

すずの木くろ  
Suzunoki Kuro

III 黒獅子  
urojishi

宝くじで  
40億当たった  
んだけど

異世界に  
移住する  
2



# **I Won 4 Billion in a Lottery But I Went to Another World**

**– Takarakuji de 40-oku Atattandakedo Isekai ni Ijuu Suru –**

**- Volume 2 -**

**AUTHOR:**

**Suzunoki Kuro**

**ARTIST:**

**Kurojishi**

**[ Translated by: Yukkuri Free Time Literature Service ]**

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「これが水車です。バレッタが  
考え出してくれました」

「あ、これはすごいぞー！」

バリ

グリセア村の村長

バレッタ

村長の娘

アイザック・スラン

イステール領の領主・ナルソンの臣下

「ご足労いただき、ありがとうございます。領主のナルソン・イステールと申します」

ジルコニア・イステール

ナルソンの後妻、イステール領の軍事部門を担当

ナルソン・イステール

イステール領の領主

「お初にお目にかかります、カズラと申します」

志野一良

宝くじで億万長者となった青年、グリエア村の救世主

「ちやちやつと  
済ましてやるから安心しな」

「ひい、やあひい」



# CHAPTER 28

## MUTUAL DIFFERENCE IN INTEREST

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Eight days had passed since the day Valetta failed to go to Japan from the other world. It was in the morning,

Kazura was together with Valetta behind the Village Chief's residence, where a fence has been erected for the two Rootcut birds. Both of them was giving the birds feed.

The type of feed given to the birds was a feed with balanced nutrition, it was something he had bought in Japan six day ago.

The Rootcut birds were pecking at the scattered feed on the ground like it was delicious, their appearance like this was very similar to chickens in Japan.

“Good, good, eat a lot and lay a lot of eggs. If you can; please also lay a fertilized egg.”  
(Kazura)

For the last few days, maybe because the feed from Japan was really effective on the Rootcut birds, in the span of 4 days they'd laid 2 eggs.

But so far, the parent birds didn't warm any of the eggs, but before long they might lay a fertilized egg.

Because there were only 2 birds and it would be troublesome if they go weak and died, Kazura fed them with feed from Japan and just as expected their constitution had improved.

“If in the future the number of Rootcut bird keep increasing, after several years I think that raising Rootcut birds can become village's new industry..... I also need to study about poultry farming more.” (Valetta)

Since establishing the fact that she couldn't go to Japan together with Kazura, Valetta had been pursuing her studies with more zeal.

Kazura was also studying together with Valetta, however her learning rate was tremendously fast. Instead, Kazura ended up being taught on the study by Valetta as the first one who grasped the field's subject.

Since they hadn't learned anything about poultry farming yet, he only had the information he'd heard from the Homecenter's employee when he purchased the feed, but not the fundamental knowledge of how to raise chickens.

"The next time I return to Japan, I will buy a treatise on poultry farming..... Soon we will need a bookshelf..." (Kazura)

During the last 8 days, Kazura had went back to Japan several times to purchase groceries, and while he was at it he also bought a large amount of books as a souvenir for Valetta.

However, recently the number of books had increased considerably, and they would keep piling up in the corner of Kazura's room if they didn't prepare a place to store them.

"That's true..... Since we felled a lot of trees to pay the taxes, let's use some of them to build bookshelves." (Valetta)

"Since we're building it, how about building a large one..... Hm? It looks like someone is visiting." (Kazura)

The two were talking and feeding the Rootcut birds when they heard several people calling the village chief's name in a loud voice from the house's entrance.

It seemed that someone from the village was visiting, but for some reason they seemed to be in panic.

Both of them looked up at that unusual atmosphere, and while wondering what was happening, they shuffled their feet towards the entrance.



When both of them arrived at the residence entrance, there was Valin and ten-odd villagers in a deep talk with serious expression on their faces.

The villagers noticed that Kazura and Valetta were coming so everyone became silent. They were looking at Kazura with imploring expressions thoroughly mixed with anxiety.

“.....Ummm.....” (Kazura)

“Everyone, did something happen?” (Valeta)

Kazura was troubled because of the sudden stares so Valetta stepped forward and asked the villagers.

The villagers kept their mouth shut and stared at the ground, so Valin who unable to let the silence continue began to speak.

“.....It seems that an army from Isteria is heading to Grisea Village on the eastern highway. Their numbers are 100 people.” (Valin)

“Eh!?” (Valetta)

Hearing her father’s words, Valetta turned her head towards Kazura.

Until now, as far as Valetta knew, except for eliminating Greysior in the legend, the Isterian Army had never come to Grisea Village.

Even the 3 soldiers who visited the village for soldier conscription during the time of war with Balveile was already considered as a lot.

“.....Umm, I think I should go back to my room for now.” (Kazura)

This time even Valetta joined in with everyone and stared at Kazura. Since he could feel the heaviness in the air, he decided to withdraw to his room.

Excluding Valetta, everyone in this place including Valin believed that Kazura was Greysior.

In that case, if he was still there then the villagers wouldn’t be able to continue their talk, that was what Kazura thought.

After Kazura said so, under the gaze of everyone, he hurriedly vanished into the residence’s interior.

After making sure that Kazura had gone inside the residence, the villagers once again turned their face to Valin.

“Chief..... The army heading to the village is going to capture Kazura-sama, it’s not the usual envoy who was sent by Nelson-sama!” (Villager)

“No, that still hasn’t been confirmed yet....” (Valin)

“For what other reason is such an army coming to this village? If this is just like in the legend, then Kazura-sama..... Greysior-sama will once again leave our side!!”

Although they were talking in low voices since they were anxious of Kazura who was inside the residence, the bloodcurdling appeal from the villagers made Valin unintentionally flinch.

For the villagers, Kazura was Greysior, who had come and saved them from the problems in the village.

The villagers feared that just as in the legend, the god of benevolence and harvest, who appeared in order to save them, would once again be seized and carried off by the feudal lord’s hand. That was the reason the villagers fell into panic.

“We don’t want to repeat the same mistake from the legend this time. So please bring out the weapons inside the residence.” (Villager)

“H-Hey, what are you talking about!?! Do you want to point your blade on Nelson-sama’s army?! Don’t say such a foolish thing!!” (Valin)

Bring out the weapons -- the villagers were thinking something outrageous, so Valin yelled with a loud voice.

To point a blade at the Isterian Army held the same meaning as rebelling against Arcadia.

Although the villagers shrunk back from the angry Valin for a moment, the next moment they started glarng back at Valin, and stepped forward.

“Several hundred years ago, despite being their lives being saved by Greysior-sama, our ancestor let him be captured and couldn’t protect him. But Greysior-sama forgave us, the descendant of those sinners and once again lent his hand towards us. We won’t

let the same mistake happen again, this time we will not abandon Greysior-sama.”  
(Villager)

“However, to battle with Nelson-sama’s army is.....” (Valin)

Hearing the villager’s words, Valin’s expression grew sour and he grumbled.

He could personally empathize with the villagers. Even Valin himself thought that he wanted to completely prevent Kazura from being captured.

However, if they dared defy Nelson-sama’s army then what awaited them would be capital punishment or enslavement.

If it would be finished only by sentencing Valin to death, then he would gladly do it numerous times for Kazura, however he had no doubt that the village would also receive heavy punishment.

Of course, his family would be put to the death while the villagers would be certainly be killed or turned into slaves.

“I also agree with what everyone has said. I also thought that if they came to capture Greysior-sama, then even if our opponent was Nelson-sama’s army, we would raise our weapons and fight them.” (Valetta)

While Valin was thinking about what he should do, Valetta, who was silent until then, personally gave out her opinion.

Valin, who never imagined that Valetta would say something like this, was very much surprised and looked intently at his daughter.

The villagers also had their resolve strengthened by Valetta’s opinion.

“However,” (Valetta)

When Valin was about to open his mouth to remonstrate Valetta for agreeing with the villagers, she turned her position towards the villagers and continued her speech.

“I’m afraid to say, even if every one of us held a weapon and went to battle, it would still be hard for us to repulse an army close to 100 people. After all, the people in this

village who can fight on par with a soldier, based on my estimation is only 10 people at most.”

The villagers, who were at first pleased that Valetta agreed with their view, were making noises after having that be pointed out by Valetta.

“Ho-However, while that may be true we still have to battle! After all even Valetta-san had said that about going to battle just now, right?!” (Villager)

An agitated male villager approached her and spoke out. Valetta looked him in the eyes and nodded.

“Yes. If it is necessary then of course I will fight. However, that’s only as a last resort. Since our objective is to protect Greysior-sama, as long as this can be achieved, there is no need to fight against Nelson-sama’s Army.” (Valetta)

“However, to protect Greysior-sama we can only fight....” (Villager)

“I’m certain that there are still other options that we could take other than fighting. About the army who heading to the village, do anyone here know when they will arrive?” (Valetta)

When Valetta asked that question, everyone looked at each other, then one young male villagers raised his hand.

“I heard that they will arrive at the village in 1 Koku.” (Village)

“From whom did you hear this?” (Valetta)

“From a Rata Cavalry. He said that, since the army will arrive in one hour, please tell the village chief to come out and meet with them.”

After Valetta heard this, she let out a sigh of relief.

From that story she could guess the aim of the army that was coming to the village. She believed that they weren’t coming to capture Kazura.

If their aim was to capture Kazura then they wouldn’t send a cavalryman to inform the army’s time of arrival to the village.

When the villagers heard that an army will come, the very first thing came to their mind was about Kazura's existence in the village as the Greysior in the legend, which caused them to fall into such extreme thinking.

Though Valetta had momentarily thought about explaining her reasoning to the villagers, they wouldn't just accept it.

Rather than explaining to the agitated villagers, she thought about another way to temporarily calm them.

After deliberating for several seconds, she quickly faced the villagers and started giving several instructions to them.



While Valetta was giving instructions to the villagers, inside his own room Kazura was stuffing his clothes and various articles into the travelling bag.

From what Valin had said, it seemed that Isterian Army was getting close to the village.

Although he didn't know what objective the Army had in coming to this place, he judged that it would be better if he disappeared from the village, at least for the time being.

If the Army was to stay at the village for several days, there was the possibility that his existence would be discovered at some time during that period.

After all, Kazura was a person that shouldn't exist in this village, if the Army was carrying something like a citizen registry of the village, even if he'd had a similar appearance as the villagers, he would still eventually be found out.

Kazura was stuffing his personal belongings into the bag and saw the mountain of books in the corner of the room. He was thinking that he might need to bring the books back, when Valetta, who had finished the talks, entered the room.

"Kazura-san..... Ah, are you already done packing up?"

Finished with packing his bag, Kazura was looking at the books in the corner. Looking at him like that, Valetta displayed a smile.

“Yes, for the time being, I will take refuge in Japan. The Isterian Army that Valin talked about previously, how soon will they arrive at the village?” (Kazura)

“No, it will be 1 Koku..... 2 hours before they arrive. In the meantime, we need to conceal everything that mustn’t be seen.....” (Valetta)

Hearing Valetta’s answer, Kazura once more turned his attention towards the piled up books.

“I wonder if it will be alright, leaving these books behind..... What’s the purpose of that army to come to this village anyway?” (Kazura)

Valetta, who was asked by Kazura, put her hand near her mouth and thought for awhile.

“I don’t really know their objectives, but since they sent a cavalryman to contact the village, it seems that their reason to come to this village is not Kazura-san. Maybe they will just pass through this village and head for another direction or they are just stopping by as a part of training.” (Valetta)

Hearing that their objective was not him, Kazura sighed out of relief.

Previously, when he went to Isteria, there was some trouble with Nelson’s daughter. He was worried whether or not this would cause something to happen.

Just like what Valetta had said, if the army’s objective was just stopping by for training or an expedition, then he would be able to return to the village before long.

“I’ll be glad if that’s true. However, well... Just to be sure, it will be better if I return to Japan..... Not only these books, but the hoes and tools that I gave out to the villagers also need to be hidden.”

Hearing Kazura’s words, Valetta replied that it would be alright and smiled.

“Not long ago, I instructed the villagers to put all the tools that Kazura had brought and hide it below the floor. Even if they are checking the space below the floor, since it was dark they wouldn’t be able to tell them apart from bronzes hoe so I think it won’t be discovered.” (Valetta)

“Oooh, good job Valetta-san. Then, it would be alright to put these books into a cloth bag and then put that in the corner of the storageroom, right?” (Kazura)

“That’s true..... Putting the books inside the bags in the house, then just to make sure, put various things on top of the books. I think it will be alright.” (Valetta)

If the objective of the army coming to the village wasn’t to capture Kazura then they wouldn’t conduct a search in the village, but there would be no problem to store things that would be troublesome if it got found out, into a place that wasn’t eye catching.

Kazura nodded at Valetta’s reply and faced the mountain of books again.

“Then, should we start putting this book away quickly?” (Kazura)

“Yes. I will go and get the bags for the books.” (Valetta)

And thus, although it differed from what they had planned at first, they began to store the piled up books in the corner.



It was about 2 hours after the villagers of Grisea village started their cover-up.

Isaac, who had taken the unit with him, ordered his aide to prepare a camp at a location 200 meters from Grisea village’s entrance.

Since the time was just before the noon, the camp preparation was really too early, however to conduct an inspection in Grisea village, Isaac as the commandant of the unit needed to separate from them. So, in the meantime he decided to make them prepare a camp.

Besides, the marchers this time had only brought along several Ratas as baggage carriers and they hadn’t brought along any attendants with them, so all the soldiers needed to prepare the camp with their own power, and since it would take a lot of time it was something good to kill time while Isaac was busy.

Since every soldier attached to Isaac’s unit had an aristocratic origin, they were used to the attendants carrying and doing things for them. So it was inevitable that it would take a lot of time since they were doing unfamiliar work, however, their bad performance far exceeded Isaac’s expectations.

Today was the third day after they'd departed from Isteria. The camp preparation on the first day had had really terrible result. They started setting up the tents before dusk but when all tents had been set up and they'd began the preparations for dinner, the sky was already sparkling with stars.

Compared to the first day, the camp preparation yesterday was more or less relatively quick, but it seemed that even today it would still take a lot of time.

"Then I will go to the village and begin the inspection. Perhaps it will last until the evening, so until then I entrust the command to you." (Isaac)

"I understand..... Ah, Captain, about the water supply, may we use the water channel in the village?" (Aide)

While in the middle of marching, Isaac and his aide had a conversation about Grisea Village's state of affairs or the surrounding geography and such other topics. It seemed that the aide had remembered about the newly built water channel in the village.

Since it would take a long of time to fetch water from the river, if they could take water directly from the water channel in the village, it would be very convenient for them.

"Hmm, you're right..... Alright, I'll ask the village chief Valin-san for permission to use the water channel in the village. Select 4 men to fetch the water." (Isaac)

The aide who received hat order, although knitting his brow at Isaac's words, replied with an "Understood" and called out to 4 soldiers who were sitting nearby.

The soldiers, who were called out, quickly rose up and ran up to the wagon and took out water buckets.

Isaac let out a sigh in his heart while watching the aide, who in turn observed the soldiers running, "After this I need to focus my attention on Grisea Village."

# CHAPTER 29

## PREJUDICE

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Under the blazing midsummer sun that baked the ground, Valin and Valetta greeted Isaac and 5 armed soldiers at the village's entrance.

The soldiers were clad in thick bronze reinforced leather armor, and wore bronze helmets to cover their heads. They were heavily armored.

Apart from Isaac, the soldiers were carrying water buckets in their hands. Except for the short swords on their waists they didn't bring any other weapons, or shields.

Moreover, only Isaac didn't wear a helmet, maybe because he thought that it would hinder him in the time-consuming inspection.

"And thus, while I'm inspecting the village, the army will be making camp near the village, so I was wanting to ask permission to use village's water channel....." (Isaac)

"Of course it will be alright. Please, no need to hold back use it to your liking." (Valin)

Valin replied to Isaac, who'd asked apologetically with a smile, but in his mind he was surprised.

Because it had never crossed his mind, that the commander of the army that was heading to the village was Isaac.

Even if Isaac had visited the village several times before, because he always politely interacted with the villagers like today, Valin couldn't have imagined him as an army commander and a person with a peerage.

Furthermore, there were family crest ornaments on the short swords that dangled from the soldiers' waists. It appeared that they were all nobles.

A commander of a Noble Unit wouldn't come from low-ranked nobles but of course from the high-ranked nobles, so Isaac was obviously a high-ranked noble.

By the way, currently on Isaac's short sword there was magnificent family crest ornament.

Whenever he visited the village before for inspections, his short sword hadn't had any ornaments and he also inspected the village by himself, so the villagers didn't feel any air of intimidation from him and just consider him as yet another common soldier with a common short sword.

"Thank you very much. I'll make sure the soldiers don't enter too deeply into the village. Please convey to the villagers to not worry about the soldiers." (Isaac)

After Isaac said so to Valin, he gave the order to the soldiers behind him to draw water.

The soldiers who received the order made an immediate reply and then ran towards the water channel with water buckets shaking in both hands.

Isaac observed the running soldiers before turning his attention back to Valin and Valetta.

"Well then, it's a bit early but please let me to inspect the village. Has the growth of the crops in the fields gone well?" (Isaac)

"Yes, thanks to the water from the water channel, they didn't succumb to drought and were able to grow favorably. Furthermore, the crops are growing differently from the usual, its growth is faster than before. At this rate, we might be able to harvest a bit of potato for the tax tribute." (Valin)

Valin answered Isaac's question about the crops condition with the reply that he, Valetta and Kazura had discussed before.

The crops in the village's fields were able to grow rapidly because of the fertilizer that Kazura had brought and the humus gathered from the forest. In case Isaac asked about it in detail, then he would answer only about the humus.

"That is good news. For us to be able to receive crops as tribute, even if it is in small quantity from this village, is something that is really helpful since the taxes from the other villages this year are greatly decreased." (Isaac)

Isaac let out a small smile after hearing Valin's answer, and then he urged Valin and Valetta to lead him towards the closest potato field.



Isaac arrived at the potato field and was amazed by the sight of the potatoes that grew inside.

The potatoes that were growing in the field were outstandingly larger in size than when he had visited before. Any observer could see the thick strong stems and surprisingly gigantic leaves.

Isaac personally was virtually a layman in the field of agriculture, but he had never seen a potato plant with stems or leaves that was big like this before.

“This is..... As far as I know, I never see a potato grown with stems and leaves as big as in this place, however..... The crops planted here, are they really the same potatoes that were tributed last year?” (Isaac)

“Yes, this is the same usual potato crop. However, this year we mixed a large amount of soil taken from the forest into the fields.” (Valin)

When Isaac heard that, he squatted near a potato plant with a curious expression, and touched the leaves.

The thickness of the leaves seemed to have increased and the thick stems that were gathered together were very impressive.

If he was told that this was the same potato crop that he’d seen one month ago, to be honest, he wouldn’t have believed it.

“So it was mixing the soil from the forest that received the blessing of Greysior-sama together with the village fields.....But I couldn’t have imagined that it would’ve had this much effectiveness...” (Isaac)

“We were also surprised. We don’t know if this method is possible in other villages, but it might just be because Gresior-sama’s blessing that the forest in Grisea Village received was very powerful.” (Valin)

Hearing Valin’s answer, Isaac remembered the legend about the village, so he showed agreement with Valin’s answer about the potato growth.

After all, this village was the village in the legend where Greysior-sama had appeared and saved the people hundreds of years ago, so it wasn't strange if the forest near this village had heavily received Greysior's blessing, and he could understand if the soil from that forest could cause the crops to grow this fast.

"As expected from Grisea Village. By using the soil that received Greysior-sama blessing these crops could grow strongly like this, so we can expect that we will receive crops on the next tribute, right?" (Isaac)

If they used the soil from the surrounding forest that had received Greysior's great blessing then in the future the food production output of Grisea Village might be dramatically increased.

Furthermore, because of the newly built water channel in the village, even in this drought they still had stable water supply, so there was no need to worry about decreased food production even in the middle of great drought.

Perhaps, it would be possible to make a large scale farming region centered on this village, or so Isaac thought. He took out a parchment and charcoal from his pocket and wrote about the state of growing crops and about the forest's soil.

"I'm curious about the crops in the other fields, but first please explain to me about the water channel." (Isaac)

Finished with writing his memo, Isaac raised his face while still holding the parchment and spoke out. Valin and Valetta nodded with smiles while murmuring "so it has come to this" in their hearts and secretly putting themselves on guard.

On Isaac previous inspection, he hadn't particularly probed about the matter of the water channel, but just like what Kazura had worried about, it seemed that this time Isaac might have been informed about the relative location of the village and the river.

When Isaac conveyed the inspection report to his superior, there was no doubt that they had talked about the origin of the water, was what Valin and Valetta thought.

Actually, Isaac reported directly to Nelson, and it was Nelson that had pointed out the relative location of the village and the river, however neither Valin nor Valetta had even a bit of an inkling that Isaac was a person of such status that he could be reporting directly to Nelson.

“The water that flows in the water channel, is it drawn from the river in the northwest?” (Isaac)

“Yes, it is drawn from the river.” (Valin)

“Fumu..... But the river in the northwest is situated lower than the village, so it would be impossible for it to flow from that place, how can you draw water from it?” (Isaac)

When Isaac finally inquired, Valin gave Valetta a quick glance, and Valetta noted this nod as he began to speak.

“As a matter of fact, my daughter Valetta came up with the design of a device called a waterwheel. Its function is to continuously scoop water out from the river and deposit it in the water channel.” (Valin)

“Waterwheel?” (Isaac)

Hearing the unfamiliar word “waterwheel”, Isaac parroted the word and asked back.

As far as Isaac knew, he’d never heard about a tool that allowed continuous water draw in such an amount that it could always create flow in a water channels.

“This tool called “waterwheel”, is it located at the end of the water channel from this village?” (Isaac)

“Yes, that’s true. Should I guide you to it right now?” (Valin)

Isaac immediately nodded to Valin who’d offered to be a guide.

Even though he had previously thought that it was surely because of a newly discovered source of water, it was actually because of a tool that scooped water from the river.

Isaac for some reason felt an indescribable premonition as he was guided by Valin and followed by Valetta to the river.



After walking for about 30 minutes.

The three people arrived at the location where the waterwheel Mk.2 had been installed several days ago.

The waterwheel like usual was continuously turning vigorously, by using its wooden box it scooped water from the water channel that ran along the river and carried it into the wooden aqueduct.

“Th-This is amazing!” (Isaac)

When Isaac caught sight of the waterwheel, he was struck by admiration by the scene of the waterwheel carrying large amounts of water from low ground to a higher level.

It didn't use any human power, a tool that moved by the force of flowing water alone. Isaac had never seen such a thing until now.

“This is waterwheel. It is something that Valetta had thought about, to find a method to somehow draw water from the river to the village.” (Valin)

“To get water to such a higher place..... This is an amazing invention! Is this what Valetta-san had designed alone?” (Isaac)

「これが水車です。バレッタが  
考え出してくれました」

「あ、これはすごいぞー！」

バリ

グリセア村の村長

バレッタ

村長の娘

アイザック・スラン

イステール領の領主・ナルソンの臣下

After staring intensely at the waterwheel that kept on turning Isaac took out a parchment from his pocket and started drawing the waterwheel while asking Valetta

“Yes, I thought many different ways to draw water from the river, and thought up this waterwheel. Everyone in the village cooperated together in making the parts and assembling it.” (Valetta)

Although Isaac was nodding to Valetta’s answer, in the corner of his mind that wasn’t consumed by the excitement for the existence of the waterwheel, he felt that something wasn’t completely clear.

Because, a mere peasant’s daughter, furthermore a young girl like Valetta was able to invent something revolutionary like this was something impossible based on common sense as Isaac knew it.

Since the ancient times, it was always an engineer or craftsman in the city that invented something new, Isaac had never heard of a story where a peasant in a remote area invented something.

It wasn’t that Isaac looked down on the farmers, but the peasants in this small village didn’t have any opportunity to learn any knowledge other than farming, so for them to be able to develop a revolutionary tool like this was plainly unbelievable.

“To be able to invent a tool like this alone is..... Could you show me the paper where you wrote down the way to build this tool called waterwheel?” (Isaac)

“That is..... This waterwheel was made part by part every time I had a thought about it, so there is nothing written of it. I’m really sorry.”

Valetta apologetically bowed down. Isaac dubiously drew his brow momentarily before returned to normal countenance and nodded while saying, ‘Is that so?’

“Then, may you please give me a brief explanation on how this waterwheel works and how to make it?” (Isaac)

“I understand. Then for the first, this waterwheel works by....” (Valetta)

While Isaac listened to the explanation from Valetta, he noted the main point of the waterwheel on the parchment.

Valetta confidently explained the mechanism of the waterwheel, and Isaac who was still feeling that something was amiss, took a closer look at the waterwheel. When he casually lanced at the axle part, he discovered that the axle was greatly worn out by the continuous friction.

“What’s this? This axle part is considerably worn out..... If this keeps going then won’t it end up breaking?” (Isaac)

“Eh? Really?” (Valetta)

Isaac spoke while peering at the waterwheel’s axle parts, and Valetta immediately stopped her explanation about the waterwheel, and went to stand beside Isaac.

Then, she personally looked up at the waterwheel axle and surely enough it was considerably worn out.

It was still alright for now, but if it kept being used and continued turning then the waterwheel might end up collapsing when the axle broke.

“This is, if the waterwheel continues turning then certainly the shaft will be broken..... I need to think of some countermeasure for this.” (Valetta)

Valetta spoke after seeing the worn out condition of the shaft. Then she went to the water channel entrance on the upstream side of the river and inserted a wooden board nearby into it so that the water channel was disconnected from the river.

Since the river stopped supplying water, the waterwheel that had kept on turning previously gradually stopped moving.

“I see, using that board you can always stop the waterwheel, right?” (Isaac)

Isaac felt admiration towards the situation, Valetta nodded with a smile.

“Yes, since with this way, we could always repair the waterwheel if needed. If Isaac-san hadn’t noticed that the axle had been worn out, before we could service it, the waterwheel would be broken first. Thank you very much!” (Valetta)

Valetta was expressing her thanks. ‘It’s my pleasure.’ Isaac replied. And once again he continued to write in his memo as Valetta resumed her explanation about the waterwheel.



It had been half a day since the inspection began.

In front of the forest near the village that was painted by the sunset's color, Isaac had finished receiving the report from Valin about the preparation status of the timber for their taxes. They mutually exchanged their thanks after the negotiation.

After Isaac received the explanation about the waterwheel from Valetta, the three of them returned to the village, and Valin reported to Isaac about the food situation in the village and the growth of the crops as they toured all the fields.

About the sudden crops growth, Isaac believed that it was because of the influence from Greysior's blessing in the forest soil, so he didn't particularly bother probing into it, but he explained to the village chief that in the future there might some instructions from Isteria asking for the food production technique.

By the way, Valetta went home earlier to make dinner.

"Then, I will return to my unit. I brought along the unit out of personal convenience, so I'm sorry for the trouble." (Isaac)

"No-no-no, it was us who are honored to be able to lend assistance for the army's business. You don't owe us any favor." (Valin)

Maybe because the inspection had ended without any incident one way or another, Valin replied cheerfully as if a great burden had been lifted off his shoulders.

Hearing Valin's reply, Isaac showed his smile, "Thank you very much".

"Then, shall we finish up here? I will visit in one month, before then please finish the preparation for the taxes." (Isaac)

"I understand. Until we meet again then, in one month." (Valin)

Hearing Isaac's words, Valin replied and deeply bowed before returning to his house.

While watching Valin's back as he walked away, Isaac thought back on the inspection result, "well then, let's take a breather while surveying the village."

Judging from physical conditions of Valin, Valetta and the villagers that he sometimes saw during inspection, it seemed that Grisea Village's food condition had substantially improved.

Making the waterwheel to draw water, using forest soil to promote crop growth; during this month Grisea Village had undergone rapid recovery. It was something that made him amazed.

This should be a very joyous situation, but Isaac felt that something was amiss.

Because, everything was going too well in the village and that was what caused it to feel unnatural.

He was especially bothered about that waterwheel.

Even if it was true that such a revolutionary invention was invented by one peasant, even now Isaac still wasn't able to accept it.

While Isaac was thinking again about the waterwheel and surveying the village, he noticed a small shadow in the edge of his view.

Based on the identification of his sidelong glance, behind the tree 30 meters away was a child quietly looking at him while having hidden himself.

"(That boy..... looks about 5-6 years old. If I remember rightly, his name is.....)" (Isaac)

Isaac tried to remember the village name register and thought for awhile. Isaac seemed to have planned something, and waved his hand at the child with a smile.

The boy who received that hand wave, realized that he had been discovered but soon shrugged his shoulders and immediately headed out from the tree's shadow and started running in Isaac's direction.

"Nii-chan, you're an important soldier, right!? It's the first time I've seen armor this cool!" (Boy)

The boy ran to Isaac and without greeting him the boy started talking in excitement.

Apparently, the boy was very impressed by the figure of a soldier in heavy equipment.

“Hm, I’m not really that important. Just a Captain of 100 soldiers.” (Isaac)

“100 people!? Amazing! You always came to the village with that cheap looking armor, I can hardly recognize you!” (Boy)

Isaac made a wry smile after hearing the boy’s words. The boy was circling at him in excitement and enjoying himself while looking at the armor. Looking at him, Isaac decided to test what he had thought before and began asking the boy.

“You must be Colts-kun right? Actually, the unit is camping near the village, do you want to visit for awhile?” (Isaac)

Isaac spoke and Colts face showed a mixed expression of surprise and expectation.

“Eh? I can?” (Colts)

He replied it while staring at Isaac.

“Yes, no problem. But, before that, let’s inform your parents that you will be outside the village for awhile. Since, without their permission it may cause a commotion.” (Isaac)

“Yes! My house is this way!” (Colts)

Colts replied to Isaac’s suggestion with great joy and start walking in front of Isaac to his house at high pace.

After Isaac walked for several steps following Colts, he stopped walking and clapped his hand, ‘That’s right’.

“What’s wrong? Let’s quickly go!” (Colts)

“No, I forget an important thing. But if Colts-kun knows about it, I want you to tell me about it....” (Isaac)

“What? Let’s quickly go!” (Colts)

Isaac said it with serious expression, but the impatient Colts tried to hurry Isaac.

Although Isaac felt a little guilt in his mind about manipulating Colts, he spoke out what he had thought awhile ago.

“Just now, I asked the name of the person who made the waterwheel to the village chief Valin-san, but I never heard that name before so I forgot..... Colts-kun, do you know the name of the person who made the waterwheel?” (Isaac)

Hearing Isaac’s question, Colts blankly stared at him for a moment before immediately opening his mouth.

“About Kazura-sama?” (Colts)

# CHAPTER 30

## FROM THE ROCK'S SHADOW

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At the moment Isaac heard Colts' words, inside of his head he illuminated the deception held within his memories.

If Isaac's memories were correct, there was no one with the name of "Kazura" living in this village.

If that person really existed then that meant the Village Chief and Valetta were lying.

Isaac was smiling while desperately holding back his rage and made a response to Colts' words.

"Ah, that's right, his name is Kazura. I want to talk a bit with that person, do you know where is he now?" (Isaac)

"Um, Mom said that he would return to God's Realm for awhile before noon, I don't think he is in the village anymore." (Colts)

"..... God's Realm?" (Isaac)

Hearing the unexpected words "God", Isaac unconsciously repeated the question back.

What was the meaning behind Colts' words? Isaac wasn't able to understand it right away.

"That's right. You didn't hear this from Village Chief?" (Colts)

".....That God's realm, where is it located?" (Isaac)

When Isaac asked that, Colts made a shocked expression and looked at Isaac.

"It's inside that tree copse..... Nii-chan, you came to this village many times, but you didn't know about it?" (Colts)

Isaac looked at the direction that Colts pointed out, he could see a tree copse in the distant view.

That tree copse has a relation with the Legend of Greysior, so Isaac obviously already knew about it.

He knew about it, but that person Kazura and Greysior in the legend, Isaac couldn't see the connection between them.

“Ah, no..... That tree copse is the copse where Greysior-sama appeared right?” (Isaac)

“What? So you already know. Then, let's quickly go to my house.” (Colts)

“Eh? Wa-wait a moment! That Kazura person, did he enter that tree copse?” (Isaac)

As if the conversation has been finished, Colts began walking toward his house, so Isaac hastily restrained him.

From the way Colts has been speaking, it was as if that person called Kazura was someone similar to an envoy of the gods.

When Isaac asked that question, Colts, who was walking in front of him, suddenly stopped his feet and turned his head to look at Isaac.

“.....Nii-chan, are you possibly.....” (Colts)

Colts stared straight at Isaac's eyes and was about to say something before breaking off midsentence. His face suddenly went pale and he turned his back towards Isaac once again.

“I will return home.” (Colts)

“Ah, wait!” (Isaac)

Colts replied shortly and ignored Isaac's call to stop him, before running towards his own home.

Isaac looked dumbfounded at the sight of Colts running away. While remembering what Colts had said, he pondered on the spot for a moment.

Meanwhile, Kazura, who had returned back to Japan from Grisea Village before noon, was digging a large number of small holes with the shovel under the sun that began its descent down the sky.

This place was 1000 tsubo field in a certain district on Saitama prefecture. It was a field Kazura's father Shinji had rented from his acquaintances.

Why was Kazura doing that in this place? When he transferred back to Japan, he quickly turn on his handphone and then called Shinji who told him "Go back to your home once in awhile" . When he heard this, he had to return back to his home in a hurry,

"Help me plant the asparagus in the field." (Shinji)

So he was asked to, and then got dragged to the field in a light pickup.

The asparagus seedlings that were planned to be planted were currently inside the large vinyl pot and was placed down in large quantities beside the holes that Kazura had dug in the field.

"Oh, you are really skilled in this. You have already dug this much." (Shinji)

Kazura silently dug the holes at equal interval, there was just 3 more rows to be dug before it ready for transplanting the seedlings when Shinji arrived pushing the wheelbarrow filled with fertilizer and a flat hoe.



Maybe it was because Shinji usually worked in the field every day, he practically didn't have any excess fats tissue and was quite muscular.

His height was 170 cm, just a little shorter than Kazura's height. With his tanned dark brown skin and some white color mixed in his hair, along with his good health, his appearance was rather dandy.

"Since I had been helping the farmer near the house with working at the fields every day recently, I am quite skillful with this." (Kazura)

While Kazura was speaking these words, he had finished digging the remaining hole. He stabbed the shovel to the ground and wiped the sweat with towel that hanging from his neck. Compared to the field work he had done in the Grisea Villages field, Saitama's heat and humidity was quite harsh to his body, even if he was doing nothing the sweat would still be gushing out.

"Oh... Helping the field is it? No wonder you become quite brawny. Do you get along with the neighbor?" (Shinji)

Hearing about helping in the field, Shinji nodded, as if he had understood the reason why Kazura's physical appearance suddenly became much brawnier, as compared to before.

Kazura, whom never participated in sports that specifically required strength until now, so he could be classified as a person with poor physical strength, however, in just under several months, he had become quite muscular due to him helping out in the field.

The core of Kazura's meal was rice and canned food that he had brought to the village, and during his stay he almost practically didn't eat any snacks so basically, he wasn't eating excessively. This beneficial manner brought out a detoxifying effect, so his body was in excellent condition.

Sometimes, when he returned to Japan he eats a lot of food in a family restaurant, however that was only for enjoyment.

"Yes, since everyone are good people..... Ah, that's right, I want to ask something about that residence from you." (Kazura)

“Residence? Ah, it’s an old house but there aren’t any dusts, right? A long time ago, when I went there, the place was also excessively clean.” (Shinji)

While Shinji talked about this he brought out the fertilizer from the wheelbarrow, and began to talk in detail about the condition of the residence. when he personally visited it a long time ago.

However, that wasn’t the story that Kazura wanted to know.

“No, it’s not about that.” (Kazura)

And so, he interrupted Shinji.

“Deep inside the residence there was a door to a room which was secured with a padlock, do you know something about that room?” (Kazura)

“Padlock? .....Was there any room like that? When I went there a long time ago, there isn’t any room with a padlock.” (Shinji)

Shinji tilted his head with confused expression, Kazura though that somehow or another he could obtain some information about the room, which connected to another world, however it was different from his expectation.

As it was possible that there were people other than Shinji that knew about the house, he could visit every blood relatives to find someone who may know about it. However, he didn’t have any plans to meet with his closest relatives.

After all, he didn’t immediately need the information about the house so he decided to postpone this matter for the time being.

“Leaving that aside, there’s also only a few other houses near that residence’s neighborhood, so is the public order good? There were quite a lot of robbers, so you need to be careful.” (Shinji)

“I never heard such dangerous story before..... Don’t rural area have better public order than the city?” (Kazura)

When Kazura replied like that, Shinji looked at him with very worried expression.

“No, it may not be so. But you cannot be too careful. Since I have prepared several personal security goods, so you may take it when you return.” (Shinji)

“Personal security goods, huh... Also, about the thing earlier, I only want to hear about the water service on the residence.” (Kazura)

While speaking about that, Shinji kept working on transplanting the seedlings into the hole that Kazura had dug before and mixing the fertilizer into the soil. It looked like the asparagus field would be splendidly expanding.



It has been 2 hours since both of them began transplanting the seedlings.

Finally, all the asparagus had been transplanted. As the sun also began to set, the both of them decided to return home.

Kazura was, at first planning to pick some books as souvenir for Valetta in the city inside Gunma Prefecture and also purchased some delicious delicacies to bring back as souvenir, when he returned to take a look at Grisea village’s condition on the noon of the next day. However this plan went off the drawing table when Shinji summoned him.

So, it looked like he would stay at his parents’ home for today, then he would revise his planned schedule so it would be finished before tomorrow evening.

The light pickup window was wide open, so the passenger seat was bathed in a wind that had a bit scent of exhaust gas as the light pickup traveled through the highway. Then Shinji, who was in the driver seat, began to talk, “That reminds me”.

“Does the farmer that you helped use Tractors? Since if one was unlucky, it could cause serious injuries, so if they do use it, then you need to be careful, kay.” (Shinji)

“They didn’t tractor or any machine. Because they didn’t have anything other than hoe and shovel.” (Kazura)

“Is that so?..... Don’t you have any plans to help them on the things they use?” (Shinji)

“Mm...” (Kazura)

Hearing Shinji's question, Kazura unintentionally began to think about the future of Grisea Village.

By using machines, it was possible to plow a vast extent of land in one sitting, so it could greatly reduced the work burden of the villagers.

However, thanks to the food that Kazura brought from this world, the villagers had transformed into supermen who didn't know the meaning of being tired, so the machinery power was currently unrequired.

In addition, there wasn't any reason to plough the field hurriedly either and currently the vegetable were growing very well, so Grisea Village didn't need any further agricultural support.

And above all, rather than waterwheel, by bringing the personification of overtechnology, like a tractor, if by any chance it were seen by outsiders, then there would be no good excuses for it.

"No, it's not like I particularly don't plan to help them, but it is already adequate with just using hoes." (Kazura)

When Kazura replied like this, Shinji was feeling relieved for some reason and murmured.

"Is that so?" (Shinji)

Seeing Shinji like this, Kazura thought that he worried too much when his son already was 25 years old, however maybe it was something that parents would do.

Since Kazura was the only child, his parents were maybe just very concerned about him.



"Welcome home. It's hard to help on the field, right?" (Mutsumi)

When they arrive at the house and entered the house, Kazura's mother Mutsumi came to greet them in the entryway.

Unlike Shinji, Mutsumi didn't have a single lock of white hair, even though her age was just like Shinji, whom was 54 years old, her skin was still smooth so she was considerably youthful.

Is it because she always paid attention on her dietary habits, or was it the latent power of a woman, whom was never negligent in taking care of her skin?

"I'm back. I drove long distance from Gunma, and then went to the field, so I of course am tired." (Kazura)

While saying this, Kazura took off his shoes and noticed a delicious smell, wafting from inside the house.

