magical foothold, putting half of the targets inside my range and then I destroy them using small-scale flame magic in rapid fires.

Then I jump around in the air by controlling gravity with magic and destroy every target that enters my range one by one.

All targets destroyed.

The reason why I purposely attacked from the air is to show them that magic can be used to do more than simply attacking.

Now then. How will the students react.....

"I-incredible...."

"It is, but I don't think I can do that....?"

"Was this a class for third graders?"

"My elder brother was accepted to be a Royal Court magician after he graduated, but even he can't do that, I'm super sure of it."

"Did we get the place wrong?"

"But the teachers' here, and the one who shot that magic is Mathias from our class right?"

"Fake Mathias?"

"Maybe that one is actually a demon?"

Umm. I feel that their reaction is rather tepid.

I wonder if they came to view chantless magic as unrealistic because they only ever used chant magic. In fact, some of them even begin to craft a theory that I'm actually a fake and a demon.

Rather, demons still exist today huh.

Demons are a race of intelligent monsters who look similar to human but with black wings.

On top of having half-assed intelligence, their way of fighting is sly and bothersome to deal with, they're not as strong as greater dragons, they're creatures that aren't beneficial to anyone.

Furthermore, they're relatively resistant against magic, beating them is extremely troublesome.

Though well, you can easily defeat them by using half magic half physical attacks like augmenting bows and swords with magic, thus the

Fourth Crest has the best affinity against them.

By the way, they would evade arrows if you don't scheme around it, so I'm not actually sure if you can do it with bows.

On top of all those, they don't have any emotions other than malice, you can't negotiate with them.

They were quite a nuisance in my past life, so I indiscriminately hunted them to extinction.... But apparently, some of them still remain.

"I know that feeling! I know that feeling well!"

Two of the teachers who have gathered here broke the deadlock.

They're probably the magic-type.... They're the teachers who were in charge of my practical magic test in the entrance exam back then.

"I thought of that too when I first saw Mathias's magic in the entrance exam. No. You still have it better. I thought there was something wrong with my eyes or my head, I was contemplating going to the hospital even."

"That magic was really terrible...."

After saying that, the teachers in charge of the exam have a distant look on their eyes.

Please don't worsen the situation....

"However, chantless magic is not something that only Mathias can use. We will show you the proof of that. ...Guyzar-sensei!"

"Ou!"

The ex-examiner teacher called a swordsman-type teacher to step forward. No, it might be more correct to call him an instructor.

Forged muscles and a huge sword on his back. Everyone would think that he's a veteran warrior from his look.

That Guyzar-sensei draws his sword and turns toward the targets that have been put up once again.

Chapter 30: Strongest Sage, Prevents Queer Yells

"Look carefully, this is my new weapon!"

Guyzar-sensei drew the sword on his back and pointed it at a target.

And then--.

"Nunn!"

A small fireball shot out of the tip of his sword along with Guyzar-sensei's yell.

The target only shook, but Guyzar-sensei didn't mind it.

"Nunn! Nunn! Nunn!"

Small fireballs shot out of the sword's tip in rapid succession and the target got destroyed on the fourth shot.

After seeing that, Guyzar-sensei changed his target.

"Nunn! Nunn! Nunn! Nunn!"

The target this time also broke after four shots.

Guyzar-sensei's crest is the Third Crest.

The Third Crest doesn't have much power, but it has a high rapid-fire rate.

And with training that rapid fire brings about brutal firepower.

It's still not as strong as the Fourth Crest that's specialized in close-quarter combat, but it's a highly reliable crest in a group battle.

Because you can raise the overall firepower simply by bringing more users.

"Wasn't Guyzar-sensei supposed to be hardly able to use magic?"

"That sensei, with magic.... I mean, don't you think he's strong at it?"

"That target is the fifth target right? They seemed weak during Mathias's

demonstration, but breaking a fifth target in four shots means that the magic is as powerful as the upper low class magic...."

"If Guyzar-sensei can do it, I think I can do it too!"

Seeing a teacher who was obviously a swordsman type used chantless magic ended up encouraging the students.

I was a bit dissatisfied since even the magic I used should be usable for Fourth Crest bearers if they just trained for a short while, but I guess having the usefulness of chantless magic known is a good enough result.

The magic earlier should be regarded as common in only several months.

"By the way, Guyzar-sensei only started training chantless magic yesterday, mind you. When a teacher who originally could use magic trained on it, it would look like this."

And then one of the magic-type teachers used a magic, knocking down two targets.

"Awesome. That was as powerful as a mid-class magic...."

That's quite some power, even if that teacher has the Second Crest (the crest has no special characteristic at first, but it can shoot powerful magic once you train it.) I wonder if it was because his mana was abused by habitual uses of chant magic. It seems this school's instructors originally have well trained mana with them.

I dunno what's this mid-class magic stuff about though.

"Sensei! Are all of the teachers able to use chantless magic!?"

At one of the students' question, I felt that the teachers' atmosphere froze for an instant.

And then the teachers look at each other and put on apologetic looks on their faces.

"No. To tell you truth, most of the swordsmanship teachers can't do it yet, and only a third of magic teachers are able to. It appears that correcting your longtime habit is really hard after all...."

The mood in the schoolyard darkened.

Looks like changing their way after using chant magic for dozens of years isn't so simple after all.

However, the mood completely turns around with the next few words from the teacher.

"Alright. Let's start the chantless training for real now. Stand before each targets. Can every one of you use fire arrow? Even though you're Class A, there's one who aspires to be a swordsman if I'm not mistaken...."

"Yes! I want to be a swordsman, but I can use fire arrow!"

Alma raised her hand while saying that.

Apparently, the sole swordsman participant was Alma.

She's with Ruli like usual, she's sticking close to her.

"Then let's start with learning the movement of mana. Everyone, shoot a fire arrow at the target and--"

And then a magic lecture similar to the one I taught my elder brother Reich began.

About 10 minutes later.

"Ooh, the magic came out! I did it!"

Some students have successfully grasped the sensation of mana and invoked chantless magic.

The first one who did was Alma.

"Look look! Nunn! Nunn!"

Alma readied her sword, pointed it toward the target and shot fireballs. The target broke with two fireballs.

Looks like the magic of Alma who has the Second Crest is already more powerful than Guyzar-sensei's.

However--.

"Hey, Alma."

"What do you think? That was my magic!"

"You're doing well.... But there's no need to mimic that yell you know."

"Eh? ...Ah"

It seems she didn't notice.

Good thing I pointed it out before it was too late. I don't wanna hear 『Nunn!』 buzzing in the battlefield in place of chanting.

Well, I'm just glad that the propagation of proper magic is going smoothly.

If I were in my past life, I would catch some random magic combatant, teach them immortality magic and various stuff and rear them for several hundreds years into a magic combatant ready to fight space monsters in a party with me, thus there would be no need to do all this, but--

At the present state, forget about expecting some powerful magic combatant to appear, humanity might get wiped out first instead.

I'd like to popularize at least the basic of chantless magic to prevent that from happening.

Chapter 31: Strongest Sage, Successfully Forms Party

Few tens of minutes after Alma's, a lot more students succeeded invoking chantless magic.

Voices of delight and sounds of the targets getting hit are resounding in the class.

The part where 『Nunn!』 could sometimes be heard makes my head ache, but well, they'd probably notice the weirdness and stop by themselves.

Wonder why is everyone mimicking Guyzar-sensei in that part.

I should have asked a teacher without a quirk to do the magic demonstration.

"How about you Ruli? Managed to grasp the sensation yet?"

It seems Ruli who's training the chantless magic with Alma is having quite a hard time.

The fact that Ruli seems to be particularly good with chant magic might have backfired on her instead.

It's not like she couldn't get it at all since I felt a slight difference in her mana control than the usual chant magic when she shot it.... But then her pace dropped.

And then she looks conflicted about something.

"It feels like I've grasped it a bit, but my mana is about to run out..."

"Ah. That huh."

Apparently, her pace dropped because she ran out of mana.

No wonder, chant magic consumes much inversely to its power.

