

Slave Harem in the Labyrinth of the Other World

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[Novel Updates](#)

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Chapter 216 – Oil

“I’ll do it.”

When Gozer asked, I agreed to escort the men who would take over the purchasing of mirrors at Palmasque.

I don’t have a reason to decline.

A bit of after-sale service is required.

Well.

I’ve never been into the urban area of Palmasque.

It’s because I wasn’t an Adventurer.

It would be impossible for me to guide them.

“I appreciate it.”

“However, I’ve always left the purchasing to my party members.”

“I understand, we won’t take a full party of my people.”

Should I take two people? Sherry and someone else?

I’ve never been to Palmasque myself, so I’ll need someone.

The previous times I’ve taken everyone.

Palmasque also has a fee to enter.

“There’s a fee for everyone entering Palmasque as well.”

“I’m aware of the fee. Of course I’ll cover the costs for you Michio, and your party members.”

“I appreciate it.”

“Alright. We won’t be heading there immediately, I’ll contact you when we’re ready. Thank you in advance.”

That works out well.

I’ll leave it to Gozer, the man of the world.

I won’t be able to take all my party members if the Duke’s men come along, so I’ll take everyone including Rutina next time.

I might also give off the impression of being a country bumpkin if I enter

Palmasque.

Even if I could go to Shibuya without seeming out of place, if there were unusual buildings I'd still look around.

I'd be like a tourist.

You only expect these things from bumpkin's and tourists, locals would look down on tourists like they are bumpkins.

Local people, and even Rutina could easily see that I'm a bumpkin or a tourist.

First I'll take the people from Hartz's knights order, and then I'll take Rutina after I'm accustomed to Palmasque.

So, the request from Gozer is good timing for me.

I don't care if I look like a tourist in front of them.

I don't want to give that impression in front of Rutina though.

After talking to Gozer, I returned home.

There's someone who would be angry if I kept them waiting today.

I need to get back and eat quickly.

After returning to the house in a hurry, nobody was angry yet, though fish was already piled up on a plate.

It's an amazingly big pile.

A big catch.

How did it get like that?

Well, I can understand it.

I passed them a lot of white fish.

It was possible that I'd be at the Duke's during time to eat.

Miria would have assumed that everything I gave her should be used.

However, I finished the discussion with Gozer and returned rather quickly. I'm surprised they managed to deep fry everything in such a short amount of time.

The kitchen is still quite hot.

Miria was probably deep frying in the kitchen while emitting a demonic aura.

Escaping was the correct answer.

"Welcome home."

"Ah, I'm back."

"Welcome, desu."

When I exchange greetings with Roxanne, Miria notices that I've come home.
Did she fry quickly so I wouldn't have to wait if I came back quickly?
I don't think that's the reason.
There's also the job of making the feather futon that we need to do.

"It looks good."

"Yes, desu."

It looks like the amount of pieces might have decreased because of tasting,
but that's not a problem.

"Is breakfast ready?"

"Yes."

Roxanne gives me a wry smile.
She won't complain about making breakfast, but it might have been rather hot.

I go to the dining table.
Vesta carries the fried fish.
It might have been too much for Miria to carry.

Miria takes up her position at the table, and alternates between looking at me
and the fried fish.
If she doesn't wait until I serve the soup then Roxanne will get angry.

"Good. Let's eat."

I finished serving the soup and declared the start of breakfast, then quickly
grabbed some of the fried fish.
Even though I used the camellia oil, it looks the same as normal.
There isn't much difference in colour and smell either.
It's a little worrisome.

First of all, it isn't the colour of oil, it's the colour of cooked breadcrumbs.
You probably couldn't tell even if the fish underneath was purple or blue.
It looks like tempura.
It has a good smell, but nothing special.

Roxanne and Sherry watch as I try the fried fish, while Miria reaches to get
herself some.
Mmmm.

It's not bad.

This kind of thing.

How should I describe it?

It's really good.

Mmmmmm.

Not bad. Not bad at all.

It's delicious. Really delicious.

It wouldn't have been this good if I fried it in regular oil.

It has a crunchy coating, and a sweet texture once you bite into it, the flavour just melts in your mouth.

"This is delicious. Being able to eat something like this with Master is pure happiness."

"The camellia oil is great."

"Delicious, desu."

"It's wonderful."

"This level of taste would normally only appear at the feudal lords meeting."

Oh?

It seems to be popular with Roxanne and the girls as well.

Mmmm.

So everyone thinks it's good?

It's a sweet feeling.

Well, it's not really sweet.

It's sweet, but it's not sweet.

I don't even understand what I'm thinking, but this is the best way to explain the taste.

So it was good that we used the camellia oil?

Roxanne and the girls all seem to have thought it would be delicious right from the start.

That doesn't really matter.

Everyone is pleased, so everything is fine.

There are other things we can talk about while eating.

"So we can use the old oil to make candles, Sherry?"

“Yes.”

“Is there something else we need aside from beeswax?”

“It’s not part of the candle, but I should use a board.”

“A board?”

The board is the dropped item from the Rub Shrub.

Do you use it with the candle.

Do you burn it?

“The board is for making a stick, which is a counter-measure for the Beep Sheep.”

Oh, you don’t burn it?

It’s not related to the candle.

Sherry’s talking about something else.

“A stick?”

“It’s a weapon with very low damage, and can be used to wake people up when they fall asleep.”

So you use it when somebody falls asleep.

The Beep Sheep is a demon who emits a sound that causes sleep.

It’s the boss from the 4th floor in Quratar’s labyrinth, so it will be on the 37th floor.

“I see, so it will wake up anyone that falls asleep.”

“Not everyone needs to have one, maybe two... three... four... five of us.”

That’s almost everyone.

A party can have up to six members, so six would have been all of us.

Since Sherry can make it, everyone can easily have one.

In the evening, Sherry makes the sticks.

The stick is just a plain piece of wood.

They might not be very strong, but I still think it would be a bit painful.

I would have made a [paper fan](#).

Sherry also used the waste oil to make candles.

The beeswax was dissolved and mixed with the waste oil, then it was used to cover a string.

I watched the whole process.

It was very simple.

So we can make our own candles from now on?

Though candles aren't really that expensive.

If I consider the cost of beeswax, oil, and the time spent making it, then it probably works out about the same.

A candle doesn't compare to a florescent light when it comes to keeping the dark at bay however.

The oil massage performed in the bathroom under candle light later is special though.

A dim light with an unstable flicker.

The light reflects from the oil with a fascinating shine.

The oil rubs smoothly along the skin.

The lustrous skin with the glossy oil.

The oil is rubbed over the skin like making a tapestry.

It's no wonder it's called a maid's taste.

You don't know true pleasure without knowing of this.

You haven't experienced life without experiencing this.

You can't talk about a man's dream without knowing of this.

I can feel my blood heating up as I rub their soft skin.

※

The next morning, my vigor has increased a hundred fold, and I charge in to attack the labyrinth.

Well, it feels like a hundred fold after the oil massage, even if it isn't really a hundred fold.

The boss of the 36th floor of Quratar's labyrinth is the Spike Spider.