It appears that the dinner was sukiyaki.

<sup>Oh my</sup>  
"Ara, haven't you become a bit thinner? Have you been eating well?" (Mutsumi)

"I wish you would say that I have lost the useless fat, and became muscular instead. I do always properly eat my meal." (Kazura)

While showered by his mother's gaze, who was scrutinizing his body, Kazura entered the house and after washing his hand, together with Shinji, they move to the living room.

On top of the table which was in the living room, was a pot of boiling sukiyaki, raw eggs and the meal for 3 people was already been prepared.

After Mutsumi finished distributing the rice into the bowls, everyone clasped their hand and said,

"Itadakimasu"

Then, they took the sukiyaki on the pot with their chopstick.

"Nee, it had been almost one month since you went to Gunma, how long do you intend to stay in that residence?" (Mutsumi)

It had been a long time since he tasted his house's flavor so Kazura was chomping the sukiyaki vigorously. Mutsumi asked him this, as she took out additional meat from the refrigerator.

“I still want to stay at that residence a little bit longer. Since one thing or another I also enjoy the country life, and there also no one who comes begging for money for the time being.” (Kazura)

Since he traveled to the residence in Gunma, he was able to completely shake off the fellows who gathered for his lottery winning money, there was not a single person that intruded on him in that residence.

Since he only came back to Japan once per week and was practically living on the other world, this might be one of the main cause for this condition.

Either way, since Kazura had became familiar with living at Grisea Village and is fully enjoying the slow life of the other world, he wanted to continue this life of 90% in another world and 10% in Japan.

“Is that so?..... However, please contact the house once in awhile. The area of that residence is deep in the mountains, so even if you carry a handphone you would barely get any signals. It seems that you were able to connect with Shinji’s handphone by chance today.” (Mutsumi)

“She’s right. You would never make any contact with us, and make us worry. Even if it was just once per month, do give us a call, okay?” (Shinji)

“Ah..... That’s true, I’ll remember it.” (Kazura)

Now that he thought about it, after he called Shinji one month ago, he had never gave his parents a call again.

Although he does sometimes returned to Japan to purchase groceries, he practically never turned on his handphone, so he never phoned his parents.

Furthermore, while he was in the other world, there were no phone signals, so no matter how much his parents tried to call him, of course they wouldn’t connected to Kazura’s handphone.

“Then, how is your first country life? There is no electricity in the residence, so did it cause you any inconvenience?” (Mutsumi)

“No, I’m used to it, so I’m fine even if there was no electricity. For the lighting, as long as there is a lantern there, then it will be enough.” (Kazura)

“What kind of living is that?.....” (Shinji)

They continued their talk as the family sitting, that almost never happens since Kazura became a working adult, kept going while the night slowly grew old.



On the next morning.

Despite the clock’s hand was just pointed at six in the morning, Kazura had already put his change of clothes into the travelling bag inside of his car, which was inside the garage of his parents’ house.

Shinji also already woken up and was packing a large travel carry case into the car’s back seat.

Mutsumi hadn’t woken up, so only Kazura and Shinji were inside the garage.

“However, you are returning so early in the morning. Do you have an appointment later?” (Shinji)

Finished with packing the bag into the back seat, Shinji asked, while resting his hand on the door’s handle.

“Yes, since I had already promised to help out with the farmers for a bit..... Other than that, the contents of that carry case are.....” (Kazura)

“Yeah, I packed the suitable personal security goods, that would serve to be useful for your country life.” (Shinji)

“Suitable you say, but that carry case is really big.....” (Kazura)

While saying this, Kazura sneaked a peek of the inside of the car, over here was a L-sized carry case that no matter he saw it, was big.

Say what you want but it was packed really full.

“Well, isn’t that good? It’s not like they would rot. Then, I will go to the field. Today I’ll plant Shougoin Radishes.” (Shinji)

After Shinji said this, he closed the car door, and boarded his own light pickup.

Seeing Shinji like this, Kazura could only shake his head and let out a sigh, before entering his own car and starting the engine.

“Then, I’ll return to Gunma. Please tell mother I said take care.” (Kazura)

“Alright, be careful with your body, kay?”

They exchanged farewells, Kazura stepped on the gas pedal, and headed back towards Gunma.



It had been 4 hours since he left his parents’ house.

Kazura who had arrived at Gunma prefecture, after finishing with purchasing groceries like canned food or soap, and several volumes of books as souvenirs for Valetta, went to the private herb shop that he visited before.

Similar to when he had visited before, the store interior’s traditional Japanese atmosphere was unchanged, and still displayed various types of herbs stored inside acrylic bottles.

Behind the cash register was a single female employee who was sitting and reading a book. Noticing that Kazura entered the shop, she passed him sample paper cup, filled with chilled bergamot herb tea.

“Umm, nettle, lemon, verbena, and ..... Oh, this herb tea is delicious. Can you also gave me 30 grams of this tea?” (Kazura)

Kazura said this as he gulp a portion of the herb tea he received, the female gave affirmative reply happily, and began dividing the herbs from the acrylic bins into small bags.

While examining the store interior, there were several blends that didn’t stocked when he arrived before.

Like the one he was sampling today, they might be new merchandises.

Furthermore, there were numerous pots with herb seedling displayed on the floor, along with their price tag.

“Ah, so you also started to sell herb seedling?” (Kazura)

“Yes, when customer came before, you said you wanted herb seedlings, right? Because of that I decided to sell some of the raised herbs in the shop.” (Female clerk)

He never thought his statement would be the reason for the expanded variety of goods, but Kazura was happy for this consideration.

Although the seedlings that was put to sell was few in variety, but the leaf and stems were sturdy, so it was a good seedling.

Every seedling at that place was of the kind that Kazura haven't bought before.

“Ah, I'm sorry if this seems demanding..... Well, I would also like to have one of these wild strawberries and marigolds.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. By the way, have the seeds you bought previously sprouted yet? I think the arugula should have sprouted steadily.” (Female clerk)

The female employee put the seedlings and the herb small bags into the plastic bag, then she began to ask, as if she just remembered it.

It seems that, she happened to recall just as when Kazura made his purchase.

“Yes, I had planted the seed that I purchased that day, the arugula and basil had started sprouting in large quantity. But the other hasn't sprouted yet.” (Kazura)

It had been 2 weeks since the day he planted the herb seeds, but except for those two, the other haven't germinated even now.

And just like what he had said, the basils were germinating in large quantities.

“I think that the lemongrass will soon also germinate. Please make sure to improve the ventilation.” (Female clerk)

“Yes, I have paid attention to that while planting them, so I think there would not be any problems, but.... Ah, essential oil.....” (Kazura)

As he received the bag with the goods and took out his wallet to finish the transaction, his eyes were caught on the nearby shelf with essential oils.

Now that he thought about it, he sometimes purchased herbs for Valetta's souvenir, however he never bought any essential oil.

Since she has background knowledge from the book of herbs, if he bought it then she would certainly be delighted.

"I'm sorry, please put this essential oil with them. And also one set of aroma pot and pouch." (Kazura)

"Well, since you are buying so many things, thank you very much." (Female clerk)

He purchased several glasses of 30mL essential oils that had caught his eyes before, together with a rather tall glass pot.

"Thank you very much. Please come again." (Female clerk)

The female clerk gave a small wave with her hand, as Kazura leaves the shop.



3 hours has passed since Kazura left the herb shop.

Near the place where the waterwheel was installed and the aqueduct that continued to the village, several hundred meters away was a rock's shadow under a hill where Isaac and 3 of his subordinates hid themselves.

2 of his subordinates, and Isaac himself wore armor with their spear and shield placed beside them, while the other soldier didn't wear any armor but only normal clothing, with a short sword on his waist.

This 4 people didn't exchange any word, only drinking water from their wooden canteen, as they maintained watch towards the direction of Grisea Village while hidden.

Rather than not have anything to talk, it was more of them taking Isaac, who in a prickly mood, in their consideration, so the 3 subordinates held their tongues in silence.

“They are coming. Hide under the rock’s shadow.” (Isaac)

Maybe because Isaac noticed something in his sight, the three subordinates completely cloaked by the rock’s shadow, and the he whispered to the unarmored soldier.

“When they reach close to the waterwheel, and we approach them, you will run and contact the main unit. Tell them to rush into action according to the previous strategy.” (Isaac)

“I understand. We will seize control of the Village Chief’s house, then detain all the villagers inside their house, right?” (Soldier)

Isaac nodded to the unarmored soldier that will act as the messenger, and focused on the approaching figures far away.

Although he couldn’t be sure since there was a considerable distance between them, but it looked like that there were two people walking towards this spot.

If Isaac’s conjecture was right, then one of those two people is the person named Kazura that Colts had mentioned yesterday.

Yesterday, after parting ways with Colts, he returned to the army with a nonchalant look and was marching with the unit towards Isteria until the sun went down, pretending that the unit had completely withdrawn.

Afterwards the unit silently marched in the middle of the night once more to a place deep in the forest near Grisea Village, and concealed themselves.

Of course, he had sent two messengers from the unit towards Isteria beforehand. He ordered them to report that the unit’s return would be delayed.

As a result, the villagers would think that the unit had withdrawn without noticing the existence of Kazura, would then feel relieved and drop their vigilance, then that Kazura, who was taking refuge outside the village. would also surely return.

Just in case if Colts spoke to another villager about his conversation with Isaac yesterday and fearing that Kazura wouldn’t return to the village if the army remained near the village, he took on this troublesome method, but it looks like it had turned out well.

During the day, he had received the report from the subordinate who conducted reconnaissance of the village that there wasn't any particularly changes, so it seems that Colts didn't tell a word about his conversation yesterday to anyone.

And like that, they had been in standby for quite some time, when they heard conversation voice from the waterwheel.

It appears that, the two people who were heading here had arrived at the waterwheel.

“Let's go. Even if they resist, you must absolutely not kill them. Since it is to cross-examine, capture them alive is necessary.” (Isaac)

Isaac called out to his two subordinates, and without delay, came out **from the rock's shadow**.

# CHAPTER 31

## VISITOR OF FATE

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“I see. So, the army was only dropping by the village in order to conduct marching practice as they did the inspection?” (Kazura)

“Yes. As usual, Father accompanied Isaac-san to inspect the village and he returned to Isteria with the army. Everyone in the village was careful with their conduct, no problems had occurred.” (Valetta)

Under the clear sky, Kazura was walking together with Valetta towards the location where waterwheel Mk.2 was by the riverside, while receiving a report about what had happened yesterday from her.

From what was heard from Valetta, it seemed like the recent strife was skillfully dealt with.

Although there were dangerous proposals from the villagers, Valetta’s quick wittedness was able to successfully divert them, and ended it peacefully.

It seems Isaac had been asking many things about waterwheel and the crops, and though there maybe orders from Isteria to report in detail about the waterwheel production method and farming techniques, it was something bound to happen sooner or later.

“That’s good..... But, Valetta-san might be summoned to Isteria to give an explanation about how to build a waterwheel..... I’m really sorry for making you into a substitute.” (Kazura)

“Ah, you don’t need to apologize! If it’s only this, I have no problem because Kazura-san has done so much to help. Furthermore, even if I do get summoned, I will quickly return, as I will perform to my utmost ability.” (Valetta)

They conversed like this while walking, right up until they arrived at the water channel where the waterwheel Mk.2 was installed.

Since Valetta had placed the wooden board yesterday to close the sluice gate connecting the channel to the river, the waterwheel wasn't moving at the moment.

Valetta promptly approached the waterwheel's side and looked at the axle part.

"It seems that this axle component had worn down during the operation....." (Valetta)

Valetta said this and Kazura replaced her to take a look at the axle component when he arrived in front the waterwheel.

"Let's see..... Ah, it has been surprisingly worn out. It's good that it was noticed before it snapped." (Kazura)

Kazura confirmed the condition of the damaged axle in the stopped waterwheel, and opened his notebook he to write down a memo in the middle of the sketch of the waterwheel with red pen.

If they didn't take any measure soon, then the waterwheel Mk.2 would become useless.

"As expected, should either the axle or the bearings be reinforced with metal or something similar to it?..... I could bring copper from Japan, but would it be better to use goods purchased from Isteria?" (Kazura)

If the wood could be reinforced with either bronze or pure copper, it should be able to protect the axle against abrasion from the friction when it rotates, so there should be no problem in that aspect.

Given that this was correct, then it would be simple to bring in the materials from Japan. However, to prepare in case Isaac or Isteria's government official would question about the supplier of the materials, it might be better to procure them in Isteria.

"If we produced it in the village, it would be necessary to build a larger furnace. The small furnace in the village can only be used to repairing tools, so it co-.....!?" (Valetta)

Kazura was examining the axle and writing a memo on the notebook when Valetta, who was talking behind him, stopped abruptly mid sentence. Wondering if something had happened, he looked behind.

“How is the condition of the waterwheel?” (Voice)

“.....” (Kazura)



When Kazura turned around, he was speechless, due to the sudden appearance of the three soldiers.

Valetta was transfixed at the man at the man in front of her, whom seems to be the commander — Isaac — while slightly trembling.

Even though Isaac threw the question in a friendly tone, the gaze in his eyes was cold.

Meanwhile, the two soldiers, who were waiting behind Isaac, moved in to surround Kazura and Valetta from both sides.

“Who are you? You are not an inhabitant of Grisea Village.” (Isaac)

When Isaac confirmed that his subordinates has surrounded Kazura’s group from the side, he looked Kazura straight in the eyes and began demanding an explanation.

Kazura, whom had became the subject of questioning, had his thought process temporarily suspended when he first saw the soldier in front of him due to the suddenness of the event, but when he saw Valetta trembling uncontrollably beside him, he ironically regained some of his composure.

Judging from the situation, the soldiers seem to have been waiting for Kazura to appear here.

How could they had gotten wind of Kazura’s existence? He couldn’t get an answer for this question right now, but he had to try breaking from this desperate situation in one way or another.

If he failes to deceive them, then it wouldn’t be just Kazura, but Grisea Village itself would fall into unpleasant situation.

Instead of Valetta who had fallen into a state of panic, Kazura must deal with it himself.

“I-Isaac-san, this is.....” (Valetta)

“You, be silent!” (Isaac)

Isaac glared at Valetta, who was trying to cut into the conversation, and forbade her from further dialogue, before staring straight into Kazura’s eyes once more.

“Answer immediately. Or have you any reason to not be able to answer?” (Isaac)

Kazura observed the man, who was glaring at him.

“(So this person is Isaac? He’s quite young)” (Kazura)

He thought in a relaxed manner, while deciding on how he would reply to Isaac for a few seconds.

Isaac, who was in front Kazura, if he was the very person described by Valin and Valetta, then there was still a silver lining.

Even if he wouldn’t listen to Kazura’s story, the possibility of him to suddenly be sentenced to death by hanging would be very low.

Although, there wouldn’t be any changes in this critical situation.

“.....I am a travelling merchant. While I getting lost and was wandering around this area, I arrived at Grisea Village, and so I was allowed to live in the village for a little while.”

When Kazura answered this way, Isaac didn’t show any particular expressions, and changed his focus towards the notebook that Kazura held in his hand.

“Merchant.....huh? Then let me see the book in your hand.” (Isaac)

Kazura handed over the notebook to Isaac, and told the frightened Valetta in low voice that everything will be fine, and smiled.

Isaac received the note and stroked the cover with his finger. He made a little grunt due to the quality of the paper, before flipping through the pages

“.....blueprint or waterwheel. There are other things written here, but..... Are you the one who designed this waterwheel?” (Isaac)

“Yes, that’s correct.” (Kazura)

“I have never seen these letter on the book, so which country are you from?” (Isaac)

Kazura gave Valetta a smile to calm her down, but it was hard for him to come up with a good plan in this short time period.

When he had first arrived in the village, he told the villagers [I am a merchant] as a reply to fill the conversation, however if he keeps giving out poorly alibis like this, then the situation would only become worse.

It seemed that right now, it was necessary for him to strengthen his resolve.

“I came from the world inside the tree grove near Grisea Village, I think you would understand what I mean, right?” (Kazura)

“.....What did you say?” (Isaac)

The reply was so unexpected, that Isaac unconsciously questioned at Kazura again.

The two soldiers who surrounded Kazura’s group also had this befuzzled expression, as if to say “what has this guy talking about?”

While receiving their gazes, Kazura took a deep breath, and then began speaking, his eyes on Isaac.

“I said, I came from the God’s Realm to save the people in Grisea Village.” (Kazura)

“.....” (Isaac)

Having heard Kazura’s reply, Isaac’s group gaped at each other.

Due to an answer that they didn’t expect, their befuddled expression could be plainly seen.

In front of them, Kazura gave off an external feeling of a truly dignified person, however, inside his heart he was actually gushing cold sweat for doing something he wasn’t accustomed to.

If Kazura could return to village and show some of the tools that he had brought from Japan to Isaac, then he would have confidence that if he convincingly say that it were [Goods from God’s Realm] then he could obtained their recognition. However, right now, there was only a pen and a note in his hand.

While Kazura was thinking if he could obtain their recognition by showing them even a cellphone after returning to the village for the time being, Isaac continued his inquisition, his expression still showing some doubt.

“Wasn’t it you yourself who said that you were a merchant who wandered around this area before arriving at this village? Your answer isn’t consistent.” (Isaac)

“..... That was only a figure a speech. You see, even a merchant in God’s Realm could lose his way. While I was lost and arrived in Grisea Village, wouldn’t I have to wander for a while in the middle of the tree grove?” (Kazura)

When the inconsistencies of his statements were pointed out, Kazura gave his answer in desperation. However, guessing from Isaac’s expression, this only fanned the flames of his doubt even more.

“No, did you just said that you live-.....” (Isaac)

“I-It’s true! This person is Greysior-sama who benevolently came from God’s Realm to save the village!” (Valetta)

When Isaac wanted to continue poking at the contradictions in Kazura’s statement for the second time, Valetta raised her voice to cover for Kazura.

As expected, if the previous situation kept progressing, it would end badly for Kazura.

.....By throwing the keyword “Greysior”, even if there were another contradiction, it wouldn’t matter anymore.

“Gre..... What did you say?” (Isaac)

“It’s Greysior-sama!” (Valetta)

“Are you saying this man is Greysior-sama?” (Isaac)

“That’s right!” (Valetta)

Valetta firmly gave her affirmation, Isaac let out a sigh with a dejected expression.

“..... I’ve never heard of Greysior-sama being a merchant.” (Isaac)

“.....Ah” (Valetta)

“No, even in the God’s Realm there is still commerce....” (Kazura)

Ignoring Kazura who was still trying to gloss out the error, Isaac gave an order to the soldier beside Kazura.

“Bind his hands.” (Isaac)



Inside the quiet forest, the aide who received the messenger’s report from Isaac, issued instructions for the subordinate soldiers that were gathered in the surrounding area.

The soldiers who received the order had a stiff expression, everyone were equally nervous.

“Our objective is to confine every villagers inside their own house. The instructions afterwards will be given when the Captain returns, so until then, no one is allowed to leave their posts.” (Aide)

“Vice-Captain.” (Soldier)

After the aide gave his instructions, one soldier raised his hand.

“If by some chance the villagers resist, could we perform our duties in a much more physical manner?” (Soldier)

The soldier inquired, swinging the short spear in his right hand. The aide immediately shakes his head.

“No you can’t. If they showed some reluctance, you mustn’t immediately assault them. Persuade them to remain in their house to your utmost abilities. If it’s futile, then you may report tome.” (Aide)

When the aid said these words, the majority of the soldiers showed various displeased expressions.

They thought that they were in the army, not to mention there were nobles, so why must they deal with mere peasants in a courteous manner?

Even for the male aide, had he been the Captain, he would have allowed violent behaviors if it was deemed necessary, as long as it could reliably accomplish their task at hand. However, the Captain was Isaac, who wouldn't approve of such conduct.

Since this unit was established one year ago, he had acted together with Isaac as his aide, so he roughly understood how Isaac thinks.

Based on his action, he thought he might be able to get high evaluation.

“This is an order. Objections are unacceptable.” (Aide)

The aide then gave out the command,

“Alright, commence your individual task.” (Aide)

The subordinates began to move.



As Isaac's subordinates executed the operation to gain control of Grisea Village, Kazura's group was moving towards Grisea Village.

Kazura's arms were tied behind his back, the knot secured tightly and seemed difficult to seem to unfasten.

From another person's perspective, he looked no different from a criminal.

Valetta who walked beside Kazura wasn't tied up, but there were two soldiers closely watching her while following behind her.

“This..... It can be used to write without having to dip it in ink?.....” (Isaac)

Isaac was using the ballpoint pen that he had confiscated from Kazura, and tested writing with it on the piece of parchment that he brought while walking.

Unlike the quill pen that Isaac normally used, then pen could write letters without having to dip it in ink every time.

This was the first time he had used a pen this convenient, Isaac made a small nod.

“That thing is called a ballpoint pen. If we returned to the village, there are other tools that I had brought from the God’s Realm.” (Kazura)

While he sad this, he was reminded of his personal goods at the residence in the village.

When he had returned to the village this morning, he had stored not only the travel bag, but also the carry case his father handed to him, in his personal room at the residence.

He didn’t confirm the content of the carry case, but there might be one or two goods that could attract Isaac’s interest.

Furthermore, Kazura estimated that the content of the travel bag would be enough to serve as proof that he came from God’s Realm. So his mental state was relatively calm.

Although the conversation between them near the waterwheel just now only sowed distrust in Isaac, if Kazura could show the tools he brought from Japan, it would work out somehow.

“There is one more thing I want to ask.” (Isaac)

Isaac, whose eyes were fixed to the pen, stopped walking and turned around towards Kazura.

“You, how many days had passed since you came to Grisea Village?” (Isaac)

“Let see..... If I remember correctly, it was maybe just over 30 days.” (Kazura)

Receiving Isaac’s question, Kazura recalled the date of the day he resigned from his company and today’s before giving his answer.

To be exact, it had been 34 days since the day he first arrived in this other world.

“30 days..... I previously visited this village 20 days ago.....” (Isaac)

Isaac murmured and showed an expression as if he was thinking about something in silence, before once more started walking forward.

The other two soldiers also didn't say anything to their superior, only walking in silence.

Kazura looked at Valetta who walked beside him. Just like Isaac, she was thinking about something and walking in silence.

Perhaps, she was thinking about what she should do when they arrived at the village.

“(Before reaching the village, I need to at least untie this rope..... The current situation is no different from the Greysior in the legend.....)” (Kazura)

If the villagers see Kazura with his hands tied behind his back, in the same manner as was told in the legend, there was a possibility that the villagers would begin an uprising to protect Kazura.

While en route to examine the condition of the waterwheel in the river, Kazura heard about yesterday's commotion between the villagers and Valin from Valetta, so he thought that the possibility for the villagers raising their weapons would be tremendously high.

Time before Kazura's group arrives at Grisea Village: 20 minutes.

The Wheel of Fate began to move on a grander scale.

# CHAPTER 32

## A GOD OR A CRIMINAL?

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“Valetta-san, I want to ask you something” (Isaac)

Fifteen minutes had passed since Kazura’s group had walked towards the village.

Isaac, who’d walked in front while thinking about something, stopped his feet and turned around to ask Valetta.

“The people of Grisea Village..... Do they also think of this man as Greysior-sama?” (Isaac)

While saying this Isaac made a sidelong glance at Kazura’s face, Issac’s expression was really serious.

‘This man’, when he said these words, his confusion could be faintly heard just in his way of talking. “I came from God’s Realm” . He might be troubled by Kazura’s words even if it was just a little bit.

“Of course. This gentleman, is Greysior-sama himself.” (Valetta)

“And your basis of why you believe this to be so?” (Isaac)

“That is.....” (Valetta)

Receiving Isaac’s question, Valetta made a quick glance at Kazura’s direction.

“(Can I say it?..... Is what Valetta want to say, right? In this situation then there is no other way than to speak honestly to some degree.....)” (Kazura)

Kazura could read what Valetta gaze means and so he made a slight nod.

After Valetta confirmed that Kazura had nod, after a short pause, she continued her words again.

“The events so far are completely identical to the legend of Greysior-sama that is passed down in this village. One month ago, when the food shortage threatened to

destroy us, this gentleman suddenly appeared from inside the tree grove and brought a large amount of food and saved everyone.” (Valetta)

Hearing Valetta’s explanation, the two soldiers at the back gasped.

Contrasting with those soldiers, Isaac’s countenance didn’t even change.

“Completely identical to the legend? Since you say this then his attire, the food effect, and other details were the same thing as in the legend?” (Isaac)

“.....That’s right. Wearing clothes made from fabrics that we’d never seen before until now, just by eating a bit of the food our physical strength gushed up just like a miracle.” (Valetta)

“That food and cloth, did you put it somewhere in the village?” (Isaac)

“That is.....” (Valetta)

Receiving Isaac’s rapid question, Valetta could be seen thinking how far she could go while giving her reply.

Perhaps, she was guessing the content of the luggage that Kazura brought from Japan several hours ago while talking to Isaac.

As for the massive quantity of books in the residence, it could be easily be covered up so there were no likelihood for it to be found, but the travel bag and carry case was left alone inside Kazura’s room.

After coming back from Japan, he never opened the bag or carry case, so Valetta didn’t know their content.

.....similarly, since Kazura also never saw the content of the carry case, he didn’t know about the things that was inside it, however,

“It’s in my room at Village Chief’s residence. In that place I put things that I brought from God’s Realm.” (Kazura)

“So the things in that room, was everything that you had brought?” (Isaac)

Isaac threw another question at Kazura that intrude in the conversation.

Perhaps if he knew what the things and where it located, he could order his subordinate to collect it.

“.....No, I suppose some of the food that I had brought also exist in every house in the village.” (Kazura)

After he started to live in the village, he gave food to the villagers several times, so every house should have some of them stored.

The family with baby also had some formula milk powder remained, and there should be some rice and canned food remained.

“.....Is that so?” (Isaac)

Isaac muttered and then he turned towards the soldier that stood behind Kazura.

“Untie this man.” (Isaac)

“Yes, Sir!” (Soldier)

The soldier that receive Isaac’s order gave a short reply, then after entrusting his short spear to the other soldier, he began untying the rope that bind Kazura’s hand behind his back.

Because Isaac knew about the legend of Greysior, as the result from hearing Valetta and Kazura’s story, he conclude that if they returned to the village in this state then it could end badly.

“Although the rope is removed, don’t ever think for a moment about escaping. Since that impudent behavior only add more weight on you grave crime.” (Isaac)

“Crime..... Excuse me, but what kind of crime I had committed that I am arrested like this?” (Kazura)

“Your charge of crime is..... Root.” (Isaac)

Kazura responded to the word ‘Crime’ and so asked a question. Isaac opened his mouth to answer but he immediately close it, then he called out to the soldier that stood behind Valetta.

“Yes.” (Root)

“State the crimes charged on this man.” (Isaac)

When he received the order, the still young soldier — his name seems to be Root — correcting his posture and began explaining.

“The crimes are perjury and illegal entry. However..... if his name is listed in the in the Grisea Village name register in Isteria, then the last charge isn’t applicable. Still, in case his place of origin is outside Grisea Village and is a settlement inside the Isteria territory, then except for special case changing place of residence without permission is not allowed, the penalty imposed on illegal residence changing is either a fine or forced labor.” (Root)

Hearing explanation that Root smoothly spoke, while caressing his unbounded wrist, Kazura let out a sigh.

It appears that the law maintenance in this world was firmer than what Kazura had thought before.

But he never expected that the prospect for him to know about this was when he was being arrested.

Isaac, hearing Root’s explanation, nodded and then turned back to Kazura.

“Just like what he said. Because the villagers believed that you are Greysior-sama, I temporarily release you from the rope, however it doesn’t mean that I had acquitted you. You will follow our instruction until the investigation is finished.” (Isaac)

“Do you mean that this gentleman will be taken and cross examined in Isteria?” (Valetta)

Valetta spoke these words with anxious expression, Isaac affirmed and nodded, “That’s right’.

“In the current situation, I cannot help from doing so” (Isaac)

“However...” (Valetta)

“Valetta-san, it’s alright.” (Kazura)

As if to prevent Valetta from opposing too fervently, Kazura called out to her.

Until now, Isaac had been polite in dealing with Kazura's group, but he was a noble.

Since he had been polite in his interaction so far, it was easy to forget about it, however for a mere peasant to talk back at nobles, it might be something impudent in this world.

Thinking about things that could happen next, not only Kazura, but Valetta and the villagers shouldn't give unfavorable impression to Isaac as best as they could.

"It seems that Isaac-san is different from the feudal lord that met with me a long time ago. Just like he had said, it will be fine to me to go and have a talk in Isteria." (Kazura)

"But....." (Valetta)

"Isaac-san, in case I have proven myself as Greysior in the legend, then can I be considered as guiltless of any crime?" (Kazura)

".....That is..." (Isaac)

Kazura asked without any apprehension and wrung out an answer from Isaac.

Kazura's question had the same meaning as: "Can you punish a God?"

Since faith in gods was the norm in this country, of course there could be no other answer.

"If you really are Greysior-sama, then I can't charge you with crime. However, if you are lying, then....." (Isaac)

"..... If I'm lying, then?" (Kazura)

Isaac said it in pretentious way, so Kazura asked, then Isaac opened his mouth with a grinning expression.

"You might be punished by pulling out your tongue. In case you are proven to be lying, then the judge could give out a verdict to you for inciting people by impersonating

God. It would be unlikely that the sentence is other than capital punishment or the equivalent.” (Isaac)

“I see, so if I’m lying then my tongue will be pulled out. That is frightening.” (Kazura)

“.....” (Isaac)

Fumufumu, it was as if Kazura had listened to something interesting, Isaac was dumbfounded, but after letting out a sigh and once again he straighten his expression.

“.....Either way, we will return to the village to confirm the room in the residence. After seeing the goods that you said had been brought from God’s Realm, then I can hand some judgment for you.”

Isaac said this, and once more began walking towards the village.



It had been 10 minutes as they walked towards the village with Isaac as the lead.

When they finally reach the entrance of the village, one of the two soldiers who was guarding the village entrance, came running to meet Isaac.

The soldier was heavily armored with wearing bronze reinforced thick leather armor and helmet, a shield in his back, and a short spear in his hand.

“How did it went?” (Isaac)

Isaac called out to the soldier that came rushing began saluting to give report.

“The inhabitants had been contained inside their own home. We have gained total control of the Village Chief’s residence, currently Vice Captain is giving directions from the residence.” (Soldiers)

“Good. There is no one injured?” (Isaac)

“Yes. There are neither a single soldier nor villager injured, since Vice-Captain had strictly ordered to absolutely refrain from any violent conducts.”

Hearing that report, Isaac nodded in satisfaction.

Apparently, while Kazura's group was away from the village, Isaac's subordinate had gained control of the village.

Because Kazura was worried if the villagers saw his current condition, it was fortunate that the villagers were detained inside their house.

If the villagers were separated and isolated in their house, then the possibility of them conducting a mass uprising to rescue Kazura would also be low.

Although in the future, it might be necessary to do a follow up by gathering the villagers to receive an explanation straight from Kazura's mouth.

"Indeed, good job. Return to your post." (Isaac)

"Yes, Sir!" (Soldier)

After Isaac sent the soldier back to his post, he turned towards Kazura's group.

"Then, we will head towards Village Chief's residence, however I sincerely ask you to follow without making a clamor. All the villagers might be inside their houses, but their ears might pick up the noise." (Isaac)

Both of them nodded affirmatively, then Isaac began walking towards the residence.



"Ah, Captain" (Isaac's Aide/Vice-Captain)

"Kazura-san! So, you are safe!" (Valin)

When they arrived at the residence, the vice-captain and Valin, the village chief, who were in deep conversation about something in the entrance, greeted them.

The soldier in the residence was not the vice-captain alone but also several others that were patrolling around the residence.

".....Kazura?" (Isaac)

Isaac turned around after hearing Valin's words.

“It’s my alias in the village.” (Kazura)

Kazura began explaining.

“I had said that I am Kazura, a travelling merchant, to the villagers..... Well, but it looks like everyone already know about my true identity.” (Kazura)

“Wha.....!” (Valin)

Valin had his breath taken away by Kazura’s unexpected words.

Until now he was under impression that Kazura hadn’t knew yet, but it was also not something impossible if Kazura said that he already knew.

Kazura smiled to Valin who had become pale because of this situation and said that it’ll fine.

“Even if my true identity has been found out, I will not disappear from the village. So do not worry.” (Kazura)

“How could..... Greysior-sama.....” (Valin)

“.....What is going on?” (Vice-Captain)

While seeing the conversation between Kazura and Valin, the Vice-Captain, who didn’t understand the situation at all, made a puzzled expression when he heard the word that Valin expressed.

Isaac wanted to open his mouth to explain to the Vice-Captain, but after examining the surrounding situation, he went towards and stood beside the Vice-Captain.

“Captain, what the heck had.....” (Vice-Captain)

“I will explain later. Just get inside the residence first.....Both of you stand guard at this place. Absolutely do not let anyone enter inside.” (Isaac)

Without knowing the reason for the current situation, the Vice-Captain requested an explanation from Isaac, but Isaac replied in such way, so he obediently entered the residence.

Root and one other soldier, who were ordered to stand guard, took their position at both sides of the entrance to the residence.

“Which room?” (Isaac)

“It’s the room further inside from the living room.” (Kazura)

When Isaac entered the residence, he headed towards the room that Kazura pointed out.

While walking towards the room, Valetta, who was beside Kazura, was thinking hardly about something, while Kazura himself was quite nervous.

If Isaac saw the various tools that he had brought from Japan, then Isaac also had no choice but to admit that Kazura is [A person who came from God’s Realm].....As Greysior.

However, the problem was “What will happen next?”

First, it could be said that he would certainly be taken to Isteria.

Just because Isaac accepted that Kazura was Greysior, it was unthinkable for him to let Kazura go.

Even if Isaac didn’t make a move on Kazura, the people who receive Isaac’s report and know about his existence would think of ways they could use him, so there was no doubt that they would utilize various means to curry favor from him.

Although he could push through a chance to return to Japan and become a free man, but if he done this then he didn’t know what kind of treatment the people of Grisea Village would receive in the future

Kazura was frantically thinking for ways to resolve this peacefully, when Isaac’s hand reached the door to the room, he immediately put away the things he was thinking about.

First, he need to make Isaac accept that he is Greysior.

Whatever would happen then, he can just deal with it later.

“.....is this it?” (Isaac)

Isaac opened the door and squatted near the travel bag and carry case in the middle of the room. He touched it while making a small mutter.

What Isaac touched was the carry case that made from resin, however of course he had never touched something like this before.

The travel bag was made from polyester, so it was also the first time he saw something like this.

By the way, beside the bag and the case was Kazura’s clothing, that he was wearing when he came, folded nicely, however it seemed that Isaac postponed examining it for the time being.

“Is this made from leather?” (Isaac)

“No, it is made from petroleum.” (Kazura)

“Peudroleum?..... What’s that?” (Isaac)

Isaac made a response towards the word ‘petroleum’ that he had never heard before. When Kazura look towards Valetta, she shook her head slightly.

It seemed that, in this world, the word ‘petroleum’ was not known.

Kazura thought that if it ‘oil’ then Isaac would know this word, but since it was troublesome to explain, he just decided to cut the words short and leave it be.

“It’s a flammable water in God’s Realm. After processing it, it was made into that.” (Kazura)

It was a lackluster explanation, but there were no lies in his summary.

Isaac muttered with marveling expression.

“Is this also made from water?” (Isaac)

He rubbed the travel bag several times, then he turned his face towards Kazura.

“I want to confirm the content of this, but...” (Isaac)

“.....I understand.” (Kazura)

Hearing Isaac’s request, Kazura approached and kneeled to open the zipper.

Inside the travel bag, there were a lot of goods that Kazura had purchased in Japan like aroma oil, lipo-D and many other things.

Kazura reached his hand inside the bag, and took out a penlight.

“That is?” (Isaac)

Isaac stared at the penlight that Kazura took out with great interest.

“Well, please watch this.” (Kazura)

When Kazura said this, he pointed the penlight to the wall, then pressed the switch located on its side.

“Wha!?” (Isaac)

At the moment it was switched on, the penlight shined the wall with a bright light. Isaac forgot how to breathe.

Behind Kazura, the Vice-Captain also made the same surprised expression just like Isaac.

Kazura who sensed Isaac’s group reaction gave a proper feedback.

“This is a tube with the light spirit’s power contained inside, so it could be used as a tool for illumination. Then as for the other...” (Kazura)

It was a good thing that Isaac’s group was so surprised that they couldn’t speak even a word. While adding a suitable explanation, Kazura was wondering what kind of thing to show next, and put his hand inside the bag.

# CHAPTER 33

## STRATEGIC BARGAINING

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[No matter happens, if a person will become beneficial to you in the future, turn they to your ally before they even become big.]

[Don't oppose those with greater power than you. Join under their wing by any means necessary, and if it's possible, increase your rank so you can use that power.]

While looking at the unknown tools that were spread out in front of his eyes, the aide recalled the maxims that his father had taught when he was still a child.

The village chief had just blurted out carelessly a while ago, but the man named Kazura, who had explained various unknown tools to Isaac, really the Greysior from the legends?

If he was really Greysior then..... It's not "if for example" anymore, but it really exists near him, fate was smiling to him.

To gain Greysior as an ally, even if it currently wasn't a reality, he would do anything made a good impression to Greysior, after all he had obtained a heaven-sent opportunity.

"This is called canned food, it contains food inside. Even if we leave as it is, it can be stored for several years." (Kazura)

While having no idea of what the man standing in the back was thinking, Kazura took out a new canned food from the travelling bag and explained it to Isaac.

"Won't the food inside it rot?" (Isaac)

"If it's before the designated expiration date, then it will be fine. But, the expiration date is different depending on the type..... Shall we try to open it?" (Kazura)

".....No, it's fine. I'll try this in Isteria later." (Isaac)

Kazura was explaining to Isaac, while making a sigh of relief in his heart.

Based on Isaac's reply, he roughly believed in Kazura's explanation.

.....But it didn't change the fact that Kazura still need to be brought to Isteria.

"Aah.....As expected, I still need to go to Isteria no matter what, right?" (Kazura)

".....I'm sorry but at this current point I still can't conclude if you are Greysior-sama or not. Even if I have seen various tools, it isn't a definite evidence that you are Greysior-sama." (Isaac)

Isaac gave a very strained answered; his forehead was covered in cold sweat.

Inside his heart, after seeing the several kinds of tools that were spread out in front of his eyes, Isaac started to think that Kazura maybe was Greysior, however he still hadn't seen definite evidence that proved Kazura is a god.

Kazura personally was thinking what kind of thing he could show to make this obstinate captain yield.

"(Definite evidence for Greysior.....It must be that...)" (Kazura)

Kazura threw a sidelong glance to Issac and gauged his possible reactions. Kazura was thinking for several seconds before giving an answer and putting his hand to his knees to stand.

"Then shall I show you the definite evidence that I am Greysior? Everyone please follow me." (Kazura)

"Hey. Even if you say follow you where do you intend to go?" (Isaac)

Following Kazura, Isaac stood in hurry, while Kazura showed a grin.

"Of course, it's the Entrance to God's Realm." (Kazura)



10 minutes had passed since they leave village chief's house.

Kazura and 4 others were now inside the tree grove in the village outskirts.

By the way, the two soldiers that were guarding in front of the residence were to still continue their task.

“From this point onwards, it’s the domain of the gods. Except for me, no one can proceed beyond this point.” (Kazura)

When Kazura confirmed the location of tree with the mark, that this was the place where Valetta teleported just before, he walked forward.

“Valetta-san.” (Kazura)

“Yes” (Valetta)

Kazura called Valetta and she stepped forward to Kazura’s side.

Then, just like when she teleported from that place previously, Valetta suddenly disappeared.