"Give me your hand...mu."

"Mathi-kun, what's wrong?"

"No well, I was going to transfer my mana to you, but that means we'd have to join hands...."

It doesn't need to be too close, but some form of contact is needed to decrease the mana resistance.

"Transferring mana!?"

However, Ruli was surprised at a different part.

Well, I don't blame her for not knowing it since mana transfer has bad efficiency and there's not many case where you need to do one.

I'm sure that it's only mentioned passingly in lectures even in this school.

"It's an application of mana conditioning."

"Mana conditioning....?"

"It's a magic to synchronize your mana with an object. It's usually used in magic augmentation, but you can also use it to transfer mana. It's not really efficient though."

Mana conditioning is a magic specialized for the First Crest, but it's not like the Fourth Crest can't use it as long as you don't use it at a distance.

However, since it's almost impossible to completely synchronize mana qualities between two objects, the conversion rate will be lower.

By the way, you can transfer your mana to other people even without mana conditioning. The conversion rate is 0.1% at most in that case though.

"I-I didn't know that was possible.... L-let's do it!"

Ruli presented her hands to me while saying that. One hand is enough but she offered two.

I grasp her hands and transfer my mana while using mana conditioning.

Aa. I'm getting healed....

My heart is getting healed yes, my mana is decreasing fast though.

"...T-thank you Mathi-kun."

I separated my hands once the mana transfer was done. I have a lot more mana than Ruli thanks to all my training so far, but I still lost quite an amount due to the conversion loss.

"...By the way, is this what you call mana movement?"

And Ruli seems to have grasped mana movement.

Even though I had synchronized our mana with mana conditioning, a different mana still did get into her from outside after all.

This might be usable to get other people aware of mana in a short amount of time.

Though it's not like getting aware of mana is that time consuming, so there's no need to force this.

"Eii! ...I did it!"

Ruli shot out a fire ball from her fingertip, blowing a target away.

Ruli's magic is stronger than the other classmates. For the current stage that is.

Although it's probably partly because of the First Crest, it also must be due to Ruli's training. She's the runner-up of the school year after all.

"Congrats Ruli! Amazing how we could use magic like this in just one day!"

"Yeap. Congratulations."

Rather than a day, it was only 40 minutes.

...Come to think of it, perhaps this is my chance to form a party?

The only acquaintances I have in this class are right before me.

Ruli might not be the optimum in battle, but First Crest is quite crucial in things other than that, so I'd like to have one in my party.... Or rather, you can even say that it's an indispensable crest.

A party without First Crest will have a hard time taking a rest inside the

dungeon.

Well, becoming more than the past me, a First Crest who could take on dungeons or monsters alone, would be impossible.

As for Alma, her Second Crest is also quite powerful.

Furthermore, it enables the user to pierce through sturdy enemy at a relatively early stage. In other words, you can easily fight in lower floors with it.

That means I can concentrate on stronger monsters while leaving the relatively weak ones to Alma once we get to the lower floors.

To be frank, fighting lots of enemies with the Fourth Crest consumes a lot of mana on top of being annoying even if they're weak, it'd really help if I have a support to clean up the weaklings.

And once she's able to use the magic I've developed later on, she should be able to blow away one or two continents in one shot and be strong enough to be a potential force to fight the huge monsters in the space.

...By the way, my past First Crest self could have blown away a mere continent if I wanted.

I never did it since it would be pointless and an annoyance to others though.

In short, even though the two of them aren't presently strong enough to fight in the dungeon, they can reach [Reasonably Helpful] level in a relatively short amount of time.

Alright, let's try asking them. I've gotten used to talking to them, and even if they refuse me, it would surely only be as damaging as getting me to want to reincarnate again.

"...I have a request to you two now that you can use magic."

"Request?"

"Yeah. Would you please form a party with me in order to enter the dungeon."

"I heard that you need a group of five to enter the dungeon even for second graders.... Are you forming a party this soon?"

"Don't you think it's too soon? I would love to personally though. Ruli must want it too, and with Mathi-kun around, I'm sure he can do something even if things get dangerous!"

The matter yesterday hasn't been known yet huh.

Well, it happened just yesterday after all.

"Actually, it's been planned that first year will be able to enter the dungeon."

"Really?"

"Only if we can pass the test to prove that we are as powerful in combat as the second graders though. We can enter the dungeon then."

"I've heard that you can get stronger by beating monsters. But, even if Ruli's fine, will I do? I thought Mathi-kun would rather go with someone stronger or has Glory Crest."

"And I'm aspiring to be a magic augments, not combatant...."

"No worries. In the first place, Glory Crest isn't suited for combat. It's strong in augmentations and such though, so having one in a party is good enough."

Even if she wants to be a magic augments, getting told that her crest is useless in battle in a world where Glory Crest is expected for its battle prowess (apparently) must be hard on her.

She might feel dejected, but this needs to be told to her sooner or later.

It's better not to pointlessly prolong it.

I'm worried about Ruli's reaction though....

"Is that true!?"

Ruli's eyes opened wide, her body was shaking.

Well, judging from how people treat Glory Crest today, I guess this reaction is only natural.

But she seems strange somehow.

"Yeah. Unfortunately, it's the truth. Glory Crest has a low growth rate, and not suitable for combat. There are various ways to get around it for crests other than the Glory Crest...."

"Not that, the part about augmentation!"

Ah. That one huh.

"Glory Crest is good in augmenting, you know. It can be used in combat to a degree depending on your training, but augmentation magic for crests other than Glory Crest is--"

"It's not unfortunate at all! This is the best!"

...Huh?

Her reaction is somewhat different than what I expected.

Rather, the way Ruli gets into it is surprising. You couldn't have imagined it from her usual composure.

I mean, her eyes are sparkling.

"Ruli, are you.... willing to become magic augments even if you have to abandon combat?"

Even if she wants to become a magic augments, I thought that you'd usually be disappointed if you heard your crest wasn't suitable for combat.

"Yes! I don't mind not being able to fight if I can get better in augmentation!"

She likes augmenting that much huh.

Well it's convenient for me personally, since I originally need to teach the art of augmentation to a Glory Crest bearer in order to secure my weapons....

To think she would be this happy for the traits of the crest that compelled me to reincarnate myself to rid of....

Chapter 32: Strongest Sage, Creates Crude Bow

Whoa. That means Ruli enrolled in a school where 10% of its students died just to become a magic augmenter.

I could understand if she wanted to learn about augmenting along with combat, but if she enrolled here just for the augmenting lessons, there should be many other safer places.

It might have been understandable if she lived in the sticks with no sufficient info on her hand and was told to do it by her parents like me, she must be quite whimsical....

"But is it really all right? Letting someone with a crest not suited for combat into your party...."

"Of course. Magic augment is also necessary to build up your magic. There's no shop that sells proper magic swords in the Royal Capital, thus raising a strong augmenter with Glory Crest is quite important for me personally."

And also, I can collect magic stones once I enter the dungeon.

Judging from the dungeon's presence, the monsters prowling near its entrance are far weaker than the monsters around the territory's vicinity, so the magic stones won't be of good quality, nevertheless, they're usable for practices.

You need a huge amount of magic stones for augment training, therefore we can't begin without going inside the dungeon first.

"Of course I'll join! Please let me join your party!"

"Then, me too!"

...Alright. Now the most difficult part of the mission required to enter the dungeon has been cleared.

Now these two just need to get as strong as second graders... though I wonder if they're already stronger than the average second grader.

Chantless magic shouldn't be usable for the second graders yet after all, I'm also sure that these two exceed them in magic power, consumption and firing rate.

Well, there are still some worrying parts though, I'd like to train them above ground before we go inside the dungeon.

The interpersonal matches will be held next month anyway, right after that should be a good time.

"By the way Alma. You said you were better with bows, why did you switch to swords then?"

"Eh, do I have to use bow?"

"Not really, but... why?"

"Because a bow is useless once you run out of arrow, and it can't fly straight unlike magic.... They told me to stop using one since it's only useful for hunting animals...."

"Which idiot told you that...."