It's a stupidly big spider demon.

It's height is well above Sherry.

Also, it lifts it's front legs and swings them down violently.

It feels like they might be able to pierce a hole through the floor of the labyrinth.

It's a frightening power.

It wouldn't be good to fall victim to such a blow.

The attack is avoided, avoided, and avoided again.

Roxanne.

As expected of Roxanne.

But, there's two bosses from the 34th floor onwards.

What's happening with the other Spike Spider? Vesta is suppressing it.

Even though the Spike Spider is large, and lifts its legs high, it's not high enough to be a threat to Vesta.

It raises its legs and then swings them down, and Vesta goes for it.

How would it go if she had a two handed sword in each hand instead of just one?

Every time the legs come down Vesta tries to attack it with her sword.

Still, the opponent is a demon.

It attacks whenever it gets a chance.

Every now and then Vesta is hit by a blow.

She's fine though. As expected of Vesta.

On the other hand, because of the difficulty, the damage she's doing isn't that much against the spider either.

But that isn't a problem.

As long as she's holding off the attacks, it's Miria's turn to act.

Miria does many small attacks against the demon that Vesta is keeping busy until it becomes petrified.

As soon as its movement stops I feel relieved. The remaining one has Roxanne for its opponent.

Miria can now attack it until it's petrified, or until it's defeated by my magic.

Roxanne is treating it like something trivial.

No extra demons will appear no matter how long you spend in the boss room, so it's safe here.

Miria ends up petrifying the second one, and the fight against the Spike Spiders comes to an end.

"It seems we are fine against the 36th floor boss."

Even if the Spike Spider was a Mosaic Spider, it wouldn't compare to the oil massage.

Mosaic over the soft skin covered in oil...

Well, that kind of power wouldn't be good.

"If Master is with us, then there are no problems."

"There doesn't really seem to be any problems."

"Okay, desu."

"I think it's alright."

"I can't stop here if I want to make it to the feudal lords meeting."

I'm not worried about Roxanne, but if Vesta's fine with it after taking on the second demon then it should be fine.

Chapter 217 – Shoulder Massage

“Then, I’ll distribute the [Zen Sticks](#) made by Sherry.”

Before moving to Floor 37, I hand the Zen Sticks out to everyone.
It’s a flat, long and slender, wooden stick.
Since it’s not as sturdy as a wooden sword, the power won’t be very high.

“This is?”

“Since the Beep Sheeps will be appearing from Floor 37 on, wake up whoever falls asleep with this.”

Handing one to Roxanne followed by one to Sherry, I explain as Sherry waves it about.

The attack power will be 0 if it’s swung as lightly as she did.

“With this?”

Roxanne waves the Zen Stick to check its condition.
Hey, hey!
You can’t put too much strength in the swing.
It’s not a [military baton](#), you know?

“Okay, desu.”

Like I said, it’s not something you can brandish.

“I think it’s alright.”

I don’t think it’s alright.
When Vesta waves hers, it produces an air ripping sound.
Thank goodness she swung it with one hand.
It has become such a deadly weapon already.

“It’s quite difficult.”

Rutina is cruel, too.
She swings the flat side of the Zen Stick vertically.
Even looking at it feels painful.

Girls, it’s not supposed to be used like that.

It's not supposed to be used like a sword.

Can't be helped.

This humble servant of Buddha will have to put up a demonstration.

"This foolish bald offers to teach you how it's used. Roxanne, come here."
(TN: 愚禿 A monk who shaves the foolish thoughts off his head refers to himself as such)

"Bold?"

'This foolish bald' seems to have been strangely translated.

Roxanne steps forward while tilting her head.

When she tilted her head, her dog ears adorably swayed.

"It's 'this foolish bald'."

I look at Sherry nodding. The word itself seems similar.
Anyways, I have Roxanne turn 180 degrees.

"When your fellow falls asleep, strike their shoulder and wake them up. Grip the Zen Stick firmly in both hands. Raise it slowly, then bring it down. The trick is to turn your wrists in, like you're wringing wet clothes, while you swing it. Don't strike it with all your strength. If you did, it would lose power instead. Then, let's have an illustration of the text. Roxanne, shall we?"

I mix some explanation on Kendo Stick in. Oh well, it'll be fine.
I haven't used a Zen Stick either.
I have no idea about discipline, nor how to use the stick.
What's important is the mood.

"Okay. Master, please."
"However, not just confused people are supposed to receive it. Should you meet Buddha, kill Buddha. Should you meet your forefather, kill your forefather."

I create as solemn an atmosphere as possible and wave the Zen Stick.
After briefly placing it on Roxanne's shoulder, I raise it up and strike it down.
A loud *pashin* resounds.
Nice sound.

"Oo"

Everyone—
Rather I—am surprised.
Because of how it sounded.

However, I pretend as if I'm not surprised.
What's important is the mood.
Must not be surprised.
Must not be confused.

Must not look confused to others.
Should I meet Buddha on the way, I must kill Buddha as taught. Should I meet my forefather on the way, I must kill my forefather as taught.
Said [Rinzai](#)-san.

"It didn't hurt at all, yet it feels like I have awakened."
"Are people supposed to receive nuisance?"

As Roxanne appreciates the Zen Stick, Sherry ponders over my words.
Nevertheless, the mood is usual.
Must not overthink.

Actually, won't it instead of 'should you meet Buddha, kill Buddha' be 'should you meet your master, kill your master' in case of Roxanne and girls?
As a matter of fact, it will.
Seriously, though.
It wasn't nice of Rinzai to say such a thing.

"I believe in Amitabha."

To create a solemn atmosphere, I clap my hands and pray.
Unlike in Japan, the Buddhism in China and Taiwan isn't branched into Tendai Sect, Rinzai School of Buddhism and Jodo Shinsu. They all believe in the same Zen of Buddhism. Apparently, the monks greet fellow monks in the temple with 'I believe in Amitabha'.
Previously, there was a dubbed Honk Kong movie wherein a Shaolin temple monk greeted with 'I believe in Amitabha'. I was wondering why they would recite the name of Buddha. Now I know why.

Therefore, it'll be fine.
Mood.

What's important is the mood.

In India, the home of Buddhism, they don't bow to Amitabha anymore. They greet with Namaste. Teachings are the same, though. It may be the right mood.

"I believe in Mugi?"

While trying to repeat my rapidly fired words, Sherry's tongue twists. She wasn't referring to the [Namamugi Incident](#) where Richardson was killed by the Lord of Satsuma.

Mood.

Only the mood.

There's no meaning.

There's no need to think.

Just feel it.

"Well then, let's take on the Beep Sheeps first. Whether it actually wakes someone up or not, we won't know unless we try. Roxanne, please."

"Okay."

Whether it really works or not, we won't know until we try.

We move to Floor 37 and take on the monsters.

The three Beep Sheeps, which Roxanne guided us to, are greeted with a thunderous strike.

Ah

None of the monsters has been paralyzed by the first combo of two Thunderstorms.

All three monsters, safe and sound, turn to us.

By any chance, are the monsters that deal Abnormal Status also resistant to Abnormal Status?