“Valetta!?” (Valin)

“She-she dis-disappear!?” (Aide)

“.....” (Isaac)

Seeing Valetta disappeared in front of their eyes, Valin and the aide’s expression were plastered in astonishment.

It was only Isaac who stood still while showing a sullen expression.

“It’s alright. Valetta-san only has returned to the grove entrance.” (Kazura)

Hearing Kazura’s words Valin showed a relieved expression.

To see his daughter suddenly disappear, off course any father would become worried.

“Isaac-san also could come to this place. Just like Valetta-san, you will be returned to the grove entrance.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this and then with a humbling expression, Isaac genuflected and bowed down his head.

“.....I ask you forgiveness to have conducted many impoliteness. Everything was only caused by my own judgment, the soldiers and the aide had nothing to do with it. So in exchange for my life, please spare the others.” (Isaac)

“Eh?..... Wa-wait a moment!” (Kazura)

“Ca-Captain!? What are you doing?!” (Aide)

While saying this Isaac drew his short sword from his waist and began to put the blade on his neck, Kazura and the aide rushed over in confusion and stopped the blade in his hand from slicing his neck.

“Please stop it! Even I’ll be troubled to receive your life!” (Kazura)

“However, then how can I apologize to Greysior-sama.....” (Isaac)

While having a slight cut in his neck that began leaking blood, Isaac protestingly spoke out.

It seemed that he seriously intended to cut his neck.

“..... There is nothing to apologize to. You just only faithfully performed your duty..... Furthermore, your intention to protect your subordinates in this situation is also commendable. You are a good human, how could I punish you?” (Kazura)

Kazura get down in his one knee and put his hand on Isaac’s shoulder. While thinking lines that a god of benevolence will say, Kazura made a speech to Isaac with the softest expression he could make.

The accosted Isaac looked up to Kazura while Kazura’s words leave a deep impression in him, however his expression became cloudy once more.

“However, not only have I addressed Greysior-sama in disrespectful way but I also dared to bind your hands with rope. For a human to do such deed towards a god, is not something that can be permissible in any other way.....” (Isaac)

Seeing Isaac like this,

“(What a troublesome fellow.....)” (Kazura)

Kazura was thinking like this, even so, never breaking the smile in his face as he stroke Isaac's head.

"That is something inevitable. Since I am seen in a human form, even if it is another person, they may also show a similar reaction like you." (Kazura)

"However....." (Isaac)

"I have absolved every one of the sins that you made since you came to this village. And thus, the talk about this topic is finished." (Kazura)

"Eh!?" (Isaac)

Kazura said these words to Isaac, who still wanted to settle his sin, and closed the argumentation forcefully.

"I have absolved every of your sin", when Kazura said these words, the other 3 people couldn't help to surprised, but this was a natural reaction.

After all, from their standpoints, Isaac had directly received an absolution from a god.

"Then, with this I think I have shown a definite evidence for my identity as the real Greysior. I think there is also no need for me to go to Isteria, don't you agree?" (Kazura)

".....Greysior-sama. With all due respect, please let me say something." (Aide)

<sup>Good grief</sup> Yareyare, Kazura said out in this situation and the aide that stood beside Isaac, genuflected towards Kazura.

"Currently, at this land of Arcadia, there has been an outbreak of large-scale famine and every day numerous people lost their life. With Greysior-sama power's as the God of Benevolence and Bountiful Harvest, please may you do something to save us." (Aide)

".....Ah.....That is true....." (Kazura)

The aide showed an expression of someone in his wit's end, in Kazura's inner mind he let out a sigh, "That's so much true..."

He had previously heard this from Valetta and Valin, but currently this country was assaulted by a drought that caused a great famine.

When the God of Benevolence and Bountiful Harvest was in front of him, it was inevitable if the aide asked him for help.

While thinking about how to answer it, Kazura didn't say anything. Isaac sheathed back his short sword and genuflected just like the aide.

"I also beg of you. The royal family and the feudal lords of each area took various measures to protect the people, however the damage keep on expanding. Please save the people of this country." (Isaac)

"Yes..... But there is one thing I wish to know, how large is the population of this country?" (Kazura)

"I believe it is about 2 and a half million souls." (Isaac)

"....." (Kazura)

Hearing the numbers 2.5 million from Isaac's mouth, Kazura momentarily astounded.

Of course it didn't mean that everyone was starving, but even if it only 1% of this population was now faced famine, the number was still about 25,000 people.

Furthermore, based on their speech, currently the entire country underwent a famine.

So it wouldn't be strange if the number of the people that need help could increase two or three times of that number.

"2.5 million people..... By the way, how large is the population in Estelle domain?" (Kazura)

"It is about 450 thousand souls..... But, is the number, as expected, too big?" (Isaac)

Isaac speech was sprinkled by uneasiness, while Kazura,

"Of course it is! That's too much!!" (Kazura)

Was what he wanted to say but he swallowed back the urge to say this back to his throat, while his forehead unpleasantly perspire with sweat, Kazura began speaking.

“No, of course it is not so. However, me personally saving the people, in my opinion, is undesirable. Humankind’s problems must be resolved by humankind’s own power.”  
(Kazura)

To be honest, to fill tens of thousands of people’s stomach at the same time was something impossible for Kazura to do.

Although he believed with his financial power he could somehow manage to do it, the problem was the transportation capacity and the length of the period to give the support.

If he used the pullcart like what he had done until now, he wouldn’t able to haul the necessary amount.

If he dismantle the mansion door, then a small car could pass through, however it was also impossible for him to continuously transport food for thousands of people like this.

“B-But then that means.....!” (Aide)

Hearing Kazura’s explanation, the aide made an appeal with a pleading expression.

When they seek salvation from the God of Benevolence that appeared in front of their eyes, of all the things, he refused with “You must solve it yourselves” .

So of course, he made an objection.

“Havel, watch your tongue! You are in god’s presence!!” (Isaac)

“However, if this keep continue thousands and maybe tens thousands of people will die starving.....!” (Havel)

The aide — his name was Havel — was rebuked by Isaac to be more prudent. But, Havel tried to continue speaking directly, so Kazura gently made a smile.

“I did not say that I will forsake you. So that everyone of you may overcome this crisis, I also will lent a little help.” (Kazura)

Although, to be honest he didn't want to continue this conversation, but if he rejected their plea at this point, it could develop in a situation that was unfavorable to the villagers of Grisea Village.

"Why only Grisea Village received god's grace freely?" Surely everyone would think like this.

"Is-Is that true!?" (Havel)

"Greysior-sama....." (Isaac)

"Help", when they heard this word, Havel's face immediately brightened as Kazura nodded yes to his question.

Beside Havel, Isaac's eyes were moist from being deeply impressed.

"I will teach you about the methods to increase farming output and how to make efficient tools like the waterwheel. If in a small quantity, then I also can provide supplies like food.....However, there are some conditions." (Kazura)

"Conditions?" (Isaac)

The both of them who were delighted to receive a god's assistance, exchanged glance at each other after hearing the word, "Condition".

Their appearance was as if saying that they didn't have the slightest idea about what would be spoken.

Kazura erased the smile he had shown to them until now, and with a serious expression, began talking.

"I want you to not interfere in what I will do in Grisea Village from hereafter. Furthermore, if there is unjustified treatment on either the village or the villagers, then I will immediately withdraw my support." (Kazura)

"Greysior-sama, do you mean that we need to give Grisea Village a special treatment?" (Isaac)

Towards Isaac who asked back with a same serious expression, Kazura shook his head.

“No, that is not correct. What I mean is for you to not forcibly remove nor summon the villagers from the village against their will, for the purpose of siphoning the knowledge they had received from me. About the tax and other obligations, there will be no problem if it is in accordance to the existing law. Of course, remaking the law or creating a law loophole for it is also out of question.” (Kazura)

Kazura stated these in one go. Isaac and Havel who heard this were a bit surprised

They never expected that Kazura would be that much concerned about Grisea Village.

Right now, Kazura purported that “It is not a special treatment” , however when he said “Do not interfere in whatever I will do in the village” , it was already quite a special treatment.

Actually, the people of Grisea Village had enough food given from Kazura, and considering the previous rain, the increase in food production would be guaranteed to happen.

Even if it was said the tax and other obligations amount until now were good, with that situation this would be deemed as not sufficient.

However, at the present time, Kazura had been called as Greysior himself.

For Isaac and Havel, they surely also couldn't state any contradictory opinion.

“.....We understand. The subject that Greysior-sama had mentioned, I will personally convey them to this land Lord, Nelson-sama. We will be sure to act according to Greysior-sama's intention.” (Isaac)

Hearing Isaac's reply, Kazura let out a small sigh.

This might seem too high-handed a measure, but somehow he able to secure they promise to not interfere in his conducts at the village.

Because he was able to secure the promise that wouldn't cause any inconvenience to the village, if afterwards he gave some support to this country, he would able to do it without letting the village meet any trouble.

.....Although this was more or less likely to become a troublesome thing to be deal with, Kazura had also repeatedly accepted this. He thought this was his best bet.

It wasn't exaggerated to say that with this, Kazura's freedom in this other world, except for inside Grisea Village, had disappeared into oblivion, however this result was much better than letting himself to be arrested and for the villagers to be convicted.

"Then, shall I visit Isteria too?" (Kazura)

Kazura said this as he stood up, Isaac and Havel looked at him with a surprised expression.

"Are you kindly inclined to travel to Isteria!?" (Isaac)

"Yes, I think it will be more convenient this way." (Kazura)

If only Isaac's group that return to Isteria, without Kazura the talks could be arbitrarily deviated, so it would be more convenient for himself to directly give the explanation.

Although this was quite troublesome, it was necessary for him to go to Isteria and have a discussion directly with Isteria's leadership.

"Then, even right now, we can immediately go..... Since the unit also brought Rata together, Greysior-sama could ride it." (Isaac)

"Kazura-san." (Valetta)

When Kazura and Isaac's group were still discussing, Valetta came running from the direction of the village.

Valetta saw the kneeling Isaac's group, so she had guessed how the discussion developed into.

"Valetta-san, I need to say farewell for some time. I need to go to Isteria to settle the discussion." (Kazura)

Hearing Kazura's words, Valetta tightly clasped both of her hands and casted her eyes down on the ground.

Seeing her appearance like this, Kazura then said in a hurry.

“It will be fine, I absolutely only go for several days.....” (Kazura)

“I will be back”, he said, however Valetta suddenly raised her face and interrupt Kazura’s speech.

“I will also go!” (Valetta)

She boldly declared.

# CHAPTER 34

## PREPARATION FOR DEPARTURE

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“Valetta-san.....” (Kazura)

Towards Valetta, who requested to accompany along to Isteria, Kazura wanted to say something with a troubled face, but he cut his words short.

Because Valetta knew that Kazura wasn't really a God but just a normal human being, she might be worried about him, while Kazura intended to not potentially cause any trouble for the villagers as much as possible.

If Valetta went along with him to Isteria, then she would certainly be remembered by the leaders in Isteria including Nelson, so if possible, Kazura wished to go by himself.

“Greysior-sama, if Valin-san or Valetta-san also accompany us to Isteria then it would make it easier to describe how the events unfolded in the village until the current situation accurately. Furthermore, if they accompany Greysior-sama to Isteria then I think the villagers will also be more relieved.....” (Isaac)

While Kazura was thinking what answer he should give to Valetta, Isaac kneeled down to the ground and made a proposal for the current situation.

Certainly, just like what Isaac had said, if Valin or Valetta went together with Kazura, then it could influence the villager's emotions to some extent.

Besides, if Kazura went to Isteria alone, then it would be similar to the scene in the Legend of Greysior and would cause the villagers to be worried.

“.....I understand. Valetta-san and Valin-san also can accompany me along in the journey.” (Kazura)

When Kazura said this words, Valetta and Valin's expression became relieved.

Isaac and Havel also gave off a relieved mood.

“Then, shall we return to the residence to pick up the belongings? Before we depart, I want to brief the villagers so Valin-san, please assemble everyone in front of the residence. Valetta-san and Valin-san, please also prepare your belongings to take for the journey.” (Kazura)

“Vice Captain.” (Isaac)

While Kazura gave out instruction to Valin and Valetta, Isaac stood up and called Havel who was kneeling beside him.

“Yes.” (Havel)

“Go with Valin, and order the soldiers to withdraw to outside the village.” (Isaac)

“What answer should I give if the soldiers asked question about the person that is supposed to be in the village?” (Havel)

“Tell them that he is a noble from other country that was in the middle of seeking political asylum and happened to visit the village. There is no need to name the country. You also need to say that we will treat him courteously until we have escorted him to Isteria.” (Isaac)

“Acknowledged.” (Havel)

While observing the conversation between Isaac and Havel, Kazura nodded and say “Alright!” inside his mind.

Perhaps, it was to prevent the rumor from spreading out, which would happen if Isaac told the soldiers about Greysior’s existence.

Since currently they hadn’t reported anything to Isteria’s top brass, this could be thought as a justified decision.

Even Kazura would be troubled if the rumor that Greysior appeared spread out, so their decision was beneficial to him.

Kazura noticed that Havel had stood up and then he began walking towards the village.

“Then, I will gather my belongings. Isaac-san, please wait here for a moment. I will return soon.” (Kazura)

“I understand. Please tell me if there something that I can do to help.” (Isaac)

When Kazura arrived in front of the residence, he instructed Isaac to wait in the place.

Seeing that Isaac bowed his head respectfully when he received Kazura’s instruction, the two soldiers that was guarding in front the residence showed a surprised expression at first, but then they also imitate their Captain and also bowed their heads toward Kazura.

While leaving the three people in that situation, Kazura and Valetta entered the residence together and headed to his room where his luggage, like his travelling bag, was placed.

“Then, Lipo-D and canned food is necessary, as for the others..... I wonder if it’s better to just take them all...” (Kazura)

“Ano, Kazura-san.” (Valetta)

When he returned to his familiar 8 Jou[i] sized room, Kazura sat in front of the travelling bag and carry case and began evaluating the luggage he would bring along to Isteria. Valetta also sat beside him and then immediately began to ask him.

Since Valetta didn’t heard Kazura’s group conversation after she was teleported to the tree grove’s entrance, she might be rather curious about it.

“Kazura-san, you said that you would go to Isteria to talk with Nelson-sama, but what kind of talk does Kazura-san intend to do?” (Valetta)

“Well, from what I conversed with Isaac-san’s group in the tree grove a while ago, I will offer a little support to help Isteria as Greysior. Then, in exchange for this support, the Feudal Lord will guarantee the safety of the village and my freedom.” (Kazura)

“Support, is it..... Does Kazura-san means, that Kazura-san intend to give food aids or knowledge about tools?” (Valetta)

“Yes, since I can’t carry such large amounts of food, the main form of support will be instructions of how to built tools like waterwheel.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this in a nonchalant manner, so Valetta looked downcast with uneasy expression.

“But..... In that case, won’t Kazura be unable to return from Isteria? Since I believe they surely won’t be satisfied with just waterwheel and won’t stop begging to be taught about other technology. If I was in the Feudal Lord’s position, then I will give various reasons to possibly confine Kazura-san in a place close to my side. Since, the technology that I wanted also won’t be limited to those that are useful for agriculture like waterwheel.....”

“Ah, it will be fine. No matter what he say, I will surely return to the village after several days with my God’s authority. At any rate, since I am Greysior, the Feudal Lord also can’t firmly oppose my return to the village, right? At most, he will only search for reasons to guard until I return to the village, the only thing he can do is just monitor me.” (Kazura)

At that time, then I will nominate Isaac-san and Havel-san for the duty, Kazura declared in light tone. Although Valetta was still a bit flabbergasted, she continued her objections.

“Then what will Kazura-san do if Nelson-sama don’t acknowledge Kazura-san as Greysior-sama? Isaac-san’s group only believed after seeing I disappeared in the tree grove, but I think it will be hard to do so to Nelson-sama.....” (Valetta)

After hearing what Valetta had spoken, fumu, Kazura began thinking for a bit.

“If I show the lighter or Lipo-D and Isaac-san’s group give positive words, then I think it will be easy. However, if both of them are just lowly officers then it will take time to gain the Feudal Lord’s trust..... Even so, from the stories that I had heard from Valetta and Valin-san, Nelson is fairly flexible as a Feudal Lord, so I think it will turn out fine. But when push comes to shove, if I show him the digital camera, he will surely acknowledge me. If by any chance he still doesn’t believe me, then there nothing to do except for me to propose something that will benefit the Feudal Lord. We will think again what to talk if that time comes.” (Kazura)

Kazura confidently answered, so Valetta made a small relieved sigh while she asked a question about a word that raised her curiosity.

“Ano, digital camera is a tool to take photographs, right? Do Kazura-san bring it right now?” (Valetta)

“Yes, I have brought it.” (Kazura)

To answer Valetta’s question, Kazura fished out a silver colored digital camera from inside the contents of the traveling bag.

It was Kazura’s favourite, he has been using it since before he won the lottery. The model was a bit old but in that time it was quite a high-end model, so its performance was also considerably excellent.

Since he had sorted out the contents before he moved out from his residence, it only contained few pictures that he had secretly taken in the village.

Valetta took a look at the digital camera, then she began to talk in serious manner.

“Kazura-san, I believe it will be better if the digital camera isn’t seen by anyone. Especially by the nobles, if they know about the usage of digital camera then they will try to obtain it by all possible means.” (Valetta)

“Nobles?..... Ah, certainly they will. They certainly will use it for no good. Then I will surely remember to not show it to other people, as best as I can.” (Kazura)

What Kazura means with “no good” was using it in planning an assassination for important people.

In this world, the only sure method to know how someone looks like was to see them directly, although they could guess from their portrait painting. So, the existence of photographs was really handy.

If someone who was dealing with assassination knew about the existence of digital camera that could take a clear picture photographs then they would even slash someone’s throat to obtain it.

If they could take a face photograph of the assassination target beforehand, then it would shorten the time for the assassin who received the task to specify his target.

So Kazura need caution in dealing with this.

“Even if Kazura-san wants to take all the tools in this room to Isteria, I think it will be better if Kazura-san took the unnecessary things back to Japan. Since Isaac-san and Havel-san had seen the tools, if we left the goods in the room then they could send someone to steal it. Although, I think they wouldn’t do this if they really believe that Kazura-san is Greysior-sama.” (Valetta)

“That’s true. Since the luggage amount is really something..... By the way, I still don’t know what the content of this carry case. Shall we open this?” (Kazura)

Kazura said these and then with a click he opened both of the case’s lock.

“..... What the heck is this?” (Kazura)

The carry case was opened. Kazura peeked at the content and then became stiffened up, while Valetta took some of the content and was inspecting it.

“Umm, clothes, books, swords, and boots. Also a leather gauntlet, and..... Ah, this helmet seems to have metal plate inside.” (Valetta)

When Kazura received the carry case from his father Shinji, he said [This is personal security goods that will useful for your country life.] However, when Kazura personally saw the contents, he even had a glimpse of something that looks like a stun gun and gas mask among it.

No matter how he looked at it, these had no relation with “country life”.

Kazura picked up something that looked like a stab-proof vest from the carry case’s content, and then he grumbled with a wry smile.

“That sleazy old man, doesn’t this mean he really know that the mansion has a room that connected to another world.....?” (Kazura)

Two days ago, when Kazura indirectly asked Shinji about the room in the mansion, he answered that [I don’t know about any room like that.] But after seeing the content of the carry case that Shinji gave to Kazura, his answer was very much dubious. After this, if Kazura had time to talk with Shinji, Kazura needed to question him once more about this.

“Eeh? Kazura-san didn’t tell Kazura-san’s father about coming to this world?”  
(Valetta)

Hearing Kazura’s grumble, Valetta asked him with surprised looks. Kazura nodded.

“Yes. Not only I didn’t tell him, I haven’t told anyone about the existence of the door that leads into this world. When I returned to Japan two days ago I tried to probe Dad indirectly about it, however he answered as if he didn’t know a thing about it..... Even so, seeing these, I bet he might be just playing stupid. If he really believe that I was only living in the countryside, then there is no need for dangerous things like these.”  
(Kazura)

“That’s right... Japan is a country with good public order.....” (Valetta)

Kazura answered while folding his arms and grumbling, as Valetta picked up a sword that was stored diagonally in the carry case. She unfastened the metal button on its clasp and, while holding the handle, she pulled the sword from the scabbard.

The double edged blade had been maintained well, if she saw the blade carefully, there were some parts of the blade that showed traces of heavy use.

Its total size was about 80 cm and the blade about 60 cm.

It didn’t have any eye catching decoration, but it gave out a strong impression of being a magnificent long sword.

From the appearance, it resembled a Western Europe knight’s sword.

“It’s well maintained..... Is it made from iron?” (Valetta)

Hearing Valetta’s words, Kazura raised his face and examined the long sword in Valetta’s hand.

‘Let me see’, Kazura said these words, after Valetta gave it to him, he examined the sword in his right hand. Certainly the blade was made from iron.

Perhaps, this was steel.

The long blade weight was different from a short blade. The profound heaviness was transmitted down to his hand.

“Yes, it seems to be made from steel. There are traces of it being used before..... It is possible that this is something that my Dad had used before.” (Kazura)

Kazura muttered that if the Japanese police found him in possession of this, certainly he would be arrested for violating Swords and Firearms Control Law.

“Then that means that this is an heirloom sword. You need to treasure it..... I also need to make my preparation for the journey.” (Valetta)

Valetta made a statement and then leaving Kazura who was contemplatively engrossed in looking at the swords, she exited the room.



It had been 30 minutes after Valetta and Kazura returned to the residence.

They exited the residence holding their prepared luggage. In front of the residence, all villagers had gathered.

Kazura had a travel bag slung over his left shoulder while holding carry case in his right hand.

Valetta was carrying a large sack bag in her back, unlike the previous journey she didn't brought short spears or other weapons.

Her attire was similar to the previous journey, a mantle worn over her usual clothes.

There were no visages of the soldiers that had just gained total control of the village in front of the residence, the only soldiers in this place were just the two soldier that Isaac ordered to stand watch in the residence's entrance and Isaac himself.

The villagers showed an uneasy expression and barraging Valin who stood in the middle of them with questions, so it was quite a commotion. But when they saw Kazura, they immediately became silent. Everyone's gaze was into him.

Kazura walked forward towards the villagers and began addressing.

“Everyone, I will make a journey to Isteria to lend a bit of my wisdom for the lord that govern this land.” (Kazura)

Hearing Kazura's speech, the gathered villagers once again made a commotion. The air were filled with spreading unrest, so Kazura raised his voice.

"Be silent." (Kazura)

Once again the villagers quitted down.

"I wish everyone to not misunderstand. My journey to Isteria is not something forced to me against my will. I will certainly return to this village after several days so please have ease in your heart. Furthermore, Valin-san and Valetta-san will also accompany me to Isteria, so I am not travelling alone." (Kazura)

After the villagers heard that Valin and Valetta will also go with Kazura, their expression softened with some relief, but they still showed some uneasiness.

However, this was not something unjustified.

Just like in the legend of Greysior that was passed down in the village, even if currently Kazura's hands weren't tied and get dragged away, the villagers still considered that, this situation could be called as the army taking away Greysior, the savior of this village.

"Ka-Kazura-sama, I....." (Colts)

When he had calmed the uneasy villagers, Kazura once again want to address them, but at that time from amongst the villager, one boy came out and walked towards him.

"Colts-kun?" (Kazura)

Hearing his name called out by Kazura, Colts looked up to Kazura with teary eyes and opened his mouth trying to say something, but he immediately closed his mouth and cast down his eyes to the ground.

Kazura squatted down so he was in Colts' eye level, Kazura gently pat his head and softly spoke to him.

"It will be fine. I will certainly come back after several day, then we can play together again." (Kazura)

"U-Um, I....." (Colts)

“Colts-kun, you cannot say something that will trouble Greysior-sama.” (Isaac)

When Colts once again opened his mouth to talk, his speech was interrupted by Isaac’s swift remark. It startled the villagers that begin showering Isaac with their gaze.

It wasn’t surprising, considering the villagers believed that [Kazura desire to not reveal his true identity as Greysior.]

The villagers, who thought they mustn’t let Kazura notice that they recognized Kazura as Greysior, were of course surprised.

“Isaac-san.” (Kazura)

Kazura threw a look to Isaac as if to say, please don’t cut into conversation needlessly. Isaac was straightening his posture and bowed down his head to Kazura.

Seeing Isaac acted like this, Kazura let out a sigh, before once again shift his attention towards the villagers.

“I will certainly return. So everyone, when I am not here, please do not make any rash actions.” (Kazura)

He warned the villagers.

# CHAPTER 35

## THE TIME WITH THE ARMY

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Leaving the villagers, who send them off with uneasiness behind, Kazura's group exited the village with Isaac to join with Isaac's unit who was on standby at a place not far from the village.

The unit also had some cavalry element, so there were several animals that resembled a horse —Rata— tied up on the trees nearby.

Most of the soldiers were sitting down or taking a rest, only the guards were standing to watch at the surrounding.

In the middle of the gathered soldier was a parked covered wagon.

Currently Kazura was empty handed, the travel bag and carry case were carried by the two soldiers that were previously tasked to guard the residence entrance.

When Kazura was nearing the unit, Havel, the aide, came running towards him.

"Vice Captain, how is the preparation for the departure?" (Isaac)

"We could depart anytime. Gre.....Kazura-sama, I think it will be better for you to ride on the cavalymen's Rata, what do you think?" (Havel)

"I have no problem with it." (Kazura)

Cavalrymen, when Kazura heard this word from Havel, he looked at the Ratas that were tied to the trees while giving his answer.

The Ratas had saddle equipped on them, so riding it wouldn't feel bad at least.

When Havel heard Kazura's answer, he ran towards the Ratas that were tied to the trees.

“It will take 2 or 3 days to travel to Isteria. It will be more proper if Kazura-sama could ride the wagon, however unfortunately the wagon was fully loaded with luggage like tents and supplies.....” (Isaac)

“Ah, it’s fine anyhow. Please don’t worry about it.” (Kazura)

Previously Kazura travelled to Isteria by walking, so he had firsthand knowledge how harsh travelling by walking was.

Since if he walked his sole could get blistered again, he had no complaint.

Isaac, who received Kazura’s answer, bowed his head while giving his thanks to Kazura, then he headed towards the sitting soldiers.

“Attention all units, make two columns and prepare to march! Move!” (Isaac)

When Isaac issued the instructions in loud voice, the sitting soldiers immediately stood up and began running to form two columns in marching formation.

The majority of the soldiers were infantry, but the few cavalrymen were still considered as a part of the soldiers, so they ran towards the trees where their Ratas were tied and unfastened their reins.

“Whoa....” (Kazura)

“Kazura-sama, please let me help you get up on the Rata.” (Havel)

Kazura was looking at the appearance of the soldiers forming the battle formation in hurry with a great fascination, when Havel returned with a Rata and called out to him.

But when Kazura looked at the Rata whose rein was pulled by Havel, he noticed something.

“Is there no stirrup? .....” (Kazura)

Yes, this Rata had something that looked like a saddle, but there was no stirrup.

What’s a stirrup? It’s footrests that are suspended on both sides of a horse. It was used as a foothold to get up on a horse and as an aid to balance the body when riding. There is a great slew of difference whether it exists or not when riding a horse.

“Stir-up.....?” (Havel)

Hearing the lone comment that Kazura unconsciously leaked out, Havel who held the Rata’s reins asked back to him.

“Ah, no .....” (Kazura)

Before turning back to Havel, Kazura shifted his sight at the surrounding soldiers, and confirmed that the others Ratas also didn’t have stirrup.

“It’s nothing.” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke while putting his hand on the saddle.

Seeing Kazura’s hand on the saddle, Havel quickly went to Kazura’s back, and gave Kazura a boost so he could mount the Rata.

Actually this was Kazura’s first riding experience, however, even though he was more or less slow in making progress, somehow he could successfully mount the Rata, thanks to Havel’s support

The Rata’s back was quite high, maybe the viewpoint height about of 2,5 meter?

As a person on horse’s back..... or rather, a person on Rata’s back, Kazura surveyed his surroundings and saw the soldiers had already formed the marching formation.

Then Kazura looked behind at Valetta and Valin who carried their own luggage.

Of course, only Kazura would ride on a Rata, Valetta and Valin would travel on foot.

“Then, I will go towards the unit’s front. If you have some order for me, please order it to my Vice Captain.” (Isaac)

While Kazura took a rest on top of the Rata, Isaac who saw him riding from the side called out to him before heading towards the unit’s front.

When Isaac arrived at the front, his voice echoed,

“Forward March!”

The unit began to march in succession.

“Whoa, this is quite a jolt...” (Kazura)

While rocking at the walking Rata’s back, Kazura put his feet on the Rata’s side to balance himself.

Thanks to the saddle he wouldn’t fall down, but since there was no stirrup, it was hard to brace his feet.

If he would be riding like this for a long period of time, then it would be quite tiring.

“Kazura-sama, if riding in the Rata is unpleasant for you, then we will quickly prepare the wagon for you, so do not hesitate to inform us.” (Havel)

Havel, who led the reins, made an immediate response to Kazura’s words and forwarded a proposal to him.

However, what he meant by preparing the wagon, was by making the soldiers carry the tent and supplies themselves.

If Kazura replied, “prepare the wagon!” They would surely execute this order, but there was no doubt that the soldiers would look at him with cold eyes.

Compared to that, although it was more or less tiring, jolting atop of the Rata’s back seemed much more comfortable.

“Ah, no, it is fine like this..... Umm, but there is something that I want to know.” (Kazura)

While softly refusing Havel’s proposition, Kazura took this conversational opportunity to ask several question for Havel.

“Yes, you can ask me anything.” (Havel)

Havel, who was pulling the Rata’s rein, looked up to Kazira with a sociable smile. While having a somewhat good impression of him, Kazura continue his talk.

“Previously, I had heard that all off Arcadia is suffering from a large scale drought, but is there any other problem in this country besides food shortage?” (Kazura)

Although Isaac and Havel only entreated Kazura to help them relieve the severe famine, there wouldn't be any harm to know beforehand if there were any other major problems.

On the occasion that Isteria's feudal lord, Nelson, acknowledged that Kazura was Greysior, then it would be inevitable that he would be consulted not only about the famine but also about other problems.

In that case, to have some understanding about the domestic situation so that he could think of some countermeasure might be not something bad either.

"Other problems beside food shortage... Sometimes, heavy floods happened and caused a big problem. Every year, we lifted up prayers and offerings to Suipsior-sama and request him so that the flood won't happened, however the difference between when the wishes were heard and when it didn't were very extreme. We not only pray to Suipsior-sama, but we also maintain the river so the damage from the flood wouldn't increase, but it would be useless when the heavy rain fall." (Havel)

Hearing Havel's story, Kazura recalled the story about flood that Valetta told him before.

In Valetta's story, at the rainy seasons, the river would be overflowed and a flood would happen, but this occurrence seemed to not be limited only to Grisea Village.

For the flood to be a major problem inside Arcadia, then that means that the flood control technology was undeveloped so they couldn't successfully formulate a countermeasure for it.

To lift up prayers and give offerings to the god of water, Suipsior, to deal with the condition, was, to Kazura, a useless unscientific countermeasure, however this was the norm of this world.

"Flood, is it?..... This is really a big problem. Is there still any other problem?" (Kazura)

"Yes, other than the flood, there is a strange disease that broke out amongst the sailors....." (Havel)

Thus, while Kazura was in the middle of travelling to Isteria he heard many things from Havel who lead the reins. His head was filled with preparation for the countermeasures of the various problems that occurred in the Arcadia.

Kazura received explanation from Havel about the various problems that were occurred in Arcadia while rocking atop the Rata for 4 hours.

The unit that Isaac commanded had stopped marching to pitch the tents.

The sun had greatly slanted in the sky, maybe in 2 hours the darkness would soon envelop everything.

While en route, they had several 10 minute breaks interposed between travel, however since Kazura was always atop the Rata, he grumbled that his buttocks hurts.

After Havel helped him get down from the Rata, Kazura stretched his waist while rubbing his buttocks. Valetta, who followed behind him, approached him together with Valin and give him a leather canteen with water.

“Kazura-san, you must be tired. Here, please drink some water.” (Valetta)

“Thank you very much. Riding a Rata is surprisingly tiring.....” (Kazura)

Kazura, who was completely exhausted after riding for a long time, gave his thanks to Valetta as he received the canteen and gulped down the water.

At Kazura’s surroundings, the soldiers unloaded the tent and cooking implements from the wagon and then began to make camp preparation in a hurry.

“Kazura-sama, it is about the meal.....” (Havel)

Waiting until Kazura finished drinking the water and had a breather, Havel, who was waiting beside him, began to address Kazura.

“We are deeply sorry, but the only things that we can provide right now are just bread and dried meat from the provisions for marching. We are humbly asking for forgiveness, since the meal is something that similar with the soldiers...” (Havel)

“Ah, I do not really mind by that. Thank you for your work.” (Kazura)

Kazura replied with a smile towards Havel who submit the report with an apologetic tone.

Kazura himself thought that this was an opportunity to taste what was called army's food.

Rather than worrying about the quality of the meal, his curiosity of what kind of food was consumed by the army of this world was greater.

"Thank you very much. Then, I too will go help preparing the camp, Kazura-sama and his group please wait a moment in this place." (Havel)

Havel spoke so and joined the nearby soldiers to begin setting the camp.

Kazura's group then needed to wait until the soldiers finished setting up the camp.

"This is the first time I eat an army's food, but to even get furnished with bread and dried meat, the army seems to get a preferential treatment for the food." (Kazura)

While seeing Havel setting up the tent, Kazura expressed his thought. Valetta and Valin also nodded for it.

When they stayed at the lodging house previously, the meal at that place was only an ultra thin soup with little vegetable on it. Compared to it, the army's food was a feast.

Of course, it might be a mistake to compare the meal from that place with the army's, but even by noting it, the food contents that Havel mentioned before was still quite lavish.

To be able to eat bread and meat, this was very much different from what peasants usually eat.

"When I was in the army in the past, they indeed provide bread but they never provide dried meat even once. This unit's soldiers are nobles' sons, so they might be getting preferential treatment." (Valin)

"Eh? So you mean this unit's soldiers are all nobles?" (Kazura)

With an expression that this was the first time his ear picked up the word "nobles", Kazura asked back to Valin.

Valin and Valetta had noticed the ornamentation on the soldiers' short sword. They had noticed from the first time the soldiers arrived at Grisea Village that they were nobles, but Kazura who lacked such background knowledge didn't notice even a bit.

Well, Valin and Valetta didn't inform Kazura that the soldiers were nobles and Kazura had not even thought in the slightest that all the soldiers were nobles.

"Yes, from the family crest on the ornament on their short sword that the soldiers carried in their waist, we judged that they are nobles. Since the noble soldiers are the subordinate of Isaac-san and Havel-san, then I believe that they are all nobles with higher rank than the soldiers." (Valetta)

Hearing Valetta's explanation, Kazura shifted his gaze towards the short sword that the soldiers wore on their waist.

Then after watching carefully, surely there was a gorgeous ornament hanging down from their short sword, each ornament was different from one soldier to another.

"Who could expect it..... I completely didn't notice it. Even if they are nobles they joined with the military, furthermore there are a lot of people training as a soldier." (Kazura)

"They are indeed soldiers, but the soldiers of this unit are regarded as commander candidates. I heard that they will gain experience in this unit for several years, then they will be the commander for the troops gathered in their own territory, or serve as the commander for the army possessed by the House of Istelle." (Valin)

While hearing the explanations from Valin, Kazura nodded "I see."

To sum it in other words, this unit was something like a gathering of military cadet.

If this was true then the content of the food being somewhat generous was a natural course of event.

Afterwards, the soldiers who carried Kazura's luggage, like the carry case, arrived and placed them near Kazura, but no soldiers were especially talking with Kazura's group. Kazura's group themselves were chatting about the recent situation of Arcadia while observing what happened around them.

Kazura's group was talking for about 1 hour.

The sun that was shining in the sky, had touched the horizon and its body sunk down below it. As expected, Kazura also felt that “It seemed to take quite a long time” , but just as he thought about this, the tents finally began to stand one by one.

At the same time, they began to prepare the meal for dinner, so there was a delicious scent of something being cooked wafting through the air.

“Kazura-sama, we are sorry to make you wait for so long. Your tent has been prepared, so please let me guide you to it.” (Isaac)

Thereupon, from amongst the working soldiers, Isaac, who had a tired expression on his face, came towards Kazura.

Kazura somewhat noticed, after seeing the soldiers’ working appearance, that the soldiers in this unit weren’t really all that skilled.

If Kazura observed the soldiers’ face, everyone were still young, there was no one who looked older than Isaac.

Although he didn’t knew in detail, but Kazura conjectured that the soldiers that belonged to this unit might be newly assigned as commander candidates.

“I understand. Can Valin and Valetta also join with me?” (Kazura)

Kazura asked a question towards Isaac who tried to guide him. Isaac thought for a moment before he gave a quick glance towards Valin and Valetta, who were beside Kazura, and quickly began to talk.

“..... Yes. If it is what Kazura-sama wish for, then I will surely make preparation for it.” (Isaac)

Kazura nodded to Isaac’s answer and so he took his carry case from the ground.

# CHAPTER 36

## THE WORRIED NOBLE'S PREPARATION

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Kazura followed Isaac and arrived at the front of a tent.

The tent was large, in Japanese terms it was 6 Jou, with a square configuration.

Maybe there was a pillar erected in the middle of the tent since the tent ceiling was in triangular shape so that it wouldn't be weighted down by the collected water when it rains.

Beside this tent, several other tents were pitched in the surroundings; each of them had the same large size of this tent.

Furthermore, there were still a lot of tents being pitched in the surroundings, so it was clear that the tent in front of him was the first one to be pitched.

"This is the tent." (Isaac)

Isaac spoke this, opened the thick cloth in the entrance of the tent and entered inside.

Kazura's group also followed suit and entered the tent.

"Whoa..... Amazing....." (Valetta)

Seeing the spectacles that spread out in front of their eyes when they entered the tent, Valetta leaked out words of admiration.

It wasn't surprising since inside the tent had a superior quality animal fur spread out on a simple wooden bed that was installed on the side of the tent while in the middle of the tent was a long table and couches.

In addition, a lantern with a burning candle inside it was suspended in the ceiling from the pillar.

The tent's interior was illuminated by the soft light from the candle. If it was only for a trifling job then there wouldn't be a problem with this brightness.

For an ordinary person of this world, when making a camp, it was usual for them to sleep in open air. Excluding the facility like the resting lodge where Kazura and group stayed previously, it was quite rare for an ordinary person to be able to rest in such a wonderful environment.

“Then we will quickly deliver the meal. After the meal we will prepare cloth mats for two persons, feel free to use it.” (Isaac)

Isaac spoke this and bowed towards Kazura before exiting the tent.

Kazura saw Isaac off and put the travel bag that carried his luggage on the floor and \*pew\* let out a sigh.

“Whew, this place is quite comfortable. If they carry so many of these tents, the wagon would surely become filled.” (Kazura)

“That's true. But if we sleep inside this tent we won't need to be worried about the cold night.” (Valetta)

Kazura and his group were conversing like this for several minutes, until a voice called out to them from outside the tent.

“I have come with the meal.” (Soldier)

Somehow, a tint of nervousness could be heard from the voice.

Kazura gave them permission to enter and then after saying, “excuse me”, two young soldiers entered the tent and brought together a new long table and couches from the outside and put them near the already placed long table and couches in the tent.

The two soldiers arranged the old and new tables and chairs so that the tables were facing each other. Then they deeply bowed towards Kazura before leaving the tent.

As the two soldiers left, in exchange this time another three soldiers entered while carrying a wooden tray with the meal with both of their hand.

The three soldiers nimbly placed the wooden tray with the meal on the table and just like the previous two soldiers, bowed deeply to Kazura before exiting the tent.