It's true that bows aren't strong by itself, but you can strengthen it by using enchant and augment on the bow and arrows.

A type of weapon with a stronger firepower and firing rate than bows called 『Gun』 was developed in world I lived in the past, but since magic augment couldn't be used on them, they were only used in low level combats.

And you're saying bows are weaker than chant magic? Nonsense.

In the first place, Alma's Second Crest is a crest well suited for bows than swords.

Its firing rate isn't comparable to the Third Crest, but it's easy to put high powered magic on an arrow with it.

With the Third Crest, you can't match firing rate of normal magic with bows, so you'd end up shooting arrows with half-assed power and half-assed speed, like an inferior version of Second Crest bow-users.

By the way, the Fourth Crest is unparalleled for swords.

"Then that means I can use a bow? The part about needing arrows is difficult though...."

"Yeah. But you will need to put magic on the arrows, so you'd have to train on it if you've never done it before. Even an arrow like this can fly well if you compensate it with magic."

I picked up a branch near my feet and reshaped it into a haphazard arrow using magic.

It's crude and has no feather or arrowhead, but it can fly straight if you put magic on it and is relatively powerful.

"You said that and all, but I've never seen anyone who could do that in the present time!"

"You have the Glory Crest Ruli, you'll be able to make something better with your eyes closed with a few months of training. Well that's that, so there's no need to worry about arrows."

"Yay!I left my bow in my home though, gotta buy one later! ...Wonder if I have enough cash...."

"Training.... Mathi-kun, are you going to teach me augmenting!? Isn't Mathi-kun's augments something like an extraordinary family secret technique!?"

"Of course I'll teach you how. But only after we get some magic stones in the dungeon. As for the bow.... It might be better to make one myself rather than purchasing one."

Usually, you get weapons created by a proper First Crest craftsman, but the bows I saw when I was picking swords back then were all of terrible quality just like the swords.

"You're going to make one!?"

"It's only a substitute until we can obtain a proper bow. Don't expect too much of its performance.... We'll rebuild it once Ruli is able to use processing and augmenting magic."

"But I have a feeling that Mathi-kun's 'don't expect much' can't be trusted at all...."

"Like with this amazing sword too...."

"No really. I'm really not good with bows. To begin with, my crest can't be used to augment it well."

Augmenting a sword with magic is simple, but bow is another matter.

"Then it'll be a common strong bow?"

"...I wonder about that. It might be a tad better than the stuff they sold in the city."



Next day.

As promised, I made a bow with a pitiful shooting performance (I made it small to make it easy to use inside a dungeon. I mixed a tiny amount of metal in it to increase the power even a bit) and gave it to Alma, but....

"It really was a lie!"

That was the first thing Alma uttered after shooting a few arrows with the bow I made.

"Is it a let down? But I don't think there's anyone selling a proper bow in this city...."

Alma isn't a daughter of a noble for show after all, she must have had a proper bow.

In that case, I should use movement-type magic and go to--.

"No! It's the opposite! What's with the power when it's this small!? It's also very precise, it's so weird, this bow's scary!"

Eeh....

Chapter 33: Strongest Sage, Finishing without Destroying the Schoolyard

"So um, how much for this frightening bow....?"

Alma asked me while looking like she didn't want to hear it.

Price huh....

"Hmm... The material cost me around 100 ermi, and the processing took around 20 seconds, since I made it myself, the labor cost is zero so.... 100 ermi. I've also made some arrows with it, you can have it for free since I made them from leftovers."

By the way, Ermi is the currency of this country.

One ermi equals one copper coin, 100 ermi equal one silver coin, 1000 ermi equal one gold coin.

"So cheap!? No way, that can't be the right price no matter how you look at it...."

"100 ermi is unbelievable. With that kind of performance, it's hard to even put a price on the bow after all...."

"Then, 300 ermi."

I added the processing fee. 10 ermi for 1 second, meaning the hourly wage is 36000 ermi.

According to the merchant who accompanied me to the royal capital, an average family usually spends around 2000 ermi a month, so I'm already way overcharging her here.

Getting enough wage to live for one and half year in just an hour. And for a family even.

"It hardly changed!"

However, Alma still thinks it's too cheap.

Ah. I forgot the time needed to gather the material. Adding that, then....

"6300 ermi."

I added 10 minutes.

It's a complete rip-off. I'm sure even Alma would think so, I'll let her haggle it...

"Like I said, that's too cheap!"

Umm. Alma might be using the market price in the royal capital as her standard.

It's certainly cheap if you go there.

I mean, don't you think there's something strange with how the buyer side is raising the price like this.

"I can't raise it any further. I think you'll see for yourself that this price is fair in half a year time."

After all this, I had the option to raise the price in accordance to the market price here sure, but then that means I was overcharging this bow once Ruli learned how to do augment magic well.

I'd like to avoid such a cause of conflict.

...Well, mass producing this bow and then spreading them in the market might be fun on its own though.

"Like I said, no matter how you...."

"Then, I'll have you borrow that bow instead. And I'd like to ask for your cooperation in creating new swords for me. But first we should continue the practice in order to pass the test and get the permission to enter the dungeon. Also, Ruli, you still owe me one for your sword right?"

"Yes I do.... Oh, helping Mathi-kun with the sword making doesn't mean that I've returned the favor okay?"

"Really?"

"I mean, Mathi-kun, you're going to teach me your techniques in the process right!? That means my debt to you increases instead!"

"That's true, I'll also be getting stronger from Mathi's teaching and

entering the dungeon.... I'm unilaterally profiting here! I've got to pay the bow after all!"

"...Is that so. By the way, we'll make several swords as soon as we get the materials and continue until you can make my ideal sword, which means it'll take quite a long time.... Yet, are you still sure about this?"

"We are!"

Looks like they're being quite stubborn about this.

I was going to let this pay their debt, but it increased instead.

Well it's not like it'll trouble anyone, guess this is fine.

By the way, the content of the dungeon test was posted in the classroom this morning.

The test is the same as the enrollment exam and can be taken anytime after school.

Furthermore, in case you pass the test you'll be exempted of either swordsmanship or magic lessons depending on the test you picked.

The reason for that is because this test is more difficult than the exam to be second graders.

"Umm, we're going to take the test today right? Are we going to be alright?"

"Yeah. If we can finish this test, we can use the time we get from not attending chant magic lesson for practicing real magic. We should do it as soon as possible. After all, chant magic is completely useless for augment magic."

I promptly replied Ruli's question.

"Got it! Let's go take it now!"

It seems Ruli got motivated when she heard about augment magic, she rushed to the faculty office.

Alma looked like she wanted to practice with her new bow a bit more, but maybe she didn't want to get left behind as she also followed after

Ruli.

"We'd like to take the dungeon test."

"You really came Mathias-kun. You're later than expected."

A teacher came to us when I said that in the faculty room.

"Later?"

"You're the fifth group who's taken this test so far. Apparently, everyone practiced chantless magic in their free time after the chantless magic class. By the way, all four groups passed."

"...Um, I'm sorry."

Even if chant magic is useless, I still feel bad for the teachers in charge of teaching it.

"No no. Instead, we're glad about it. To tell you the truth, us teachers have come to feel that teaching chant magic is nonsensical, we're discussing among ourselves how we could begin to introduce chantless magic in the curriculum faster. ...Though well it's difficult to do without any achievement, so we intend to immediately add the lessons right after the interpersonal match."

Ooh. Apparently, the thing the principal said in the entrance ceremony about prioritizing ability is true.

Looks like I can expect chantless magic to get spread faster than planned.

We reached the testing ground (that is, the schoolyard) while we were talking about that.

"Now then. The test is the same as the entrance exams. But the standards will be higher, mind you. Who wants to go first?"

"Then, I'll do it."

I raised my hand first at the teacher who had finished setting up the targets on the schoolyard and establishing the shooting place.

Things should be easier for the two if they see an example beforehand.

The distance is 40 meter, a bit farther than the entrance exam. Quite hard for the Fourth Crest, though well I'll manage somehow. While reserving enough mana to fix the schoolyard afterward in case they disqualify me for breaking it, I construct a magic that could blow away the whole mithril alloy--

"Stop, stop! You pass! Mathias-kun you pass either the magic or the sword tests okay!"