Oh well, it's not like it can't completely miss in case of three monsters, is it? With just one instance, it's too early to draw any conclusion. Even though it appears as if a monster that can deal Abnormal Status has Resistance to it, too.

On the contrary, shouldn't it rather be weak?

I want it to be weak.

Be weak.

It is so.

One will be at a loss when the weapon they use is used on them.

‘The dyer wears white.’

We, for example, spam Abnormal Status in battles. However, we’re weak against monsters that inflict Abnormal Status.

The moment Miria or I get done in, we’ll all be in a pinch.

Nah, if Miria or I are unable to move, there’s Roxanne. If Roxanne fails, there’s Vesta. Sherry can skillfully use recovery medicines. If the monsters are small in number, Rutina’s magic can somehow deal with them.

It looks fine.

The Beep Sheeps close in. Fortunately, they didn’t halt to use their skills. Then comes the second combo of two.

Ara

This time, they get annihilated.

Even though I say ‘annihilated’, they haven’t fallen.

They’re paralyzed; unable to move.

All three of them.

Uun

So, is my theory that the Abnormal Status dealing Beep Sheeps are weak to Abnormal Status spot on?

Oh well, it’s too early to draw any conclusion.

In any battle, I’m unable to put my mind at ease.

As for the three paralyzed monsters, Miria petrifies them before they’re able to regain movement.

They really are weak to Abnormal Status, aren’t they?

Or is it normal for Miria to clean up three monsters?

Oh man.

I’m never able to put my mind at ease.

Thereafter, I harden my heart. Without thinking anything, I hunt monsters.

Without thinking anything.

Without any thought.

Free from worldly thoughts; my mind in a trance; my heart as calm and serene as still water.

No thought at all.

“Ah”

When I confront monsters free from worldly thoughts, Rutina’s voice leaks.

“Eh?”

“The monster fell.”

Although Rutina gives a simple reason, I don’t get the meaning.

I mean, the monster is supposed to fall.

“Even though Rutina-san only shot one Water Storm this time, the Spice Spider fell quicker than when she didn’t shoot any at all.”

Sherry explains.

Is that why? I see.

One volley of my magic attacks is covered by Rutina’s one magic attack.

This time, however, I didn’t consider it since I was fighting free from worldly thoughts.

Fighting free from worldly thoughts won’t do.

Must think when I fight.

That said, for Sherry to promptly give an explanation, did she not find it suspicious that I hadn’t noticed?

Whether it takes two magic attacks or four, there’s a possibility that it has roughly been found out by now.

No, it hasn’t been.

I’m being paranoid.

I have to look more dignified.

It most likely hasn’t been found out.

“Umu. Well, Rutina is growing after all, so it’s an expected outcome. On Floor 37, Please use one magic attack against the groups of monsters.”

I command Rutina in a dignified manner.

“Okay. Thank you very much. I may be able to use it against all the monsters if it’s one magic attack.”

Rutina looks happy.
She’s happy, isn’t she?

Miria often finishes the battle with Petrification of all the monsters. However, if Rutina can use one magic attack against every group of monsters, it’ll come handy in some way.

Besides, it’s for everyone to see that the battle duration has shortened. Despite the difference being just one magic attack, the battle duration has shortened considerably.
Even though we have moved one floor up, the battles take the same time to finish as the floor below.

For shooting sometimes and not shooting the other times being the case, I had to go with the worst case scenario; that is, I had to calculate the number of magic attacks assuming Rutina didn’t exist.
If she can shoot it on every group of monsters, it’ll be a given in the battles. The Rutina now can safely be included in the battle strength of our party.

Within the limitation of Floor 37, that is to say.
Although it unfortunately won’t work on the Beep Sheeps that aren’t weak to any attribute, the Spice Spiders can be taken out quickly.
Taking them out quickly means putting off Miria’s targets.
Then, since the Beep Sheeps that roll out troublesome Sleep attacks can be targeted earlier, isn’t it better as it is?

“Un-un. That’s our Rutina. You’re so strong already, huh? Alright. Let’s advance down the floor.”

“Okay.”

“Well then, Roxanne, please.”

“Very well.”

Rutina is already a Wizard Lv38.
Gradually, she has grown up in ability.
There’s nothing miraculous about it.

Disgarding Rutina who mutters ‘the road to the Lords’ Assembly is getting

closer,' I ask of Roxanne to guide us to the next one.

We continue hunting on Floor 37 for quite a while.
With Miria petrifying the Beep Sheeps as the Spice Spiders have been put off,
the monster hunting proceeds well.
None of us has fallen asleep.
The Zen Stick hasn't debuted yet.

However, after taking on a large number of Beep Sheeps, I have noticed that
the resistance of the Beep Sheeps to Abnormal Status doesn't differ much from
other monsters'.
Being weak to Abnormal Status due to dealing Abnormal Status doesn't seem to
be the case.
Regrettably.
Oh well, shouldn't I be glad that they're not resistant to Abnormal Status?

I welcome the group of five monsters, which showed up, with a combo of two
Thunderstorms.
Two of the monsters fall to Paralysis.
Before the monsters are able to recover from the confusion, the vanguard led
by Roxanne rushes.

When the confused monsters take a counterattacking stance, I supplement
the combo with two more.
Rutina's magic, too, spits fire.
Well, not exactly 'fire' since it's Water Storm.
Like last time, two monsters fall (to Paralysis) this time, too.

Everyone latches on the only remaining Beep Sheep.
Roxanne stands in front, not letting any attack pass.
Vesta hammers both the swords in from the side.
Even the ram of the lunging sheep, that was as intimidating as the giant Vesta,
cannot connect with Roxanne.

Moreover, Miria attacks it from rear.
Sherry pricks the spear from a slight distance. Rutina, too, cautiously nears and
hits it with her stick.
It can already called a beating.

Even if it's an enemy, I feel sorry for it.

The Beep Sheep gets petrified in no time.

Amen.

However, even though one monster has been petrified, the battle isn't over.

Paralysis may wear off.

To counter such a situation, Roxanne and Vesta both move in front of different monsters.

There's a distance between the group paralyzed by the first combo of two and the group paralyzed by the next.

In the meantime, the monsters close in on us to attack.

To Vesta, who stops in front of a paralyzed monster, Roxanne says nothing and runs further ahead.

Vesta seems to be in charge of the group on this side while Roxanne of the group further in.

Their coordination up to now has been impeccable.

Sherry passes through the two monsters on this side and stops. She will be watching this group from rear.

The group on this side receives fierce attack from Sherry, Miria, Vesta and Rutina.

What's more, they're paralyzed; unable to move.

A perfect punching bag.

They hit them recklessly as if they're a practice dummy.

Ah

One of them seems to have been petrified.

"It's moving."

'With one monster seemingly petrified, the four of them are focusing their attacks on the other monster,' I brood. This time, however, that monster's Paralysis wears off and it starts moving.

"This one seems to be moving, too."

The monsters on Roxanne's end seem to have their Paralysis worn off, too. When I see, I find the now moving Beep Sheep lunging at Roxanne with a ram. A pointless effort. Next.