After Kazura confirmed that the soldiers had left the tent, he looked at the meal they had brought in.

“Is this their combat ration?” (Kazura)

While giving his impression in cheerful voice, he took out his digital camera from the travel bag, started it up, and with a click he took a commemoration photo.

After Kazura confirmed the taken picture, he turned the camera off and returned it to the bottom of the travel bag.

“Even so, it seems that the noble unit eat quite a lavish meal. It’s hard to believe that we are in the middle of food shortage.” (Kazura)

Valin and Valetta deeply nodded on Kazura’s remark after he finished storing the digital camera.

This was an understandable reaction, on top of the three trays that were placed on the table, there were 2 large loaves of bread, dried jerky with steamed potato and thick oatmeal that was made from a lot of grain.

Furthermore, on the tray that seemed to be Kazura’s food was a slice of smallish apple-like fruit and a copper goblet with fruit wine inside it.

Even if they make clamor of not having a decent meal, the fact that they do were was vividly reflected in front of them.

“However, that they even had prepared our part too..... was a bit unexpected.” (Valetta)

Maybe it was either Isaac or Havel who was taking Valin and Valetta into consideration and prepared the portion for both of them, for the sake of giving a good impression to Kazura.

At any rate, it was useless to just look at the prepared food.

They sat in front of the tray that was prepared for 3 people and after saying their gratitude for the food they began to consume the food.

“It’s been a while since I eat a bread.” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke this and began to tear up the bread to eat. He picked up the bread on its side and pulled it.

But, no matter how much power he packed into his hand, the bread completely didn’t get tore up.

How hard is this? While thinking this, Kazura watched Valetta and Valin. Both of them were tearing up the bread from the side and eating it without any problem.

“Hmm?” (Kazura)

Seeing this, Kazura was wondering if the way he tore them up was wrong and this time he tightly grasped the bread with both of his hand and then pulled it with all of his strength.

His hand was trembling as he invested all of his power into it and along the way, while producing an unpleasant sound, the bread finally split into two parts.

“Umm, doesn’t this bread look excessively hard to you?” (Kazura)

While looking at the halves of bread in his hand, Kazura spoke out while looking at both Valetta and Valin who were deliciously eating the bread. Valetta and Valin then became a bit confused.

“Eh, is that so? But it doesn’t seem to be that hard for me?” (Valetta)

“I also don’t find it especially hard.” (Valin)

Since the two found it strange, Kazura thought, “maybe it won’t be that hard when eaten”, and then he try to bite at a piece of bread.

“.....” (Kazura)

Hard.

The white part in the center was still acceptable, but the rim part was so hard that Kazura began to doubt if this was really bread.

Since there was no other choice, Kazura dipped the bread halves on the oatmeal and let it soak, until the hardness reduced to the extent where it was edible for Kazura.

“(That reminds me, I had once read in an article that the black bread that Soviet Union provided as ration was really hard beyond belief. This bread might be something similar to it.)” (Kazura)

While being deeply impressed, Kazura ate the bread with an expression that he had understood something wonderful. While comparing her bread with Kazura’s bread, Valetta effortlessly tore up a small piece from the stone hard bread with her fingers and then ate it.



When Kazura and his group were eating their dinner inside their tent, on a different tent not far from it, Isaac and Havel were discussing about the marching schedule tomorrow.

Just like inside Kazura’s tent, inside the tent was a candle lantern in the ceiling suspended from the pillar and give a faint illumination inside the tent.

“With our current marching speed, then we would arrive at the sunset two days from today.....?” (Isaac)

At the table that had several parchments placed on it, Isaac wrote down today’s marching report with a quill pen while leaking out a groan.

According to the plan they had when they departed to Isteria, he was sure that the marching would be completed in 2 days, however the actual situation showed that it would only be completed in 3 days.

The cause for this tardiness was because they stopped marching considerably early before sunset, since the camp preparation time took abnormally long.

Because most of his subordinate was of nobility background, they normally left the everyday chores to their servants or slaves.

Because of this reason, in this marching practice where they performed all the chores from pitching the tent to preparing the meal by themselves, the work efficiency was the worst as they were doing tasks they weren't familiar with.

The few soldiers who came from destitute low ranked nobility were an exception, since they were used to do daily tasks like manual work or cooking.

Because they had routinely performed mundane tasks before they entered the army, not only when they were practicing marching in the fields like today, but also when they practiced in Isteria, they showed exceptional results. However, this too was quite an ironic story.

“If it possible I wanted to reach Isteria by tomorrow's noon, however if it's like this..... If we marched at night then we could reach Isteria at the morning the day after tomorrow, however.....” (Havel)

Havel let out a sigh at his own words. it was a pointless to discuss this further so he dropped his shoulder.

If it was just them alone then they could have performed it, but it would be impossible to force Kazura who was accompanying them to do this.

If only they brought along servants, although this came to his mind, Havel just buried this thoughts without paying attention to it.

“Even so, the problem is about after we arrive at Isteria. It won't be possible to arrange meetings between Nelson-sama with Greysior-sama in a short span of time.” (Havel)

“That's right. As soon as we have returned to Isteria, I will soon request an audience with Nelson. If I convince Nelson-sama with proper explanation about the utmost importance of the meeting, then I think we wouldn't need to make Greysior-sama wait for long.” (Isaac)

For Isaac, even if it would interrupt the other public business, he wished for Nelson to immediately conduct a meeting with Kazura.

However, only he and Havel had confirmed that Kazura is Greysior, Nelson still didn't know about this.

Isaac was worried that if due to some circumstances so that the meeting was to suddenly get postponed, it could incur Kazura's displeasure.

As if Havel had anticipated Isaac's worry, he began to offer a proposal.

"Yes, however, if by some chance our report to Nelson-sama didn't turn out well, Greysior-sama might need to stay in Isteria. Therefore, until Nelson-sama is ready to accept him, I think he could stay in my Leveson House's mansion ....." (Havel)

"Rather than Nelson-sama's mansion, we take Greysior-sama to your mansion?" (Isaac)

Isaac immediately made a frown at Havel's proposal.

Although he didn't know if Kazura could have a meeting with Nelson at once, as Greysior he would still be treated like a foreign state guest.

"Yes. Although I think it would be proper to let him stay under Nelson-sama, we will arrive at Isteria in the night of second day. If we ask for an immediate meeting, then not only Nelson-sama, but Greysior-sama would also be troubled... Of course this will be only if we received permission from Greysior-sama and Nelson-sama's acceptance." (Havel)

"..... I see. Since the meeting won't be finished quickly, it will be unreasonable to push the meeting time at night. I think your proposal is better. However, in that case rather than your mansion, my..... Slan House's Mansion would be a better option." (Isaac)

The reason why Isaac said this was because of the matter of House formality.

In this unit, Isaac is the Captain, while Havel was the Vice-Captain, also from the point of pedigree, Isaac more or less had a better position than Havel.

If someone think about this, then normally it would be obvious which was the better choice.

"Ah, no, while that was indeed true, however..... When Captain returned to Isteria, wouldn't you be busy with either writing the report or negotiating the meeting time with Nelson-sama? On the contrary, after we return I'll have free time until the next day, so I could immediately guide Greysior-sama to my house when we arrived in Isteria. Because I could directly give instructions to the people in the mansion, it

would be somehow more convenient for Greysior-sama to stay at my mansion.”  
(Havel)

“I will take him to my house.” When Isaac start saying this Havel quickly refuted it with a bit in hurry.

But after he heard Havel’s reply, Isaac nodded, “That is also true.”

Currently the only people who knew that Kazura is Greysior was Valetta, Valin, Isaac and Havel.

Even if they bring him to the house, if they didn’t always pay attention to him, then some problem could occur.

“Certainly, you have a point in what you said. If I relinquish all of my plan after returning to Isteria and take Greysior-sama to my house, then I wouldn’t be able to explain the reason to other people.....” (Isaac)

At the present point, the fact that “Kazura is Greysior” is a top secret.

They explained to the soldiers in the unit that Kazura was a [defecting noble from another country], and concealed the fact that he is Greysior.

Although this fact was accepted by this unit, after they returned to Isteria, either Isaac or Havel needed to always cling to Kazura until the time he meet with Nelson.

It would be a serious problem if they foolishly took their eyes off, then in that gap, people that had more influence than Isaac noticed Kazura and ask, “Who is this person?”

Truthfully, it would be best if Isaac could accompany Kazura, but he didn’t have any good excuse to abandon his duties.

If Isaac could say to Nelson directly that “This person is Greysior-sama, please shelter him until the meeting time.” then it could simplify things, however as expected t was impossible to hold such discussion.

“Alright, then let’s talk with Greysior-sama tomorrow about this matter.” (Isaac)

Havel let out a sigh of relief when Isaac spoke so. I understand, he replied.



It was the second night after Kazura experienced his first camping with the army.

Kazura, guided by Havel, was walking in the Main Street near the center of Isteria.

On both sides of the Main Street, were numerous big mansions from stone that give off an impression of being a stately mansion. Most of them were single story houses, however two story houses could be seen here and there.

It was a very different scenery than the city's outer districts, where 2 or 3 story buildings densely stood together. The scenery here was indescribably calmer.

When they arrived at Isteria, Kazura quickly parted from Isaac and the other soldiers. Currently the only soldier with him was only Havel.

Valetta and Valin followed behind Kazura and Havel.

Yesterday morning, when Havel asked if Kazura would like to spend a night on his house, he certainly invited Valetta and Valin to go together with a smile.

Kazura remembered strongly how Valetta and Valin were quite surprised, and while being extremely grateful, they expressed their thanks.

“This is my mansion.” (Havel)

After they passed numerous large mansion, Havel stopped in front of a gate to a majestic stone mansion with an elegant vast garden.

It was a single story house, but there was a long and narrow second story building annexed near the edge of the house.

There was one man that stood before the gate, and when he saw Havel, he bowed deeply to Havel, “Welcome home”, before he pushed the closed wooden gate door open.

While the gate door opened, the copper bell that was fastened near it began to ring.

Havel passed through the opened gate and continued to the garden inside, Kazura's group also followed him in succession.

When Kazura's group was walking, the man who opened the gate, overtook him from beside with a fast pace, and slowly flung open the mansion door with both of his hands.

# CHAPTER 37

## THE BATH OF LEVESON'S HOUSE

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"Welcome back." (Maid)

With Havel as the lead, the group entered the mansion's entrance hall. Then a young maid greeted while bowing deeply.

The entrance hall stone floor had been polished until it gleamed, the stone pillars erected near the side wall were also decorated with carvings.



“I brought along important guests. Since I will guide them to guest room, quickly prepare a meal and the bath, Marie.” (Havel)

“Will the bath be taken before the meal?” (Marie)

“Yes, I leave it to you.” (Havel)

The maid called Marie quickly replied “certainly!” towards Havel, and then once again bowed to Kazura’s group.

Judged by her appearance, she was still in the age that can be called a little girl.

After Havel gave directions to Marie, he said “Please follow me”, as he guide Kazura’s group towards the mansion’s inner rooms.



“Please use this room and make yourself at home. As soon as the bath is prepared, another person will come and call you.” (Havel)

Havel guided Kazura’s group to the guest room and after a bow he exited the room.

When Kazura confirmed that Havel had left the room, he put his luggage at the floor and looked at the room.

A candle holder was installed in the room’s wall. Its gentle light faintly illuminated the room.

On top of the fine quality round table inside the room, was a wooden plate with fresh fruits placed in it. A knife was also prepared in front of the plate. There wasn’t anything like a water pitcher so this might be prepared as exchange of beverages.

“There’s even a bath. This house seems to be extremely wealthy. It even has something that only nobles could have.” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke these words while immediately picking an apple looking fruit from the table and with the prepared knife began to skillfully peel the skin.

“To even guide us to this room.....” (Valetta)

Valetta was thinking that the best outcome she and her father could get was for an inn in the town be prepared for them, so she was surprised that Havel unexpectedly treated them in the same manner with Kazura.

Originally, for a mere peasant to set their foot in a noble's house was nothing short of a miracle.

The only exception was when they were bought as a slave or when they were employed as a servant.

"It is surely because he intent to give me a good impression. This fellow might have done this as a foundation for the future." (Kazura)

While stuffing the peeled fruit into his mouth, Kazura spoke. Valetta nodded at him with an expression that was indescribably not pleased.

Even if they understood that it did no harm to them, but when they thinking that Havel only took them to draw out Kazura's favor, they didn't feel pleased at all.

Seeing Valetta's expression, Kazura made a wry smile and began to speak.

"Don't make that face, it will be alright. I think right now this is not a disadvantageous situation for us, if we could build good relationships like this then it will be convenient for me..... Ah, sorry. I am the only one who eating. I will also peel Valetta-san and Valin-san's share." (Kazura)

"Ah, I'm fine. Since Havel-sama said that the dinner will be served soon, I don't really want to eat anything right now." (Valetta)

"Umu, I also don't want to eat. Since it is rare to have a chance to eat a noble's feast, then I will keep my stomach empty for now." (Valin)

"Hmm... That's certainly true... Then I'll too stop eating after finishing this piece." (Kazura)

After Kazura said so, he began to peel another fruit, Valetta unintentionally chuckled out a laugh.

“That reminds me, even after we had lunch earlier, Kazura-san said you was still hungry, took out a canned food and stealthily ate it. Are riding a Rata really that tiring?” (Valetta)

“Yes, since my feet hardly could balance my body, it was more tiring than I expected. If it’s like this, maybe it will be better for me to just walk.....” (Kazura)

Since they departed from Grisea Village, Kazura was always rocking atop a Rata, because he didn’t get used to riding it, he had become considerably exhausted.

Probably because he was overusing the muscles that he hardly used before, his thighs had considerable muscle pain.

Maybe because of these reasons, Kazura become excessively hungrier than usual and had an appetite for food unlike what he had since he first arrived in Grisea Village

Riding, in contrast of its appearance, is quite a hard physical exercise.

“By the way, about the content of the discussion with the Feudal Lord tomorrow, let’s arrange our stories beforehand so it’s more or less matched. Since there are things that the Feudal Lord is better without knowing.” (Kazura)

Since currently the three were together, so that they wouldn’t tell different stories when meeting with the feudal lord after this, it would be better if they match what came out from their mouth just to be sure.

Basically, the feudal lord’s questions would be answered by Kazura, however it would troubled Kazura if the feudal lord accidentally heard something from Valetta or Valin that he shouldn’t know.

“Valetta-san and Valin-san, I won’t mind if you answered honestly when the feudal lord ask you. However I want you to hide the fact that after the villagers ate the food I had brought, they had increased physical strength.” (Kazura)

Valetta and Valin nodded towards Kazura’s explanation.

Kazura brought with him various useful tools that may be needed to be shown to Nelson as an explanation that Kazura is Greysior.

However, food is a different matter. Currently only the inhabitants of Grisea Village knew about the effect of the food that Kazura had brought.

There was no need for Kazura to inform that if someone eats the food he had brought over a long period of time, they would gain herculean strength.

If Nelson knew about the effect of the food that Kazura had brought, then there is a likelihood that he will seize the remaining food at Grisea Village. Kazura couldn't completely refute this possibility.

The Lipo D, that just by drinking a bit of it could restore stamina and completely cure illness in a short time of span, was also in the same position. It could display tremendous power either if used in daily life task or as a negotiation card.

If just in case, Nelson didn't get convinced that Kazura is Greysior even after showing him various tools then he would show them the effect of the Lipo D on someone who was dying. If they saw the miraculous effect of the medicine then they would surely believe in his existence.

Although, if the content of the negotiation is only proposals, that could bring profit to the feudal lord's side, then it is quite unlikely for them to deliberately take an attitude of antipathy towards Kazura.

When the three were continuing their discussion about if there anything else that would be bad if were spoken out, a knocking sound could be heard from the door.

"Come in." (Kazura)

"Pardon my intrusion." (Marie)

After Kazura replied, the maid called Marie, who had greeted them at the entrance hall previously, entered the room.

"I come to inform you that the bath has been prepared. I believe that it would be better if the one who bathe first is Kazura-sama, but....." (Marie)

"I understand." (Kazura)

"Thank you very much. Then, please let me guide you." (Marie)

Marie expressed her thanks when she heard Kazura's reply, and then she guided Kazura out from the room.



When Kazura and Marie were heading towards the bath, in one of the rooms inside the mansion, Havel faced an elderly male who was clad in robe.

“Then for tomorrow noon, there will be a carriage for transport and 4 soldiers as the bodyguards.” (Man)

“Yes, I request for them to be competent soldiers. Also give them strict order to not be rude even just because there are peasants. I also request for superior quality food or tent.” (Havel)

While Havel was wracking his brain to think if there anything else that will be necessary, the elderly male was looking at him with curious looks.

This is justified, since when the man was doing his clerical work inside his room, Havel suddenly entered and ordered to prepare the private soldiers and carriage; however the content of the order confused him.

Guessing from the whole story, it looks like the one who will ride the carriage seems to be mere peasants.

Rather than together with a noble, the carriage that will be escorted only carried peasants, so this was normally an unthinkable occurrence.

Moreover, after he inquired in detail, that peasants were currently lodging in the mansion.

This was an impossible story that was hard to believe.

“Not only let the peasants staying, but also to prepare a carriage and bodyguard..... Are those peasants actually nobles hiding their identity?” (Man)

“No, they are just a mere common peasants that you can found anywhere.” (Havel)

Havel gave off an air that he won't tell anything in detail.

“Indeed.....” (Man)

The man answered, while in his heart he was suspicious of this instruction that was highly unusual no matter how much he thought about it.

This man had served the Leveson House as a butler since the olden days.

Assigning the work duty of the other servants, executing the orders from the family member like the current one, or preparing carriages and recruiting personnel, he could basically do anything.

The butler had known Havel ever since Havel was born, as his teacher and as his servant, the butler had an extremely close relationship with Havel.

But this Havel, without doing any consultation with him, ordered such a kind of order was something that was highly unexpected.

The peasants who will be escorted inside the carriage this time, certainly had something going on in them.

“Also, prepare 2..... No, just in case, make it 3 bedding. This too should be of high class quality.” (Havel)

“Certainly.” (Butler)

He had many points he was still questioning about, however the man received Havel’s order and bowed respectfully.

Havel isn’t a child anymore.

He might have special reasons of why he can’t give the details, the man tried to have some understanding.

After Havel finished with his instruction to the man, he put his hand on the doorknob to leave the room, but then he turned his body towards the man.

“By the way, father and brother will return in 5 days, right?” (Havel)

“Yes. If it’s according to the schedule, I believe they are now currently leaving Gregorn territory and entering Isteria territory.....” (Butler)

“I see.” (Havel)

Hearing the man’s answer, Havel this time opened the door and exited the man’s room for sure.



“Then, I will take off your clothes.” (Marie)

“.....” (Kazura)

After Kazura was guided to the changing room that was located next to the bathroom, he faltered when Marie put her hand on Kazura’s shirt.

While in the middle of the way to the bathroom he had a non-serious imagination of “Let me help you take off the clothes”, but who can imagine that it had become reality?

However the reason why Kazura faltered was not only because Marie tried to remove his clothes.

In the corner of the changing room behind Kazura, was a half-naked muscular skinhead man. In his right hand was an unusual shaped bronze sickle and in his left hand was a smallish bronze tweezer while standing in imposing stance. When Kazura and the man’s eyes meet with each other, the man raised up a refreshing smile in his mouth’s corner.

“Excuse me.” (Marie)

Without waiting for the reply from Kazura, who solidify after seeing the unknown dangerous looking apparatus that the macho man held, Marie took off Kazura’s shirt.

The clothes that Kazura wore were something that Valetta had prepared before. It was only a plain shirt and trouser.

Marie was skillfully taking them off from Kazura, although she was frozen for a moment when she saw the grey striped pattern trunks underneath, she immediately kneeled and put her hand on the trunks to take it off.

“Ah, I can take it off myself!” (Kazura)

When the trunks was about to be lowered, Kazura grasped the trunks side with his hand and declined the assistance.

When she saw that her assistance was being refused, she withdrew her hand.

“Please forgive my rudeness.” (Marie)

After she said this, Marie stood up and then was waiting for order.

.....She seemed to be waiting until the clothes had been taken off.

“Umm, I can do the rest myself so.....” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke his with troubled expression. Marie seems to be thinking for a moment and then unintentionally made a small smile.

“I have received your order. Please wear the changes of clothes that will be prepared while you are taking a bath.” (Marie)

Marie said this and bowed, before she left the changing room while carrying Kazura’s clothes in both of her hands.

When Kazura confirmed that Marie had exited the room, while exasperating, he took off his trunks but only halfway, as he remembered the presence of the macho man that was still inside the room. He pulled his trunks back.

“Please leave it to me.” (Macho Man)

While showing the same refreshing smile like before, the macho man lightly lifted and showed off his sickle while utter this statement.

What do you mean by “leave it to me”?

“Umm, what is that sickle used for?” (Kazura)

While still holding his trunks, Kazura asked with a rather stiff expression. The man made a surprised expression for a moment before he put back his refreshing smile and began to speak.

“It is to cleanly shave every body hair. My work is truly skillful as even the young master praised it, so do not worry.” (Macho Man)

Apparently, this man’s work was what is called in Japan as hair removal expert.

Then, maybe the tweezers in his left hand was also a tool used to remove hair?

“What is the tweezer in your left hand used for?” (Kazura)

“This is, used to pull out the armpit hair. Now, let us remove the body hair!” (Macho Man)

Towards the man who was brimming with enthusiasm, Kazura turned around and took off his trunks and spoke with a refreshing smile.

“I pass, thank you.” (Kazura)

The moment the man heard Kazura’s answer, the man showed a completely dejected expression and left with an unusual impression.



After taking a bath, Kazura put on a robe made from fine fabric that had been prepared in the dressing room. Then with Marie who was waiting when he exited the dressing room, Kazura returned to the guest room.

When they were in the middle of walking, Kazura asked about what happened with the clothes that she took just now, he was told that it would be washed.

By the way, the prepared change of clothes didn’t include underwear.

Therefore, Kazura was currently wearing no underwear.

Based from the prepared change of clothes, the people of this country might not wear any underwear.

After Kazura returned to the room, this time it was Valin’s turn to enter bath and Marie was guiding him to the bathroom.

“Kazura-san, how is the bath?” (Valetta)

Kazura who returned with a refreshed feeling after bathing his whole body with hot water was asked interestedly by Valetta.

When he saw Valetta, inside his head a question pop out for a moment “Does this girl also don’t wear any underwear?” , but he hurriedly drowned this thought and began describing his impression on the noble’s bath.

# CHAPTER 38

## SATIETY AND HUNGER

---

“I am deeply sorry for the lateness of the meal preparation. Since this is an inland region, it doesn’t have a full set of delicious foods like the ones from the Fraise Territory, however I hope you might enjoyed this.” (Havel)

It was one hour after Kazura left the bath.

The four people: Havel, Kazura, Valetta and Valin, were sitting at the table in Leveson’s Mansion where various luxurious dishes were served in front of them.

It was a long rectangle table, its length might’ve reached 4 meters.

There were a lot of platters placed atop the table within arm’s reach, where the various dishes were neatly arranged.

Havel and Kazura were sitting on the so called “Seat of Honor” , while Valetta and Valin sat at the table’s side.

There were 2 maids stood near the table, who will wait the table. In front of them was a little table covered with cloth. Atop of the table were several copper pitchers that contained beverages.

One of the maids was Marie, while for the other maid, this was the first time Kazura’s group saw her since they arrived at the mansion.

Havel had taken off the armor he had worn, currently he was using a loose-like robe similar to what Kazura currently worn.

Valin and Valetta also wore clothing resembling a robe, although it was a bit different in appearance from Kazura’s.

“This is extremely.....” (Kazura)

As Kazura spoke this, he looked at the various dishes lined up in front of him with admiration.

After all, the quality of the dishes placed in front of him was fairly exceeding Kazura's expectation.

Of the dishes placed atop the table, there were a lot of dishes made from ingredients that Kazura hardly ate in this world such as meat or fish. The dishes variety was also plentiful.

Among the lined up dishes, there were meat dishes similar to roasted beef, fish slices that seemed to have been grilled with sauce, there were also several types of dishes that Kazura already knew since it also exists in Japan.

Although there were also several dishes that could make a Japanese faint if they catch sight of it, such as skewered roasted caterpillar or caterpillar sauté. However if it was served atop this table then that means it might be a high class cuisine.

Since Kazura habitually eats Valetta's handmade high class caterpillar dishes, he didn't feel any disgust or had any problems with the existence of caterpillar dishes.

"Amazing..... I never saw any dishes this luxurious." (Valetta)

Valetta spoke this out while being a bit nervous. Valin also agreed and nodded.

The food of the nobles was something that a common peasant hardly ever saw, so this was a natural reaction.

"It would be my pleasure if you can enjoy this. We also have prepared a superior fruit wine, can everyone here drink alcohol?" (Havel)

"Certainly!" (Valin)

Valin made a powerful reply. Havel smiled, "I'm glad to hear that." and then he called Marie who then began to pour fruit wine into the copper cup that was placed in front of Valin.

"How about both of you?" (Havel)

"Could I have one?" (Kazura)

"Alcohol is too....." (Valetta)

“Oh my, is that so? Then, how about juice for the beverage?” (Havel)

“Ah, yes, it is fine.....” (Valetta)

Hearing Valetta’s answer, Havel gave instructions towards another Maid who stood by in the room.

Marie, who had with pouring fruit wine to Valin’s cup, began to do the same to Kazura’s cup.

“Then, please enjoy yourselves on this. The maids will help you for the dishes outside your reach, so please don’t hesitate to order them.” (Havel)

After Havel said this, he began to move the dishes from the large platters to his small plate.

Seeing this, Valin and Valetta also began to move the dishes to their own small plates.

Following the other three, Kazura moved the nearby roast beef like meat dish to his small plate.

“Itadakimasu..... Hm, this is delicious!” (Kazura)

Kazura, who feel dizzy from the hunger, excitedly put the meat dishes to his mouth and expressed his admiration.

The meat dish inside Kazura’s mouth had almost similar texture and taste to a roast beef.

Actually, this dish was made by roasting meat with a pinch of salt in a closed pan and then covered with sauce made from herbs and concentrated fruit, so the cooking method was quite similar to a roast beef.

As for the familiar taste of roast beef that Kazura could eat in Japan, although the needed seasonings such as garlic, pepper, wasabi or shouyu might exists, it would be considered as luxurious items.

“I am glad that it suit your taste. Since there are a lot of dishes prepared here, feel free to eat to your heart’s content.” (Havel)

Havel showed a relieved expression after he saw Kazura wholeheartedly stuff his cheek with meat.

Since he didn't know what kind of food would please Kazura, he prepared a lot of dish varieties as many as he could possibly do, however who could know that it succeed just at the first item that Kazura chose.

“By the way, Kazura-sama, this might be rude of me, but there is something that I want to request from you.” (Havel)

Fifteen minutes had passed since they first began to eat the dinner, everyone was satisfied as their stomach had been filled to some extent.

Havel had been consistently bringing up topics about harmless and inoffensive content such as about the food or the city until now, but then he stopped touching the food and began addressing Kazura.

“Yes, what is it.” (Kazura)

“In the future, in the occasion that Kazura-sama needed to prepare or search for a person or goods in Isteria, please, I hope you entrust it to me..... Even though I may look like this, but I am well known by the merchants or other nobles in Isteria, so I think this might be useful.” (Havel)

Hearing Havel's sudden proposal, Kazura placed back the skewered caterpillar he wanted to put into his mouth at the small plate.

By the way, the skewered caterpillar is not Arcadian Bug but of another species.

“That is a pleasing suggestion. On the occasion Havel-san's power is needed then I will surely ask you, at that time I hope for your cooperation.” (Kazura)

Kazura replied with a slight nod.

Hearing Kazura's answer, Havel put both of his hand on the table.

“Thank you very much. Please order me anything if you need something to be done.” (Havel)

He said while bowed deeply.

After the dinner, Kazura's group returned to the room and were having a friendly chat while resting with full bellies.

"Kazura-san, is something wrong?" (Valetta)

While sitting at the sofa that was placed at the end of each bed, they were talking about their impression of the dishes, however Valetta noticed that Kazura's expression was unusual, and so she inquired him.

Being inquired by Valetta, Kazura rubbed his stomach that had swelled to the limit and made quite a frown.

"No, it just that my stomach's condition is somewhat....." (Kazura)

"Eh!?" (Valetta)

Kazura's statement that his stomach is in bad condition just after eating the dinner alarmed Valetta, and then she rushed over towards Kazura in a hurry.

Valetta immediately feared if the host unexpectedly put poison in the dishes, however she then noticed Kazura's strange condition.

He didn't particularly look suffering in pain, and just rubbed his stomach with an expression as if he was unsatisfied with something.

"As expected, this is strange....." (Kazura)

"Are you okay!? Does your stomach hurts?" (Valetta)

Kazura looked at his own stomach with displeased expression. Valetta then nervously put her hand on Kazura's stomach.

"Ah, no, it's not in pain or aching...." (Kazura)

Because Valetta put her hand on his stomach with anxious looks, Kazura was being flustered as he tried to give an explanation.

He was certainly sensing a discomfoting feeling in his stomach, however, it was not pain that assailed Kazura.

“It’s just that I feel hungry and dizzy.....” (Kazura)

“.....Eh?” (Valetta)

Hearing that Kazura felt hungry, Valetta and Valin were flabbergasted.

No wonder, after all Kazura just ate dinner, moreover he showed a large appetite and ate such large amount that his stomach was visibly swelling.

Actually Kazura’s stomach was already full and there were practically no space left where a food could enter.

Even, Kazura still couldn’t help feeling hungry.

He didn’t understand what this means.

“Actually yesterday..... No, since the day before yesterday, my stomach hardly felt full from eating. Yet, yesterday was still a bit less objectionable, however..... Ah, the problem is that I hardly felt full even when I have eaten in such amount that make my stomach is bulging....” (Kazura)

Kazura said this while rubbing his stomach.

Valetta also rubbed Kazura’s stomach with confused expression.

Kazura thought for a minute about his condition, however, he didn’t understand the reason.

He thought that maybe his satiety center was broken, so no matter how much food he ate, his body couldn’t feel any satiety. If this was true, then it wasn’t a situation where he could go dilly dallying like this.

He needed to go back to Japan and visit the hospital.

“Uu, I felt so hungry... Maybe I could eat just one piece of fruit.....” (Kazura)

Kazura said this and stood up to pick the fruits placed on the table.

But, when he stood up, suddenly his leg staggered. He fell down on the spot.

“Kazura-san!” (Valetta)

Valetta who was beside Kazura, who was going to hit the floor, immediately embrace him to support him.

Because she catch Kazura’s frail body, that seemed look to lack any power to support himself, to stop Kazura from falling.

“So-sorry, somehow I feel lightheaded.....” (Kazura)

Grasping Valetta’s shoulder who was supporting him, Kazura fixed his posture to firmly stand at his foot.

And then, after thanking Valetta, he wanted to let go his hand from her shoulder. At that moment, he noticed the faint trembling on his finger.

“.....What the.....” (Kazura)

His fingers were slightly trembling.

Even if he was standing, his feet felt unsteady.

This was something that Kazura had experienced before.

Yes, it was surely something that happened when he was still working himself like a work horse every day as a company employee.

There was an exhausting work that continued for several days that made him don’t have any time to spare for catching a meal. When he realized, he hadn’t eat anything from morning to evening and was just clinging on the company’s desk. He was experiencing the symptoms like what he currently had.

When he was wondering what was happening at his body, he entered his symptoms on the internet and did a search, it ended in one word.

“Ah..... I see, so it is that, huh?” (Kazura)

He rubbed his stomach with his right hand, while looking at his shaking left hand fingers who grasped Valetta's shoulder, when Kazura looked that he had realized something. He turned towards the worried Valetta.

“Valetta-san, I am already alright, thank you.” (Kazura)

Kazura thanked Valetta and let go off his hand and then he sat down in front of the travel bag that was placed inside the room and began to search inside the bag.

“That was a close call..... If I don't notice it, I might died from hunger.....” (Kazura)

“Do you already know the reason?” (Valetta)

While Kazura was searching for something inside the bag, Valetta asked him from behind.

Although Kazura seemed to understand something, Valetta completely had no idea of what was happening.

“I believed this is hypoglycemia. Just a maybe though...” (Kazura)

Hypoglycemia was when blood sugar level was extremely low, with symptoms such as trembling hand or lethargy.

There were individual variations in what symptoms someone would experience, however most of the symptoms would appear when the blood sugar level decreased due to prolonged fasting. However after taking something to eat and the blood sugar level increased, the symptoms would subside.

“Hypoglycemia..... Ah, it is something I have learned before. However.....” (Valetta)

Hearing the word “hypoglycemia”, Valetta showed an expression that she wasn't completely satisfied by this reasoning.

This was not surprising since in the reference book that she learned together with Kazura, it was written that hypoglycemia was mostly happened when someone was fasting.

Kazura had just finished eating so he couldn't possibly be suffering from it.

“Well, if it is really hypoglycemia or not, we will know after eating this..... Uumm, although I felt hungry, but my stomach is bulging..... I wonder if it could enter.....”  
(Kazura)

While receiving Valetta’s sight who seemed to wanted to object, took out a plastic spoon and canned orange from inside the travel bag. The he pulled out the pull tab and opened the lid.

When the can lid opened, a peculiar metallic sound resounded in the room, a faint sweet smell wafted from the can.

Kazura ate the canned food and gulped the syrup content, and then he gulped the orange with the spoon.

He ingested a large amount of calories and sugar, but if Kazura’s conjecture was right then there wouldn’t be any problem.

“If I recovered by this then it could explain why the crops in the village had rapid growth, and everyone in the village had tremendous recovery. About the increased physical power..... maybe more or less they could explain this.....” (Kazura)

In contrast with Valin who was bewildered on what was going on, Valetta heard Kazura’s explanation with serious expression.

“Kazura-san, what is [Haipogleekemia]?” (Valin)

“Ah, hypoglycemia is.....” (Kazura)

Valin questioned in a manner that showed he completely didn’t understand anything. Kazura then began to explain the details of the symptoms.

Although Kazura remembered that Valin believed that Kazura is Greysior and it would be a strange story if he explain about Kazura having a hypoglycemia, since it had come to this it might be inevitable.

He felt bad to Valetta, but he would entrust the further follow up to her.

It had been 20 minutes after he explained hypoglycemia to Valin and answered Valetta’s question, Kazura stood up in place and then ascertained his body condition.

His feet didn't stagger anymore, and his hand stopped trembling.

It seems that, his conjecture was correct.

“As expected... If it like this, then.....” (Kazura)

While muttering, Kazura folded his arms and started thinking.

He was thinking about the content of the food he ate for the last few days and his symptoms. Kazura had thought up 2 hypotheses about the effect of this world's food for him.

The first hypothesis, the food in this world practically didn't contain any nutrient.

With this hypothesis, it could easily explain Kazura's hypoglycemia-like symptoms and the rapid growth of the crops in the village fields.

Kazura has hardly eaten any food from Japan since noon three days ago.

The only thing he ate was one canned food at the night two days ago when he was marching with the army and one canned orange he ate just now.

If the food of this world didn't contain any nutrition, Kazura, who has only eaten 2 canned foods for the last 3 days, would obviously become malnourished.

It was also the same with the crops in the village fields, Kazura conjectured that the village crops were in chronic malnutrition state, so when it was suddenly given with forest humus or fertilizer from Japan that had plenty nutrition, it regained its original condition.

About the villagers, since their bodies were normally in extreme malnutrition state, when their body suddenly received the necessary nutrition it was possible that they regained their original power.

In this hypothesis, the villagers had superb physical ability since the very beginning; however, they just lacked fuel to completely use it.

However, in this case, how could this world's human survive with practically no nutrient and still exhibit similar physical strength to Earth's human?

It couldn't be just explained by low fuel consumption.

They would be a life-form that exceeded common sense.

The second hypothesis, Kazura just couldn't absorb nutrients from this world's food, also, the food and the fertilizer had a special effect on the villagers and crops.

In this hypothesis, the food of this world contains nutrition, however somehow Kazura couldn't absorb it.

Although this could explain how this world's humans survived, Kazura completely didn't understand the reason of why the people of this world had tremendous recovery rate or gained superhuman strength after eating food from Japan.

Even if it assumed that the food and fertilizer had some kind of special effect, the food and fertilizer that Kazura bought were just common market goods.

He had some idea that after it was brought over to this world it gained a special effect, however this way was too fantasy-like so it was difficult for him to accept this.

Nevertheless, there was the matter about the room where it was possible to cross over to this world from Japan, so it was already plenty fantasy-like.

"Ano, Kazura-san....." (Valetta)

While Kazura was thinking to himself, before he realized, Valetta peered into his face with worried expression.

"Ah, sorry. I'm just thinking to myself..... I already feel fine." (Kazura)

He was thinking about explaining the hypothesis to Valetta right now, however there was Valin in this place so he postponed the explaining to another time.

Because Valin is Valetta's father, Kazura believed there would be no problem to tell him everything about him, but since Valin believed that Kazura is Greysior, he didn't need to deliberately disprove this.

Since his stomach that's already been filled was stuffed further with canned orange, as expected it started aching, so Kazura took stomach medicine from the travel bag and thrown several tablets into his mouth.

# CHAPTER 39

## MEETINGS WITH THE LORD

---

When Kazura was taking stomach medicine at Havel's mansion, Isaac was in the middle of meeting with Nelson at his office in Nelson's residence.

Usually, Nelson would hold documents of unrelated matters and read it, while he heard Isaac's report. Nelson would question as necessary while doing his own work at the same time, then he would decide on the matter that Isaac reported. This had happened for a long time, however, this time the situation was a little bit different.

".....Isaac, say it again? Who has appeared?" (Nelson)

Previously Isaac entered the room and relieved the civil officials from the room because he wanted to report something, however, the content of that report made Nelson raise his face in doubt and asked Isaac to explain it again.

He was in contrast to Isaac who, although receiving the end of Nelson's questioning gaze, was completely unperturbed. With a serious expression, he repeated the words that he had spoken before.

"It is Greysior-sama. Greysior-sama appeared in Grisea Village." (Isaac)

Isaac replied with these words, and silence descended on the room.

Both of them didn't make any sound or moving a muscle.

Only the shadows of these two people from the candle's light were swinging idly at the wall.

".....Ah, um, what? So you mean "that" Greysior-sama, who appeared in the legend, the God of benevolence and good harvest? So you mean a God actually appeared in flesh?" (Nelson)

Nelson thought that Isaac was saying a joke, however with that serious expression it didn't look like he was joking.

Furthermore, Isaac wasn't a guy who would make a joke like this.

"That is true. The matter about how water flowed in village's water channel and how the village didn't get devastated by famine, was all because Greysior-sama lend his hand to save Grisea Village." (Isaac)

"Speak concretely, what in the world really happened in Grisea Village? Do you mean it was like in the legend, Greysior-sama brought not only food?" (Nelson)

"Yes, about 1 month ago, Greysior-sama appeared in Grisea Village, and gave assistance in the form of large amount of food to the village. Furthermore, to supply water to the village's fields that was ruined by the drought, he bestowed the village with a tool to draw water from low ground to high ground that was called a waterwheel. In addition, he continuously supported the village, from giving his divine blessings to the crops of the village so they grew rapidly, and conferred to the village knowledge and numerous tools that we never seen before." (Isaac)

"....." (Nelson)

As soon as he entered the room, Isaac suddenly began telling an unbelievable story and this made Nelson confused.

Greysior appeared, and saved a village on the brink of famine?

Even now he resided in the village and continues to confer tools or knowledge to the villagers?

.....He completely couldn't believe it.

There were many stories mentioned that Gods had descended into the world in the past, but to say that this completely mythical-like occurrence happened in this time and age, was something that couldn't be believed at all.

By the way, the rapid growth of the crops due to Greysior's divine blessings was Isaac's own original interpretation.