The teacher stopped me when I was going to construct the magic. Wonder if he thought that I was going to destroy the schoolyard again.

Well, I unquestionably would if it continued.

Let's consider this a good thing considering it ended without me wasting my mana.

Now there's no need for me to attend that chant magic classes. Since I'm also exempted of theoretical lectures, I only need to attend the swordsmanship class.

To be honest, I'm interested to learn just how far this world has changed so I'd like to see a bit of the theoretical lectures.... But I shouldn't force it. I'd learn about it sooner or later anyway, I'm sure I'd see for myself just what happened to the world by getting stronger. Yup.

By the way, I asked Ruli why magic became this bad, but she answered that it had always been like this. It appears that the decline of magic started far in the past.

Putting that aside, I feel this test is too hard on the Fourth Crest.

"I think this test still has room for improvement. Fourth Crest is a crest specialized in close-quarter combat, it's still quite useful even if its magic cannot reach those targets. Though unlike other Crests, it's hard to handle unless you're proficient in swordsmanship...."

"Actually, the staff is currently discussing about that matter. Looking at all the lessons so far, we couldn't find anything wrong with the characteristics of the crests that you Mathias-kun told us, however.... Radically changing evaluation of the Crests aren't something that can be

done overnight. We'd have to wait for the result of the lessons from here on."

Well, I guess they'd be confused if they were suddenly told that the characteristics of crests they had believed up until now were wrong.

I think this academy is quite flexible already just for the fact that they're reviewing it.

There's no need to hurry, I was able to pass after all.

"As for the matter of a special test for the Disqualified Crest... Apparently, the top brass, even higher than the academy's top, are strongly against it."

I didn't really feel discrimination against Disqualified Crest when I came to this school.... Yet it's still problematic huh.

There's even that criteria where you get -200 point toward becoming the next family head just by bearing the crest.

If that's real, revising this would mean allowing a disqualified crest to become a noble.

"Now then. Let's continue with the test. Who's next?"

"Let me do it!"

Ruli raised her hand.

She broke the targets one by one using chantless magic.

All the targets are destroyed by the fifth shot.

"You pass without a doubt. The next one is Alma then."

"I'm afraid I can't catch up to Ruli and Mathias after watching them, but.... Ei."

Alma attacked the targets while saying that. She needed two shots to break each target, but her magic's power and accuracy was relatively stable, she managed to break all the targets no problem.

"Your magic is quite strong Alma, the other two are just unusual. The entire last year students would have to repeat the grade if this were

considered a failure.... You pass!"

"Yay!"

Looks like we all passed.

Well there was no need to worry about this in the first place.

The most worrisome part was the schoolyard's durability.

"With this you are allowed to go into the dungeon, however for the first few times..... You three have to be accompanied by a teacher until they deemed you fine to go without one. When are you planning to go?"

"Could we go today?"

"Today!?"

"Will we be alright going so suddenly?"

"It should be fine. Judging from the mana reaction, there's no monster worth mentioning within the visible range. The problem is the accompanying teacher...."

"Of course, I have no problem going with you now. I don't think you three would hit a roadblock either. I wouldn't have given you the permission if I didn't think so. Follow me."

Looks like the teacher can go too.

He's guiding us to the dungeon immediately.

After passing a metal gate, we arrived at the mouth of a cave.

"Now then. We'll be entering the dungeon from here on. Even if there's no strong monster in the upper layer, unlike at school, your safety isn't guaranteed here, you might even lose your life in some cases. In fact, 80% of the casualty in this school are due to this dungeon. You have to make sure to always be careful. And return to ground as soon as you think it's gotten dangerous."

""""YES!""""

After replying teacher, we took our first step into the dungeon.

Chapter 34: Strongest Sage, Catches Monster Bare-handed

Dungeons are cave-like places where mana essence gathers, places of which monsters are easier to occur.

A cave that has turned into a dungeon changes its terrain by itself, there are even cases where it behaves like a living creature depending on the quantity and quality of the mana essence....

Looks like the outer layer of this dungeon doesn't have such a characteristic. It's hard for mana to pass through dungeon walls, so I cannot detect the deeper layer of this dungeon with my current search ability.

"Oh, found a monster."

I found a reaction from monster right after we stepped into the dungeon.

There's a hermit crab-like monster beyond an intersection straight ahead.

"Eh? I don't see anything resembling monster, has my search skill gotten bad? I should have good eyes for once though...."

"I can't see any monster either."

"Ah. You can't see it yet. It's beyond an intersection over there."

Guess I should teach them **【Passive Detection】** and stuff before we start the exploration for real.

There's a huge difference between someone who can and cannot use it.

Though well, it can be easily obstructed with concealment, so relying on it too much isn't a good idea either.

"By the way, what kind of monster is it?"

"It looks like a hermit crab. I'll go catch it real quick."

I said that and dashed off, after that I caught the hermit crab monster beyond the intersection and went back.

Of course, I've bound its claws and arms with magic to prevent accidents.

It's a very weak monster, I can probably beat it by hitting it with a physical reinforced fist.

Even this hermit crab can easily cut off human fingers if it can use its claws though.

"No matter how weak a monster is, they're still far stronger than common animals. It's not unusual for casualties to appear even with this monster, so you need to be careful.... Or so I'd like to say, but watching Mathias-kun catching one bare-handed like that makes you think there's no need for that.... You two, don't imitate him okay."

"Yes!"

"Not like we could even if we wanted...."

The two girls replied the teacher.

Well it's important to be careful.

There's a possibility of not being able to concentrate at the crucial parts if you're too focused on a weak opponent, thus moderately loosening your strain at the right parts is also important.... Well, they'll probably get used to it as they battle on.

Staying focused to their limit at all times should be a good lesson for beginners.

"Well, that's that, for now let's use this thing as a practice board."

I picked up the hermit crab while saying that.

"Alma, try to shoot an arrow at this monster."

"That monster is covered in shell isn't it? No matter how strong this bow is, I don't think it could break through the shell...."

"Yeah. It's just for confirming something. You don't need to mind me, I can manage even if your aim veers off a bit. Hurry, other monsters would come if we don't do this quick."

I know that no monster will come here for a while with 【Passive Detection】 though.

"I really don't want to shoot a target someone's holding... Well, I guess Mathi-kun will be fine. Ei!"

Fwoosh, the arrow let loose with that sound and hit the hermit crab right in the shell even without my interference.

However, it couldn't break through the shell. Monster shell isn't soft enough to be broken by a bow of this level.

"Then try to shoot it after putting your mana on the arrow. Do it just like how you usually shoot a magic."

"Err... Like this?"

Alma successfully put her mana into the arrow along with her words. She has quite the sense.

"Try to shoot that arrow."

"Okay. Here it goes! Ei!"

The arrow this time smashed the shell and went deep into the hermit crab's body.

Once its shell is broken, the hermit crab that doesn't have much life force to begin with dies just like that.

"Eh, no way...."

"That was a kind of augment magic, 【Simple Magic Enchant】. It's the most basic magic of arrow enchant, you'll have to use it often to get used to it."

Saying that, I took out additional arrows from storage magic and handed them to Alma.

"...Huh? Where did the arrows come from just now?"

"Storage magic."

"Don't tell me that's a space-type storage magic....? Isn't that a stuff of legend...."

"It exists in reality. Since your maximum mana will decrease when you store heavy things, it's an unexpectedly inconvenient magic though."

"Heavy things?"

"Yeah. Half of my mana was taken away when I used it to store a War Tiger I beat in my trip to the royal capital."

I nearly burned the materials thanks to it.

Or rather I would have definitely done it if the merchant didn't tell me. No doubt about it.

"Isn't War Tiger a calamity class monster...."

"Un, sorry. My mistake for wanting common sense from Mathi-kun."

"Do I really even need to accompany this party..... I have to since it's the rule though...."