However, the monster having probably realized that it's futile switches to using Skill attack.

An Orange Magic Formation appears under its feet.

.....

.....

.....Haa

My shoulder is tapped; I wake up

I fell asleep, it seems.

The Beep Sheep's Skill is as troubling as I thought.

"The monsters?"

My first words are the words of confirmation.

"This, last, desu."

Miria replies while slashing a Peep Sheep. (TN: The author must have made a typo. Should be Beep Sheep)

Has she petrified the rest?

No, since she has stopped attacking, has she literally annihilated them?

While I was asleep.

"I see. Thank you, too, Rutina."

To Rutina, who was standing right behind me with the Zen Stick, I express gratitude.

It must be Rutina.

The Zen Stick does wake you up.

I was sent to sleep by a monster. By the time I wake up, the battle was over.

'Did I make a mistake, not setting the order of waking me up?' I'll remain silent.

Chapter 218 – High Heel Boots

When slapped with the zen stick, one becomes wide awake.

That's to be expected, I guess, of a zen stick made by Sherry.
Or that's natural, I guess, since it's a weapon class item.

Waking was refreshingly fresh, too. I woke up refreshed.
I want one for home use.

Oh well, we don't sleep much anyway.

If we slept for long, we would only be half awake even if we were slapped with a zen stick.

A beep sheep sends you to sleep easily and a zen stick wakes you up refreshed. For those with sleeping disorder, it's a covetous item for sound sleep.

It's not feasible, though, since a monster cannot be tamed.
How unfortunate.

Fighting such beep sheeps, we shuttle between floor 36 and 37 and redo floor 36's boss battles.

Fighting the beep sheeps, we haven't been put to sleep that much.
There haven't been many opportunities to use the zen stick. We fight until breakfast.

I should make it clear that I have not once used the zen stick.
Since I'm a rearguard, I'm not the one to get bathed in the monsters' attacks after I have been sent to sleep.

When an awake member sees a gap in the monsters' attacks, they wake other members up. They choose a vanguard close to them while i—a rearguard—am ignored. (TN: It was descendant in the raws, which has a slightly different kanji from rearguard. I believe it was a typo)

Therefore, by the time I wake up, everyone is already wide awake.

The reason as to why I'm not woken up first is, I'm a rearguard. That only.
It's not because I'm not needed in the battle.
I believe.

I'm not thinking that it is so because of miria. At all
Fine.
That is so. Partly.

Actually, no. I'm the one who finishes off the monsters, that miria petrifies,
with durandal. (TN: It was Shurandal in the raws. I believe it was a typo)
Which means I'm needed.
The battle is over, though (by the time I'm needed).

Besides, since I can recover my MP that way, there's no more need for me to
move out to the frontline with durandal. That takes me further away from being
someone who should be woken up.
Oh well, can't be helped.
What's important is, we can fight stably.

After fighting stably, we leave the labyrinth.
Once free from fighting, we buy bread and other ingredients for breakfast.

"After eating, I'll be going out for a bit."
"Very well. since it's a rare opportunity, I will clean the room."
"Yeah, please."
"Yes."

While eating, I tell Roxanne and girls that I'll be going out.
Since Roxanne and girls go to the labyrinth, they get really short time for
preparing meals, cleaning, laundry, *etc.*
Since I'll be going out today, she will properly clean the room. Seemingly.
That's admirable.

However, it's not just that.
"If it's difficult, we can employ a maid."
"No, it's fine."

Roxanne threateningly denies it.
"With ten hands, it won't take much effort. Even though we go to the
labyrinth, it doesn't take so much time as to be a hindrance."
"Do, desu."
"I think it's alright."

“The lords’ assembly will end shortly as well.”

The other four also are negative.

Just like I thought, getting a slave exclusively for housework—in addition to those who go to the labyrinth—is difficult.

Oh well, I guess I should be content since I have as many as five already.

By the way, the lords’ assembly seems to be held briefly during winter break.

After breakfast, I head out alone.

“Look who’s here. Welcome, Michio sama.”

My destination: empire liberation society’s lodge.

When I exit from the wall, Sebastian greets me with his back bent as always.

He’s courteous.

Embarrassingly courteous.

‘He’s making fun of me, isn’t he?’ I used to wonder, but there’s no such element in the air about him.

It’s completely natural. Without a doubt.

It’s the air of elegance and composure.

How do I say it? he’s exuding elegance.

Considering the fact that Sebastian is not a noble, this elegance is not inherent.

He has acquired it, hasn’t he?

He’s mysterious.

If it’s indeed acquired, it’s not the place for someone as uncouth as me to say something.

It would at least result in divulgence of such things as complicated background.

“I wanted to check up on the store. Is there something new for sale?”

“There is. We have just received some items.”

“Show me please.”

“Certainly. This way.”

I visit the empire liberation society’s lodge from time to time.

To check on the items for sale.

I would hate it if it sold before I knew it.

I'm not troubled with money.

I am not troubled with money.

It was my dream to say that line once in my life.

So I'll say it again.

I am not troubled with money.

Now.

"Hoho."

When I head into the shop with Sebastian, I find an orichalcum sword decorated.

It was not there before.

Is this what arrived today?

However, when I appraise it, I find no empty skill slot.

Therefore, I'm not going to buy it.

Even if there was an empty skill slot, I'm not sure if I would buy it this time.

To purchase in this shop, you don't need money; you need points.

To purchase a fine equipment or an equipment with a skill, I have to sell an equipment of same level and accumulate points.

The current me, who is not troubled with money, doesn't have any points.

I cannot buy it just because I want to buy it.

It's the same as not having money outside.

To work out this point thing, I have come up with sacrificial misanga.

I continue to procure caterpillar monster cards. With Sherry and I, the probability of fusion is 100%.

I can also auction off the sacrificial misanga, but there is no need.

There is no need to go to that extent.

Therefore, if I am to purchase a weapon from this shop, I must think it through before purchasing it.

Since the orichalcum sword is a two-handed sword, it would go to Vesta. My main (strength) is magic and durandal.

I have no idea as to how strong an orichalcum sword is. However, even if I reinforce Vesta's weapon, it would not strengthen our party right away.

Do I need it right now? I don't think so.

It would be different, though, if it were strong enough to replace durandal.
For that, I have to arrange for MP absorption skill at the very least.

Immediate effect: slim.

That said, 'you want an equipment, you get that equipment,' doesn't happen in this shop. So, when there's a chance to get it, shouldn't I get it?

Not gonna happen this time, though, because there's no empty skill slot.

A vanguard, as you would expect, needs an armor.

Later, gradually, I might think about reinforcing Rutina.

If the number of times I have to use magic was always one less, it would be convenient for me.

That much is a big ask, though.

I take a round through the lodge store, but I find nothing else of value.

Today is going to be a miss, too, then?

Can't be helped.

There's no other option but to visit frequently without giving up.

"Actually, what we received today is not here..."

Sebastian cuts in hesitantly.

Not here?

For him to say it hesitantly, is there some problem with that item?

"It's here."

What Sebastian takes out are blue boots.

Navy blue? Ultramarine? It's a dark shade of blue.