He had received the explanation from Valin, the village chief, that the crops had rapid growth after mixing forest's soil into the field, but since Greysior appeared it couldn't be helped if he thought like that.

“This is an extremely amazing story, however I can’t believe it all of a sudden. Did you personally saw Greysior-sama in Grisea Village?” (Nelson)

“Yes, actually, I had met with him, and talked to him..... However, I have done so many disrespectful things towards Greysior-sama..... However, because Greysior-sama has forgiven me, even if I want to repent for it, I couldn’t do it.....” (Isaac)

Maybe because he remembered when he met with Kazura, Isaac’s countenance clouded and turned sad as he casted his head down.

As for Nelson, he was still casting his doubt over Isaac who claimed to meet with Greysior.

Isaac hung his head down for a few moments, and then he raised his face and stiffen his expression.

“Nelson-sama, I would like you to meet him at the first thing in the morning tomorrow.” (Isaac)

“.....Hey, you don’t mean, the person that you want me to meet is.....” (Nelson)

“Yes, it’s Greysior-sama.” (Isaac)

Nelson spontaneously wanted to say, “Is this a joke?” , however, after he saw that Isaac was deadly serious, he retracted the words back.

Even until now his sense of reality hasn’t returned, but if what Isaac said is indeed the truth then it would be very important.

However, although he was curious about the numerous acts of kindness from Greysior that Isaac mentioned before, what kind of purpose a personal meeting with Greysior would have?

“However, even if you say the first thing in the morning, even if we depart right now for Grisea Village, we wouldn’t make it in time. If Greysior-sama came himself to Isteria then the story would be differe-..... You couldn’t possibbly...” (Nelson)

“Yes, Greysior-sama is currently sojourning in the Leveson’s mansion. Actually I wanted to guide him to my house, however then I couldn’t move in absolute secrecy..... At this point in time, the only ones who know about the existence of

Greysior-sama is me, my vice-chief Havel, 2 of my subordinates, and the populace of Grisea Village. I have strictly ordered those 2 subordinates to not leak this to any other person.” (Isaac)

Reaching this point, Nelson finally come back in touch with reality, “Somehow, something unbelievable has happened.”

For a God to come in flesh to the world, was something that never happened before except for the legend, so they ought to carefully deal with this situation.

Furthermore, in case that Greysior is a fake, he was a really amazing scammer for being able to convince someone like Isaac.

Whether he really is the real Greysior or not, it was necessary to reliably confirm this.

“Alright, then let’s do this as the first thing in the morning..... Therefore, for what reason Greysior-sama wanted to talk with me?” (Nelson)

Maybe because he was relieved with Nelson’s answer that he would meet with Greysior, Isaac became a bit relaxed and his expression loosened, then he opened his mouth to answer Nelson’s question.

“Yes, Greysior-sama is offering his support to us who are suffering from famine. He would teach us the method to build the tool called waterwheel that I had mentioned before and way to increase crops production. Furthermore, if it is in small quantity, he said that also could give food aid.” (Isaac)

“Oh, that is quite a splendid talk, however.....” (Nelson)

Although it was extremely pleasing news, Nelson couldn’t shook off his suspicion.

Seeing Nelson’s reaction, inside Isaac’s mind, he made a wry smile as it couldn’t be helped if he didn’t believe it.

Even Isaac, after being showed various tools from Kazura, only believed that Kazura is Greysior after seeing a person disappeared in front of his eyes.

It was quite difficult for Nelson to accept this based only from what he heard, Isaac more or less already predicted this.

“Nelson-sama, the Greysior-sama who you will meet tomorrow is the real one. If you meet with him you will immediately understand.” (Isaac)

“.....It maybe so.” (Nelson)

Isaac said this in fully confident manner, that make Nelson, who wanted to pitch further questions, stop asking since he consented with Isaac’s opinion that he would know this by tomorrow

Whether the Greysior is the real one or not, even if he didn’t ask questions to Isaac who believed it so, it would be clearly answered when he meet with Greysior in person tomorrow.

What kind of knowledge or tools that they’ve never seen before? It would be great if he could confirm this to his heart’s content.

“Then I will go and inform Havel about the meeting time tomorrow.” (Isaac)

Isaac said this and bowed his head before leave the room in haste.

Nelson was looking at the door where Isaac left from and ruminating for a moment the conversation he just had, when the door opened again. This time, it was Zirconia who entered.

Zirconia held 2 copper cups in her hand.

It seemed that, she came to bring the drinks.

“Did something happened? Isaac was running out from the room.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia asked in confusion, so Nelson tried to explain to Zirconia about the conversation he had just now, when suddenly he was struck by an idea.

“Zil, if I’m not wrong, you were born in a mountainous area in the north, correct?” (Nelson)

“That’s right. Although I could say that there is no one that lives there anymore. What about it?” (Zirconia)

“There is something I want you to cooperate with me.” (Nelson)

Zirconia showed an expression that she didn't understand one bit what happened, when Nelson told her about the content of Isaac's report and then he began to tell her about an idea he just had.



The next morning, after Kazura's group had their breakfast in the Leveson's mansion, they entered a carriage together with Havel and headed towards the Feudal Lord's Residence.

The time was 7 in the morning.

The main street that ran along the high class residential area where Havel's mansion was located was still deserted and they practically didn't passed with another person.

The road around the city's central area was paved with stone and both sides were planted with trees at several places.

The road had been cleanly sweep that there was not a single trash laying on it. It was at odds with the jumbled scene in the city's outer area.

The carriage jolted for 10 minutes in the downtown.

The party finally arrived at a building that resembled a big castle

The building was surrounded by 5 meter high stone wall and soldiers equipped with short spear and leather armor could be seen guarding atop of it.

In addition, there was a large bronze reinforced wooden door established in it where two soldiers stood before it.

The carriage of Kazura's group approached the gate, a soldier then call it to stop and came approaching.

The approaching soldier, after confirming the Leveson's insignia sketched on the carriage and exchanged a few words with Havel, called to the other soldier who stood by in front of the gate to open it.

The carriage passed under the gate, and arrived at a stone paved plaza.

At the edge of that plaza several other carriages were already parked there, so Kazura thought of it as a parking space.

Kazura's group carriage also parked beside the other parked carriages.

"Good morning, Kazura-sama." (Isaac)

After Kazura got off from the carriage and was lending a hand for Valetta to get down, Isaac came running from behind.

"Thank you for coming in the early morning. Nelson-sama is ready to meet with you, please this way. Let me hold your luggage." (Isaac)

"Captain, is my presence also required?" (Havel)

Havel who got off from the opposite side of the carriage from Kazura, asked Isaac who was receiving the carry case from Kazura.

"Ah, certainly it is. Since here might be talk about Grisea Village at the time I wasn't there." (Isaac)

Isaac answered Havel and held the carry case with both of his hand, and then began to lead everyone away.

Havel also was holding the cloth covered travel bag from Kazura, and began following them from behind.

"(It is constructed completely resembling a fortress.....)" (Kazura)

While following those two, Kazura surveyed his surroundings.

This morning, after Havel mentioned that they would go to [Feudal Lord's Residence] for the meeting with Nelson, he was expecting that Feudal Lord's Residence to be a building that was more luxurious that served as Leveson's mansion, however, the actual building was completely different.

Rather than a place where someone lived, it was more constructed as a place where troops are stationed.

Maybe because this was the first time they entered a Feudal Lord's residence, Valetta and Valin looked at their surroundings with great interest.

However, after they walked for awhile and passed a large gate on a stone wall, that was similar to the ones they had passed when they entered the residence before, this time they arrived at a completely different open space where many plants grew in abundance.

The surrounding buildings were solid stone wall or square tower where military equipment could be seen, in addition here and there were many bulky massive doors. However, in front of them was a beautiful maintained garden.

Beyond the garden was a 4 story large stone building. It was different than the unrefined building like the fortress they passed just now. The construction style was closer to the Leveson's mansion.

It seems that the residence was divided into the outer buildings that served as military installations, while the centre part is the residential area.

Alter they passed the road in the courtyard, entered the building and were walking inside for awhile, Isaac stopped his feet before one of the doors, and knocked it.

"Nelson-sama, this is Isaac. I have brought the person that I had mentioned last night."  
(Isaac)

Isaac called towards the door, and soon the door was opened. A young silver haired woman appeared from the room.

The woman looked at Kazura's group that stood behind Isaac and showed a smile.

"Well, thank you for coming. Please, enter the room." (Zirconia)

The woman spoke these words and invited Kazura's group to enter the room before the person herself walked to the room's inner part.

Inside the room was a man in his prime who stood beside a large long table. When the man saw Kazura, he made a wide smile.

"Nelson-sama, this person is Kazura-sama. The two person beside him are Grisea Village's Chief Valin-san and his daughter Valetta-san." (Isaac)

Isaac entered the room and stood close to the wall, so he wouldn't be a hindrance, and then introduced Kazura's group to Nelson.

Havel also moved to Isaac's side, while being a bit nervous, he shifted his sight towards Kazura's group.

"Nice to meet you. My name is Kazura." (Kazura)

While being a bit nervous Kazura made a greeting and bowed his head towards the man who was called Nelson by Isaac.

After he bowed, he realized that wasn't it weird for him to bow his head when he established himself as a god? It was all because of the habit from the time he was still a company employee that he had a conditioned reflex to bow his head.

「ご足労いただき、ありがとうございます。領主のナルソン・イステールと申します」

ジルコニア・イステール

ナルソンの後妻、イステール領の軍事部門を担当

ナルソン・イステール

イステール領の領主

「お初にお目にかかります、カズラと申します」

志野一良

宝くじで億万長者となった青年、グリエア村の救世主

“Greysior-sama, thanks you very much for troubling yourself to come to my house. My name is Nelson Istelle, the feudal lord who governs this territory. I also hold the title of The First in Command of Isteria Region of Arcadia Army. It is nice to meet with you.”  
(Nelson)

Kazura raised his head, and this time Nelson did a deep bow from the waist to do self introduction.

“Eh!? Nelson-sama!?” (Isaac)

While Nelson did his self introduction, for some reason Isaac and Havel showed a surprised expression.

Maybe they were surprised to see a Feudal Lord bowed down his head.

“My name is Zirconia, Nelson’s wife. I also serve as The Second in Command of Isteria Region Arcadia Army. For Greysior-sama to come to Isteria to offer assistance is something that we are really grateful. If that is alright to you, please not only about tool making and agriculture, but also give us advice about military matters too.....”  
(Zirconia)

“E-even Zirconia-sama too, wh-what is happening!?”

Zirconia also did the same deed, bowing her head deeply while introducing herself, somehow this made Isaac and Havel be at their wits end.

Kazura noticed that both of them were even more shaken than when Nelson did the same.

“I could give advice about tools or agriculture, however military is something outside my jurisdiction..... so I believed it would be hard to meet your expectation.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this with troubled expression, and this made Nelson and Zirconia looked at each other with a bit of surprised expression.

Isaac and Havel who was at their wits end, could only let out their voice together when they heard Kazura say so.

“Ooh.....” (Isaac)(Havel)

“..... Then, I want to discuss about the matters that make me come here quickly, so.....” (Kazura)

“Ah, yes, then please have a seat.” (Nelson)

Kazura said so while his mind was confused by the 4 people’s reaction, and then he sat down on a chair located next to the table.

# CHAPTER 40

## TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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Kazura sat at the seat, and at the urging from Nelson, Valin took a seat beside Kazura while Valetta sat beside Valin.

Isaac and Havel stood near the wall while still holding Kazura's luggage.

Kazura, who sat facing Nelson, began to speak the words he practiced last night until he fell asleep in his bed.

"I believed that you already heard about my arrival from Isaac-san and that I want to offer support for your country. This is because I accepted the plea from Isaac-san and Havel-san, who came to Grisea Village, to save Arcadia from the grave situation resulted from the long drought." (Kazura)

"To be able to receive the assistance from Greysior-sama, the God of Benevolence and Harvest, then our country's recovery is guaranteed to happen. I wish to express our gratitude for your benevolent offer." (Nelson)

Kazura spoke in a matter-of-fact manner, while Nelson replied with a smile.

Although he gave off a very friendly impression, this was just a business smile.

"Nelson-sama....." (Isaac)

Suddenly, Isaac who stood behind Kazura, let out a comment in a tone as if criticizing Nelson for something.

However Nelson acted as if he didn't heard Isaac and gave no response.

Kazura didn't know what was happening, however, for now he pushed the conversation forward.

"..... Although I will give my support, nevertheless I practically don't know the situation of this country. Therefore, so that I could decide the specific form of the

support, I wish you could explain the current situation of this country. Also, I want you to refer me as Kazura.” (Kazura)

“I understand ..... However, before that Kazura-sama, there is something that I wanted to know.” (Nelson)

“Yes, what is it?” (Kazura)

“Last night, I heard this from Isaac that Kazura-sama has many tools the which of we never saw before. If you don’t mind, by all means, may I be able to see them in this place?” (Nelson)

Nelson put out his request while showing the same smile in his face, however his eyes gave off a feeling of an investigator.

However, Kazura already hypothesized what would Nelson do.

“I don’t mind. Isaac-san, Havel-san, please bring my belongings here.” (Kazura)

“Yes.” (Isaac)(Havel)

Just like what Kazura ordered, Isaac and Havel put the carry case and the travel bag at the floor near Kazura and then returned back to the wall.

Kazura stood from the chair and took the carry case, then he opened its zipper and began to rummage for the content.

Kazura began making rustling sound, so Zirconia who was waiting behind Nelson’s seat, folded her hand on her back while peeking towards Kazura’s direction with curiosity.

She didn’t really put a wary air, but from the fact that a long sword could be seen on her waist, if Kazura conducted a suspicious movement then she would immediately draw her sword and get into a battle stance.

While Zirconia threw a sidelong glance at him, Kazura chose ten-odd tools to be shown towards Nelson’s group, and then lined them up in the table.

“This is.....?” (Nelson)

Seeing the tools atop the table, Nelson couldn't help but to comment.

Beside him, Zirconia also was frozen in stare at the tools atop the table.

“Then, which one shall I explain first?” (Kazura)

Among the things in the top of the table, there were a portable LED lantern, minestrone canned food, a lighter and the clothing that Kazura wore from Japan.

The reason why he took out the clothes was because in the legend Greysior was [A man who wear unusual clothes], so it made them easy to imagine it if he took out his Japanese clothes.

By the way, the clothes that Kazura wore right now were an elegant robe that Havel had prepared in his mansion.

For the first demonstration, Kazura lifted the portable lantern and then push the power switch at the bottom of the lantern.

At the same time the switch was turned on, the internal LED began to shine, and made Isaac and Havel who was stood at the wall, “Whoa!”, leak their sounds of astonishment.

“This is, a lantern that the spirit of light put their power inside it. As you can see, different from normal lantern, this lantern hardly gives any heat, and even if you carry it upside down, it still continue to shine.” (Kazura)

“How bright..... Is this the spirit of light? Can this tool still be used in the rain?” (Zirconia)

“Zil, that's enough. You can speak normally.” (Nelson)

Zirconia who stared at the lantern with glittering eyes, asked Kazura for an explanation, but before Kazura could answered it, Nelson spoke those words to her.

“Ara, you're right..... Kazura-sama, I ask you for your forgiveness for my actions to test you. I hope you will pardon my rudeness.” (Zirconia)

After she was pointed out by Nelson, Zirconia bowed down her head and apologized while still showing a delighted expression.

However, Kazura didn't know the reason for that apology.

“Actions to test me?” (Kazura)

Kazura repeated the word and asked Zirconia who had raised her head, while smiling, she nodded yes.

“Because there was a doubt that Kazura-sama was an imposter who refer himself as Greysior-sama, we had been talking in several languages from the regions that had faith in Greysior-sama, however it was completely a needles fear. Just now, even when Nelson had been talking in the language of southern island country while I was talking in a extremely peculiar dialect of my hometown, Kazura-sama's expression didn't change a bit.” (Zirconia)

“(What... the heck...)” (Kazura)

Maybe because she believed that Kazura is Greysior, Zirconia told him the truth while smiling delightfully.

However, contrary to Zirconia, Kazura was in such a state of confusion that a surprised expression emerged in his face.

Zirconia said that they had been talking in several languages with Kazura.

However, Kazura completely didn't recognize that he had been talked to with such languages.

Even when the time Nelson and Zirconia were talking just now, in Kazura's ear he heard it completely as Japanese language.

Whether speaking in another country's language or peculiar dialect, he didn't hear it at all.

Kazura was thinking that maybe he was just being joked at and so he turned towards Valin who sat beside him.

However, Valin was only looked at Kazura with tremendous satisfaction and nodded.

Beside Valin, Valetta looked at Kazura with bewilderment expression.

“(What on Earth is happening, is that what she wanted to say?)” (Kazura)

Judging from the expression of the two people sat beside him, it seemed that what Zirconia said wasn't a lie.

However, all the languages were practically is Japanese in Kazura's ear.

“.....Anyway, since there were no precedents for this situation, the story of Greysior-sama appearing is something that's not believable. Nonetheless, it was still a very impolite conducts towards Kazura-sama. We are truly ask for your forgiveness.” (Nelson)

While Kazura and Valetta stared at each other, as a follow up to Zirconia, Nelson stated his apology.

The two were bowing their heads deeply.

“Ah, no, I don't mind” (Kazura)

Kazura answered while his head still high in chaos, and then he moved his sight from Valetta towards Nelson.

Although there was an unthinkable phenomenon occurring, as the result, he had obtained Nelson's group's trust without difficulty.

He wanted to investigate in detail what happened, however there was another thing that was the current priority.

After seeing that both of them raised their head, he returned to tools explanation.

“About the previous question, you can use this lantern in the middle of the rain. However, if it sink underwater, or there are a lot of water entering the lantern then the light spirit power will be rapidly weakened and couldn't be used.” (Kazura)

“I see..... However, this is bright but it didn't emit any heat nor smoke, really a wonderful tool. Furthermore, it can turn bright in an instant without using any fire.....” (Zirconia)

After Kazura resumed his explanation, Zirconia put both of her hands in the table and stared fixedly at the lantern.

Although her delightful expression was good, it was as if she wanted to nibble at it.

Compared to her, maybe because Nelson was thinking about something, he showed a troubled expression while listening at Kazura's explanation.

"Umu..... I never seen an illumination tool like this before until now. May I touch it?"  
(Nelson)

"Yes, please. By pressing this button it is possible to adjust the brightness." (Kazura)

Receiving Kazura's permission, Nelson took the lantern, after he pressed the switch numerous times and the light had been turned off, he examined the lantern from the side or upside down.

"Kazura-sama, what is this transparent thing that covered the light emitting section?"  
(Nelson)

After a while, Nelson placed the lantern on its side and pointed at the transparent plastic that covered the LED as he asked Kazura for an explanation.

"This is called, plastic..... Umm, how should I said it. To put it simpler, it's a transparent board. Not only it relatively strong, it is also transparent, so it is used as protection section for illumination tools like this." (Kazura)

Although he couldn't think this as an amazingly proper explanation, they wouldn't understand if he explained it as a substance derived from the processing of petroleum. Also Kazura couldn't answer if they asked for the detailed process.

Furthermore the word petroleum itself wasn't something that was in use in this world, so it was meaningless to give the explanation like he used when he explained to Isaac at Grisea Village.

"Strong and transparent..... If we could make sword or helmet from this plastic, then it would become splendid weapon and armor. It would be hard for the enemy to defend against a transparent blade, and a transparent helmet would make battle easier since it didn't obscure field of vision." (Zirconia)

"Ah, no, it doesn't that strong to such extent..... Hm? That reminds me, Riot Shield is..... Ah, no, it's nothing." (Kazura)

Zirconia responded to the word “strong”, so Kazura denied that view while making a wry smile.

While he was denying this, he was reminded of the existence of transparent shield, that is riot shield that is used in his home world and unconsciously spoke the name out, however after he saw that Zirconia eyes were shining with curiosity, he immediately steered the topic away.

Kazura shifted his sight from Zirconia who had an expression as if she still had a lot of things to ask, and then he picked up the canned minestrone in front of him.

“Then, the next tool, is this Food can.” (Kazura)

Hearing the word “food can”, Isaac who was looking at the lantern in Nelson’s hand until now, switched his attention to the canned food in Kazura’s hand.

Maybe he was reminded by the conversation they had back in Grisea Village.

While receiving the end of Isaac’s gaze, Kazura pulled the can’s pull tab with his finger to pull open the can, and then the bright red vegetable soup that was contained inside could be seen.

The soup contained beans, carrots and a lot of other vegetables, so it could be said that one could eat heartily and fillingly.

“This tool called food can make it possible to store food for a long time period. It depend on the content but in general the food could be stored for several years without becoming spoiled.” (Kazura)

Kazura tilted the can a bit, and so that Nelson and Zirconia could see the minestrone inside the can. Both of their expressions were visibly changed.

Nelson who was fiddling with the lantern until now, stopped his hand, and stared fixedly at the canned food that Kazura held.

Zirconia was also the same, the delighted expression in her face when she examined the lantern until now had gone, and just like Nelson she shifted her attention towards the canned food in Kazura’s hand.

“..... Umm, do you want to eat this? Minestrone is a vegetable soup however it is quite delicious.” (Kazura)

While feeling uncomfortable receiving the gaze from both of them, Kazura took out plastic spoon from the travel bag and presented the canned food to Nelson.

“Ah, no..... That’s right.....” (Nelson)

Nelson alternated his view from can to Kazura and back to the can again, although his reply was weak, he received the canned food.

“Nelson, let me try it first.....” (Zirconia)

“.....Ah, you didn’t need to work yourself to eat it. After all it is a food that had been in the can for a long time, in that case everyone would obviously felt uneasy for it.” (Kazura)

It was obvious that Nelson hesitated to eat the canned food.

Zirconia who was unable to just watch Nelson like this, proposed to let she be the one who eat it first. Kazura who understood the mental state of these two people, threw a lifeboat.

Maybe Nelson thought that the canned food might contain a poison.

Although that in the surface he had recognize that Kazura is Greysior, it still a food that was handed out by someone that he had just acquainted several minutes ago, so he of course would be careful in eating it since it could be dangerous.

“Y-Yes, that’s right..... Isaac, how about you? Do you want to try to eat it?” (Nelson)

<sup>Itadakimasu</sup>  
“I will eat it.” (Isaac)

Nelson straightforwardly selected Isaac as human sacrifice, however the person himself actually replied delightedly and then gallantly walked near Nelson and receive the canned food.

Isaac picked up the canned food and after bowing lightly towards Kazura, he put the spoon in use and eat the minestrone.

“.....How is it?” (Nelson)

While looking at Isaac chewing the minestrone, Nelson asked the question.

Isaac swallowed the minestrone inside his mouth, the flavor produced a wide satisfied smile in his face.

“It was a taste that I never ate before until now, it is really delicious. To be able to store a food like this for many years without spoiling, that is.....” (Isaac)

“.....Let’s bring out the plates.” (Zirconia)

“Zirconia-sama, let me the one who bring out the plates.” (Havel)

Hearing Isaac’s impressions, maybe because she wanted to eat it herself, Zirconia tried to leave the room to bring the plates.

Havel that had been observing everyone from the wall side until now, then proposed this to Zirconia and exited the room.

“If we could made this canned in large number, then whatever famine that could breakout then no citizen would die from hunger. Furthermore..... Kazura-sama I humbly ask you, please teach us how to produce this tool called food can.” (Nelson)

“How to produce it, right?.....” (Kazura)

Nelson was going to say something in the beginning, but then he changed his mind and requested the method to produce canned food.

Because of this, Kazura do a little bit of thinking.

“Whether it possible or not to teach it, I believe I could judge after this. Although I sympathize to your situation, however it doesn’t mean that I could give you anything or any knowledge. The tools that I show to you today, is for to convince you that I am Greysior, but it doesn’t means that I will offer the goods limitlessly.” (Kazura)

“Is...Is that so.....” (Nelson)

Kazura spoke in a dignified manner, so Nelson and especially Zirconia, had this disappointed expression on their face.

However, Kazura couldn't inconsiderately accept any requests from Nelson's side.

Different from the technology already introduced in Grisea Village such as waterwheel or farming techniques, in the case for new technology that he had never brought to this world before, Kazura couldn't just thoughtlessly agreed to it.

Kazura needed to take the new technology's future impact or how to introduce it into consideration, so he must make a careful decision.

"Then, until Havel-san comes back with the plates, let me explain the rest of the tools."  
(Kazura)

Kazura said so and then took a lighter from the table.



"(Is he really Greysior..... No, in this case, if he really a god, it doesn't matter anymore...)" (Nelson)

This was what Nelson thought when he saw Kazura explaining the tools that could make a fire instantly appear in front of his eyes.

The tools that this man, Kazura, possessed were truly incredible things that he had never seen before.

Especially, the tool called "food can" that he had seen just now.

If he could obtain a large amount of it, then not only he could stop worrying about the food in famine situation like this, but it also would be extremely useful as military provision.

To be able to store a precooked food like this for a long period of time is a wonderful thing and if they could have the container that could be sealed that firm, then there wouldn't be a problem if it shakes while marching.

"(There's also various things that he possess, but if we could made him supply the knowledge or tools as much as possible. Then, how should we do it.....)"

How to make the most benefit out from Kazura's support?

While Kazura continue his explanation, Nelson began to think how to interact with him from now on.

# CHAPTER 41

## UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

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“I believe this much explanations about the tools will suffice for you?” (Kazura)

After finishing the explanation of all the tools on top of the table, Kazura turned his attention towards Nelson and Zirconia, who were sampling the minestrone on their plate.

Havel, who had just come back into the room, was also participating in sampling the food alongside with Isaac and took a bite at the minestrone in his plate.

“Yes, they are all magnificent tools. Thank you for your explanation.” (Nelson)

Nelson put down the spoon that he held onto his plate, giving his thanks while smiling.

“Then, I wish to receive an explanation about the situation in the territory.” (Kazura)

“I understand. Zil, the documents.” (Nelson)

“I will bring all of it, Isaac, please help me carry it.” (Zirconia)

“Yes, Ma’am.” (Isaac)

Being asked by Nelson, Zirconia and Isaac quickly left the room.

After they both left, Nelson glanced towards Valin and Valetta, who sat beside Kazura.

“The documents that I am about to show to Kazura-sama have some absolute secrets about my territory written in them. I am sorry, however for these two to see it is.....” (Nelson)

“Hm, is that so?” (Kazura)

Hearing Nelson’s words, Kazura consented and turned towards Valin and Valetta who sat beside him.

For the time being except for Kazura, who Nelson trusted as Greysior, the documents couldn't be shown to Valetta and Valin, who were only accompanying Kazura so they could explain the condition in Grisea Village.

"Nelson-sama, if you permit it, while you're giving Kazura-sama the explanation, may I question Valin-san and Valetta-san in another room about the events that transpired in Grisea Village until now?" (Havel)

"Hmm, you're right. Kazura-sama, may we?" (Nelson)

"I don't mind. Havel-san, I believe you understand that....." (Kazura)

"Don't ask them too many questions like an interrogation." Was something that Kazura about to say, however Havel responded with a smile.

"Yes, I will absolutely abide to the promise to Kazura-sama." (Havel)

".....Promise?" (Nelson)

Since Nelson didn't know about the verbal promise that was exchanged to Kazura in Grisea Village, with a puzzled expression he asked Havel.

"Yes, after Havel-san's group asked me to aid Arcadia, I made them promise a few things to me." (Kazura)

Hearing the word "promise", Nelson, for just a moment, sent Havel a stabbing glare.

Receiving Nelson's glare, Havel reflexively straightened his posture, but he still showed a relatively relaxed expression.

"What kind of promise is it?" (Nelson)

"Whatever I'll do in Grisea Village, your side will not interfere without exception. This is the first point. The second point is that your side will not treat the village or the villagers in an unjustified manner. To be specific, towards the inhabitants of Grisea Village that have a close relationship with me, they won't be exploited to extract the knowledge I bestowed to them. I don't mind laws that have been in effect until now, such as the taxation obligation, however your side will not amend the law to do the aforementioned actions. If these two promise are broken by your side, then I will withdraw my aid from Arcadia." (Kazura)

Nelson had been thinking about what kind of promises had occurred, and so when he heard the content of the promise from Kazura, he let out a sigh of relief.

If those were the only contents of the promise then there would be no problem, as since the very beginning he had intended to be careful in dealings with Grisea Village.

Furthermore, if they would still abide by the previous law, he would be thankful, as he would still be permitted to nominally rule the village.

Even if it was only a small village with a population of approximately 100 people, if the tax revenue from the village suddenly stopped, with Isteria's current tight financial situation, it would be quite a blow.

Of course, he believed that Kazura's support would have positive economic effect, however he wanted to avoid a situation where he lost control over the village and their tax revenue.

"I understand. I will also abide to that promise, so I humbly ask you for your support..... Havel lead them to another room." (Nelson)

"Yes, Sir. Valin-san, Valetta-san, please this way." (Havel)

Guided by Havel, Valin and Valetta left their seats and followed Havel towards the room's entrance.

As they were exiting the room, Valetta sent a worried look towards Kazura, but when Havel asked her, she immediately left the room.



A few minutes later, after Havel and Valin's group left the room, Kazura began to scan the large amount of documents that were piled in front of him with a rigid expression.

Zirconia sat beside Kazura, while Nelson sat in front, explaining the situation of his territory towards Kazura.

Besides the documents that were piled up in front of him, there was a huge mound of documents beside the table. Next to it was Isaac who hand over the documents that Nelson needed during his explanation.

“The damage to southern and eastern Isteria aren’t that great, however the damage at the western and northern region are devastating. The ceaseless drought has caused the majority of the crops that should have entered harvest period to wither, and the ground has become so dry that it can’t be used to plant the next seasons crops. The price of the food in the region had a steep increase, causing economic hardship for citizens of Isteria.” (Nelson)

“(This is bad, I can read this worm-eaten letter to some extent but I can’t read the technical terms.....)” (Kazura)

While receiving the explanations from Nelson and Zirconia, Kazura read the sentence written in the documents and was secretly worried.

He had been taught this world’s letters from Valetta, however it had only been 3 weeks since he began learning the alphabets.

He could read simple words, however the documents that he was reading right now had sentences filled with technical terms.

From the bottom of his heart, he envied Valetta's astounding learning abilities. She had only began to learn Japanese for a mere 10 days but she could smoothly read Japanese sentences.

“Because of the drought, the amount of the aid from Gregorn Territory has also rapidly decreased.....” (Nelson)

While Kazura was troubled, the explanation proceeded fast.

Even if he put on airs, he couldn’t understand the sentences, so maybe he should confess right now that he couldn’t read the letters.

“Nelson-san, may I have a word with you.” (Kazura)

“Yes, what is it?” (Nelson)

“I am sorry to say it so late, but I can’t read this country’s letters. Because of this, may I ask you to read to me the main points from these documents.” (Kazura)

Hearing Kazura’s words, Nelson and the others in the room had the same surprised expression.

However, Zirconia immediately smiled and replied, “Understood”, and then received the documents from Kazura, began to read the point together with Nelson’s explanation.



Then 2 hours passed.

Just like what he had shown before, Kazura had a rigid expression as he casted his eyes at the large notebook in front of him.

He had written the main content of Nelson’s explanation using a ballpoint in the notebook; however the contents were only the rough points.

It wasn’t something that would cause destruction of the territory in several days, but if the weather and public order didn’t change, maybe between half a year or a year from now, there was a possibility for all of Isteria to be struck by an unimaginable famine.

“First things to do is to improve the food situation in the territory. Afterwards is to come up with a countermeasure for the flood that might occur in next year's rainy season. In addition, we have to address the matter of hygiene problems in the urban area, the destruction of buildings in rural area because of worsening public orders, and the chronic funds deficit..... These problems make a quite a pile.” (Kazura)

“Although this is embarrassing, however we don’t have enough help as it is. We have already reached the limit of our food reserve, if this drought continues then there is a possibility that this territory will turn into a starving hell. Even during the last several hundred years there hasn’t been any drought that has lasted this long.....” (Nelson)

Nelson answered with an indescribable downhearted expression.

Based on the explanation that Kazura had received not long ago, the food production had decreased and so the food price had jumped suddenly, causing even Isteria citizens to undergo food ration distribution.

However, if the current situation continued then it would be a foregone conclusion that the rationing wouldn’t last long.

When the food rations stopped, perhaps there would be rampant food riot and looting from the wealthy that has been stockpiling food even until now.

Just like what Nelson said, it would become a starving hell.

“The extreme one-sidedness of the estimate budget towards military spending concerns me, but... Since the situation is like this, let’s not interfere with it.” (Kazura)

When Kazura spoke about “military spending”, Zirconia’s expression stiffened for a moment, but when he said to not interfere with it, she showed a relieved expression.

Since there was a possibility that the war with Balveil 4 years ago could resume, which Kazura had heard from Valetta, perhaps this large military spending was to prepare for this.

Although he was curious on what the budget spending was for, it would be pointless to get involved in everything, so he decided to not interfere in it for now.

“Then, about improving the food situation, I will do something for this, however, since I can’t help too much, I also hope for cooperation from your side.” (Kazura)

“.....Ooh! Thank you very much! If it is something that is within our capability then we will do anything to help, by all means, we will gladly offer our cooperation!” (Nelson)

“I’ll do something” after Kazura said these words, Nelson and Zirconia had this expression as if to say, “Eh!? For real!?” , but Nelson with a smile pasted all over all his face, stood from his chair, and took Kazura’s hand to show his gratitude.

In contrast, Isaac didn’t show any particular reactions at Kazura’s statement, he just stood, smiling in full satisfaction beside Nelson.

“Next, about the countermeasure against for the flood and hygiene issues, please tell me more about it in detail.” (Kazura)

“Do you also want to help in that matter?” (Nelson)

“Since I have a good grasp of the situation, I might be able to help to prepare some kind of countermeasure for it.” (Kazura)

About the problem of the flood and environment hygiene, Kazura had heard a rough explanation about it from Havel when they were en route to Isteria.

From the impression he had at that time, he believed that he could give assistance for it based on the degree of the damage and how to deal with it.

However, this all depended on whether Kazura could cope with the content of the support or not.

“Then, this might be too quick but I wished for everyone to prepare something. The time limit is..... Let’s see, please prepare this within 3 days.” (Kazura)

“I understood. Then what kind of things do we need to prepare?” (Nelson)

“About that, a thick cloth bag about this size.....” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke while drew the size with his finger atop the table.

The size that he drew was about the size of a 45 liter rice sack that was usually used in a Japanese household.

“So, it’s about this size. Isaac, prepare it quickly.” (Nelson)

“Yes, Sir!” (Isaac)

Having understand the size of the of the bag, Nelson ordered Isaac.

“Ah, please wait.” (Kazura)

Kazura suddenly stopped Isaac, who was going to exit the room after receiving the order.

“It’s about the number, it will be 2.....” (Kazura)

Kazura seems to want to speak something but then he stopped to think. Isaac was going to ask, “Is it 2 bags?”, but the reply from Kazura made him dumbfounded.

“No, it will be troublesome later if the number is not enough. Please prepare 3000 bags. Please prepare this quickly.” (Kazura)

“.....Eh?” (Isaac)

“Ah that’s right, so that the cloth bags can be closed, please make it have a cord like a sack bag. Furthermore, I wish for carriages from Nelson-san.” (Kazura)

“.....Ho-How many do you need?” (Nelson)

Leaving Isaac struck flabbergastingly in front of the door, Kazura turned the conversations towards Nelson.

“Please prepare enough carriages needed to transport the 3000 fully packed bags simultaneously from Grisea Village to Isteria. Even if it is not a carriage but a cart or wagon, it won’t be a problem. Also please prepare sufficient number of soldiers to prevent the cloth bags from being stolen. Don’t forget to prepare the carriage drivers and the cart pullers. Since it will take several days to transport the bags to Isteria, then it would take large amount of supply and manpower, umm..... For now just prepare for about 300 people. If possible, people who can stand doing farm work for a long period of time.” (Kazura)

“Gu.....I-I understood.....” (Nelson)

“Zirconia-san.” (Kazura)

Next, Kazura turned towards Zirconia who sitting beside him. Her shoulders shook as she was mentioned.

“A-Ano, I need to brief the officers after this so.....” (Zirconia)

Zirconia said this while averting her eyes and trying to leave her seat, however Kazura immediately put his right hand on her left shoulder, putting power into his grasp.

“Now, now,..... please sit.....” (Kazura)

Zirconia could only feebly nod towards Kazura who was smiling, but his eyes showed that he wasn’t laughing at all.



It was one hour since Kazura had allocated a large amount of work towards Nelson’s group.

Kazura was in the Nelson's residence plaza together with Valin, Valetta and Havel who were in the separate rooms until now.

In the plaza there was a closed carriage waiting for them, but it wasn't the same carriage that had taken Kazura's group this morning. There were 4 muscular men standing before the carriage.

The men were wearing breast plates made from linked bronze plates and bronze helmets with hinged bevor[ii].

They carried round shields behind their back and were heavily armed with either a short spear or bow in their hand and a short sword in their waist.

The men couldn't be said to be either young nor old, but they gave off an air of soldiers with long military service.

"I will stay here for another 3 days, so give my greetings to everyone in the village. Even if I am late to arrive at the village, I will absolutely return so please do not worry."  
(Kazura)

"B-But....." (Valetta)

Hearing Kazura's words, Valetta want to say something but she hesitated and just look at Kazura for a moment. She then hung her head down and showed a demure expression.

Perhaps she was worried for Kazura, but her expressions made Kazura troubled.

"(It would really helpful to me in various things if Valetta-san can be together with me, but..... Thats not going to happen, right?)" (Kazura)

If Kazura could say his true feelings, then he wished for Valetta to remain with him in Isteria.

Although it may only be for a few days, staying in an unknown land alone is lonely, and he believed that it would be helpful if he had Valetta, who could learn many things extremely quickly. Furthermore he felt more relaxed with her.

If Kazura had requested "Please stay with me" , Valetta would surely say yes without any hesitation.

However, Kazura could not do this.

If Kazura began to depend on Valetta even once, then Kazura would come to always relying on this girl, and every time Kazura has to stay at Isteria, then she would have to leave Grisea Village and follow him.

That was not a good thing.

If he exploited this girl's goodwill, then it would end up separating her from her treasured things.

“(Even when she wanted to learn many things, she refused Valin-san's recommendation to go to Isteria and chose to remain in the village. If for my own convenience I tear her from her father then I am not a God, but a Devil.)” (Kazura)

Kazura believed that Valetta more than anything else wished to stay at her father side.

Furthermore, as much as possible he didn't want to trouble Valin and Valetta or the people of Grisea Village too much.

Inside Kazura's mind, the position of people of Grisea Village had already changed from people in great crisis that he needed to help, to important people that he needed to protect at any cost.

While Kazura was thinking in front of her, Valetta suddenly raised her face and spoke with an expression on the brink of crying.

“..... Please return quickly, will you?” (Valetta)

She muttered this with a small voice and then casted her head down again.

Looking at Valetta make this expression, Kazura smiled wryly, and gently patted her head.

# CHAPTER 42

## LOOKING FORWARD

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After parting with Valetta and Valin who would soon return to Grisea Village, Kazura was led by Havel to perform an inspection of the river that flowed through the middle of Isteria .

Currently, Kazura and Havel stood at an elevated place, where it was possible to survey Isteria's cityscape and the river that flowed through the middle of it.

Actually, he wanted Nelson or Zirconia to guide him, however, the people in question were working to their limit to procure the goods and personnel that Kazura had requested before, so they were in a condition where they simply couldn't accompany Kazura in an inspection.

Isaac was also in the same situation. Maybe because he was running from place to place to procure the 3000 cloth bags with the dimensions that Kazura had ordered, Kazura hadn't seen Isaac for some time now.

Because of that, the one with empty hands was selected, that is Havel, to accompany Kazura in the river inspection.