"You'll be able to beat something like War Tiger soon enough.... Now then, let's keep at it. It seems there's a lot monsters over there. Judging from the mana flow, it's in the same direction as the path to the next floor."

Most dungeons have a multilayered structure called 『Floors』.

Each floor is connected by stairs-like terrain like cliff and waterfall, the strength of monsters located in the same floor usually aren't that different.

In that sense, exploring a dungeon might be more stable than outside a dungeon. Because unlike in seas or forests, enemies with hugely different combat capabilities don't often suddenly appear out of nowhere.

Though well, even if that's often the case, that doesn't mean that it never happens.

"Then, you two, try to advance ahead while searching for the enemy from here on. I'll be sure to step forward if it looks dangerous though."

"Really, I don't know who's accompanying who here...."

We continued ahead in the dungeon while having that conversation.

Chapter 35: Strongest Sage, Hermit Crab Bombing

"Oh, found a nice room. Let's go back after smashing it."

I found something interesting after an hour in the dungeon.

It's rare to encounter this room in your first dungeon day. Besides, this one seems like a hit. It's the type of Monster House that houses many monsters inside.

"Nice room?"

"A Monster House. Sensei, we're allowed to activate it right?"

"...Monster House? You can tell the difference from outside? I do feel some monster-like presence, but..."

"Yes, with **【Passive Detection】**, you can tell one just by looking."

"**【Passive Detection】** huh.... I've heard about it during the entrance ceremony day, but there's only a few teachers who managed to learn it.... Well, since we're safe with Mathias-kun here, Monster House would be a good experience."

Oh right. Sensei also has just learned chantless magic recently.

You need to comprehend reaction of mana to use Passive Detection, it sorta comes in set with chantless magic.

Well, learning **【Passive Detection】** won't be difficult once you can use chantless magic well enough. In fact, it seems sensei is already able to detect the presence of mana a bit.

Now that I've got sensei's permission, I'm going to activate the Monster House.

"It's called Monster House, but it originally has no monster inside. But if you create an impact in it--"

I threw a stone into the Monster House after saying that.

Hundreds of hermit crab monsters appeared inside the room the

moment the stone hit the floor.

"Monsters come out of the woodwork. Basically you'd want to go around a Monster House or attack from outside. You'd get surrounded if you tried to pass through it."

Well, it's the perfect experience hunting ground for me personally, so no way I'd take a detour around it.

Monster Houses are places where the density of magic essence is thick, a kind of supersaturated place.

When someone pass through it, or if something or magic is thrown inside, the magic essence gets rapidly crystallized into magic stones and forms monsters.

Normally it's shaped like a small room, but sometimes even a passage can become one if the terrains meet the right conditions.

"Can we attack them?"

"Yeah. Rather, they'd come here if we don't."

Gonna counterattack if they do though.

The hermit crab monsters were coming at us, filling up the passage, while we were talking.

"Their number isn't decreasing at all no matter how many times I shot them though!"

"Wa wa, we're getting overwhelmed!"

"Calm down, aim at the monsters in the front one by one in rotation! Once the vanguard monster is stopped, the ones in the back should also stop!"

"E-even if you tell us that..."

"My bow can't catch up beating them one by one!"

Alma stopped using her bow and began to shoot the monsters with magic.

However, even if these hermit crabs are weak, they're still armored

monsters. Alma who hasn't trained enough can't defeat them with direct magic.

The front line got broken in no time at all as their attack couldn't catch up.

"Well, this is what would happen if you stuck our nose into a Monster House with your present strength."

"Wai-stop commenting from the sideline and help us!"

"They're getting closer! Can we run now!"

It seems like it won't be a laughing matter soon, so I'm going to lend them a hand here.

I jump over the two with magic, and carpet bomb the hermit crabs from above.

I dropped down several dozens of weak magic, yet more than powerful enough to defeat these hermit crabs, in an instant, annihilating them all save for one at a slightly distant place.

I kicked the last one toward the wall as I landed, smashing it, extermination complete.

The Fourth Crest is really usable in a narrow passage. Even if the monsters come in groups, I can easily rout them down since they're not scattered about.

"Well, something like that. Running away is another choice since hermit crabs are slow, but it would be dangerous against fast monsters.... This must be the the biggest cause of casualties in this school right?"

"Correct. We would explain to the students about Monster Houses during the accompanying period but.... Looks like I don't have to do that here."

"This is too hard for our first time.... Aren't we only going to start seriously exploring after we've trained?"

"I'm happy to receive magic training.... But I would love if it's a bit more gentler.... Like maybe augment magic, if you'd please...."

"Chantless magic is the basic of augment magic, and there's many scenarios where a magic augments is required to fight.... For now, let's train until each of you can easily annihilate a swarm of this scale in one month!"

"I-Is that even possible for humans....? And in one month at that...."

"It is. Once it's finished, we're going to explore the dungeon for real and start training enchant magic besides augment and simple magic."

"I-I'll do my best!"

"True, feels like I can do it if this bow magic gets stronger! I'm gonna give it my all!"

Starting from this day, we kept training augment magic in addition to practicing magic combats in our free time after school.

--And about one month later.

Chapter 36: Strongest Sage, Selected as Representative

About a month after Ruli and Alma started their training.

Principal Edward opened his mouth before the whole student body gathered in the meeting ground.

Today is the day the school is announcing the representatives for the interpersonal match.

"We will now announce representatives for interpersonal match."

The second graders looked at each others when they heard that.

Can't blame them. Usually the representatives were selected from second graders and they knew their identities long before the official announcement.

However, there was no news about it this year.

"Leader First Year Class A, Mathias."

"Yes!"

I stepped forward as I got called.

"Eh? First year...?"

"It should be within the rule sure, but I've never heard first year ever getting selected...."

"And he's a Disqualified Crest. Is that all right?"

"Maybe they're going to throw the match away since we've never won an interpersonal match...."

The second graders reacted with perplexity and sympathy when they saw me.

Even though the representative seat was taken by a freshman, it seems their emotions mostly exclude anger.

Well, I could guess the reason for that.

Apparently, the Second Royal Academy has suffered 33 consecutive defeats.

Getting chosen in such a tournament means getting the short end of the stick, no one desires the honor.

It seems the second graders are thinking that the principal chooses me because he wants to give up the match.

"Member, First Year Class A, Alma!"

"Yes!"

"Member, First Year Class A, Ruli!"

"Yes!"

The second graders' uproar reached its climax when Ruli's name was called as the third rep.

"Principal, what the hell!"

"I can't believe you're sending first year kids as the reps! Lemme do it in their stead!"

"Me too! Like we'd stand being the only one safe while sacrificing the first year!"

Most of the first-year students already knew about chantless magic, so there wasn't really a fuss among them.

I guess this is the side effect of hiding the chantless magic until we have result to show in order to prevent strong oppositions.

...By the way, the second graders made it like the interpersonal-match was dangerous, but it's fundamentally safe. Physically speaking that is.

Apparently, the Royal Capital's arena has a device that puts a dual layer barrier on each participants, defeat condition is triggered when the outer barrier is destroyed, allowing matches without worry of injury, the interpersonal match will be held there.

However, it doesn't nullify the mental load and it seems there are students who are traumatized by the match.

It's an unnaturally high performance device compared to chant magic.... But I feel like there's a kind of relic with similar capability from my age.

The civilization of that time has been seemingly destroyed now, but at that time there was this slogan, 『Let's create a legacy we can be proud of even 3000 years in the future!』, lots of people created many things like pointlessly sturdy arenas and such, this arena might also be something from that time.

It's extremely easy to operate, even chant magic should be able to use it.

...If that's true, the magic loaded in it is most likely not absolutely impregnable.

Although there might be differences depending on the device, I probably could easily break through the barrier if I seriously attack with my sword or magic.

I've got to make sure not to kill someone by mistake.

"Quiet down!"

The principal suppressed the students who made a fuss with a word.

"I'm not throwing down the towel. Rather, I'm confident we'll win this year."

"Do you mean to say that those kids are stronger than us second graders?"

"That's right. We can't have a match cause we don't have the facility.... Just watch their magic for now."