Enamel high heel boots | foot equipment

Skills | empty | empty | empty | empty | empty

"Wow. Great. I'm buying these."

That leaks out of my mouth subconsciously.

But the price is not confirmed.

No, no, I'm buying these.

There are as many as five empty skill slots.

The brief report Caesar sent from the field was, “I came, I saw, I conquered.” The report I want to send is, “I came, I saw, I bought.” (TN: There’s a wordplay here. Both ‘conquered’ and ‘bought’ are pronounced as ‘kata’ even though the kanji are different)

It’s that good.

“Actually-honestly, it’s our item, but”

“It’s not for sale?”

“An item is an item, but...”

“Uh-huh”

Sebastian seals his lips, so I urge him.

“I cannot decide whether I should be saying this or not.”

“I won’t mind.”

“How do I say this?”

Is this how much curiosity hurts for women?

“Uh-huh”

“Actually, we received two sets the other day from a certain place...”

“And?”

“It’s that.”

I didn’t get it at all!

It’s what?

Is there a problem with two sets?

Is it inauspicious for a twin to exist?

“They’ll be here soon.”

I wait for Sebastian to explain, but I receive no explanation. Instead, some people appear and say something to Sebastian.

“They will be here soon, it seems. Michio sama, please.”

I’m asking you, what is ‘it’?

Sebastian gestures me to move outside the store.

When I go out, I find people gathered at the end of the long corridor.

Ah, I have seen this before.

That hopeless guy.

The lodge of the empire liberation society seems to be connected to the castle in the imperial capital.

Royalty, nobles and eminent personalities enter from the other side of the gate.

“They’re here.”

The door opens slowly. Everyone bows.

It’s too late to run away now.

Agonizing over the topic being dodged, I miss the chance to escape.

Can’t help it.

Following everyone, I too bow.

Can’t help following them.

I’m a guy who can read the mood.

“Ooh, aren’t you Michio?”

“Welcome, Gaius sama.”

Still bowing, I hear that voice and that name.

It’s the entrance of the emperor.

It’s the entrance of the emperor who gets off from getting stepped on by women.

Since I have been called out, I have no other option but to talk with him.

“Long time no see.”

“Fumu. The other day, I received a fine item from you. As expected of big brother mentor.”

Now that I think about it, I gifted the stockings to the emperor.

He seems pleased.

Because he finds it to be a ‘fine item’.

“It’s amazing. Simply amazing. The most amazing. It’s fine. truly fine. It’s progressing fine. I’m addicted to it.”

“Well, well.”

I did think it was a fitting present for him; however, it has turned out to be unimaginably fitting.

What’s progressing? Actually, I don’t want to hear it.

“It’s regrettable that I cannot express my joy to the public.”

“What are you talking about?”

Curiosity that would hurt women and me would instead give pleasure to this man.

I want to stop him from expressing it.

The emperor of Japan was formerly called the great ruler under the heavens; therefore, the emperor here might also be the ruler under the heavens. He should not be known as someone who gets off from something so kinky.

“So I decided to give you a return present.”

“Here it is.”

Following the emperor’s words, Sebastian quickly presents something from the side.

As expected of a competent butler.

That said, aren’t these the same enamel high heel boots from before?

These are the same high heel boots.

No, they are different.

There’s just one empty skill slot on these.

They’re different.

I see.

So, that’s why they received two of the same.

The emperor would purchase one and gift me the other.

Then I don’t have to purchase one.

So, that’s what it is?

The empty skill slot has decreased to one, though.

They received two; it’s amazing for both of them to have empty skill slots.

Or, it might be easier to attach an empty skill slot to enamel high heel boots.

They’re high heel boots after all.

Just like you get an apple pen by combining an apple and a pen, you might get high heel boots by combining high heels and boots.

The probability of attaching an empty skill slot might, therefore, be double.

I know it doesn’t work like that.

Still, one pales in comparison to five.

The one who sold both of them, though, is the unluckiest one.

I don't feel like holding them.

The emperor, who has purchased the boots with one empty skill slot to present me, is not holding them either.

He gives those with one to others and holds those with five.

What did he plan on doing?

"Ooh, this."

At any rate, I receive them as if I'm deeply touched.

He must not think that I would be glad to receive those with five empty skill slots.

"Hmm, I heard that big brother mentor has a party member who is a wizard. I of course heard it from the beginning. It would be a great item for them."

Rutina's matter seems to have been brought to the emperor's knowledge.

"from the beginning" is a point to note, though.

If I think about it, that's obvious.

Because it was such an event as coup d'état of the earl's household.

Since there was no report, it would not be strange for it to turn into a criminal insurrection.

Had the duke of Harz reported it to the emperor before making the move?

As you would expect of a noble; he's shrewd.

Or it might be Gozer who handled it.

"Indeed."

"In that case, I would like to invite you to a dazzling place."

No, no.

I don't want to experience 'that'.

Chapter 219 – Bestowal

The Emperor pushed the Enamel High Heel Boots to me, and quickly turned around.

Eh?

Didn't he have some business here?

"Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit us today."

"I'm obliged."

After exchanging greetings with Sebastian, he returned to the other side of the gate.

Apparently, he came here just to pass me these Enamel High Heel Boots. He has a lot of free time.

All the staff saw him off.

Those accompanying him have it hard, too.

"Luckily, Gaius-sama visited us today, so you received it personally from him."

"Y-Yeah"

No, no.

He definitely came here today just for that, didn't he?

In other words, he was called here, wasn't he?

I guess it can't be disclosed that the Emperor moved just to bestow a present. Even more so to bestow 'that'.

'That'.

"Because Michio sama might not know, I will tell you. When the Emp-Gaius sama bestows an equipment, there is one chance for a commoner to fuse the equipment with a monster card."

"Haa"

That, oh well. So, there's one chance to fuse.

I wonder which one.

That aside, is it okay for him to use such words as 'bestow' and 'commoner'?

For anyone but the Emperor.

“No, no, it’s not like that; it’s limited only to the actual equipment bestowed by Gaius sama. In case fusion succeeds, it will be accepted as a present.”

‘Present’, huh?

As you would expect of an emperor.

To return what was bestowed once a skill has been fused.

What’s yours is mine.

Which means these high heel boots that will have successfully fused...

“Would it be taken back?”

“Of course, there would be a new, enhanced bestowal if you present it. For that end, the item that can be offered is limited only to the equipment actually bestowed.”

I heard tribute exchange was a thing in ancient China. When the foreigners offered a tribute, they would be bestowed property of exceeding value.

Is it something like that?

Even if he’s an emperor, he can’t just always be receiving.

If he is offered something, he will return something of exceeding value.

If he will return something of more value than what he is presented, then there must be many people trying to give presents.

Therefore, there is a restriction on what can be presented.

Specifically, only the equipment actually bestowed—and successfully fused with a monster card—can be presented.

I presented him stockings; I wonder if it was right.

I wonder if it was allowed.

That was so bad...

“...I-I see.”

N-No, it’s alright. Probably.

The Emperor was pleased, after all.

It’s definitely alright.

It doesn’t count! It does not count!