"It is quite a big river. So which area is affected when the flood occurs?" (Kazura)

"Umm, the water generally began to overflow mostly at this riverside, according to the map. It seems that the buildings are inundated each time the flood has occurred. In addition, there are several places where it is likely to flood, but they are mainly located in the sections where the tributary meets the main river." (Havel)

Havel scanned the map of Isteria in his hand and then pointed at the river in the distance.

The map was filled with writing at several places, that mentioned where and when the flood had occurred in the past and the extent of the damage.

Kazura looked at the direction pointed by Havel, where soil had piled up at the riverside to serve as the levee.

This levee might be used to defend against the flood, however, if large rain occurred and it becomes flooded then that meant that there was some kind of problem with the levee structure or the location.

“Even after piling this much soil the flood still happened..... Havel-san, after this could you check the documents related to construction of this levees?” (Kazura)

“Understood. Since I can’t browse the documents with my authority, I will convey this to Nelson-sama afterward.” (Havel)

“Yes, please. Also, could you turn around for a moment?” (Kazura)

“Eh? Ah, yes, I understand.” (Havel)

Because of the sudden request to turn around, Havel was a bit perplexed, but he obediently turned around.

When Kazura confirmed that Havel had turned around he took out the digital camera from his breast pocket and took several photographs of the center of the river.

“Alright, you may turn back now. I want to have a closer look at the levee’s structure, so let us head to the river. Also are there any other rivers that pass through Isteria?” (Kazura)

“There are two large rivers that flow at the west and the east from the city, they’ve also flooded several times. Do you also want to see them all?” (Havel)

“Let’s see..... Since my inspection days are limited, I prefer to look around at the area where floods have occurred in the past. If there still time to spare then I will also inspect the rest.” (Kazura)

Actually, Kazura wanted to inspect all the river levees since it was important in his planned flood countermeasure. For certain measures he wanted to take pictures of them, however, he had to depart to Grisea Village in 3 days.

For this reason, he needed to put first priority on surveying the place where floods had occurred before, and must postpone checking the other places until later.

“I understand. Since we need to travel quite a distance, let’s use a rata. I will quickly prepare it, please wait here for a moment.” (Havel)

“Ah, but I can’t ride the rata by myself.....” (Kazura)

“Please forgive me. Then I will quickly prepare a carriage.” (Havel)

Although Havel was rather surprised when he heard Kazura couldn’t ride a rata, he bowed to Kazura with a fresh smile and began to run.



“Huh?” (Maid)

At one corner in the high-class commercial district in Isteria, there was a maid who could be seen walking there.

She was Eira, the personal maid of Lieze, the only daughter of Istelle House.

Eira was currently captivated by a carriage that was stopping several meters in front of her.

The thing that Eira’s eyes were focused on was not the carriage itself but a young man who sat behind the coachman.

That young man alighted from the carriage and peered into the water channel that was crossing the commercial district. From the same carriage, another man got down.

“(That man, where have I.....)” (Eira)

“Eira-sama, is something wrong?” (Man)

While Eira was looking at the man who was peering at the water channel, one of the two young men behind her asked.

Those two men were Istelle House’s slaves, they mostly served as luggage carriers for the people who worked in Istelle House.

The men were carrying boxes in their hand. The content was foodstuffs such as meat or vegetables.

“.....Ah!” (Eira)

Eira didn't answer the men's question, instead, after thinking for a moment and seems to remember who that man in the carriage was, suddenly yelled.

“(It's the person that I crashed into some time ago..... I think the person next to him is the vice commander of First Cadet Training Unit, Havel-sama.)” (Eira)

When her thoughts reached this point, Eira became confused.

When she first met with the man, he was wearing a plain shirt and trousers, like the ones wore by the countryside peasants.

However, right now, that man was wearing a fine robe that was usually worn by nobles and was talking with a noble like Havel.

Even more surprising, from the appearance of their conversation, she could see that it was Havel who was following that man around.

If Eira was just a normal commoner then she might think that she had just mistaken that man for someone else and overlooked it, unfortunately, it was impossible for her to mistake someone's identity.

Because, since in her every day job attending Lieze, each time Lieze met with a person, Eira would whisper the name of the person and their social status to her. The so-called [Name Notifier Attendant]. She was a person who held a special skill to be employed as such.

To put it simply, she was a professional in memorizing someone's name and face.

“(That's strange. If he is a noble, then why he traveled while wearing such clothes back then? Was he traveling incognito?.....)” (Eira)

While Eira was thinking about this, the man who talking while looking at the water channel, got on the carriage together with Havel and they began to go to other places.

Truthfully, she wanted to directly ask the man, however, if he really was a noble then she mustn't do this.

Although Eira was the personal maid of Lieze, the Lord's daughter, and was in quite a high ranked position, she didn't come from a background of nobility and was only a commoner.

Although she could begin addressing the noble to hear his name or status, she wasn't in a position that would let her do this.

“Eira-sama?” (Slave)

I needed to report this to Lize after this, was what she thinking, when the men behind her once again called out to her.

“Nothing is wrong. Let's return to the residence.” (Eira)

Eira answered the man and then began to walk towards the residence.



At the time Kazura was observed by Eira, Valin and Valetta were inside the carriage heading to Grisea Village.

A soft carpet made from some kind of animal pelt was laid in the middle of the carriage. Even when the carriage jolted because of the bumps on the highway, the level of comfort was not that bad.

There were four soldiers, each riding a rata, guarding the carriage surroundings, two in the front and two from the back. But the only people inside the carriage were Valetta and Valin.

Inside the carriage, Valin was at a loss on how what to say to his daughter who was sitting with her back on the carriage wall, her hand holding her knee and her head tucked down between them.

It had been 3 hours since they departed from Isteria, but Valetta had been in this state since then.

He had tried to talk to her because he was worried however, her answer was basically only a “Yes” or “Sorry” .

“(I give up..... In this situation, what would Sheeta do, I wonder.)” (Valin)

Since he had never seen Valetta so downhearted, Valin sighed while recalling his late wife.

Even four years ago, when Valin returned from being dispatched as a soldier in the war and told Valetta who was waiting in Grisea village that her mother killed in action, Valetta hadn't become this depressed.

Perhaps, at that time while seeing the appearance of her father apologizing and hugging her while shedding tears, Valetta had consciously decided to support her father rather than show her grieving appearance for losing her mother.

In fact, after that Valetta always interacted with Valin with a smile that she always kept, whether it be farm work or house chores.

No one could see that she was sad from losing her mother even for a bit. Valin didn't know how long it took, but he was saved by Valetta's cheerful behavior.

But that Valetta had currently become this depressed.

It was pathetic, however, Valin didn't have any idea on how to deal with Valetta.

"Valin-dono" (Soldier)

While Valin was worrying alone, one of the bodyguard escorts that was guarding the carriage from behind, rode his rata closer to the carriage and called out to Valin.

"May I sit beside you?" (Soldier)

"Ah, yes, you're welcome." (Valin)

When the man heard Valin's answer, he nimbly dismounted from rata and tied the reins to the carriage's tail. While the carriage still moving, he agilely jumped upon it and sat down.

"I also have a daughter, this year she will turn 16..... Do you want to drink?" (Soldier)

The man pulled out a leather canteen from his breast pocket, after uncorking it and taking a single gulp, he offered it to Valin.

"Thank you very much. Do you live together with your daughter?" (Valin)

Answering the man, Valin took a seat at the carriage rear beside the man and tasted the liquid inside the leather canteen.

The liquid had a tint of sourness and his nose picked up a faint scent of citrus fruits.

It reminded Valin of the same scent of herb tea that Kazura had made before.

“She didn’t obey me respectfully. She dislikes formal speaking. I dare say I was helpless in dealing with her, she was just like a brat until recently.” (Soldier)

The man spoke as if he was telling a joke whilst laughing lightly, Valin also laughed together with him.

It seems that this man had become worried for Valin who began to be depressed after seeing Valetta become so downhearted and so he was accompanying him for a talk.

“My daughter married half a year ago. Now she is living at her husband’s house. Sometimes she would come to my house and deliver the herbs she collected, but since I can only see her once in 10 days, it’s kinda lonely.” (Soldier)

When the man told Valin about this, he turned his head around to take a glance at Valetta who was sitting inside the carriage.

“I can see that she has been feeling downhearted since the beginning of our ride, did something happen?” (Soldier)

“No, I don’t really understand..... Until we left Isteria, there nothing happened.” (Valin)

“.....Isn’t the cause was because she was separated from the man who was staying at the Lord’s residence?” (Soldier)

“No, Kazura-sama didn’t have any fault. But..... Umm.....” (Valin)

When the man pointed out the problem in a low voice, Valin remembered the time when she was separated from Kazura and made a groan.

Kazura and Valetta were extremely close.

It was to the extent, that they were looking like a pair of lovers, they were always together in the village and doing everything together.

That’s why, when it was decided that Kazura would part from them for several days and Valetta had become terribly sad, it’s not like Valin didn’t understand her.

However, no matter how he looked at it, her depression was too much.

The usual Valetta would, even when something painful or sorrowful happened, would quickly cheer up and behave cheerfully.

Furthermore, even though they were separated from Kazura this time since the person himself said that he would only stay in Isteria for 3 days, then they would meet again in 5 days.

Although Nelson's side had believed that Kazura is Greysior-sama, as expected maybe she was worried about Kazura, however, Valin felt that it was different in many ways.

"Well, if it is really a love affair, then no matter how much a father worried and interfered, the result wouldn't be satisfactory. Maybe you should leave her alone for a while, and leave these things to the other females." (Soldier)

"Yeah....." (Valin)

When the man mentioned female, Valin remembered the village girls that were close to Valetta.

If Valetta is still downhearted even when they arrived at the village then he would consult with the girls about what to do.

"This must be rude, but is your wife in the village?" (Soldier)

".....No, she passed 4 years ago." (Valin)

When the man heard Valin's reply, he sighed, and then shifted his sight at the road they were passing right now.

".....Is it during the last war?" (Soldier)

"Yes, on a hill near the border..... I think it is called Hero's Hill now. At the last battle in that place." (Valin)

"..... I too lost my big and lil bro at that battle." (Soldier)

"....." (Valin)

“.....” (Soldier)

These two fathers with daughter, without saying anything, were just looking at the scenery that elapsed along the way.



Several kilometers behind Valin and Valetta’s carriage that was headed towards Grisea Village, there was a carriage covered with a dirtied canopy traveling on the road.

Inside the carriage were about 10 men, lying down and just lazily talking to each other.

Besides the man who was controlling the carriage, was a skinhead with an ugly countenance who looked forward with a glare.

“Boss!” (Man)

Sometime later, from the road ahead a man riding a rata arrived.

“How is it?” (Skinhead)

“They were guarding without any slack for anything to approach. Since I don’t know how many people are in the carriage, it would be impossible to hit them during the day.” (Man)

The man called boss, clicked his tongue at the man’s report. It was not something he wished to hear.

“I know that. Did you hear where those guys were headed to?” (Skinhead)

“Perhaps, maybe a village located one day by carriage from here. I don’t really know it well but I don’t think it’s a big village.” (Man)

The rata riding man answered in hurry to the question filled with irritation. The man who was called boss then crossed his arms to think after hearing those words.

# CHAPTER 43

## PREY

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“(Since their destination is a small village, then their cargo is food? In that case there wouldn’t be any people inside the carriage..... No, maybe there would be several people who came to Isteria from the village to appeal for food riding inside of it?)”  
(Boss)

While the carriage was rattling as it moved forward, the man called Boss was thinking.

Currently, it was in the middle of famine and there was a guarded carriage heading to a poor village. So it seemed that there was no mistake that the carriage carried food aid.

Furthermore, there is no doubt that there were several villagers who came to Isteria to appeal for food riding inside the carriage.

“The number of the guard is still 4 cavalry soldiers?” (Boss)

“Yeah, it’s the same like when we saw them leave for Isteria. There are 4 heavily armed cavalry soldier acting as the guard.” (Lackey)

Ever since the time the carriage that Valetta and Valin was riding had left Isteria, these men had followed them.

Their aim was of course, to plunder the cargo.

Up until now, they had shadowed travelers or merchants who left Isteria and then attacked if there was any gap to exploit. They have repeated this highway robbery numerous times.

If it was the usual, they wouldn’t start a fight with a group with guard, however this time it was a bit different.

“Hey, do we really attack them? If we face those veteran looking soldiers then won’t we be finished instead?” (Lackey)

“Our money and food is at the limit, so we have no choice but to attack. Furthermore, if we do it right, we mightn’t need to battle with the guard.” (Boss)

Yes, their condition was already at the limit.

They originally came from frontier villages suffering from poverty and employed themselves as mercenaries at a noble’s private army.

However in the last war their employer fell and as a result, when the armistice was declared they had become unemployed.

Coupled with the immigration policy from other territory to Isteria and Isteria government itself reduced their fiscal spending, they who already had thrown away their previous homes and left for Isteria, couldn’t found new employers and were reduced to banditry.

However even with their livelihood as bandits, they were on the brink of bankruptcy.

“Those guards would return to Isteria after they leave the cargo at the village. Afterwards, we could attack the village.” (Boss)

“Attacking the village?.....the village ahead must also have some people who participated in the war, you know? We only have 13 people, if those people decided to counterattack then it will be us who get killed.” (Lackey)

When the Boss started to say attacking a village, the rata-riding man’s expression became dissatisfied.

If the villagers were attacked, they wouldn’t simply go down without resistance.

If they were attacked then they would counterattack with the weapons in their hands, and since the villagers have a larger number, then the bandits would have an overwhelming disadvantage.

Furthermore, Arcadia is a country that adopted conscription, so it was commonplace that in the village there were people who had military experience at the last war.

If they attacked the village, then they would be surrounded by veteran soldiers before long, this would likely be the result.

“Who said that we would attacked grandiosely from the front? We would attack a single village house in the middle of the night. It would be reasonable if we could attack 2 or 3 houses silently and then before dawn we flee as fast as we can towards Gregorn territory.” (Boss)

“.....I see, then I think we could pull it off. But, what about the carriage’s contents? If it gets distributed in the village, then it would be impossible to collect it.” (Lackey)

“No, I don’t think they would immediately distribute it. Most likely, it would be stored temporarily at the Boss’s house and distributed bit by a bit. If it is food enough to feed all the villagers then it’s an amount that won’t be gone after 1 or 2 days, right?” (Boss)

When the Boss explained, the rata riding man finally showed that he understood.

If they could steal the food cargo then they could cease their dangerous highway robbery for a while.

Furthermore, if they could escape to Gregorn territory, even if the nobles of Isteria learned about the attack of the village and sent a pursuing party, from the point of view of Grisea Village and Isteria they couldn’t be captured.

“I understand. Then, I will cling to them until they reach the village and confirm which house they unload the cargo.” (Lackey)

“That’s right. If we don’t get our hands on the food then there is no meaning for our attack. First is the food then if it goes smoothly, we might also gout ourselves some women.” (Boss)

As he talked about women, the Boss made a warped grin.

To think about it, recently not only had they hardly ate, but they had also completely not touched any women at all.

Remembering the women-less livelihood they had until now, they were excited by the events they would had next.

“Alright, I will also choose a house with young woman. Please tell the guys in the carriage to have a good rest for now.” (Lackey)

Maybe because he was thinking the same as the Boss, the rata riding man also had the same smile stuck on his face, as he rode towards the carriage once again.



The night of the same day.

At the Nelson's office room at Isteria, Kazura was drawing up the conclusion from the parchments that recorded the construction work of the flood levee completed in the past.

Nelson and Havel were also in the room, and they were working on their task just like Kazura had instructed them to do.

Havel would take parchments from the shelves and unfold it in front of Kazura, and then Nelson would read out the main points written in the parchment, such as the height or the width of the levee, in addition to the levee structure and the construction method.

Kazura then would record it in Japanese on a note tag in his hand and then paste it on the parchment, repeating this process.

"Kazura-sama, there is something I want to discuss with you." (Nelson)

Quite some hours had passed since they had began to work and Kazura started to think that they ought to have break and dinner soon. When his hand stopped, Nelson thought that it was a good time to speak.

"Yes, what is it?" (Kazura)

"This is something related to Kazura-sama's stay in Isteria. Since it would cause confusion if Kazura-sama's identity as Greysior-sama became publicly known, then it would better if Kazura-sama's true identity was kept secret as much as possible. This would make it easier for me to deal with my friends and visitors who visit my house, and so I hope for Kazura-sama's cooperation....." (Nelson)

"I don't mind, rather, in this way I can move easier, please do so without worry." (Kazura)

Kazura readily consented to Nelson's proposal while in his heart he nodded, of course it would become like this.

Since the story that Greysior had appeared in the present was only known by some people, hiding that existence would also be easy.

"Thank you very much. Then about that, considering my position, it would be strange to attach a "-sama" behind [Kazura-sama] like we have been using till now. Because of that, although it is impolite, I think it would be better if I referred to you as[Kazura-dono] from hereafter." (Nelson)

"That is fine with me. Also, even if there aren't any people around there is no need to attach a "-sama". Since if you keep using it, then it might accidentally slip out. On the other hand, would it be better for me to add a "-sama" to refer Nelson-san next time?" (Kazura)

".....No, I think the current way is fine. This way, other people would find it difficult to question Kazura-sa... Kazura-dono. In this way I could also give my subordinates hints that Kazura-dono is from a high-ranked noble family and to not probe too much into it. If it is necessary to introduce Kazura-dono to other people, we could deal with it without seeming unnatural, as long as our stories matched then I think it would be alright." (Nelson)

"I understand..... That's right, there's also something that I must discuss with Nelson-san." (Kazura)

Kazura answered Nelson who showed a relieved expression, when Kazura remembered that he had something that he ought to mention to Nelson.

"I wanted to borrow the construction record documents that I have summarized and the map of Isteria and surrounding region." (Kazura)

".....I understand. However, the map under our safekeeping is a secret among secrets, so I earnestly hope that....." (Nelson)

"Of course, I wouldn't show it to other people, so please don't worry." (Kazura)

The hesitancy Nelson showed about the act of lending the map to Kazura was something reasonable.

The thing called “map”, no matter what the age, held an important role in the military.

“Thank you very much. Please feel free in using the collected documents and the maps until the day you depart, if there still something you need then please feel free to inform me.” (Nelson)

“Thank you very much. Then, let us soon.....” (Kazura)

“Have a break”, just when Kazura was going to say this, the office’s door was knocked.

“Nelson-sama, the dinner has been prepared.” (Maid)

“Oh, just at the right time. Let’s take a break for a moment and have a dinner.” (Kazura)

There was someone called from behind the door, and so Kazura got up from the chair and spoke to Nelson and Havel, who then placed the documents on the desk.



Accompanied by the maid who was waiting beyond the office door, Kazura and Nelson entered the room where the dinner had been arranged.

In the room that would be described in Japanese terms as a 12 Jou room, there were 2 maids stood beside the wall, and a long table in the centre of the room where various dishes had been arranged atop it.

The candlestick atop the table and the candle stand ornamenting the wall casted a soft tender light that illuminated the room.

By the way, Havel was eating his dinner in a separate room and so was separated from them for a moment.

“Ah!”

When Kazura entered the room, one of the maids inside the room made a small yelp when she saw Kazura’s face,

She was Lieze personal maid, Eira.

“Hm?” (Kazura)

Kazura looked at Eira with confused looks.

He completely didn't realize that he had just met with this maid before.

"Is something wrong?" (Nelson)

"N-no! Please forgive my discourtesy!" (Eira)

When Nelson asked her, Eira bowed down in panic and asked for forgiveness.

To yelp when seeing the face of someone who entered the room was an act unbecoming of a maid.

"So Zil hasn't arrived yet..... Kazura-dono, my wife and daughter will also joining the dinner, would this be alright for you?" (Nelson)

"I don't mind it.....Ah" (Kazura)

While answering Nelson, Kazura behaved just like Eira previously.

While making a small yelp, he looked once more at Eira's face.

When Nelson mentioned [Daughter], he realized the meaning of Eira's reaction.

Eira who was looked by Kazura, became uncomfortable and so she bowed to Kazura.

"(This maid-san, might she be the person I crashed into in the city last time? Even though it happened 20 days ago, does she still remember my face?)" (Kazura)

Since his meeting with Nelson, Kazura had hypothesized that he would meet again with Lieze in Isteria.

However, when he crashed into Lieze's maid, she had only seen him for a few seconds and he was also wearing a completely different type of clothing at that time.

Because of this, at any rate they wouldn't be able to remember his face, so he had underestimated that he wouldn't be recognized by them.

Even so, his face was immediately recognized.

“Is there something wrong?” (Nelson)

Nelson observed Kazura and Eira’s reaction with a confused expression.

“..... No, nothing is wrong.” (Kazura)

“Fumu..... Eira, please call Lieze.” (Nelson)

Although Nelson seemed unsatisfied by the answer, he seemed hesitantly to scrutinize it, turned to Eira and gave her an order.

“Certainly, Sir.” (Eira)

Eira immediately replied and bowed before leaving the room.



Eira exited the room where dinner had been served, walking slowly, then she looked at her surroundings to make sure that no one was near her.

And then she started half running towards Lieze’s room.

“Lieze-sama, this is Eira! Please excuse me!” (Eira)

As soon as she said this, just like what she had done before, Eira opened the door without waiting for Lieze’s reply, and then rushed into the room.

“Lieze-sama! Big news.....!” (Eira)

“Ara?” (Zirconia)

As Eira treaded her feet into the room and began to speak, her words were immediately cut short and her body became stiffened.

Inside the room, there was Lieze and also, Zirconia.

Eira who had suddenly intruded into the room, was looked by Zirconia with a blank look at one side and Lieze with a shocked expression on the other side.

“Did something happen? You seem to be in a great panic.” (Zirconia)

“Ah, no, that.....I-I came to inform that the dinner preparation had been completed!”  
(Eira)

“I see, but, you can’t enter the room without knocking first, alright?” (Zirconia)

“I am terribly sorry.....” (Eira)

Zirconia was chiding Eira just like gently warning a naughty kid and so Eira dropped her shoulder and bowed deeply while apologizing.

Maybe because Zirconia was in a good mood, she didn’t scold Eira who had just done something unbecoming of a maid any further. Zirconia exited the room and walked in front of Eira who stood by the door, Lieze walked beside her and when she passed Eira, Lieze whispered in small voice.

“What are you doing.....?” (Lieze)



“Lieze, this person is my friend, Kazura-dono. It was planned that he would stay for awhile in the house, but this is the first time Kazura-dono visited our house. Since he might have something that he still doesn’t know, if the time comes, lend him your help.” (Nelson)

When Lieze’s group entered the room, Nelson introduced Kazura to Lieze.

Although this introduction method was frankly direct, since Kazura haven’t prepared any of the fine details such as Kazura’s social status and the likes, it was inevitable to let Nelson handle the introductions.

“My name is Kazura. Nice to meet you.” (Kazura)

“Lieze. I had heard about Kazura-sama from Mother. To lend help to Isteria territory domestic affairs, I am truly grateful. If there is anything that I can do to help, please don’t hesitate to tell me.”

With a light bow and simple greeting to Kazura, Lieze showed a perfect smile like a blossoming flower while expressing her thanks to him.

That smile’s loveliness made Kazura unconsciously fascinated by it.

“Ah, m-me too.....” (Kazura)

While somehow being blushed, he replied with a response that was completely like a naïve young man.

He was bothered by the mood she gave when she said the phrase about hearing about him from her mother, however Kazura didn't care much about it since he was doing all he could to suppress himself from blushing.

“(.....N-not good, this girl is terrifically beautiful.)” (Kazura)

“.....Ano, is something wrong?” (Lieze)

Because Kazura didn't shift his eyes away from looking at her, Lieze tilted her head and asked him in confused tone.

Looking at these two, Zirconia had a faint smile in the corner of her lips.

# CHAPTER 44

## NIGHT OF THE BLUE BLADE

---

It was the midnight, the day after Valetta and Valin bid farewell to Kazura.

In the living room at the village chief's house, Valetta sat in fetal position with her back against the wall.

She had been in this for about four hours.

The burning firewood in the hearth had already vanished. The moonlight also couldn't pass through the closed door, and so the room was enveloped in darkness.

After Valetta arrived home, she unloaded the luggage from the carriage and prepared Valin's dinner whilst still showing a gloomy expression. Without eating anything, she just sat against the wall since then.

Looking his daughter like this, Valin was worried and trying to say something to her, but her answer didn't change from the half-hearted answer she gave yesterday.

Eventually, Valin gave up and head up to his bedroom early and slept, leaving Valetta to herself in the living room.

Valetta curled motionless like this for some time, when she suddenly raised her face towards the direction of the entrance.

She noticed the creaking sound coming from the entrance door.

".....Who's there?" (Valetta)

At the same time as Valetta's address, the entrance door slowly opened, letting the moonlight illuminate the ground in the entrance.

Normally, she would put the wooden latch on the door before sleeping; however, today the latch hadn't been put on the door.

".....Kazura-san?" (Valetta)

The idea that maybe Kazura had returned crossed her mind, so Valetta stood up and headed towards the door while still having a blank expression.

But, in the next instance, Valetta's expression froze with fear.

There was a man standing in the entrance with unsheathed longsword.

“Sh...! There is someone still awake! Kill him before he raise the alarm!!” (Bandit A)

As soon as the man in the entrance yelled behind him, four men holding with longswords and shortswords rushed in through the entrance, checking the living room for Valetta, and approaching with glaring blades.

As the sudden event unfolded before her, Valetta unconsciously scream “Hiii” and stepped back from that place.

“Hm? It's a girl. Moreover a pretty one.” (Bandit A)

As soon as the large man, who approached Valetta, realized her gender, he quickly put the longsword in his hand back to its sheath at his waist and then seized Valetta.

Valetta, who had both of her wrist grasped, was swiftly pushed down to the floor forcefully.

“Ah! Father!!” (Valetta)

While still being pinned down to the floor by the man, Valetta screamed loudly at her Father who was sleeping in the inner room.

However, the man seemed undisturbed by what Valetta had done, his eyes examining Valetta's body from top to bottom.

“I will enjoy for this a bit. I leave the clean up to you guys.” (Bandit A)

While still having his eyes locked on Valetta, he gave instruction to the other invading men that were making a ruckus in the room.

Although the other men were smacking their tongue, they broke into the inner room without complaining the man who had pinned Valetta down.

“Since there is no time, I will finish this quickly so don’t worry.” (Bandit A)

“N-nooooo!” (Valetta)

「ちやちやつと  
済ましてやるから安心しな」

「ひい、やあひい」

While saying these words, the man brought his face closer to the neck of Valetta who was swaying and trembling in fear and tears.

However, just before the man's tongue could creep on her neck, he stopped as there were sounds of angry yelling and something crashing came from the inner room.

".....What the?" (Bandit A)

The unusual noises and shouts from the inner room were alarming and this made the man reflexively raise his head up.

And then, two men who were breaking to the inner room before, simultaneously rushed out in panic.

"What the hell with that guy!? What is going on!?" (Bandit B)

"Calm down! We'll attack him at the same time!" (Bandit C)

"O-Oi! What happened!?" (Bandit A)

Observing the exchange between the men who fled from the room, the man, who pinned Valetta down, called out to them.

"T-The guy in the room i-.....!?" (Bandit B)

Just when the man's associate was opening his mouth to answer, his body was hit so hard by something thrown from the room, that made he made a turn in the air and blown away until he landed at the entrance.

"Oi! What with the commo-..... Hiii!?" (Bandit D)

Due to the commotion the other men who were waiting outside took a look from the entrance.

There, they found the sight of one of their friend moaning in the middle of puddle of blood from the lifeless corpse of their other friend who had his neck cut midway. This made them lost their words.

"Valetta!" (Valin)

Using the chance while their attention was diverted to the blown-away friends in the entrance, Valin rushed out from the inner room. His whole body was bathed in dripping blood, and a longsword that he snatched from the men in his hand.

Valin saw Valetta being pinned down by a man and thus his face became darkened in anger and rage.

“You bastards!!” (Valin)

The man who had pinned Valetta down, although afraid at Valin who was rushing towards him whilst yelling, quickly placed his right hand at Valetta’s slender neck.

“D-don’t move! If you move I’ll crush her throat!” (Bandit A)

Valetta, who until now had her neck strangled, using her newly free left hand seized the right wrist of the man who strangling her neck.

Then, while grinding her teeth and putting all her power into her left hand, she grasped the right wrist of the man as hard as possible.

“Ugh!? What the.....!?” (Bandit A)

Just as he was distracted by the sudden acute pain that travel from his right wrist, the man eyes were stained in fear.

The man’s right wrist had been bent the opposite way by Valetta’s left hand

.....The wrist, had been broken.

“Gafuuu!” (Bandit A)

Valetta let go of the crushed wrist and threw a full strength punch at the man’s face.

Then, there was a sound of bones breaking coming from the man’s face, who soon fainted with blood trickling down from his nose and mouth.

“Y-You monsters, waaaa!” (Bandit C)

Looking at his friend fall, the last man attacked Valin with a sword whilst yelling.

Valin brushed away the man's attack with a speed the man's eyes couldn't follow. Then with tremendous speed, Valin slashed his blade at his opponent's shoulder using all of his might. The sword cut through him from his shoulder until it stopped midway in his stomach.

With his torso cut into two, the man opened his eyes wide in fright while collapsing forward.

Valin put his feet at the collapsed man's corpse, and extracted his sword while kicking it away with all of his strength.

However, the sword had broken when it cut the man. There was only about 30% of the blade left attached to the hilt.

"U-uwaaaaa!" (Bandits)

The bandits who were dumbfoundedly watching the scene from the entrance, fell into panic when Valin turned his glare at them, and soon they were scrambling to run away.

"Valetta, are you alright?" (Valin)

Valin ignored the escaping men and rushed over to Valetta who was sitting absentmindedly while looking at the entrance. He knelt down and put his hand on her shoulders.

When his hand touched her shoulder, Valetta was trembled at the start, but somehow she gave a nod as reply to her father who looked at her in worry.

Valin was relieved after he confirmed that Valetta wasn't wounded and then approached the man who had fainted after receiving Valetta's fist.

Then, he threw away the broken blade, and pulled the blade at the man's waist from its sheathe. Without showing any hesitation, he stabbed the blade at the man's neck.

"Valetta, ring that pot and wake up the whole village. I will pursue those guys." (Valin)

"Eh!? W-wait! Father!!" (Valetta)

As soon as he finished talking, Valin rushed outside from the residence before Valetta was able to stop him.

Just as he exited the residence, he kicked the writhing man in the entrance, sending him flying, just to make sure he stayed unconsciousness.



“What wrong with that guy!? He killed everyone!” (Bandit D)

“He’s a monster…… We have accidentally intrude in a monster’s den……” (Bandit E)

Fleeing the residence, the men were running away as fast as they could to their carriage that had been parked in the middle of the forest at the village’s outskirts.

After seeing the unreal scene just now, they had fallen into panic.

As they cursed and ranted whilst running, after a while they suddenly heard the ringing sound of a metal being hit from behind.

It was the sound of Valetta hitting the bottom of the pot to wake up the villagers.

“Shit! Let’s get outta here before the villagers chase us! We’ll be dead if they catch us!” (Bandit D)

While feeling unnerved from the metallic sound they heard from behind, the men ran away frantically and somehow arrived at the carriage where their friends were waiting.

“You guys, did you failed!? What happened to the others!?” (Boss)

Ignoring the angry voice from the boss at the carriage, the men quickly jumped into the carriage and yelled.

“Move quick! We need to escape!!” (Bandit D)

Seeing their unusual behaviors, their friends who had been waiting nearby, quickly jumped into the carriage or began riding the Rata.

“Oi! Tell me what happened with the other guys!?” (Boss)

“They’ve been killed! That guy is not human, but a monster!” (Bandit D)

Seeing how his underling answered with frightened attitude, the boss became speechless.

He had sent 10 of his underlings to the residence.

Even so, half of them had been killed, and the rest came fleeing back.

The inhabitant of the attacked residence was perhaps a very skilled person.

Just when the boss was thinking this, the carriage suddenly stopped.

Then at the same time, he could hear his underlings yelling from outside.

“Oi, what happened!?” (Boss)

The boss quickly jumped out from the carriage and could see that in the middle of dark forest, at a spot just ten meter away from the carriage, a single man was standing there with a sword in his hand.

The five underlings that got off from the carriage with the boss let out a tiny shriek when they saw the man.

“.....Lay down your weapon and surrender or else you will be killed.” (Valin)

The man – Valin – let out those warnings and for a moment the boss felt that as if the temperature suddenly become chilly.

Valin had just emitted a tremendous bloodlust, that made a living creature’s self preservation instinct go into red alert.

**“This guy, is bad news.”**

“F-fuck you! You guys, surround him!!” (Boss)

The subordinates who were unconsciously faltering by Valin’s bloodlust, after hearing the boss’ order regained back their courage. Even the men on the Rata dismounted and began dispersing to encircle Valin and put him under the glares of swords and short spears.

Valin just stood still without minding this as if he was waiting until the men had completed their encirclement.

Just a few more seconds and the encirclement would complete, the boss start ridiculing Valin with a bit smug expression.

“Are you stupid? Do you think one man could win when encircled by many men like this?” (Boss)

Hearing the man’s words, Valin replied with an expressionless face.

“Encirclement you say? Who do you think are the encircled one?” (Valin)

“.....Ha? Who the fuck are you referring to? There’s no one else but you. Does the fear made your head bright?” (Boss)

The boss said this in disgust. “No matter” he said, as if he had regained back his composure. Then, he showed a ghastly smile towards Valin.

“I won’t let you die easily. You guys, get h-.....” (Boss)

“Wait a moment” (Valin)

Ignoring the boss’ words to instigate his underling to attack, Valin looked around him.

“..... It will be fine if only this guy survive.” (Valin)

Just as Valin said this, the man who was standing beside the boss, had his head chopped off.

“Wha-!?” (Boss)

The headless subordinate body, collapsed while gushing out blood.

The boss watched as it happen beside him.

Several villagers suddenly came out from the night’s cover. With short sword or spear in their hand, they swooped in and disposed the subordinates with a lightning speed.

They attack from behind, furthermore with such aberrant swiftness, that the underlings could react when they were stabbed at their vital spot and fell on the spot.

In an instant, The surroundings started to reek of the scent of blood.

“Hi....Hiiiiii!” (Lucky Bandit)

One underling that had the good fortune to be left out of the one sided slaughter, lost his strength to stand at the sight of the hell that suddenly appeared before him. He fell onto his back while pissing himself.

Valin walked towards the boss who was stood still in shock, and then once again muttered.

“Lay down your weapon.” (Valin)



“Who’s there? Come out!” (Soldier)

Seeing a person’s silhouette approaching under the darkness, the escort soldier, who was on the lookout outside the tent, called out.

Hearing the guard outside yelling, other soldiers from inside the tent quickly came out with weapons in their hand.

“I am Valin, Chief of Grisea Village.” (Valin)

“.....Valin-dono?” (Soldier)

Hearing the approaching person’s words, the soldiers exchanged looks with each other.

Even so, the lookout soldier quickly lit up a torch at the campfire near the tent, and approached the person.

“Valin-dono, what happened.....? Why is there so much blood?” (Soldier)

“Don’t worry, this is not my blood. Not long ago, bandits attacked the village, this is only their blood that was spilled from repulsing them.”

When the bodyguard soldier looked at the visage of the bloodied Valin under the torch's light, he became surprised so Valin hurriedly gave an explanation.

“Bandits you say!? Are the villagers alright!?” (Soldier)

“Yes, not a single one is hurt. Furthermore, we are able to capture 3 of the bandits. Well, one of them might be already dead..... I'm sorry to trouble you, but could you return to the village tomorrow morning and take the bandits with you?” (Valin)

After hearing Valin's explanation, the bodyguard soldier showed a surprised expression, but he quickly fixed it and then turned to his companions.

“No, we will go right now. Everyone, make haste.” (Soldier)

# CHAPTER 45

## ZIRCONIA-SAMA IS WATCHING

---

It was the next morning after the bandits attacked Grisea Village.

The current time was five in the morning. A bright light slowly began to appear at the starry sky above Isteria, the sun might show its face in just another 30 minutes.

At the Nelson's Mansion in Isteria it was still in the early morning where the sun hadn't appeared yet and except for the soldiers who patrolling the premise, no other people could be seen.

However, in a certain room at Nelson's Residence, even this early in the morning, the owner of the room began to stir and crawl out from the magnificent canopy bed.

The owner of that room was Lieze, who carefully fixed her disorderly long glossy dark brown bed-head hair. She tried to get out of her bed and sat on the edge while her eyes were still half-asleep.

She continued to sit dazedly for about a minute before she stretched her body and let out a big yawn.

Then she picked up the prepared water jug placed atop of a small table beside the bed, poured the water into a bronze cup, and drank it.

She gurgled the water inside her mouth, before spit it out into the copper bowl that was placed on the same small table.

After repeating this several times, she moved to the front of a large bronze mirror attached to a dresser. Then she put on a wooden headband to tidy her hair up. Then she washed her face using a silver wash basin.

After washing her face, she wiped her wet face down using a towel made of soft cloth while unfastening her headband.

Thereafter, she collected her hair into one hand and tied it using a cloth string that was colored dark brown like her own hair. It was a ponytail hairstyle.

She turned her head aside to check the condition of her hair and moved to the middle of the room. Suddenly she did a complete 180 degree leg split and started doing stretching exercise.

“One, two, three, four” (Lize)

With both of her hand grasping the tip of her right leg, while counting, she pressed her forehead against the shin of her right leg.

After this finished she performed the same routine with her left leg’s shin, and repeated this exercise for several times.

When the stretching on both legs finished, while still in leg split position, she brought her body forward to touch the floor. After ten seconds, she slowly raised her body.

After that, she performed multiple body stretching exercises for about twenty minutes.

When the stretching exercises over, she dressed up with the knee length tunic that had been prepared beside her dresser, and tightly fastened it with the leather belt.

Then, she took a small cloth bag from the dresser’s top. After confirming the content of the bag, she fastened the leather strap on the bag’s mouth and put it into her pocket.

“The spear, the spear...” (Lize)

Putting the leather boots, she took the short spear that was stood beside the bed. Finally, Lize unlocked the door, opened it and headed outside.

“Good morning, Lize-sama.” (Guard)

“Morning, Sellete. I will go to the courtyard today.” (Lize)

“I understand. Please take care.” (Guard)

As soon as Lize exited the room, she exchanged greetings with the young female soldier that stood guard in front of her room, and headed to the courtyard.

Every time she met with a soldier en route, she would called out their name without fail, then exchanged a few words with some of them.

The soldiers who were guarding the mansion from midnight to early morning almost had the same members composition.

So, no one questioned her, since they know that Lieze always heads to the courtyard in the early morning.

At the time Lieze reached the courtyard, the surroundings had already been brightened up. The morning dew that wet the plants in the courtyard was glistening under the morning sun.

While the morning dew on the grass drenched Lieze's boots, she moved to an open place in the courtyard.

There, she took a small breath and brandished her short spear before beginning to swing her short spear with smooth movements.



While Lieze was practicing her short spear in the courtyard, Kazura was deeply asleep with his left cheek touching the desk in Nelson's office room.

Last night, after Kazura had his dinner for the second time with Nelson's family, including Lieze, he left early and returned back to Nelson's office, and ate several canned food he brought from Japan.

After Nelson and Havel returned to the room, with Isaac and Zirconia who came later, he continued summarizing the construction documents without interruption nor any break time.

During the explanation, others entered and exited the room numerous times to perform their assigned duties. When, by some chance, Kazura was left alone in the room, his concentration suddenly stopped and he collapsed. Thus, he fell asleep with his cheek flat on the desk bringing about the current situation.

Someone had put a blanket on Kazura's shoulder and a small amount of drool had dripped onto the desk.

Fortunately, since the documents had been tidied up at the desk side, the drool didn't harm anything except Kazura's face and the desk.