The principal made an eye signal while saying that, and then the teachers brought in and set up three targets horizontally in the place.

"Here I go!"

Ruli declared that and shot one flame magic.

The flame magic hit the center target and blew away all three of them.

"Awesome. Is this for real...."

"Are they gonna overpower the First Academy with a Glory Crest....?"

"This isn't the end, next!"

This time the teachers set up three target in a straight line. The targets look to be overlapped from Alma's viewpoints.

Alma took out her bow and shot a mana-loaded arrow.

The arrow shot by Alma pierced through all three targets and fell down in the schoolyard dozens of meters further away.

By the by, when they first started training Ruli was stronger, but now they're about equal.

Their mana quantity have been relatively forged as well, showing growth where a Second Crest caught up to a First Crest.

"Well, as you can see. If you're curios how is this possible, I'll explain it after the match is over."

The students rustled again when they heard that.

This time the first graders besides Class A also joined the fuss.

"Seriously... Wait, I didn't hear any chant?"

"Musta missed it. Still, just how strong is that bow....?"

"The first graders this year are an assembly of monsters....? I heard they introduced some kind of new class, don't tell me all of the first year are...."

"Nah. The two over there must be a special case. If those aren't enough to be the leader, then just who is that Mathias...."

"I heard from a first year acquaintance that there was someone who got 250 score in the entrance exam."

"What the heck!?! Ain't 50 the perfect score!?"

The principal opens his mouth once again when the commotion is about to settle down.

"By the way, look forward to Mathias's power at the real show. Knowing them all from the beginning ain't fun right?"

Principal Edward grinned after he said that.

"These three will fight in the interpersonal match. We're gonna win this!"

Chapter 37: Strongest Sage, Getting Incited

"So this is the Royal Capital's arena...."

The day of the interpersonal match.

I, the teachers, and the other members went to the royal capital's arena.

The other students are going to cheer for us but they're acting separately.

"You've never seen it, Mathi-kun?"

"Yeah. I mean, the only place I know in the capital is our school. And the blacksmith from back then I guess."

I wasn't really interested in the arena since it mostly held mock battles with chant magic.

Well, the magic put on it is the same as what I've guessed, so there's no particular problem "Now that you mention it, Mathi-kun's knowledge seems to be quite lopsided doesn't it.... I hope there's no Heaven-sent Child of Magic participating this year...."

"Heaven-sent Child of Magic?"

What's with that divine name. I never heard that.

"There was a few times when Second Academy had strong students that looked like they'd win. But during those years, First Academy always had someone stronger as the leader...."

"They were unbelievably strong every times it happened, so people called them 『Heaven-sent Child of Magic』. If I'm not mistaken, the previous magic division commander was also one. ...Well, I don't think even the 『Heaven-sent Child of Magic』 could stand against Mathi, we should be fine."

I see. That's what 『Heaven-sent Child of Magic』 about huh. Abnormally strong people also occasionally showed themselves up in my past life, but the timing is quite convenient this time.

Not sure how much does "unbelievably strong" means, well, I'll know

when I see them.

If they're not somewhat strong, there's a possibility that the match ends too quick and we get no time to demonstrate the power of chantless magic instead.

I hope someone moderately tough appears.

I went to the waiting room while thinking that, however....



"Hey. Mankind and demons are hostile against each others right?"

"They've always been humanity's greatest enemy since a long time ago.... What about it?"

Alma replied with a 'why are you asking the obvious' look on her face.

"Nah, I was just wondering. That aside, it's really here. That Heaven-sent Child of Magic. That is indeed a monster."

I muttered while examining the mana reaction.

The waiting rooms of the First and Second Academy are 100 meter apart, thus examining their mana isn't a difficult task. If that's really the Heaven-sent Child of Magic, it certainly has power incomparable to other students just like Ruli told me.

"From the waiting room of the First Academy, I could feel a strong.... Or rather, an odd power."

"It's true. ...Or rather, I don't think that's even the mana reaction of a human.... If even Mathi deems them strong, are they considerably dangerous?"

Thanks to their one month training with **【Passive Detection】**, it seems these two have noticed the oddity of this mana.

I think its mana quantity is about 10 times mine.

It's a honest-to-goodness monster--or rather, demon for sure.

Judging from its mana reaction, it's most likely a type of demon that's good in disguise and with high defensive power. I guess the fact that it

isn't the strong-at-attacking type is the silver lining here.

Demons usually have the ability to conceal their mana reaction, but they probably think they don't need to do that now that **【Passive Detection】** has been discarded by people.

"You two, listen to me."

"What's wrong?"

"If the enemy's leader is as I've guessed, this'll be quite dangerous. Therefore, I'd like you two to defeat the two students besides the 『Heaven-sent Child of Magic』 and then immediately escape. Leave the rest to me."

"But, the arena has defensive magic...."

"It's possible for the defensive magic to be broken through. If we're only talking about magic output, the other party's is considerably higher compared to mine."

Well, that is if we're only talking about magic output.

"Surpassing Mathi-kun, that can't be a human...."

Because it's not.

I'd like to hide the fact that I know the enemy's real identity from the enemy itself as long as possible.

That's why, this is the time to tell them my plan.

Sounds of cheering resounded in the arena right after.

The waiting room's door is then opened.

"It's time, please enter the arena."

"We should just smash the two besides the leader right?"

"And then we escape..."

"That's the plan. Let's go then!"

We went to the arena from the opened door.

An official chant a magic at about the same time, putting defensive magic on the three of us.

Just as expected, I could break two layer of this defensive magic with a single slash of a magic-augmented sword.

The demon should be able to do the same with its magic, Ruli and Alma could destroy two layers too if they trained a bit more.

Alma could probably do it right here and now if I taught her enchant magic other than the simple mana-loaded one.

It's basically enough against someone who only uses chant magic.... but you can't deny its lack of strength.

"Oy, there's a Disqualified Crest!"

"You're right! It's a Disqualified Crest! And what's with those outfits, he gonna fight or something!"

"Oy, Disqualified Crest, this ain't a place for you to play around! I'm amazed you'd even get admitted to the Second Academy no matter how crappy it is!"

The demon shouted the moment it saw me.

It seems the demon is hiding its demonic characteristic with disguise magic and has even put on a fake Glory Crest on its body.

The other two students who were with the demon (both are humans with Glory Crest) raised their voices, and then jeers were thrown from the audience seats of the First Academy visitors.

The Second School visitors booed them back in retaliation.

They're saying anything they like, like 'Chicken bastards who can't even hold a sword is one to talk'.

Indeed, the First Academy students aren't carrying weapons unlike the Second Academy.

They've fortified themselves with mithril-made armor instead. The armor might be slightly effective, since this arena's defensive magic is the type that repels magic just before it hits your skin, however.... Considering Ruli and Alma could break the barrier in one blow, that doesn't seem like it'll help.

They appear to look down on Disqualified Crest quite a bit.... I guess they're specialized in long-distance chantless magic.

By the way, the audience seats are filled with students and teachers from both sides and several tens of what seem to be bigwig magicians.

Thus, the huge venue is mostly vacant.

"Umm! Just because he has a Disqualified Crest..."

"Ruli, thank you for covering me. However, you would only waste your time with these guys."

Ruli covered me.

Alma also seemed like she wanted to say something, but I stopped her.

There's no need to deliberately tell the enemy my strength.

The current me can't afford to let my guard down against a demon.

Looks like the demon is still going to pretend to be a human for now....
Now then, how to expose it.

"True enough, no point in saying anything to people who laughed the moment they saw someone else's crest. I almost wasted my breath there."

"Hmph. What are you barking, you think Disqualified Crest can win against Glory Crest. Covering these Disqualified Crest means you're the same kind. I'll blow you away together."

As we talked... or rather verbally abusing each others, the umpire got between us.

"We will now begin the interpersonal match! Both sides, take your position!"

Chapter 38: Strongest Sage, Fights Demon

The umpire pointed at drawn circles.

Two drawn circles for the First and Second Academy reps, with a 20-meter gap between them.

I wonder if this gap is in consideration of the First Academy students who cannot use swords.