“It is a custom to give present by the 10th day from bestowal. In the

meanwhile, there will be many keeping an eye on Michio sama's surroundings, so be careful."

"Haa"

"Those called nobles pull each others' legs. Looking down on others is their job. Michio sama is close to Brocken sama and Ester sama; there will be even more people trying to pull their legs."

'It's not like I'm a noble.' I wanted to reply so, but it seemed to be expected. By Brocken, he meant the Duke of Harz.

Being a duke means you will have many enemies.

Just the other day, there was a coup d'état against a certain earl.

If I am looked down on, it means looking down on the Duke of Harz; I can understand that much.

However, it may not be that simple.

I am not close to Baron Ester, though, but there is no need to especially point it out.

"It's an unpleasant world."

"Because of the beings called nobles. Therefore, be careful with your actions for a while, Michio sama."

"Uhee"

Why is there such a thing?

However, because it may be untactful to criticise nobles, I cannot publicly complain either.

Now that I think about it, wasn't it bad to complain 'It's an unpleasant world'? It doesn't count! It does not count!!

Well, if the deadline is in ten days, then it is fine to do nothing for ten days. If I don't give a present, then there will probably be no problem either. It will be settled peacefully.

"Of course, since your actions will be watched, not making a move at all will be within their expectations. In that case, your sincerity will be questioned, so be careful."

As if he had read my thoughts, Sebastian warned me.
Am I really that easy to read?

Nah, rather than my being easy to read, it was probably what anyone would think.

“I-see.”

“In the past, some people performed monster card fusion in public to avoid unnecessary suspicions. Please understand that the situation requires that level of care.”

“I-understand.”

That damn hentai! What a nuisance.

Come to think of it, it would be impossible for someone who got off from being stepped on by high heel boots to concede high heel boots to someone else. He handed it over to me on the premise that I would ultimately return it. He didn't give it to me; he only lent it.

Nah, It cannot be the case, can it?

These high heel boots would not be returned if fusion failed.

But if fusion succeeds-can he see the empty skill slots on these Enamel High Heel Boots?

Or is it not the case either?

If he could appraise it and returning it was presumed, then he would choose the one with five empty skill slots.

I'd do that if I were him.

Since he doesn't have Appraisal, he must somehow know to some extent that fusion will succeed.

There will be no end to it if I'm bent on doubting him.

It's probably not like that.

The human desire is something that evolves.

I am sure that hentai has lost interest in the stimulation derived from the high heel boots.

He needs a stronger stimulation.

A far stronger stimulation.

Or maybe he has already obtained other boots.

Otherwise, he would not let go of these ones.

Something more terrifying must be transpiring in the Imperial Palace these

nights.

I think these Enamel High Heel Boots are quite amazing, though.
Getting stepped on by these...
There exists no man who would not want to.

At least I would like to. With bare feet.
If it's Roxanne, she will step on me gently.
Sherry is small and light, so it will not be painful.
She will look at me with those scornful eyes, though.

Mi-Miria will be fine.
Vesta is large, so I will definitely get crushed.
'What happened?'

Rutina will be fine, too.
'To think Master was such a terrible pervert.'
It seems she will step on me with goosebumps all over her body.
'It is a reward in Our industry.'

No, no, no.
Wait, don't be hasty.
This is the Emperor's trap.
Such a thing is impossible.

First, propose an absolutely unacceptable condition to the other party, then propose what you originally want in a conceded form and make them accept it.
It's the technique scammers often use.
Show them high heel boots—something beyond the reach of an amateur—and they will agree on bare feet.
It's his scheme to drag me to his company.

As expected of an emperor.
Damn you, Emperor.

"Because it is so, please show me your sincerity, Michio sama"

This one here is troublesome, too.
It is going to be troublesome in more than one ways.
That's why I hate them; be it the Duke or the Emperor.

It would be better if I could live how I wanted.

“Ah, and those Enamel High Heel Boots in the store, to get those-”
“Michio-sama, did you not pay attention to what I said?”

Now that I have to return the high heel boots I received from the Emperor to the Emperor, I thought I could get substitute high heel boots; however, as you would expect, it doesn't work like that.

There goes my chance to get my hands on a piece of equipment with five empty skill slots!

“Is there really no way?”
“If it were known that you purchased the same equipment as the one you were bestowed, you would certainly be criticized even if you fused that equipment to present it.”

Well, that makes sense.

“Then, can you please set that aside until I perform fusion and present it? Of course, I will buy it either way even if fusion fails.”

“That's not any different.”

Although the first one was no good even in my opinion, I lowered my demands in the next one; however, even that didn't get the nod.
Strange.

Isn't proposing an unacceptable proposal first and a concession afterward supposed to work?

“Uun, this isn't possible either?”
“If I withdrew it from the store, those who want to thwart it would know.”
“If you make the fact public there in the store-”
“No matter how much our side denied, it would be useless. It is unrelated to truth and facts; an action that leaves a gap will be considered problematic.”

It won't work, after all.
Is it really that difficult to obtain Enamel High Heel Boots with five empty skill slots?
I can only hope it's not sold until I give present to the Emperor.

“It'll be fine, though, if it remains until this is over.”

“That’s no good either. You should not buy an identical item until the hype dies down—for about half a year.”

“No, no; I’m buying that after I present it. Maybe after failing even.”

“The enemies don’t need facts; they want to pull legs. Facts don’t matter to them.”

“That’s unreasonable!”

Is it really useless?

So, this is how nobles pull each others’ legs.

I kinda have many secrets, and as many gaps.

“The stake that sticks up gets hammered down first*. If you exhibit ability, their attitude will change immediately. If you are an Adventurer party capable of defeating a labyrinth, they will sidle up, rubbing their hands.” (ED: A proverb meaning those who stand out get criticized)

“That’s troublesome if it’s so.”

“That’s what’s called nobles.”

There was nothing worthy.

Without getting anything, I ran away from the lodge, scuttling.

Actually, I got the Enamel High Heel Boots from the Emperor.

When I returned home, Roxanne and girls were still cleaning.

In the first place, I wasn’t at the lodge for a long time.

“Welcome back, Master.”

“Ah, carry on; just hear me out. It’s a little complicated, though. I got my hands on a new equipment. However, apparently, I must quickly fuse a skill and present it. Therefore, the time to use it is short.”

“A new equipment? What sort of?”

“Is that so?”

Sherry had a complicated expression.

If it is about fusing a skill, then it is Sherry’s turn.

“New equipment, desu.”

“I think it’s alright even if it’s for a short period.”

“To quickly fuse a skill and present it even though you just got it, it’s as if the Emperor bestowed the equipment on you.”

That's correct, Rutina.

'As expected,' I should say, but it's not like that.
It can be said that the idea itself is partial.

"What I got is this: Enamel High Heel Boots."

"Hou, these?"

I took it out from the Item Box and handed it over to Roxanne.

"As for monster card fusion, don't worry."

"Okay"

I dispelled Sherry's needless anxiety, as well.

Whether or not her anxiety was dispelled, that is another matter.

Because she replied "okay", she is probably fine.

"It seems good."