Kazura who was sleeping blissfully was suddenly jolted, in response, he quickly raised his face and look at the room restlessly.

“Ah, I fell asleep.....? Ouch.....” (Kazura)

Since he slept in such an unusual position, his body was in pain as if it was creaking.

It was because he was conducting river inspection with Havel for the whole day yesterday, while during the night he was filing documents that he ended up burdened by such fatigue.

“Ah, it might be bad if everyone kept covering for me..... If it like this, perhaps it would be better if I asked for a room for me to take a rest.....Ah!” (Kazura)

Kazura stopped his words when his eyes saw the thing placed atop the table. He then grabbed that thing – an alarm clock – from the side of the table.

The analog clock’s arms were indicating the time as 6:30.

“L-luckily, there’s still time..... perhaps.....” (Kazura)

Kazura placed the clock back on the table, stood up, and hurriedly dashed out from the room.



“Fuh..... it haven’t been one day, but he won’t come, right.....?” (Lieze)

After practicing with her short spear for about one hour, Lieze rested her short spear’s end on the ground and muttered.

Then she took out the small bag from her pocket and unfastened the leather strap to peek at its content.

“.....How beautiful.” (Lieze)

Inside the cloth bag was a heart shaped pendant. In the middle of the heart shaped silver frame was a transparent milky white gem – a synthetic opal – embedded in it.

The synthetic opal let out a rainbow colored shine under the morning sun and Lieze enjoyed the ever changing sparkle that her eyes received as she moved the angle of reflection in the light.

“Good morning, Lieze-sama.” (Eira)

After Lieze viewed the pendant for some time, Eira came with a cloth towel in her hand.

“Ano, is Kazura-sama.....” (Eira)

“Yes, perhaps he won’t come today.” (Lieze)

Lieze answered Eira’s question while putting the small bag back into her pocket. She received the towel and wiped the sweat that flowed down her forehead and neck.

“Hey, is he really the person, the one who dropped this pendant?” (Lieze)

“There is no mistake for it. Kazura-sama also seems to remember me.” (Eira)

During the night two days ago, when Kazura first joined a dinner with Lieze, Eira flusteredly came into Lieze room.

Then she informed Lieze that the man Eira crashed into before and the man named Kazura, that Nelson introduced as his friend, was the same person.

If he was the same person with the man who crashed with Eira then there is no doubt that he was the person who dropped the pendant that Lieze possesses right now.

Lieze was intending to confirm with Kazura if he was the person who dropped the pendant she hold right now and at the same time use the pendant as an excuse to start a conversation with him.

For this reason, last night after Kazura left his seat in the dinner, she sent Eira to inform that there is something Lieze want to talk to him and to meet her in the courtyard in the morning

Kazura seemed to be really pleased by this invitation just like a dog who will quickly come if its name was called while swinging its tail. However,.....

“Lievez-sama, if that pendant is really Kazura-sama’s, then what you intend to do?”  
(Eira)

While Lievez was gazing at the stone gate that connected the mansion with the courtyard and wondering if perhaps Kazura really won’t come, Eira timidly gave her a question.

Her expression and her answer were about the same as what Eira predicted.

“Hmm, if he really is the owner, then he is a rich person. Then, just like the other guys I will charm him and induce him to give me many presents. However, I’m troubled by what Mother said the other day.” (Lievez)

“Zirconia-sama?” (Eira)

“Yes. It looks like Kazura’s background is that of a great noble from a certain country. Then, just like the background suggest said, it seems that he is tremendously wealthy. He also possesses a lot of curious and unusual things alongside inexhaustible wealth.”  
(Lievez)

“.....I never heard any rumors about the existence of such person before. What country did he come from?” (Eira)

“That is, Mother didn’t inform me what country he came from..... But I have seen the royalty and the nobles surrounding them in the capital lived with unbelievable splendor lifestyle even though it was just after the cease-fire. So even if he really a very rich noble, he doesn’t strike as particularly unusual and..... Ah, he came.” (Lievez)

While Lievez and Eira were discussing, the door that lead to the courtyard from the mansion opened, and Kazura came out running.

Kazura found Lievez’s position at the courtyard, and after showing a relieved expression walked towards her.

“Kazura-sama!” (Lievez)

Lievez called Kazura’s name and while still holding the short spear, made a short run towards him.

Eira didn't followed Lieze and only stood in place while bowing her head down to Kazura.

"Good morning. I'm sorry for being late." (Kazura)

"Good morning. I'm sorry to call you in the early morning..... Ano, is this troublesome for you?" (Lieze)

Lieze, who was about one head shorter than Kazura, looked at Kazura with uneasy eyes.

Seeing Lieze like this Kazura showed a kind smile.

"No, certainly not. This is not troublesome at all. I also have something I want to talk with Lieze-san, so I am glad that you called me." (Kazura)

"Then, thank you very much!" (Lieze)

Even though Kazura's reply might be only lip service, but Lieze was really delighted.

"I-it seems that you are in the middle of practicing with the spear?" (Kazura)

"Yes, this is my daily routine in the morning. Since a person in Istelle House must know how to use a weapon." (Lieze)

Lieze said this as she looked at the short spear in her left hand.

Even though the short spear was only 140cm long, but for a person with small stature like Lieze, it looked relatively big.

"(Uum, her appearance with hair down and dressed up is nice, but this rough appearance with a ponytail is also wonderful. If like this, the in the future she will be more..... No, she already quite a beauty right now.)" (Kazura)

Kazura had such thoughts as he watched Lieze looking at her spear. Noticing Kazura's watching her, Lieze tilted her head in curiosity.

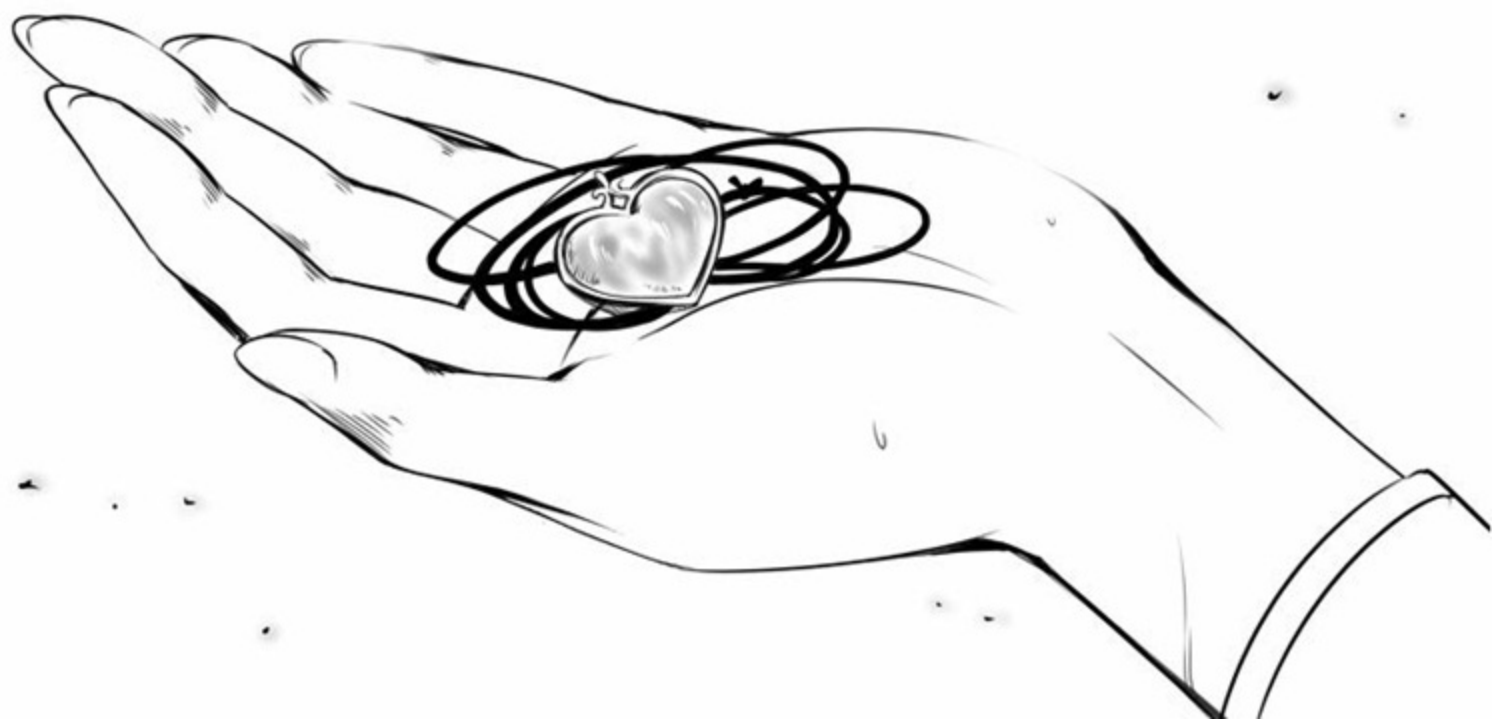
"Ah, umm, I heard from Eira-san that Lieze-san has something to talk with me." (Kazura)

“Yes, actually, there something I want to show to Kazura-sama.....” (Lize)

Kazura tried to make an excuse for his sight at Lize, and so she took out the cloth bag from her pocket without any particular fuss about it.

Then, she took out the pendant from that bag and presented it in her hand to show it to Kazura.

“Might this be something belonged to Kazura-sama?” (Lize)



“Hm?” (Kazura)

Seeing the pendant that was being showed to him, Kazura first have a blank expression.

Then, he looked fixedly at the pendant on Lieze’s hand.

“(.....Huh?)” (Lieze)

Lieze thought that Kazura would be more surprised, so she was rather disappointed by Kazura’s lack of reaction.

Perhaps, Eira’s memory was faulty, and Kazura in front of her was a completely different person from the man who crashed into Eira. This was what appeared in her mind.

“This is..... Ah, I see. So this is what Lieze-san want to talk about.” (Kazura)

After looking at the pendant for several seconds, Kazura nodded as if he remembered something.

“The pendant at Lieze’s hand might be something I dropped when crashed into Eira that time. I didn’t realize-..... Not that! I mean, I realized that it’s gone and had been searching for it!” (Kazura)

“Eh! Y-yes, that time, it seems that the pendant accidentally dropped into Eira’s apron pocket.....” (Lieze)

“(Just now, he was going to say that he didn’t realize that it had gone, right!? To not realizing that he had dropped this valuable item until now, what kind of sensitivity he had?)” (Lieze)

Upon, hearing Kazura’s reply, Lieze’s mind was amazed.

It was an unusual fine gem that Lieze never saw before, but he was going to say that he didn’t realize that it was gone.

Normally, if someone lost something this precious they would make a bigger clamor.

“As expected, Kazura-sama is the person who crashed into Eira that time, right? Is Kazura-sama travelling incognito that time?” (Lieve)

“Umm..... That’s right I suppose, something like that. I was really rescued by Lieve-san’s help that time. Thank you very much.” (Kazura)

Kazura replied in such a manner that Lieve judged that she couldn’t probe it much further.

She didn’t understand the reason, but there might be something that makes it necessary for him to travel in the city as an ordinary citizen.

It would be strange to probe further, as she mustn’t hurt her own image.

“No need for it! That time, my bodyguard had unauthorizedly done terrible things to Kazura-sama. I apologize for it..... Ano, then I will return this to Kazura-sama.” (Lieve)

Lieve expressed an apology with a natural apologetic expression on her face while putting the pendant back into the cloth and presenting it to Kazura.

Kazura received the bag from Lieve, then after he was thinking for several seconds, he gave it back to Lieve.

“Thank you very much. But, I will give this to Lieve-san. As a thanks for that day and as a sign of acquaintanceship.” (Kazura)

“Eh!?” (Lieve)

Lieve who was given the bag was wide-eyed in surprise. She alternated her sight between Kazura and the bag.

“B-but, to receive this precious thing is.....” (Lieve)

Lieve showed a nervous and troubled expression.

“It’s fine. Take it.” (Kazura)

But, Kazura showed a smile.

“Although it was a coincidence, but if not for Lieze-san and Eira-san’s safe custody then I wouldn’t be able to see it for the second time. Since I already halfway gave up on finding it anyway, please take it without worry.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this without hesitation so Lieze was giving a retort in her mind.

“(No, you really, completely did not realize that it was gone!)”

But she just gulped it down and not said this out. She received the bag and held it tightly in front of her chest.

“.....Thank you very much. I will treasure this!” (Lieze)

Then she showed an unsurpassed delightful smile to Kazura.

“(Damn it, she’s really too cute. It’s foul play)” (Kazura)

Facing that first-rate smile, Kazura was agonizing in his mind.

“(This man is really rich beyond belief! Furthermore he is also generous)” (Lieze)

While Lieze had such thoughts in her mind.



From the shadowy window at the second floor, Zirconia was observing Lieze and Kazura’s conversation.

When Lieze received something from Kazura, she showed a happy expression.

“Ara-ara” (Zirconia)

She made a smile and then left that place.

# CHAPTER 46

## ANXIETY AND HOPE

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Meanwhile on the same day.

In a certain room in the mansion, Isaac showed a surprised expression in front of Nelson.

While Havel, who stood beside Isaac, didn't show any particular expression and just nodded in consent with what Nelson had just said.

"Then, in other words, it will be alright for me to continue working as Kazura-sama's close aide in the future, right?" (Havel)

"Yes. Work earnestly and be careful to not incur his displeasure. Start with becoming someone that is trustworthy on Kazura-dono's instructions and do your best on each task to earn his trust and confidence. So that Kazura-dono could be influenced to give additional support, and if you see signs that Kazura-dono would end his support then..... What's wrong Isaac? Is there something bothering you?" (Nelson)

".....Nelson-sama, even if it's for the country.....or rather, for the people, to scheme for additional support from Greysior-sama who appeared to save us is rather....." (Isaac)

Isaac answered with a strained expression that made Nelson frowned.

Havel who stood beside Isaac sent him a really cold sidelong glare at him.

"Isaac, do you know the extent of national power difference between our country, Arcadia and Balveile?" (Nelson)

".....Yes, I do." (Isaac)

"Then, you can understand this, right? We don't know what kind of measures that Kazura-dono will take next, but he will resolve the food shortage, control the flood, deal with the hygiene problem, and in addition, if possible, rejuvenate the economic situation in Istelle Province. With our current situation, when the war resume

between our country and Balveile in 4 years from now, how much do you think the chance of our country's victory against Balveile?" (Nelson)

"..... If we cooperate closely once again with the allied nations just like the times before the armistice then I think at least we will not be defeated." (Isaac)

"That's also true, but there is no guarantee that in another 4 years, those countries wouldn't become an enemy or just stand on the sideline and not cooperating with our country. On the last war, Balveile was underestimating the various countries in the south and attacked all of them at the same time. Because of this tomfoolery, the alliance could come into existence. In addition, at the same time as Balveile southern invasion, the northern barbarian do a large-scale raid into Balveile, that also work for our advantage." (Nelson)

"Nelson-sama, do you think we will be defeated in the next war with Balveile?" (Isaac)

Hearing Nelson's explanation, Isaac asked back with vexing expression.

"Depending on the circumstances, there we might lose. However, we also keep doing preparation for the war and perform diplomacy to maintain the alliance relationship. So we wouldn't be defeated that easily." (Nelson)

"Then, why!?" (Isaac)

Isaac asked with criticism lined up in his tone. Nelson leaned back in his chair and took a small breath.

"..... Just one month ago, Balveile signed peace treaty with some of the Northern Barbarian tribes." (Nelson)

"Wh-!" (Isaac)

"They will also do the same peace or cease-fire treaty with the other barbarian tribes. With their rear secured, they will definitely come to attack again." (Nelson)

Beside Isaac who had become speechless, Havel also became wide-eyed in surprise.

If Balveile signed a peace treaty with the barbarians, then that means in the next war Balveile wouldn't need to wage war on two fronts.

In fact, there might be a possibility that Balveile would employ the barbarians as mercenaries and added them to their factions.

“D-do you mean there is no possibility to avert the war?” (Isaac)

Isaac said this in trembling voice, but Nelson shook his head.

“Having the peace treaty with the barbarian who had been severely harassing them until now, they will surely come to attack us. Furthermore, they had abolished army conscription system and adopted army volunteer system since 3 years ago. They had recruited a lot of soldiers from the poor people and increased their standing army numbers. Their diplomats might say that the peace treaty with the barbarian was [part of economic policy], but their real aim was really clear.” (Nelson)

“.....However, how could Balveile prepared a large amount of equipment and cover the expenditure to maintain such standing army? In the last war, there were rumors that Balveile had a shortage of tin..... Did they found new large tin vein?” (Havel)

After Nelson gave his explanation, Havel who was quiet until now began to speak.

To maintain an army, a large expenditure is necessary.

Calling the citizen to become the soldier in time of emergency and dissolve the army in the time of peace, is the basis of conscription systems that Arcadia and the majority of other countries adopted. With this system, the country only needs to support the army maintenance cost for a limited period.

In addition, the conscripted soldiers' equipment was provided by the soldier themselves. This was the typical army system in this world

After all, the cost that is burdened to the country was only the lump sum payment for the campaign period to the gathered soldiers and the ration cost that was needed to maintain the army.

However, recently Balveile adopted volunteer system, that was a completely different system.

Including [the country prepared the equipment] that Havel had mentioned before, there were three important components on the volunteer system in Balveile.

The first point was that the country would provide the equipment for the recruited soldier, then they would also provide them with a salary.

With this systems, the poor people, who didn't have any financial capabilities to prepare equipment by themselves, could join the army even if lacking any possession as long as they applied into it, and could rid themselves from poverty.

In one action the poor people could save themselves, not only this increase the number of soldiers but if the poor people have a better standard of living, then the public order would also increase. Killing two birds with one stone.

The second point was that it had been decreed that the soldier service period was 25 years.

Since the service period had been decided, it would facilitate the planning of long-term military strategies.

Furthermore, since there won't be any conscription of the farmers to become soldiers, it also didn't have any major influence on agricultural productivity.

The third point was that when the soldier retired they would receive retirement payment or land grant.

With this, the soldiers wouldn't need to worry about their livelihood after their service period finished.

In other words, as long as they could safely finish their service period, although this also depends on the amount that they save during their service, then it was not a pipe-dream to retire and living a life of leisure with dignity.

However, to maintain these three points, it would need a great amount of capital.

The equipment that was used by the soldier was commonly made from bronze.

Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin, but its production yield was small, and especially because tin was only found in limited areas, which resulted in its price being expensive.

It wasn't something that can be obtained in any amount just because there is money to paid for them. Just like what Havel had said, at the war 4 years ago, there was a rumor that Balveile had a shortage of tin.

In addition to the equipment cost there also the salaries need to be paid to the soldiers and the cost for their training. The components where money was needed were endless.

"That's true..... It was unbelievable if they suddenly are able to provide a large amount of expensive bronze equipment for the whole soldiers. However, the volunteer system tenet is that it will be the country provided the equipment. It will be impossible to do it in short time period, but one way or another they will. I received a report that recently Balveile suddenly increased their timber production, just like what Havel had said, Balveile might have found a tin ore vein." (Nelson)

Nelson stopped his words and turned to face Isaac.

"I understand what you want to say. To request further support for selfish reasons to Greysior-sama, who lent us his hand to our plea, is something that is really impertinent. So, of course it would hard for you to approve it easily. But you know, Isaac." (Nelson)

After he called Isaac name, Nelson leaned forward on his chair and bend his body towards Isaac's direction.

"It is necessary to do so. You also know what happened to the country that was defeated by Balveile. They would seize all the land and properties and turned the survivors as slaves. Even if the country capitulate before war happened and annexed by Balveile, they wouldn't escape the loss of land and properties. Losing war with them means that you will lose your freedom for eternity. So I will do all kinds of things even if it to increase our chance of victory by the slightest." (Nelson)

"....." (Isaac)

Isaac hung his head down as if he couldn't reply anything back, Nelson sighed in his mind and then once again leaned back on the seat's back.

"Let's bring this talk to an end. Isaac, Havel, I am relying on both of you." (Nelson)

“Hmm.....” (Kazura)

After the pleasant conversation with Lieze, Kazura was staring seriously at the stone wall on the corridor at Nelson’s mansion.

What Kazura was looking was not the wall itself, but the mortar between the stones.

Then, after he looked at the mortar for awhile, he then scratched it with his fingernail.

“Hmmm..... Ah, Isaac-san, just in time. Can you come here for a moment?” (Kazura)

Kazura understood something as he observed the powder sticking in his fingernail. At that moment, he noticed Isaac who appeared from the mansion’s interior and called out to him.

Hearing his name being called, Isaac noticed that Kazura was there and then came running to him.

“Good morning, Kazura-sama.....” (Isaac)

“Good morning..... Hm? Are you alright!? Your face is pale!” (Kazura)

Kazura was surprised when seeing Isaac’s face.

Isaac’s face was so lifeless it was whiter than white.

“No, I am alright, so Kazura-sama need not worry about me.....” (Isaac)

Somehow Isaac carved out a smile in his corpse-like countenance.

His voice also lacked willpower, so he completely didn’t look like someone who is alright.

“(Although he usually showed a rather tired face, but he was fine until yesterday..... He is just like a new employee feeling depressed after receiving intense scolding from the client or superiors.)” (Kazura)

Kazura remembered the sight that he sometimes saw when he still working at the company before he came to this world.

After all, this was the expression of someone who just received a big shock.

“.....Please follow me a bit.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this and led Isaac through the corridor. He asked a maid he met en route for an empty guest room and asked her to bring some hot water to that room.

“I will quickly return, so please wait in this room for a moment” (Kazura)

After they reached the guest room, Kazura let Isaac took a seat in the room and then head towards Nelson’s office.

Then he grabbed the travel bag he had left in the office, covered it with cloth and then while under the curious eyes of the patrolling soldiers, brought it to the guest room where Isaac was waiting.

When Kazura entered the room, Isaac bowed to him while still have a depressed expression on his face.

“Thank you for waiting. I will prepare it immediately.” (Kazura)

Kazura smiled to Isaac and took out the candle-style aroma pot, the pouch with small bottles of aroma oils, glass teapot, and several small bags with herbs from the travel bag.

“U-Um, may I ask what are you preparing?” (Isaac)

“I think Isaac-san would enjoy a cup of tea. Do you like tea, Isaac-san?” (Kazura)

“Eh!? N-No way, does Kazura-sama want to make tea for me? To trouble Kazura-sama is....” (Isaac)

Isaac stood up with an extremely thankful expression in his face, Kazura just answered, “It’s fine”, sat down on the chair, and put the herbs from the small bag into the glass teapot.

“For the last several days, we were practically working without taking any break, then I think it will be better if we do have one soon, even if it only a tea break while we have a nice little chat with each other.” (Kazura)

Kazura said this while putting linden flowers, rose petals, St. John’s worts in equal amount to the pot.

When he lined up the porcelain teacups from the shelf atop the table, someone knocked the room’s door.

It was the maid from before who came with the hot water.

Kazura received the copper pitcher with the hot water from the maid, dismissed her and poured the hot water into the glass teapot.

The herbs softly shuffled as the water poured into the glass teapot, as the time passed by, the water inside it was beautifully amber colored by the herbs.

While the herbs’ flavor was being extracted by hot water, Kazura poured the hot water into the aroma pot and put two candles at the base of the pot.

Then, after confirmed that the herb had been nicely decocted, he poured the herb tea into a teacup and presented it to Isaac.

“Please have a drink, I hope this will suit your taste.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much..... What nice fragrance.” (Isaac)

Isaac brought the teacup closer to his mouth and smelled the herb tea’s faint pleasant scent that made him have a small smile.

Seeing Isaac took a sip of the herb tea, Kazura poured the tea into his own teacup and took a sip of it while enjoying the scent.

“How is it? If the taste doesn’t suit you then I can make another type of tea.” (Kazura)

“No, this is really delicious. Thank you very much.” (Isaac)

Looking that Isaac had calmed down for a bit after drinking the herb tea, Kazura smiled.

“Then, I’m glad.” (Kazura)

Kazura then took out the small bottle with lavender oil from the bag with aroma oil bottles. He opened the bottle’s lid and put several drops of oil into the hot water inside the aroma pot.

Then he took out a lighter from the bag and light up the candle placed at the pot base.

“What is this?” (Isaac)

“This is called aroma oil, an oil we get after extracting the essence of plants in my co-..... in God’s realm. If we placed them beside the fire like this, then we can enjoy the particular scent from that oil.” (Kazura)

As soon as the candle in the pot lightened up, the soft pleasant scent of lavender quickly could be smelled.

“Then..... Isaac-san, I know that I had requested you to prepare 3000 bags of the same size several days ago, but if it is really impossible to fulfill, please just say it. After all, I never demanded that it must be prepared at any cost.” (Kazura)

After Kazura confirmed that lavender scent had filled the room, he spoke to Isaac with worrying expression on his face.

“No, there is no problem in the procurement of the cloth bag. We have already asked the tailors in the town to produce it and I believe it would be finished by tomorrow.” (Isaac)

“(.....Huh? He wasn’t depressed from the failure from procuring the bags?)” (Kazura)

After hearing Isaac’s answer, Kazura became confused in his mind.

Kazura thought that surely it was because Isaac wasn’t able to fulfill his instruction so he was scolded severely by Nelson or Zirconia.

However, it seems the cause for Isaac’s depression was something else.

“Is that so, then that’s good. Since Isaac-san had such gloomy expression, I was thinking that surely..... Umm, if there something bothering you, then you can talk it

with me you know? Ah, but, if you don't want to talk about it, no need to force yourself to say it." (Kazura)

".....Yes.....thank you.....very much....." (Isaac)

As Kazura spoke with him, Isaac voice became clogged and hang his head down with an expression as if to cry.

Kazura thought that Isaac had something that he couldn't share, so he just silently watched Isaac cast his sight down.

Then, after he watched for awhile and since Isaac didn't say anything, Kazura changed the topic.

"Ah that reminds me, there is something I want to ask Isaac-san, but is this the right time for that?" (Kazura)

".....Yes, feel free to ask." (Isaac)

Inquired by Kazura, Isaac raised his face.

It wasn't a face that was on the verge of crying anymore, but a face of someone who had found the resolution to do a breakthrough for something.

Even his ambiance had changed from the dejected spirit he showed before into someone who was overflowing with determination to do something.

"(.....Eh? Herb tea and aroma oil had this extremely powerful effect? Or during the last few minutes, something had happened inside Isaac-san's mind?)" (Kazura)

Kazura was bewildered by the Isaac's sudden mood change.

To cheer up Isaac who had become depressed, Kazura chose herbs that have antidepressant or relaxation effects and made tea from them for Isaac to drink.

Not only this, but he also used lavender oil that has antidepressant and relaxation effect.

However, if Isaac had such extreme change of heart, then the effect was too effective.

Previously, when Valin who was close to death's door received Lipo-D, it took about 2 hours until he recovered his physical health.

However, the herbs and oil he used just now wasn't for physical recovery, but for the mental effects.

Inside Kazura's mind, there was a concern about whether the herbs and oils had a more powerful effect than food.

“(No, wait a moment, if this true then it couldn't explain what happened last time when Valetta-san and Valin-san drank the herb tea. If there is such extreme effect, then since both of them drank hibiscus tea then they wouldn't stop peeing.)” (Kazura)

“Umm, Kazura-sama, is something wrong?” (Isaac)

Kazura was pondering about the effect when Valetta and Valin drank herb tea last time. Maybe because Isaac feel uneasy when Kazura suddenly became silent, he asked Kazura with a worried look.

“Ah, no, it's nothing.” (Kazura)

Kazura answered in a hurry while thinking that it would be for nothing if Isaac became depressed once more.

# CHAPTER 47

## THE PRECIOUS ONE

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“The stones used to construct the wall in this building uses something to bind the stones right?” (Kazura)

“Yes, it’s used a mixture of gypsum and sand as the mortar. Gypsum is also used to set small stones and bricks.” (Isaac)

“(Gypsum..... Ah, it’s that plasterboard that I often heard used as construction materials. The Home Center must have sell it, too.)” (Kazura)

Hearing the word “gypsum”, Kazura remembered the plasterboard that was used in Japan.

It was the popular material in Japan to construct house walls.

Although, it might be safe to say that the plasterboard used in Japan aren’t pure gypsum board since they had other ingredients mixed into it.

“I see..... Umm, is there any other binding agent used that is used as a mortar for stone construction other than gypsum?” (Kazura)

“Other than gypsum... There is clay. But I don’t really know about how to use it, I’ll ask the architects in the city and compile their answer into a document later. I believe it will be finished by tomorrow.” (Isaac)

“It seems that I have added another task for you. I’m sorry for that. I leave this matter to you.” (Kazura)

Kazura had some respect for Isaac’s idea as he showed an initiative to do the task fully motivated.

“(I don’t really understand, but he seems to have regained his vigor.)” (Kazura)

Even so, Kazura was sighing with relief in his heart.

“Also, there is one other thing that I want to ask. Does Isaac-san ever heard about “lime” before?” (Kazura)

“Yes, that white thing you sprinkle under the floor to control the insects, right? I remember that you can obtain it from certain locations inside the province” (Isaac)

Why Kazura asked this wasn't because he needed it as insects repellent, but because he wanted to know if this world uses it as mortar.

For the last two days, he had collected the construction documents of existing levees in Isteria and the map about Isteria's surroundings, but when he integrate all the collected documents, he realized that he had completely forgotten to check the existing construction technology available in this world.

Before planning the flood control, knowing what can be used and what can't be used were an important thing.

By the way, what Kazura was thinking of is “Lime Mortar”, a mixture of lime and clay or gravels.

In Japan, this was a popular material that was used to plaster walls or fences by the plasterer.

When Isaac heard the word “lime”, he started talking about insect repelling, which could mean that perhaps this world still hasn't invented lime mortar yet.

“Kazura-sama, if you need the lime then I will go and procure it.” (Isaac)

“I don't need it for now. If the time come then I will tell you about it.” (Kazura)

“I understand. For repelling insects, other than sprinkling lime powder, you can also repel some of them out by using certain herbs. I will gather the documents about insect repellent.....” (Isaac)

“Ah, no, I still didn't need it right now, since I won't tackle the hygiene problem for the meantime.” (Kazura)

Kazura immediately stopped Isaac who was going to increase his own work burden.

It seems that Isaac thought that Kazura was doing some investigation to resolve the hygiene problem when he heard Kazura mentioned about lime.

“Is that so?..... If you need something, please tell it to me. I will do my best to deal with it.” (Isaac)

“Alright, I will depend on you when the times come.” (Kazura)

“And also, from today onwards, me and Havel have been assigned to become Kazura-sama’s aide. We will do everything that Kazura-sama instructs to us, so please use us as if we are your own hands and feet. “ (Isaac)

“Eh? Aide? Doesn’t being my aide meant that the two of you have became my subordinates?” (Kazura)

Kazura was surprised by the sudden talk.

Since he hadn’t heard anything about this from Nelson or Zirconia, and with Isaac suddenly said that he’ll become his aid, of course Kazura will be surprised.

Perhaps, Nelson intend to discuss about this during breakfast.

“There will be no problem to think of it like that.” (Isaac)

Having said so, Isaac stood up and genuflected.

“From hereafter, I shall place my life on the line to protect Kazura-sama. I will devoted my whole body and soul to serve Kazura-sama. I am thankful for the chance granted for me to serve.” (Isaac)

It was just like a knighting ceremony dedication statement, that Kazura could only reply,

“T-thanks.” (Kazura)

But inside his mind, he muttered.

“(.....This is heavy)” (Kazura)

While Kazura was talking with Isaac, Havel was preparing the carriage at Nelson's residence plaza.

The coachman still hasn't boarded the carriage, so it was only Havel alone in that place.

"Oh, isn't this Havel!? It has been quite some time, right!" (???)

Havel, who was reading the construction documents as well as the map of Isteria inside the carriage car, peeked his head out. When he saw the voice owner, he grimaced.

"Older brother..." (Havel)

Havel didn't know when he arrived but the man behind the carriage was Alrond Leveson.

Alrond had a height that was around 180 cm, so he was 15 cm taller than Havel.

Because of that, Havel had to look up when looking at him.

His face was also different from the child faced Havel, he had a sharp look that gave a first impression of an intellectual.

His age was 25, making him 5 years older than Havel.

"Now, now, isn't that the wrong response that you need to show to your brother? Since it has been some time since we last met, you should have been happier." (Alrond)

".....It because you came back much earlier than in the scheduled." (Havel)

Looking at his brother exaggeratedly shrugging his shoulders, Havel clicked the tongue inside his mind.

When he was checking the schedule with the mansion's butler, Alrond was scheduled to return tomorrow morning. If everything goes according to the schedule, Havel planned to accompany Kazura together to travel towards Grisea Village, so that Havel didn't have to see Alrond's face.

However, some way or another, Alrond came back to Isteria earlier than the schedule.

“The business in Gregoria concluded earlier than what I thought. Since there’s time, I also wanted to go sightseeing, but since I want to see my cute little brother’s face, I hurriedly return back!” (Alrond)

“Is that so? Despite that fact, I will soon depart for duty. It’s too bad, but I don’t have time to keep brother’s company.” (Havel)

“Eh, this early morning!? Isn’t this usually the time for breakfast!?” (Alrond)

“Unlike brother, who’s entered the noble’s community, the time flow for a person in the military is different. Brother also knows that I must report to the superiors in the early morning everyday right?” (Havel)

Towards Alrond who was wide-eyed surprised, Havel responded while sighing.

Havel couldn’t stand being angry when dealing with this guy.

Although Havel had been doing his best so that this attitude won’t get revealed, but due to the fact that Alrond forced a joke when they met, the person himself half-given up in showing his disgust on his face and behavior.

“Hm, Ah... is... that so? Well, it couldn’t be helped if you don’t have the time.” (Alrond)

“.....” (Havel)

Alrond said it with a play dumb expression as if he completely didn’t noticed that Havel had been missing from his seat during the breakfast every morning in the mansion. What in the world did he means by “my cute little brother” when he greeted Havel just now.

.....He absolutely said that with an intention.

Seeing Alrond’s attitude, Havel had cramped his cheek a bit, before noticing a man appeared from the plaza’s entrance.

“Hm, isn’t that Havel?” (Nour)

“Father. Good morning. You must be tired from your long journey.” (Havel)

It was Havel's father, Nour Leveson. Alrond quickly made a light bow.

"Yes. Doesn't Havel seems a bit unusual?" (Alrond)

"Yes, but not just me, isn't father tired from travelling in the carriage for a long time from Gregoria as well? It will be better to take a good rest....." (Havel)

"That's true, but reporting the information gathered from Gregoria to Nelson-sama is the first priority. Only after reporting will I be able to put these wary bones to rest."  
(Nour)

Havel heaved a sigh of relief in his heart after seeing that his father was still enthusiastic even after an especially long journey.

If he got sick during the journey, in the worst case he could die and the family headship would pass to the eldest son, Alrond.

Not only for this reason but he was also troubled if his father didn't had a long life.

"Please do so..... Ah, also, Father, there is something that I want to ask from you."  
(Havel)

"Hm? What is it?" (Nour)

"On the day after tomorrow, I must leave Isteria due to military duty for awhile. Because of this, can I take Marie as my attendant along the journey?....." (Havel)

Marie was a young maid working at Leveson's Mansion.

It was the maid who assisted Kazura's group for their necessities when they stayed at Leveson's Mansion four days ago.

When Havel asked to take Marie along his journey, Nour showed some reluctance in his expression.

"Havel, I think you know about this....." (Nour)

"Hey, hey, what do you want to do by taking her? Are you..." (Alrond)

"Alrond" (Nour)

Alrond casted off his fool act he had just now and while showing clear disgust to Havel. He wanted to say something, but he became silent after Nour called out his name.

“Of course you can take her along. However, don’t think about doing something strange. She is my possession. Not yours.” (Nour)

“Yes, I understand.” (Havel)

Hearing Nour consent, Havel replied with a vague relieved expression.

“.....Tsk” (Alrond)

Alrond was very unhappy that he clicked his tongue after hearing their exchange.



That night.

Havel was standing in front of a certain room at the building that housed the servants that was located in his mansion ground.

It was about 12 o’clock late in midnight, so excluding the soldiers or servants at some parts of the mansion, the rest were already asleep.

Just like yesterday, Havel accompanied Kazura in doing inspection inside Isteria, after that he helped sorting the construction documents and maps, but just then, Kazura said to him.

“You need to go back to your house and take a rest.” (Kazura)

After stating his thanks, Havel went back to his own house.

Just before he left, Kazura gave him a small blackish food that had a tremendously sweet taste.

Maybe it was due to the fact that he had been working from the early in the morning until the late at night for several days and that the fatigue from the work had accumulated in his body and head that he felt the sweetness of that food penetrate his stomach.

“As expected, she’s already asleep.....” (Havel)

Havel muttered alone in front of the door at the silent dark corridor.

The servants had been supplied with some candles, so that they can do some work in their room. So there should be light escaped from the gaps of the door.

“.....Havel-sama?” (Marie)

Just as Havel was about to go back towards the mansion, someone called out from inside the room. The door was opened and a girl peeked out.

“Marie, so you’re still awake?” (Havel)

“Yes, I have been waiting for Havel-sama to return home, but since it has become so late I thought that Havel-sama wouldn’t return today....” (Marie)

Maybe it was because she was concerned that it could be overheard by others that Marie answered Havel with a small voice.

Currently, Marie wasn’t wearing maid clothes, but an ankle-long tunic made from coarse fabric used as sleepwear.

Although she looked dignified when wearing the maid uniform, in this sleepwear appearance, the innocent feeling that suits her young age was apparent.

By the way, Marie was 13 years old.

“Um, if you like, you can go inside.....” (Marie)

“Yes.” (Havel)

Invited by Marie, Havel entered the room before taking a seat at the wooden bed that was facing one of the walls.

Inside the room, aside from the bed, were small table and clothes hanger, but the size of the room was what Japanese called a 3 Jou room.

“Today, master.....” (Marie)

“Marie, come here.” (Havel)

Havel smiled to Marie who was still standing and began to talk, he then clapped at the space beside him.

Marie showed a perplexed expression but she timidly moved and sat beside him.

“..... I heard from Master this evening that I will accompany Havel-sama in working outside the mansion the day after tomorrow ..... Ano, thank you very much, I am.....”  
(Marie)

“Marie.” (Havel)

Havel placed his hand at Marie’s head who began talking while looking down at the floor, and then he gently patted her as if to comb her hair.



“You can call me “Nii-san”. Since there is no one else here.” (Havel)

“.....Nii-san.” (Marie)

Marie looked up at Havel and replied Havel’s gentle smile with an awkward smile, she then placed her head at Havel’s shoulder.

# CHAPTER 48

## INVINCIBLE GENERAL

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On the next day after that night, a certain room in Nelson's Mansion was wrapped by a confused atmosphere.

The escort soldiers group, who had accompanied Valetta and Valin to Grisea Village, had returned while taking along the bandits who had attacked the village.

"Is Valetta-san and everyone alright!?" (Kazura)

When Kazura heard that Grisea Village were attacked by a group of bandits, he unconsciously half stood up from his chair behind the long desk and asked the escort soldier.

"Everyone in the Grisea Village are uninjured. On the contrary, 10 of the 13 bandits that came attacking the village were killed. Only the bandits leader and 2 others ended up being arrested." (Soldier)

After hearing the escort soldier's report, everyone in that place, except for the escort soldier, showed a surprised expression.

"..... Even though being assaulted by 13 armed men, it was the group that get annihilated instead? Furthermore, the villagers were unharmed?" (Zirconia)

"I have confirmed it personally, so there is no doubt about it. Furthermore, half of the killed bandits died from a single attack to their vital spots, there is also a bandit that was decapitated, and also a bandit who had been cut from the shoulder to the stomach from one attack." (Soldier)

The escort soldier answered. Zirconia sent a quick glance at Kazura.