By the way, we've confirmed that there's no rule that disallows getting close to your opponents.

Carrying weapons like swords or bows are also allowed.

"Are you both ready!"

"Second Academy, we're ready!"

"Representatives of the glorious First Academy don't need to get ready to beat these bunch!"

This demon sure always finds a way to speak ill.

Well, a demon with polite language and good conducts can't possibly exist though.

"The 65th Royal Academy Interpersonal Match, begin!"

"Alright, let's go!"

I stepped forward as the match started.

Alma put an arrow on her bow, Ruli began to construct a magic.

""Fire Mana that dwells in my body--""

Our three opponents had begun to chant a spell.

No. That's not exactly correct. The demon's mana had moved before it started its chant.

In other words, the demon is just pretending to chant.

An arrow and a magic passed beside me as I ran forward.

They hit the the two people beside the demon splendidly, destroying the

outer layer of their dual-layered barrier completely.

"Lychese, Jias, double knock out!"

"Wha..."

The audience were surprised.

Two of the First Academy reps forfeited the match five second after it started.

The demon is the only one left now.

Judging from the presences behind me, it seems Alma and Ruli are properly taking evasive maneuvers.

"Oraa!"

The demon finished its pretend-chant and shot its magic.

Even if they were weaklings, the demon didn't look perturbed at all with its teammates defeats.

Its face looked upset for an instant when it saw Ruli's and Alma's magic, but that seemed more like because of the chantless magic.

And the magic were directed at--Alma and Ruli.

Two magic were activated at the same time.

Moreover, the mana put into the magic is quite significant. Its power is clearly intended to break the defensive magic and make it into an 『Accident』.

If it can hit that is.

"Ha!"

"And...there!"

The two evaded the demon's magic by jumping assisted with magic.

The heat and blast reached even me, but all of us are safe.

Evasion magic was one of the things I taught to these two during this one month.

The two used that to evade the demon's magic and ran to the waiting room.

"A-awesome! What power!"

"I didn't know that Devilis's magic was that strong! Surely he can beat them 1-on-3?"

The demon's name appears to be Devilis.

The audience doesn't seem to notice its fake chant magic just now at all.

"Look those two are running away! Laaame!"

"Get him, Devilis!"

I ignore the audience's voices and thrust my sword at Devilis's neck.

I haven't buffed it with magic. Since this attack won't kill it anyway, I'm saving my mana even a little.

However, an attack to the neck is the weakness of demons.

Devilis itself couldn't afford to ignore it, it invoked a light evasion magic and evaded my attack.

--Chantlessly.

"Oy. What about the chant?"

The demon's face warped when I said that. Looks like it noticed its blunder to hide it.

"Fire mana!"

Devilis shot a magic at me with an extremely slovenly shortened chant, filled with murderous intent.

I evaded it with jump magic and took a bit of distant away.

A demon that could use magic without chanting deliberately pretended to chant.

....It's all clear now.

--The one that popularized chant magic is demons.

That explains the favoritism for First Crest and the cold treatment for the Fourth Crest.

Humanity getting weaker at magic is a good thing for demons, and magic of Fourth Crest that has a bad affinity for them must be undesirable for them.

Getting people to treat the Fourth Crest coldly should be quite easy if they slipped into a body of authority that decides on the standard of magic.

They can simply make the assessment require hitting a faraway target.

A question remains, why did they take such a roundabout fashion instead of just simply destroy humanity... Perhaps, it's because the demons lack the manpower.

Demons have low reproductive power in the first place, they were already driven to the brink of extinction in my era. Their number might still haven't increased even after all this time.

In fact, this demon is the first demon-like mana reaction I've ever encountered since my reincarnation.

And this demon doesn't look seem like it has an abundance of combat experience.

Even putting aside the pretend chant matter, its combat spec doesn't live up to demon's standard.

After thinking all that, I constructed three magic while pointing my sword at the demon.

Chapter 39: Strongest Sage, Grasps the Graveness of the Situation

Among the three magic, the first one is **【Mana Strike】**. That's a decoy.

The second one is **【Mana Concealment】**. A magic for literally hiding mana.

And the third one hidden by the **【Mana Concealment】** is the main thing, **【Magic Destruction】**.

"Kuh... Flame!"

Devilis noticed my **【Mana Strike】** and used demon magic to build a wall of flame around itself in order to keep me off.

It's an extremely orthodox method to cope with the close-combat nature of the First Crest.

<TLN: The raw said First Crest, but I believe the author probably intended it to be 'the Fourth Crest'.> However, that is exactly why there are established ways to break through it.

I chose the simplest one among them.

In other words, frontal attack.

"Wha...."

Devilis was surprised to see me jumping into the magic flame without a moment of hesitation.

Just as I thought, this demon lacks battle experience.

Building wall of flame is only effective for buying a very short amount of time or if your magic control exceeds that of your opponent.

Using it like this without taking magic control strength into consideration, let alone being useless, your own magic will be used against you instead.

For example, like this.

While jumping into the flame, I mix my own mana with Devilis's mana in the surroundings, taking control of it and making it attack Devilis.

The whole flame wall didn't break off, but the part I took was quite enough to create a gap.

"Wha....How!"

Devilis countered the flame with defensive magic and used the magic again to block my 【Mana Strike】-armed sword.

But since Devilis was forced to block these two magic, it had no more room to block another attack. Just as planned.

"You suck at combat!"

I fire the concealed 【Magic Destruction】 at the defenseless Devilis.

【Magic Destruction】 destroys Devilis's dual barriers and the magic that disguised its figure.

"Oy, what just happened!"

"It's too high level, I can't see--hey that's, a demon!"

"T-there's a demon! Where did Devilis go!"

"That demon is wearing Devilis's armor! Don't tell me, Devilis is a demon...."

"Who cares about that, there's a demon in the middle of the town! Hurry contact the Royal Castle, Magic Division and the Knight Order! Have the teachers buy some time while the students evacuate--"

Looks like the audience has begun to realize that Devilis is a demon after it lost its disguise.

The audience seats spiraled into a flurry in an instant.

"Kuh..."

After seeing that, Devilis probably concluded that it couldn't hide it anymore.

Devilis spread out wings peculiar to demons and began to concentrate

its mana.

Judging from the movement of mana, this is a state where you allocate the whole output to movement magic, to run away with all your might--in brief, it's trying to fly away in this case.

I'm not sure if the reason it doesn't use teleportation magic is because demons have been weakened or something else, but of course, I'm not going to let it escape.

For this level of demon, it should take around one and a half second from spreading wings to takeoff.

With the little damage I gave to the demon, it would manage to escape by using the difference in our mana quantity if I let it to takeoff even once.

I need to settle this in one blow--nevertheless, one and a half second is more than enough.

I took out a magic stone from Storage Magic and put it onto the sword I held.

And then I cram my mana into the sword and the magic stone, adding **【Steel Slash】**, **【Impact Blade】**, **【Sharpen】**, and **【Hardness Reinforcement】** augments.

These four augments are all for strengthening the sword's slashing power in their own unique way.

--However, this magic can't be called augment anymore. It's a clear failure.

Quadruple augments in this short amount of time would be very difficult even for the First Crest. Of course there's no way the Fourth Crest can do it.

Normally, a sword that's been crammed with mana at an impossibly fast rate and forced to possess magic will disintegrate in two seconds.

However, that's not a problem in this situation, for we have one and half a second time limit.

The augment took 0.8 seconds. 0.7s remaining. An easy victory.

"Wha...."

The demon who saw my sword suddenly turning into a magic sword tried to take a defensive posture.

However, it's useless. The demon isn't flexible enough to change into defensive posture in the middle of trying to fly with all its might.

This is the end.

While upping the sword's speed with Physical Reinforcement, I put **【Mana Strike】**, **【Steel Slash】**, and **【Sharpen】** on the magic sword that hasn't much time left.

Magic that dwells on a magic sword and magic you use on one are separate things, it's possible to buff magic swords.