Roxanne looked at it for a while, and then passed the pair of high heel boots to Sherry. Is she satisfied?

I have secured Roxanne's approval.

"Does it have the effect of strengthening magic?"

"Probably. 'Isn't that so?' Is what I think."

Sherry also looked at the high heel boots and confirmed it. It probably is so.
That's why the Emperor sent this.

Well, it must be returned, though.

"If it strengthens magic, then it is an equipment for Rutina to use."

I mean I cannot put these on myself.

I looked at everyone, but no one seemed to have any objection in particular.

"That seems so."

Finally, Roxanne answered as representative.

Sherry also, without saying anything, passed the high heel boots to Miria.

"But it's an equipment that will soon be gone. Is it okay to rely on it?"

However, I have a concern.

Is it okay to get accustomed to battling inside labyrinth and strategizing on the

assumption that we have Enamel High Heel Boots?

Is it an unfounded worry?

Other types of equipment aside, I'm inclined to rely on magic if it becomes strong.

"It seems okay to me. It's just a matter of not losing focus regardless of the kind of battle."

"There is a possibility, certainly, but it is wasteful to not use a rare equipment. It is better to get stronger using the equipment."

"Rely on it, desu."

"I think it's alright."

"If it can be used, I would like to use it."

Are my worries unfounded, after all?

'Not losing focus regardless of the kind of battle.' That's impossible in reality, though.

Chapter 220 – Sleep Sheep

“Anyways, we need to quickly get a monster card that will suit the Enamel High-Heel Boots. Which do you think would be good, Sherry?” I consulted Sherry for suggestions on the best skill to fuse into them.

“Let me think.....” Sherry ponders the question.

“Ah, better yet, would you like to come to merchant guild with me? We can quickly come to a decision that way.” Luke, the middle-man, would buy the card in the end, so we should head there as soon as possible. Instead of visiting him after consulting with Sherry, it would be faster to bring her along.

Whatever I do, I’ve been warned to be over-the-counter clean with my transactions. We may attract the attention of some nobles, and they may try to trip us up. Either way, they will be watching us. Even if that is impossible, it would still be better to get a monster card as soon as possible. Earlier the better.

ASAP.

As soon as possible.

“I understand” Sherry responds.

“Okay, I’m borrowing Sherry, that okay?”

“Yes. It’s alright” I confirmed with Roxanne, as Sherry was busy cleaning a room, and took her to the merchant guild.

We warped there, and I called for Luke at the reception area. It seems like he was here all along, as he showed up immediately. I suppose that’s reasonable, there has never been a time he was not here at this hour of the day. After all, there should be an ongoing auction at this time.

“This way” Luke directs us.

“Sorry, I have some trouble for you”

Luke escorts us to the meeting room, and asks, “What business do you have today?”

“I got my hands on a certain piece of equipment. It’s become a situation where I have to fuse it with a monster card. It is fine even if it fails, but it needs to be done soon”

“Is it the Enamel High Heel boots?” Luke inquires.

How did he know? Perhaps it’s a famous piece of equipment. I don’t believe that though.

“Why do you know about that?”

“Because information is a merchants’ essence” He evades the question.

“.....”

Even if you say “information is a merchants’ essence,” didn’t that travel way too fast, no matter how you put it?

“Well, perhaps I exaggerated a bit. To tell the truth, lately rumors were circulating in the market. If I’m right about it, then you should know what the rumor is about.” So he says.

No, I don’t know. Since I received the High Heel Boots just a moment ago, it shouldn’t be possible for a rumor to already be circulating in the market. Maybe it was a rumor about the emperor getting some Enamel High Heel Boots?

Maybe it’s a rumor purporting the emperor doing **this and that** with Enamel High Heel boots on a nightly basis? Certainly **that** could prevent others from speaking of it, if it was a rumor like that, it could be considered a disrespectful crime.

No, it would then be a crime of leaking classified information.

“I-I see”

“Given that it was to be bestowed soon, there was a rumor...”

It wasn’t a rumor of the Emperor doing *this and that* every night. I guess that’s understandable. It would be bad if that confidential information leaked.

So the rumor was that ‘The Emperor has bought some Enamel High Heel Boots, so they will be bestowed soon,’ or something similar? I guess that makes sense.

“Don’t tell me, did the prices of monster cards go up?”

“It’s not quite like that, but more or less, yes”

As expected of the Emperor. He doesn’t do a single decent thing.

‘If you know someone is going buy monster cards soon, their prices are going to increase as well,’ or something similar. ‘The Emperor will bestow a piece of equipment. The person who receives it will need to obtain a monster card, and fuse them.’ Of course it’s common to buy monster cards at auctions.

Whether it is successful or not, it only needs to be fused once. Even if I include Kobold’s monster card, that would be a maximum of two. Additionally, there is the possibility that I could use existing stock. Either way, the monster cards will absolutely be consumed.

As a merchant, that poses a problem. The market can move if that information lands in their hands.

Even if a dog barks at nothing, ten thousand will take is seriously * (TLCN: it means that sometimes if one spouts bullshit, some people may think it is true, something appropriate in this time of darkness). If everyone thinks stock prices will rise in the future, then the stock prices will likely rise.

If people think that tomorrow’s price of monster cards will be higher than today’s, then the price of monster cards will rise. It’s not important to the speculator that the prices or demand fluctuate as a market, but what impact those fluctuations will have on the market.

“This being the case, I’d like to get a corresponding monster card as soon as possible. If possible, before the price has yet to go up. The problem is the type though”

“About monster cards, I am quite knowledgeable, and I know what to get and where to find them. Could you to come back again tomorrow morning?” Luke cuts in before I have a chance to ask Sherry about types.

It seems he has some ideas about which ones would be best and where to get them. Perhaps he is selling the ones he has on hand.

“I understand”

“I won’t suggest any bad ideas, so please rest assured” (Luke)

I really didn’t feel assured when he said that though. I only hear ‘Don’t worry, this will be bad for you.’ Well, I really can only buy from Luke anyways... Perhaps should I start searching from drops?

That would be difficult as well. It’s not something you can plan to get when you set your sights on it. Additionally, the timeframe for completion is limited as well.

If the needed drop doesn’t appear, regardless of effort, I would be stamped as an unloyal person, after being bestowed equipment from the Emperor. To be fair, I would be fine with being branded, and having my standing lowered. I don’t have any loyalty to him.

And he’s a pervert.

Well, I guess I can’t leave it like that, nor do I have a choice with Luke today. I’ll just leave for the day.

=====Next Day=====

I’ve entrusted the matter with the monster cards completely to Luke. With that, we enter the labyrinth, working there is my job.

We didn’t happen to randomly get a monster card. Of course it wouldn’t.

If I try my best to not fall asleep, in the next morning we will be doing the thirty-seventh floor boss fight.

“The theory is to surround the boss with everyone and defeat them one by one, so what should we do?” Before entering the boss room, Sherry asks.

“It’s like that?”

Sherry responds, “Yes. The Beep Sheep’s boss is Sleep Sheep. If the party that entered before us doesn’t get wiped out, they will be sleeping as they are freshly spawned”

“To think that they really are sleeping”

Sleep Sheep. It seems to be a sleeping monster, as the name says. What are they doing to make themselves sleep?

“Of course it will wake up once it’s attacked. It’s a nasty enemy once it wakes up” Sherry notifies us.

“So it’s like a handicap.”

I will let you Hit me first, that sort of thing. Even if I rushed it with Durandal, it would be difficult to slice the boss in half, slaying it with a single blow. Especially with the degree of difficulty of this floor.

Or maybe I can slack off.

“The attack of an awoken Sleep Sheep is terrifying, if you receive its skill attack, you will inevitably be put to sleep” Knowledgeable as always, Sherry informs us.

“What do you mean by ‘inevitably be put to sleep?’”

“Even if you are hit with a normal body slam attack, there is high probability you will fall asleep”

“What’s the purpose of a skill attack, then?”

It seems like a boss with a lot to retort.

Sherry explains further, “There is a theory that it’s in a bad mood from being awoken when it was sleeping”

“Well, certainly your mood would be bad”

I wonder, do monsters have moods?

“Sleep Sheep’s hair is extremely fluffy, and exceptionally dense. It’s very soft and comfortable to touch”

“Doesn’t that affect and reduce its offensive power?”

“It seems that When wrapped in Sleep Sheep hair, you will end up sleeping because it feels too good”

..... I give up on “tsukkoming” anymore. (TL/ED Note: This is a play on tsukkoming being a type of “retort”)

Lets leave it at: ‘Because it’s a monster, It might do these things.’

Sleep Sheep. Apparently it seems like a terrible enemy.

“It’s not a problem as long as its so-called ‘skill attack,’ as you say, can be avoided. We can use area attack magic to defeat it faster, is there any particular reason to defeat them one by one? ” We should ignore Roxanne opinions.

“Fight all at once, ~desu” As I thought that, Miria agreed with her.

“It’s okay even simultaneously, I think” (Vesta)

Will it really be okay? Do they really understand? When fighting simultaneously with two bosses, Roxanne and Vesta will be the ones standing in front.

Oh well, is there any way they don’t understand that? It’s been like this up to now.

“Isn’t it fine? If they’re comfortable with that, I will be able to boast during a Lords Conference” Rutina doesn’t get it, I’m pretty sure.

“I understand. Well we will be fighting them multiple times anyways, let’s try it one at a time first. It is our first encounter after all. If we can fight them without problems, we can fight them simultaneously next time”

“I see. You are composed. That’s a rational proposal” Sherry agreed with me. Seems only Sherry can be rational. Roxanne and the girls don’t oppose this suggestion either. I guess that’s natural, we’ll deal with them one at a time first.

The Sleep sheep, was a sleeping sheep. They really are sleeping.

After surrounding them one at a time, we easily cleaned up. Although, Miria was on the one who did it. Now that I think about it, it’s natural. The enemy is asleep. Surrounding it while it sleeps, we will get the first attack regardless. Even if it wakes up after getting attacked, because it can’t move immediately after waking, we also get in the second attack, easily.

Since Roxanne acts as vanguard, Miria attacks from behind. With this arrangement, she doesn’t need to be concerned with counterattacks. That allows her to land one or two more attacks. Perhaps a little more if she recklessly swings her weapon. With that many attacks, surely she will petrify her opponent.

In other words, it ended up like this: ***The act itself was easier than the stress***

of its planning. *

“In the end, we never had the chance to use area attack magic”

“You’re right” Roxanne agrees.

“It is thanks to Miria”

“Yes, desu” I stroke Miria’s head. I slid my hand under her hat and touched her cat ears. They are lovely, twitching and moving. It is one of the charms of cat ears.

“This way of fighting should be fine for Sleep Sheep. Let’s continue fighting using this method next time as well.”

Since I took out Durandal, the experience value gained was a little small... maybe. Regardless, it is best if we can win safely. The decreased experience isn’t significant, anyways.

Afterwards, we went around and repeated the boss battle. One by one, they got petrified repeatedly without much problem. Safety first. If there was ever a problem, would it be that the previous party would be annihilated, and the Sleep Sheep would be awake when we would enter? Well, that should be rare, and even in that case, surely the Sleep Sheep wouldn’t be fully intact. They should retain some damage, so it shouldn’t be as dangerous of a situation.

In fact, we never found a Sleep Sheep in that state. So we have neutralized them, safely and soundly, one by one.

I can say that it feels like the least dangerous boss battle since floor thirty-four.

Something like this strange handicap, allowing the first hit, is the cause of the Sleep Sheep’s demise. And experiencing something like the comfort of being wrapped in it’s dense wool, we need to give up on that.

We fought safely until breakfast, and then left the labyrinth. After breakfast, Sherry and I went directly to the merchant’s guild.

“Welcome. I’ve been waiting for you” When I called for Luke at the waiting room, he came right away.

“It seems I made you wait”

“No-no. I am the one who called you here” Luke is not denying that he has been waiting. Should we get to the main subject, quickly, then?

“So. What about the monster cards?”

“Yes. I think that these should be fine” I cut the story short after we entered the room, and Luke took out two monster cards.

A Kobold card, and the other one is an Ox monster card. The Kobold monster card, because I have a spare, I could say that I don’t need it.

“These are...?”

“Yes. They are an Ox monster card and Kobold monster card” (Luke)

“Ox monster card, when fused together with Kobold monster card, will become mobility enhancement skill. It’s a standard skill to put on shoes” I understood from Sherry’s explanation that mobility enhancements are usually put on shoes.

The appraisal skill confirms the cards. For an Ox to increase mobility, I don’t get it.

My image of an Ox is that of a really slow creature. Although, looking at a bullfight, it’s not that slow. Maybe, I think, an American Bison could be a fast one? Even if it is an Ox, it would be a monster type of Ox. It goes without saying that it would be more fierce than an energetic cow.

Or, possibly, this may be a world where it is considered elegant to ride Ox carriage like **Heian** aristocrats. Regardless, this is something that I will be gifting to the Emperor. To the elegant emperor who has the elegant hobby of being stepped on by high heels.

“Hmmm... It sounds fine”

“Thank you, very much. How about 4,500 nars for Ox monster card, and 5000 nars for Kobold monster card?” It should be fine to also buy the Kobold monster card if it is just 5000 nars. He probably assigned that price because he considered that I would buy it at that price.

“That’s fine”

“You will be presenting it to the Emperor if the fusion succeeds, so if you

purchase the two of them, I will give you a special price this time of 6,650 nars”
Luke informs me.

Nope. I also need kobold monster cards.

It is absolutely necessary.

Just for clarification:

for Nars/Naru, it is written (ナール) = Naru not nars, as we were using MTL TA with substitution before, for names and currency they were already substituted so I never bothered checking the romaji or writing. and both Cyro and Mr. Anon would fix the inconsistency

As for Sherry/Celie (セリー) the TA/MTL translate it as Sherry which was why we used it before (we were mainly using TA/MTL for translation), but Sherry is written シェリー; the correct name would be either Serī, Celie, série. This was confirmed by native Japanese speaker as well