【Mana Strike】, **【Steel Slash】**, **【Steel Slash】**, **【Sharpen】**, **【Sharpen】**, **【Impact Blade】**, **【Hardness Reinforcement】**

After putting all these magic, my sword that normally wouldn't have been able to kill a demon in one blow demonstrates sufficient power now.

The sword that has seven magic of five different kinds on it easily slashes through Devilis's body along with its mithril armor, destroying its heart.

The structure of demon's body is similar to that of human, so are the weak points.

In other words, they will die if you destroy their heart, and Devilis isn't an exception.

The mana inside Devilis's body lost control and scattered into the surroundings, power left its body.

"Did he...beat it...?"

"Unbelievable, beating a demon alone.... I heard that he won against the Knight Commander in the entrance exam but this...."

The people in the vicinity seems to notice Devilis's defeated figure, and a different kind of commotion begins.

Afterward, bunch of guys like Knight Orders and Royal Magicians gathered and it turned into a huge uproar.

Still, the demon even managed to slip into representatives of the First Academy huh....

It appears the world is in a quite grave situation right now.

This needs to be dealt with, else the humanity would be wiped out before I gained strength.

Chapter 40: Strongest Sage, Has an Audience with the King

"...Is an audience with the king something that can be done so easily?"

Several days after I killed Devilis the demon.

I went to the Royal Palace with the principal.

He came out of nowhere, 『You're free today right? Come with me to the Royal Palace for a bit』, and dragged me.... Just what's going on here.

"Don't be foolish. There's no way you can meet the king that easy."

"Then who is it besides the king?"

"No well, we're meeting the king alright."

"I don't think merely beating one demon is worth...."

"Killing a demon solo is a great achievement unheard of since the dawn of history. The Royal Palace's internal is even discussing about creating a new medal for your sake, though it isn't publicized yet."

"Eeh...."

"By the way, a medal was newly made solely for a party of six who killed a demon 100 years ago."

Something like that huh....

I guess this is unavoidable in an era where the demons have slipped in and thoroughly destroyed techniques to defeat them.

Apparently, the demons didn't slip in recently.

"...Oops, this is the room."

The principal stopped in front of a door inside the palace.

The door isn't that well decorated but it looks quite sturdier compared to other doors. The wall is likely thick too. I know, I can sense some difference in the mana reaction.

"It's Edward."

The sound of a key came from the inside and the door opened.

There are maids-san and a dignified-looking man inside the room.

I feel like I've seen a man with this kind of atmosphere in my past life.

It was of my acquaintance in my past life if I'm not mistaken.... He has the same atmosphere as the king of Manilia Magic Kingdom.

....The King!?

"It has been awhile, Edward."

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Your Majesty."

Seeing the principal knelt down, I also did the same.

I'm not really familiar with formalities in the present era.... Well, I should just imitate other people.

"You and I are friends. No need to be that stiff as this isn't a formal audience."

"I'm honored to hear that, but Your Majesty is the king of this country...."

He really was the king.

And it seems principal Edward knows the king.

No wonder they let them in quite easily.

"And, is the boy over there the hero of the recent matter?"

"Yes. He is Mathias Hildesheimr, the one who killed a demon solo, and made a huge contribution to the progress of chantless magic at the Second Academy."

"I see. ...Indeed, he has quite a well tempered body for one so young. Ah. I will introduce myself just in case, I'm Eist Graya. I'm the king of this kingdom."

Some kings occasionally came to visit my house in my past life, but I had never thought that I would meet one in less than 20 years after my reincarnation.

Still, he's quite friendly, is this alright? Normally a king shouldn't easily

introduce himself like this....

"My name is Mathias Hildesheimr, I'm a first year student of the Second Academy."

I don't really know how to do this, but I tried to introduce myself for now.

If they demanded formal etiquette from me, they would have taught me some beforehand.

"Good work on the subjugation this time. Usually we would have done a grand announcement and give you a territory to govern....."

I don't need no territory! Nuh uh, nope!

After all the trouble of reincarnating myself for the sake of magic combats, why should I be forced to have a territory.

Well, it might not be that much of a burden if I just push the responsibility to someone who can manage a territory, but please at least wait for another 20 year first.

"However, if we were to announce that demons have slipped into humans, the whole kingdom would inevitably fall into a huge confusion. Moreover, frankly speaking, we would like to avoid having the hero who beat a demon alone be tied to a territory. Of course I promise to grant you the highest credit once this matter is settled. Would you wait until that."

"With pleasure!"

It'd be sad if I were forced to govern a territory.

"Much obliged. ...However, now the problem is your reward. Even with the circumstances, we ought to give you a reward.... Right. How about a magic sword?"

"Magic sword.... is it?"

"Indeed. We took hold of a powerful magic sword incomparable to other national treasure grade swords just recently. It has been augmented with two magic that have never been seen before. The owner of the shop where that sword was found said that the sword was augmented by a child who

happened to pass by.... It sounds too unrealistic that some even hypothesize that that child is the incarnation of Magic God."

So there's such a magic sword around....

But I don't think there's any point in me getting a dual augmented sword.

I can make more powerful magic swords as many as I want once Ruli is able to augment properly and I teach her some trick to it.

"...Your face looks like you're saying that you don't need it. Well, I do not mind if you take other thing. We will open the treasury later, you can take anything you fancy there."

"I'm very grateful for your generosity."

Picking anything I want from the royal treasury huh. That's quite grand. Hopefully there's something interesting inside.

"However, it's still too little of a reward for Mathias's achievement. We can give you multiple treasures, but.... Do you have any wish yourself?"

Wish huh.

I remember this formal etiquette, 『As you wish Your Majesty』 in my past life, but this isn't necessarily true in this era.

Guess I might as well take this chance to ask for something big.

"I would like to acquire the right to use the resources of all the dungeons in this kingdom."

"Dungeon resources.... Do you mean ores produced by monsters and veins?"

"Yes. Everything that can be taken inside the dungeons including those. Of course, I'm not asking to monopolize them. If my associates and I are allowed to take the resources inside dungeons...."

Dungeons hold the most supreme resources inside them, surpassing even the highest quality gold vein.

This condition would have been flat out rejected, like 『Inconceivable』, in

my past life, it could never even be considered as a term in a negotiation.

However, the sense of value in the current era is quite off of the past one. It would be super great if they gave me the right to even a part of it.

"I will happily comply if you are fine with that. From hence on, Mathias Hildesheimr as well as his associates will not be imposed with dungeon taxes, nor will they be restricted to enter a dungeon."

Yay! A huge success!

Now I can easily get my hand on monster's materials and magic metal.

"Also, if you want a dungeon, I'm considering giving you one along with a territory.... How about it? Of course, the kingdom will cover all the administrative expense. Dungeons are money loser after all."

The king let out this wonderful suggestion when he saw me doing a light triumphant pose.

"By all means, please!"

Resources get! They'd even cover the administrative expense for me, what heaven is this.

It's so favorable that I almost feel like I'm deceiving them here.

"You're quite unselfish, I thought you would ask for more."

Unselfish, no way. There's nothing more avaricious than this.

I almost replied that, but I kept my silence.

"Then let's proceed to the next issue. Regarding the demon in this matter.... There is no mistake that Devilis the Heaven-sent Child of Magic was a demon is there?"

"Yes. It's undoubtedly true. His crest was fake, and the magic he showed were chantless magic disguised as chant ones."

"So it's true.... As a matter of fact, the four Heaven-sent Children of Magic in this kingdom have all disappeared."

Ah. So all the Heaven-sent Children of Magic really are all demons....

"The Magic Division commander, Elhart is also included among them. Furthermore, it seems the existences thought to be Heaven-sent Children of Magic have existed for several hundreds years. ...In other words, our country had been secretly under control of the demons for several hundreds years. As Magic Division plays the most important role in coming up with countermeasures against demons."

That means, there is no organization in this structure called country that can win against the demons now.

It seems the demons purposely didn't completely crush human forces since there was a possibility that some problem might arise for them if humans were excessively driven to the wall.

"What do you think I should do?"

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<Author's Note below>

Dungeons were regarded like oil fields in Mathi's past life.

Credits

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