Kazura still had a stern expression, and stared at the escort soldier silently.

"Is the village attacked during the day time?" (Zirconia)

"No, they aimed when the villagers had already asleep, and attacked the village chief's residence late at night. Valin-dono had said that he escaped the bandits' attack and

then rouse the villagers, then they counterattacked the bandits as a group and annihilated them, but.....” (Soldier)

“What is it?” (Zirconia)

The escort soldier only speak until that point when he hesitated, before Zirconia press him to continue.

“I had confirmed the battle location, but it wasn’t consistent with Valin-dono’s story. Some of the bandits have battle marks on their weapon or armor, but the other bandits didn’t had any battle mark.” (Soldier)

“.....There is no battle marks?” (Zirconia)

“Yes.” (Soldier)

Battle marks were chip or crack on the weapons or armors that was produced during the battle, or signs of resistance on the body.

If this marks were missing then it was as if they were killed in one hit, or they were nonresistantly killed when surrender.

“Is it like they were killed without being able to resist?”

“That’s right. Furthermore, they were instantly killed by one attack, that aimed at their vitals spot or severed their neck from behind. In addition, the wound was from edged weapon, not an arrow wound. Zirconia-sama, with all due respect, if I had to say it, I think.....” (Soldier)

“Zirconia-san” (Kazura)

Just when the escort soldier was going to say something , Kazura who just listened quietly since then, suddenly addressed Zirconia.

“Yes?” (Zirconia)

“It’s earlier than the schedule, but I will return back to Grisea Village right now. Isaac-san, Havel-san, please quickly make the preparations for the journey.” (Kazura)

“As your order.” (Isaac)

“We will prepare it immediately” (Havel)

“The Second Corps of Noble Guards will act as the bodyguard. Isaac, go to the barracks and use my name to tell the Commander to prepare 100 people for this task. Bring equipments for 10 days journey, and taking servants is acceptable. Until I arrived, I transfer the right of command to Isaac. Do this as soon as possible.” (Zirconia)

“Yes, Ma’am!” (Isaac)

Isaac received an order from Kazura, and then received the memo that Zirconia hastily written with nearby parchment and quill. Afterward, he and Havel quickly rushed out from the room.

Kazura also left his seat and moved his feet towards the office door to exit the room.

“Kazura-dono, is it alright if the carriage and the bags arrived at a later date?” (Nelson)

“That will not be a problem. I will entrust that matter to you.” (Kazura)

Kazura who was going to left the room replied to Nelson’s inquiry without turning his head back. After the escort soldier seen this, he began to continue his report that had been interrupted before.

“Nelson-sama, Zirconia-sama, I think that Valin-dono and the villagers is concealing someth-.....” (Soldier)

“Your name is Otis, right?” (Zirconia)

“Ah? Yes, Ma’am.” (Otis)

Once again, his words were interrupted. The escort soldier — Otis — nodded at Zirconia’s question.

“Otis, keep the matter of what you have seen in Grisea Village a secret. You must not speak of this to anyone.” (Zirconia)

“.....Yes, Ma’am!” (Otis)

“Please also tell the other escort soldiers and bring them to me, I want to personally speak with them.” (Zirconia)

“Certainly, Ma’am.” (Otis)

“Then, about the interrogation of the captured bandits. Extradite them from the Guards and deliver them to the interrogation room at the basement. Separate each of them into different room. Before extraditing them from the Guards, put blindfold and mouth gag on them.” (Zirconia)

“Yes, Ma’am!” (Otis)

Receiving the order from Zirconia with a tone to keep it a secret, Otis made a salute and exited the room.

“.....Zil, is it possible to cut someone with a longsword from the shoulder to the stomach in one strike?” (Nelson)

“I think it isn’t something that impossible. If there is time to make a large swing then even I can cut through the stomach. More so if I can do this from a close range. However, in the middle of the combat, since the situation can change anytime, I couldn’t say without doubt that I can do it.” (Zirconia)

“Hmm.....” (Nelson)

Zirconia shifted her sight at the door where Kazura exited while giving her answer. Nelson sat down at his seat and began to hum while pondering.

“Does Zil felt any change on your body ever since Kazura-dono came to our place?” (Nelson)

“Let see..... The next morning after Kazura-san came, I felt that the fatigue that I had until then eased a bit. But, there is no any particular change.” (Zirconia)

“I also felt the same. I had thought that it was the exaltation feeling because Greysior-sama appeared, but this maybe because Kazura-sama had granted a blessing to us, or perhaps.....” (Nelson)

“.....Perhaps?” (Zirconia)

“Perhaps, it’s because of the canned food we ate that time.” (Nelson)

After hearing Nelson’s explanation, Zirconia showed a doubting look at Nelson.

“Zil of course know about the Legend of Greysior-sama, right? Please recalled it, there is one line that catch my mind.” (Nelson)

“I more or less know about that legend, however I don’t remember the whole content.....” (Zirconia)

Zirconia answered with a troubled face, so Nelson became a bit surprised,

Even though the happiest person when Greysior appeared is Zirconia, to think that she didn’t know the whole legend, were rather unexpected.

“There is a line in the legend, [Miraculously, even eating a small amount of the food that was brought by that man increase the body vitality, and this saved a large numbers of starved villagers. ] Since it’s just a common story in fairy tale, I haven’t paid any attention into it, but perhaps the content of this legend has some degree of truth.” (Nelson)

“.....Wait a minute. So that means the reason why they able to repulse the bandit’s attack this time is because [Villagers of Grisea Village had eaten the food brought by Greysior-sama.]?” (Zirconia)

“It’s just a pure guessing. It is not only limited to that. Maybe it’s not [had eaten the food brought by Greysior-sama], but actually Greysior-sama gave his blessings at the people of Grisea Village to protect them. There are also possibilities it wasn’t the villagers that battled the bandits, but something else.” (Nelson)

Zirconia placed one of her hand at her forehead with a grim expression after hearing Nelson’s reasoning.

Although she had heard them all, she didn’t know which one is the truth.

“.....Somehow, my head hurts. Either way, to know the truth we can only ask Kazura-san directly...” (Zirconia)

“.....This is difficult to ask, though.” (Nelson)

When they remembered how sullen the expression Kazura had when he left the room without looking back, Nelson and Zirconia sighed.

If their subordinate didn't bring Kazura to Isteria, then Grisea Village wouldn't be attacked in his absence.

From his behavior just now, it was clear how Kazura treasured the villagers of Grisea Village, especially the girl named Valetta. His displeasure when he exited the room were vividly seen by both of them

As a matter of fact, Kazura wasn't displeased at all.

Suddenly, Zirconia, who was holding her forehead, raised her face and put both of her hand at both end of the table and then tried to lift it up with all of her strength.

"Ngggggh! ..... I'm failed. I can't lift it." (Zirconia)

"What are you trying to do.....?" (Nelson)

"Maybe if we get a power from the food, then I can lift this up. Is what I am thinking." (Zirconia)

The massive desk that was made from thick boards, wasn't something that can be lifted up with the strength of a single woman.

It's different if she just held one of the side and tilt it up, but Zirconia placed both hands at the desk and tried to lift it completely from the floor.

If she didn't possess herculean strength, then it would be impossible for her to lift it alone.

"Well, let's put the talks about the food for now. With the current situation, we better refrain from throwing even frank questions to Kazura-dono. We can't offend him more than this." (Nelson)

"That's right..... Besides, if we interrogate the captured bandits, we might know what had truly happened." (Zirconia)

When Zirconia said this while she was trying to lift the desk with her hands, there was a knocking sound from the door.

The escort soldier has returned with his members.

One hour afterwards.

Zirconia headed towards a certain interrogation room located at the basement of Nelson's Manor.

She carried a large 40 centimeters sized wooden box with both of her hand, the box was covered by a cloth.

Zirconia arrived in front of the interrogation room for the bandits, the soldier who was standing by in front of the room opened the door for her to enter.

Sitting at the chair in the middle of the room was the evil-faced skinhead man, who had his hand tied behind his back. There were two heavy armored soldiers with crimson mantle guarding at both of his side.

They are Zirconia hand-picked soldiers, the Second Corps Noble Guards.

Zirconia placed the box atop a table and sit on a chair in front of the man.

"Hello. I am the interrogator officer that will questioning you, Zirconia. Nice to meet you." (Zirconia)

When Zirconia sit down, the man stared fixatedly at Zirconia's face and became really surprised.

"Zirconia? That [Invincible General] Zirconia?" (Poor Guy)

"Ara? So you know about me. But, I don't like that nickname. Can you stop calling me that?" (Zirconia)

[Invincible General] was the nickname that Zirconia obtained in the second half of the war 4 years ago.

Again and again, in the many battles with Balveile, the corps that she led has never been defeated, this rumor gave birth t that nickname of her. But for some reason, the person herself seemed to hate this nickname.

Zirconia said those words whilst smiling and then removed the cloth from the box atop the table. Then she took a small wooden device with a bronze blade.

The bronze blade were fixed at half of the side with the other half had a wooden handle attached to it.

When the handle is lifted up, the blade will go up. If the handle is released, then the blade will come down at the device. It had a simple mechanism.

“Why? If your corps come, then the battle..... H-hey, what’s with that thing?” (Poor Guy)

Seeing the dangerous looking device in front of him, the man became pale.

This wasn’t surprising, since at the wooden part of the device, there was still trace of blood clinging all over it.

“I am so sorry. I am a bit busy, so I don’t have much time. You will be fine if you answer my questions after this, but if the answer is different from the other two in different room, then everyone will lose 1 finger. Something like that. Now, the first question is.....” (Zirconia)

Zirconia warned something outrageous without any hesitation that made the man trembled in fear.

It was as if she implied that cutting one or two fingers wasn’t something important, with a natural smile that cannot be easily believed at all.

“Can I know, how many member your bandit group had?” (Zirconia)

With a manner as if she didn’t care about the man’s reaction at all, Zirconia began her questioning.

# CHAPTER 49

## UNNOTICED INCIDENTAL LIMIT UP

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At the same time when Zirconia was questioning the bandits.

At the plaza in front of Nelson's Manor, there was a commotion from a large amount of carriage gathered in a hurry and the soldiers of Second Corps Noble Guards and their servants preparing to depart.

The soldiers and servants were already at the steps of doing the last check on their luggage, and would be ready to depart in just several minutes.

In such situation, as if Kazura didn't mind the noisy surrounding at all, he sat at the stone bench installed at one of the corners of the plaza and looked at the ground with a gloomy expression.

Isaac who stood beside Kazura, sometimes does a quick look as if concerned about Kazura's condition, while receiving the completion report from the Noble Guards.

"(.....Are my thoughts too naïve? Should I just have ignored other people outside the villagers of Grisea Village?)" (Kazura)

After receiving the report that Grisea Village had been attacked by bandits, Kazura looked back at the action he had taken until now and fell into self-loathing.

---

From the timing of the attack, the bandits might have tailed the carriage that Valetta and Valin had taken to Grisea Village.

Although from the escort soldier, none of the villagers were harmed, if there was a small mistake, then the result might be the opposite.

He regretted sending Valetta and Valin to return to Grisea Village ahead of him, but he was more regretting why he had taken Valetta and Valin with him to Isteria.

---

At any rate, there was no actual need for Kazura to go towards Isteria to explain about the aid.

If Isteria's side really desired Kazura's aid, then it was them who should visit Kazura. This was furthermore possible to do after he had convinced Isaac and Havel that he is Greysior.

Of course, it would be difficult to expect Nelson and Zirconia to believe Isaac and Havel story, but it would also take the same amount of time for Kazura to directly meet with Nelson and put the aid plan into the application when compared if Kazura traveled personally to Isteria.

Although the damage from the famine in the province would be increased since the aid would get delayed, if he put the safety of Grisea Village as his maximum priority then Kazura should not have been bothered by that at all.

Depending on the circumstances, he can refuse to give aid to the outside of the Grisea Village or limit the aid only at teaching the method of using the forest humus or how to create fertilizer.

“(However, what will happen if I rejected the plea to save this country that time? It will be unlikely for Nelson's side to ignore the village just like that, the rumor of the village could spread out..... No, if I ordered Isaac-san to keep it secret then.....)”  
(Kazura)

Kazura was wondering ‘what in the world should I do?’

Is he a fool who accepted the plea when he was told that there would be a lot of people in the province who will die from hunger due to the famine?

Even if the surrounding villages and cities was awash with people dying from starvation, should he keep continuing protecting only the people of Grisea Village that he treasured and ignored the tragic situation surrounding it?

Perhaps, if he only wanted to save Grisea Village, he should have only given food assistance to the villagers.

As the result of him caught up in the moment and unnecessarily brought watermill and fertilizer, Isaac ended up sniffed Kazura's existence.

If he didn't get found out by Isaac, then Kazura and Valetta wouldn't need to go to Isteria, then the bandits wouldn't attack the village to aim at the carriage's cargo.

---

"Kazura-sama, the preparations for departure has been completed....." (Isaac)

---

While Kazura was thinking those thoughts, Isaac had received the report of the completion of departure preparation from every Noble Guards groups, and he conveyed this to Kazura with a nervous feeling.

"Ah..... Yes." (Kazura)

Looking at Isaac whose face full of worries towards him, it was the first time Kazura felt surprised that he was trying to force the blame to Isaac by thinking "If only Isaac didn't found him out" .

Isaac didn't ask Kazura to save the province with an ill will.

Rather, he is an honest person who planned to kill himself to apologize for his disrespectful conduct towards Kazura who pretending to be Greysior.

Kazura couldn't push the blame at Isaac who desperately plead for Isteria province's salvation.

"Kazura-sama, the bandits' attack at Grisea Village this time is my fault. If I didn't disturb Kazura-sama quiet life in Grisea Village, then....." (Isaac)

---

Maybe because he just thought about it, when Kazura was moving towards the carriage, Isaac began pinning the blame on himself with a depressed expression.

After seeing Kazura's gloomy expression, Isaac might have the same thoughts like the one Kazura had and felt responsible for it.

---

"It's not Isaac-san fault, so please don't blame yourself." (Kazura)

---

".....Yes." (Isaac)

Kazura did his most gentle expression and denied that Isaac was to be blamed. Although Isaac still had a depressed expression, he obediently nodded.

Maybe he still didn't accept it in his heart and just nodded merely because it was time for departure.

"Then, let's begin the journey. Isaac-san will ride a Rata, right?" (Kazura)

"Yes, I will lead the Corps from the Rata. If Kazura-sama has any order, please convey it to Havel who will stand by near Kazura-sama's carriage. Feel free to order us." (Isaac)

When Isaac finished with his words, he turned his sight towards the carriage that had been prepared for Kazura.

Kazura too shifted his attention towards a parked large carriage that was noticeably more elegant than the other carriages in the plaza.

---

He opened the carriage door and peeked at its magnificent interior design.

There was a splendid carpet laid out on the floor, there were even sofas and table. It was as if it was a small room being pulled by Rata.

---

Next to the carriage, Havel had already been waiting and was talking to a girl.

---

"Hmm? I'm sure that she is the one from Havel-san's mansion....." (Kazura)

"Is there a problem?" (Isaac)

"No, but that girl who is talking with Havel-san is the girl who had helped us in many things when we stayed over Havel-san's mansion. Maybe Havel-san brought her along as an attendant."

Maybe Havel had prepared someone, who Kazura had acquainted before, even briefly, for the attendant position. So Kazura said out his gratitude for Havel's concern.

“I see, I had thought that the attendant he brought is too young, but there is a reason behind it. It looks like Havel is really resourceful in doing his work, he even keeps an eye on the fine details. I too, have to learn this from him.” (Isaac)

---

Seeing how Kazura was thankful for it, Isaac felt a bit delighted and praised Havel’s conduct.

He was glad that his subordinates was a capable man and can be relied upon even at this uneasy time.



“U-umm, maybe it’s better for me to board the carriage, too.....” (Marie)

One after another, the surrounding carriages had ready to depart, so with a panicked expression, Marie came forward with a suggestion to Havel.

In the plaza, the soldiers hurriedly moved and mounted their Rata, while their servants began boarding the carriage together with their master and their own luggage.

If she didn’t quickly board the carriage then even though the carriages were big, with a large number of luggage and servants crowding inside, she might not be able to secure a place for herself.

Since they need to do a quick march, the escorting Noble Guards that would accompany Kazura were composed entirely of cavalry.

So the entire servants who would accompany them need to board the carriage so that they could maintain the same marching speed with the soldiers.

“No, please wait a bit longer here.” (Havel)

---

Ignoring Marie who was panicked, Havel was observing Kazura and Isaac who was talking at the edge of his field of vision, while waiting for Kazura to approach his position.

If Havel's prediction was correct then he should make Marie wait until Kazura came and she wouldn't need to board the crowded carriage with the other servants.

---

So, while Havel ignoring Marie's complain that the other carriage began to move and asked her to wait a little longer, Kazura parted with Isaac and walked towards Havel's position.

---

"Havel-san, is the carriage ready to depart?" (Kazura)

---

"Yes, the preparation already had been put in order. Marie, you need to board the carriage over there, since we will soon depart." (Havel)

"Eh!? Y-yes!" (Marie)

---

"Hm? The carriage over there..... Marie-san, please wait for a moment." (Kazura)

Kazura stopped Marie who was going to run in a hurry towards the carriage that Havel had pointed out.

It was because Kazura happened to see that the carriage that Havel pointed at, was quite congested with the soldiers' luggage and the servants.

Although if she was lucky then there still some space to sit inside the carriage, since it would be a long travel it would be quite harsh for a girl like Marie.

"Havel-san, why don't let Marie-san board my carriage so she can attend me in the journey." (Kazura)

---

"As your wish, Kazura-sama. Marie, please board the carriage with Kazura-sama. Then, please excuse me." (Havel)

---

".....Eh?" (Marie)

---

Leaving behind Marie who was stiffened at the unexpected course of events, Havel bowed at Kazura and then moved towards his Rata that was tied at the plaza's corner.

---

"I am sorry for the unreasonable demand. Until we arrived at Grisea Village, I will be depending on you." (Kazura)

While smiling, Kazura addressed Marie who was frozen in place. Then he opened the carriage door wide and then boarded the carriage.



"Do you feel alright? If you don't feel well, should we stop the carriage?" (Kazura)

"I-I am alright. Thank you very much." (Marie)

---

It was several ten minutes after they departed from Nelson's Manor.

Inside the carriage that shook with a clatter, Kazura patted the back of Marie whose face had become pale.

It seems that she had a motion sickness.

---

"Pleasem wait for a moment. I will take out a medicine now." (Kazura)

---

"Eh!? A-ano, for Kazura-sama to give a medicine to someone like me is....." (Marie)

"It's fine, don't worry about it." (Kazura)

---

Ignoring Marie who began flustered when he mentioned about taking out a medicine, Kazura opened the travel bag which had been stored inside the carriage and took out the pouch with aroma oil bottles.

"(Umm, for motion sickness, lavender, peppermint, and..... What was it again? Maybe citrus will be good.)"

Relying on the knowledge of the aroma oil effects that he sometimes used in his daily life in Japan, Kazura took out lavender, peppermint, and grapefruit oil bottles, then he put one drop of each oil on a handkerchief he fetched from the bag and let the oil permeated on it.

Putting the oils at the handkerchief was because using the aroma pot, like he done yesterday for Isaac, couldn't immediately bring out the scent.

Also, by putting it on the handkerchief and then brought it close to the face, it would have a stronger oils scent than spreading it out to the entire carriage.

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“Please take a small whiff at this. I think it can make you feel better.” (Kazura)

---

Kazura brought the handkerchief close to his nose and after he confirmed the scent, he handed it over to Marie who was pale faced and gushing with cold sweat.

---

“Thank you very much..... Please forgive me for causing a trouble.....” (Marie)

Marie received the handkerchief from Kazura. While saying her thanks, she brought it close to her nose.

Then, after she took a sniff of the scent for a moment, she drew back her face from it and stared at the handkerchief with a surprised expression.

“The bad feeling I felt has disappeared.....” (Marie)

---

“That's good to hear. Then until we arrived at Grisea Village, please sniff at it now and then. It will ease your motion sickness.” (Kazura)

The effect of the aroma oils that the handkerchief had, was something that Kazura had personally experienced in Japan.

When he got motion sickness, when he sniffed at this oils blend, he would quickly recover.

Furthermore, since it had an immediate effect, it was quite convenient.

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Kazura felt relieved that Marie's pale countenance had become better, then he noticed that his own feeling was a bit lighter before he realized.

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".....Ah, I see. Havel-san. You have done a good job..." (Kazura)

---

"Eh?" (Marie)

"No, I only admire how Havel-san had performed splendidly in his tasks." (Kazura)

The melancholic feeling he had until now would only continue if he rides the carriage alone, then surely he would only thoughts of depressing things, and Kazura might certainly felt depressed even more.

But if he rides with an acquaintance – but, we can say this is the first time they had a proper conversation with each other --, furthermore that acquaintance was a young girl like Marie, surely Kazura wouldn't be able to think about gloomy things.

Most likely, Havel had foreseen this far. By anticipating Kazura's own personality, he had deliberately waited beside the carriage with Marie. So Kazura felt an admiration for him.

# CHAPTER 50

## LOVE AND STRENGTH

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It had been about 9 hours since Kazura's entourage departure from Isteria. Under the moonlight illumination, Valin, Valetta, and the villagers stood at Grisea Village's entrance to receive Kazura's arrival.

Behind Kazura who was being welcomed by the villagers, the escort soldiers and their servants were unloading tents and luggage from the large carriage and began to make camp. Maybe because Isaac and Havel had taken Kazura's situation into their consideration, currently they abstain themselves from Kazura's side and were preparing the camp together with the soldiers.

"So, everyone is safe..... Thank goodness....." (Kazura)

Upon seeing the lively appearance of the villagers, Kazura finally could sigh in relief. Although he had heard from the escort soldiers that not a single villager had been injured, he couldn't be relieved until he personally saw the villagers with his own eyes.

"Even though that we were actually afraid when the bandits suddenly attacked, thanks to the strength that Kazura-san had granted to us, we were able to turn the table on them. Nevertheless, even though the village has never been attacked by bandits before, it was our carelessness for not having any lookouts. But we had thought about several measures so that something like that won't occur anymore."  
(Valin)

"I see, that's why when I arrived at the village, everyone had been waiting in the entrance." (Kazura)

After hearing Valin's words, Kazura finally understood. When Kazura's entourage reached the village, despite it was the time where everyone should be asleep, the villagers already gathered in a large crowd in front of the village. Perhaps, the people who are on the lookout at the entrance had detected the entourage and then went to wake up the sleeping villagers.

"Yes, for the moment we decided to keep watching the village's surrounding. In addition, Valetta also had thought many things." (Valin)

“Valetta-san did?” (Kazura)

Kazura shifted his eyes to Valetta who then nodded while smiling.

“Yes. However before we begin the construction, we want to hear Kazura-san’s opinion..... Ano, can we discuss this in the residence, right now?” (Valetta)

“Construction?..... I understand. I need to retrieve my luggage, so please wait for a moment.” (Kazura)

Kazura was a bit confused when he heard the word “construction”, but he quickly agreed to Valetta’s suggestion and headed towards the carriage to retrieve his travel bag and carry case.

When Kazura returned, Marie, who was standing by in front of the carriage, was taking out the travel bag from the carriage, which she then handed over to Kazura. There was still the carry case remained inside the carriage, but the carry case, that had been crammed with stuff to its limit, was too heavy for Marie. She seemed troubled as she couldn’t move it well.

“It is heavy so you can just leave it. I will carry it myself.” (Kazura)

“F-forgive me to trouble you.....” (Marie)

Kazura took Marie who was breathing heavily down from the carriage, before boarding it and took out the carry case.

“Please inform Isaac-san and Havel-san that I will be staying at Valin-san’s residence tonight.” (Kazura)

“Certainly, Kazura-sama.” (Marie)

After speaking with Marie, with luggage in his hand, Kazura entered the village together with the villagers.

“Marie.” (Havel)

Marie who was seeing Kazura off, turned her head towards the one who called her and then she broke out a small smile.

“Havel-sama, Kazura-sama ask me to inform you that he will spend the night at Valin-sama’s residence.” (Marie)

“I see. Seems like it.” (Havel)

Havel shifted his sight at Kazura who entered the village while being surrounded by the villagers.

The expressions of the villagers around Kazura were bright and Kazura’s expression who was being surrounded by the villagers was also delighted for some reason.

“.....Kazura-sama is a mysterious person.” (Marie)

“Hm?” (Havel)

Havel turned towards Marie who was following Kazura entering the village with her eyes.

Her sight was gentle, that it can be inferred that she had a good impression about Kazura.

“Along the way, he was willing to converse with someone like me and kindly interacted with me as if there are no difference in social standing between us. Furthermore, he even shared a drug to me who had become motion sick.....” (Marie)

“.....Ah, that person is a really a nice person. Someone who are really kind.” (Havel)

Havel returned his sight back towards Kazura and replied in a low voice.

His expression was of someone who was feeling relieved for some reason.

Although it was him who schemed to have Marie and Kazura to board the carriage together, surely he was curious about the state inside the carriage.

“Yes..... But, how mysterious. Although at first I was very much afraid of him and was always nervous, but after talking with him, I am really relieved for some reason..... Somehow, it was as if talking with mother.” (Marie)

“.....” (Havel)

“.....Ah! I-I am deeply sorry! I-I... for thinking something like that!” (Marie)

Marie was surprised by her own remark and then hurriedly apologized to Havel.

However, Havel didn't look at the apologetic Marie but cast his sight at the ground.

“It's alright..... But, sorry. It's because my own power is still not enough..... Someday, I will surely find her.” (Havel)

Havel murmured with a downhearted expression.

Marie looked at the downhearted Havel with sadness in her eyes.

“.....Yes.” (Marie)

She made a small nod.



On the other hand, Kazura had returned to Valin's residence with Valetta and others, and now he was in front of the hearth at the living room where Valetta showed him the rough sketch of the map of Grisea Village and the surrounding area that she drew over the notebook. The rough sketch was marked with a red pen at several places with Japanese word [Palisade]and [Watchtower].

As for the present situation, only Valetta and Kazura was in the living room, as Valin left the residence for some kind of business.

“In this way, the whole village will be walled by wooden palings, then we will dig a moat surrounding the wall. In addition, we will construct watchtower at the four corner, and a drawbridge at the village entrance.” (Valetta)

“.....Completely like constructing a fortress. With this, there is no need to be worried about bandit attacks..... However, won't the moat disturb the aqueducts function?” (Kazura)

“Umm, I had thought that we can construct a bridge span for the aqueduct at some part of the moat or construct underground aqueduct passage and brought the water into the village using siphon principle. However, in case of underground aqueduct

then we need to use stones and mortars..... I wonder if we could obtain enough lime for the mortar.....” (Valetta)

“I see..... In that case, I can prepare the lime. Since I can procure as many as we need, please use it as much as you like.” (Kazura)

Valetta was worried about the lack of the materials, but Kazura immediately come forward with materials supply.

A few days ago, after negotiating with Nelson’s side in Isteria, Kazura had secured their promise to not interfere with whatever Kazura will do in Grisea Village. For that reason, as long as it is limited to Grisea Village, Kazura didn’t need to pay attention anymore on the goods or technology that he brought. Furthermore, since Valetta had known Kazura’s true identity and had learned various knowledge from a lot of books, there was little need for him to worry about entrusting those goods and technology to her.

By the way, [Siphon Principle] was a phenomenon where water flowed from a higher position to lower position over an elevated position through a tube or closed channel. In this case, there is a limitation in that the destination of the siphon must be lower than the water source. When Kazura studied with Valetta before, they learned this principle although only at a shallow degree.

“A-as much as we like?” (Valetta)

“Yes, use it as much as you like. Since it will be easy to acquire lime in Japan, so I can bring over any amount as needed.” (Kazura)

Actually, if Kazura returns to Japan and goes to the HomeCenter, he could obtain lime in any amount. Even if the lime were used as the mortar, if it only at an amount that a single village could use, then supplying it would be a simple task.

“.....I understand. Then, since we will do that, then why don’t we improve the water channels inside the village and change every channel into one made from stone and mortar. We will be using a section of the moat for the siphon principle experiment and the underground aqueducts passage. If these failed then we will construct aqueduct bridge span. After the aqueduct in the village had been upgraded, next, we will improve the aqueduct outside the village and the river’s water channel. Perhaps after increasing the size of the village furnace, we can produce hand pump. After that.....” (Valetta)

While looking at the rough sketch of the village that was drawn on the notebook, Valetta wrote a note one after another using a ballpoint pen. It seemed that Valetta used the knowledge she acquired from learning with Kazura and was eager to apply it to improve the safety and the living quality of the village.

“Eh? Hand pump? Can it be made in the village?” (Kazura)

“Yes, since the pump structure is simple, we can make it from bronze..... Ano, maybe it’s better to not use the knowledge that Kazura-san had taught me in the village?” (Valetta)

The hand pump that Valetta mentioned was a manual operating pump that draws water from a well by pushing the lever repeatedly. In Japan, it’s something that can sometimes be seen in the rice field at the rural area.

“Hmm..... Nelson-san’s side said that they won’t be meddling in the affairs of the village, so I think we don’t need to worry about it. Furthermore, I also will teach the knowledge of how to produce hand pump to Nelson-san’s side before long, so this won’t be a problem in the long run.” (Kazura)

Valetta, who was asking with anxiousness, smiled in relief after hearing Kazura’s reply.

She might be worried about whether she can put the knowledge she acquired from Kazura into practice and the afterward influence on the surroundings.

“Thank goodness..... Ano, actually there is a thing that I want to try to make. Since we will be careful so that it wouldn’t be seen by any outsiders, will you permit it?” (Valetta)

“I don’t really mind, but what are you trying to make?” (Kazura)

“.....Steam engine.” (Valetta)

“Wha-!?” (Kazura)

Because of Valetta’s unexpected answer, Kazura spontaneously let out a shout. Although after this he would introduce waterwheel powered water pumping technology, but if he suddenly made something that can cause an energy revolution such as steam engine, no matter how much they promised not to interfere in Grisea

Village, it would be inevitable to develop into a dangerous situation. Even the waterwheel was something that can cause the rapid advancement of industrial technology for this world. Introduction of a steam engine was something too extreme.

Just when the flustered Kazura was going to open his mouth to warn Valetta, she showed an impish smile.

“Fufu, it’s just a joke. Although it will be interesting to try to make it for an experiment. For the time being, what I want to make is waterwheel powered machine tools. Which one should we make first, sawmill or gristmill?” (Valetta)

“I-is that so? Please don’t hesitate to inform me about the needed materials or tools. I will prepare them in any amount necessary.” (Kazura)

Kazura was relieved after hearing that it was just a joke and came forward with his offer to supply the materials needed.

“.....Thank you very much. But, I think we will try to make the parts ourselves as much as possible. Since in this way, we can learn something about it.” (Valetta)

However, Valetta gently refused Kazura’s offer, then she dropped her eyes towards the notebook with a hint of loneliness in her eyes.

“(.....Huh? Did I said something strange?)” (Kazura)

Kazura tried to open his mouth to said something to Valetta whose expression suddenly became gloomy However, he stopped when accidentally catch sight of it. He didn’t notice it until now because of the dark, but at several places on the floor of the living room, there were blackish stains.

“This is.....” (Kazura)

Kazura stood out while saying those words, and looked around the surrounding floors and walls. Then, he observed a section of the floor where there was a large dark stain spread out and kneeled near it.

“.....This is, bloodstain?” (Kazura)

“Ah, I’m sorry. It seems to deeply stain and it won’t disappear even after washing. Before long we will change it with a new floorboard.” (Valetta)

“No, that isn’t my point..... Umm, if there is a bloodstain here then that means there is a battle with the bandits here?” (Kazura)

Kazura sensed a tinge of uncomfortable in Valetta’s smooth reply, nevertheless, he asked the rhetorical question that he already knew what the answer was. There was a bloodstain in this place. It was obvious there was a battle in this place.

However, from the story that he had heard from the escort soldier before he departed was that when the bandits attacked, Valin escaped from the residence, awakened the villagers, and then counterattack the bandits as a group. If there was bloodstain in this place, then when he escaped the residence, there might be a small skirmish happened.

“Yes. That night, a group of bandits intrudes inside the house..... But, Father swiftly beat them all.” (Valetta)

“.....Eh? Everyone? Valin defeated all the bandits by himself!?” (Kazura)

“Yes, there are five people inside the house..... Ah, I defeated one of them, so Father only defeated four of them. Afterward, Father pursued the rest of the bandits, and I heard that he and the other villagers defeated the rest of the bandits in the forest outside the village.” (Valetta)

“Va-Valetta-san is also fighting the bandits? .....” (Kazura)

Although Kazura was surprised by Valetta’s story, he could see how it happened in his mind. Since some time ago, the villagers that ate the food he brought had exhibited herculean strength. However, it was unexpected that they were so strong that two people can overwhelm a group of armed bandits. Even so, all is well in the end.

“Etto..... I was more or less frightened so I can’t fight well..... b-but, Father is amazing! Even when the bandits attacked with swords he repelled it, and then countered and cut off the bandits in one attack!” (Valetta)

Valetta began to make exaggerated gesture while telling Valin’s battle.

“Whoa, Valin is that strong?..... But, I believe it was scary to be suddenly attacked in the night..... The bandit attack this time was my fault. If I didn’t leave the village, then this will.....” (Kazura)

Kazura hung his head down and apologized with a downcast expression. No matter how wonderfully strong Valin-san in routing the bandits, Valetta must be frightened by the attack. Furthermore, Valetta said that she battled one of the bandits herself. When the bandits pointed their blade at her, she must have received a shock.

“No, it’s not!” (Valetta)

Valetta’s scream made Kazura raised his head. Valetta was directly looking at Kazura with tears in her eyes.

“Kazura-san didn’t do anything wrong! ..... I, all..... I.....” (Valetta)

“Eh!? Wait.....!?” (Kazura)

Valetta suddenly cried. Kazura didn’t understand the reason of it, so he just nervously placed his hand at Valetta’s back. Although he tried to remember if he had said something that offense Valetta, but except for apologizing for his fault for the bandit attack, he couldn’t think of anything else.

“(What with this situation!? What should I do!?)” (Kazura)



Kazura didn't know what the best word to say and just patted Valetta's back while waiting until she stopped crying.



Valin, who was going full circle around the village, returned to the residence, but he stopped moving when he put the hand at the door, after looking at Kazura and Valetta.

“.....Tonight, I should sleep in the barn, right?” (Valin)

He let out a lonely remark, and while sighing, he headed towards the barn.

# CHAPTER 51

## WHY?

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Overwhelmed by the vexation and tormented by a sense of helplessness, while hanging her head down and choked with tears that rained down on the floor, Valetta noticed that there is one part of herself that was terribly calm and had thought of an idea.

Near her was Kazura who has gently patted her back and worried about her, who was shedding tears while quivering.

Suddenly, she had an idea to embrace his chest and letting out all the complaints she had amassed until now.

But this man would certainly kindly take everything she said and her wish into his consideration.

“Don’t go anywhere”, if she cries and clings to him, he will surely always stay beside her.

“What a foolish thing to do”, another part of herself rebuked her.

That man, who had saved her father, saved the village, and warmly watched over her every day afterward; can she still request something from him who had done so much?

Even if she had taken advantage of that kindness, can she be satisfied by just being beside him?

Didn’t she dislike to become someone that is only cared and protected by him, but instead strive to become an existence that is needed by him?

Although she had immediately admonished herself for that selfish idea, Valetta couldn’t shake free from that alluring temptation.

The reason was if she begs Kazura while in tears right now, she had the confidence that Kazura would steer all of his priority to stay at Valetta’s side.

This young man, who came from a country called Japan, was a helplessly good natured person.

He couldn't not helping those who asked for his help or depended on him. As a result, he couldn't spare himself from the possibilities where his personality handicap is exploited.

Even when he received respect from the people he saved and thanked him, he never showed even a bit of haughty or conceited behavior.

His tendency was remarkably different from people who approach others with goodwill to become close with them.

Mostly, in contrast to herself.

“Kazura-sa-.....” (Valetta)

Again, she wanted to throw her selfishness, complaints, and everything to attain his comfort.

If she did this then someday he might be able to become her only own.

Stimulated by the tempting egoistic justification that suddenly appeared inside her mind, Valetta raised her face.

However, the moment she saw Kazura's eyes that looked towards her with a worried expression, as if it poured cold water on her heart. The delusion inside her head rapidly dispersed.

“Hm?” (Kazura)

When she saw Kazura replied to her with a smile on his face, there was an obvious fatigue mixed in his expression.

There was a dim bag under his eyes and his cheeks were somewhat skinny.

Even though, Kazura had just been away from her for less than 3 days.

It surely was because he had devoted all of his strength during the last 3 days in Isteria for the sake of saving the people of Arcadia.

Ever since Kazura returned to the village, Valetta had seen his face repeatedly.

Even at the time when the villagers welcomed him at the village's entrance, they had a conversation while seeing each other face.

She need not think for the cause.

Even so, she completely didn't notice it.

No, it can be said that it was because she didn't try to notice it.

Until now, Valetta had tried to know more about Kazura, even slightly. So she had observed his expression over and over again to grasp his way of thinking and feeling towards the village as much as possible.

That's why it was the same with Kazura's physical condition.

When he showed even the slightest bit of being tired, she would offer a massage for him or suggest to finish their study session during the night earlier; when she had confirmed that Kazura had slept, then she continued studying by herself.

When Valetta came forward with those suggestion, Kazura always declined and said that he is still feeling fine, but she wouldn't concede.

Although she feels happy by Kazura's kindness, she tried as much as possible to pay attention so that he wouldn't be burdened too much.

If he was left as it is, Kazura would end up trying to help the villagers in working in the fields or collecting firewood, so she was always paying attention so that he didn't work himself too much.

'And yet despite that', thought Valetta.

'What am I doing now?'

She was only thinking about herself and that was similar to not thinking about Kazura's circumstances at all

She continued to be depressed up until several minutes ago, so where had her desire to become an existence that needed by him had gone?

When she became depressed by her own accord and irresolutely troubled by her own thoughts, Kazura was devoting all of his efforts for the sake of saving people of Arcadia.

Furthermore, when Kazura heard that the village was assaulted by bandits, he immediately returned to the village.

Her complete change of feeling into one who was obsessed and fueled by the sweet temptation was the worst thing she ever had done.

She felt severe disgust on herself.

Her mouth parched dry and her breath seemed to stop inside her chest.

“Ah.....I.....” (Valetta)

“It’s alright. Calm down.” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke out with the gentlest voice he can make towards Valetta who was in unusual condition and tenderly patted her head.

Even so, when he saw that there was no visible change in her, he brought her into his chest and gently hug her.

Then he said “it’s alright” repeatedly while continuing to pat her head.



The next morning.

Valin, who returned to the residence at some point, had prepared the breakfast and Kazura was currently eating it together with Valin and Valetta.

However, the seating position was different from the usual and there was no table conversation. The only sounds available in the living room was sounds of food chewing and the clatters of the wooden utensils.

This extremely complicated atmosphere dominated the living room.

“(.....What is this extremely awkward situation?)” (Kazura)

While sipping the piping hot soup made from canned beans and vegetables from the village, Kazura sent a glance towards Valetta.

Just like last night, Valetta still had the same depressed expression and feebly brought the food to her mouth.

Suddenly Kazura felt Valin's gaze and turned towards him, Valin send a glance as if asking "What happened?"

I also want to know about this, was something that Kazura had in his mind.

Last night, Kazura kept stayed at Valetta's side until she calmed down and hug her tightly to comfort her .

Of course, he didn't feel embarrassed at all.

Since that action was something that came into his mind when he thought what he can do for Valetta who has suddenly become strange.

However, after some time passed, Valetta suddenly said, "I'm sorry" without having contact with Kazura's eyes, she separated herself and went to her room.

Thus, he arrived at the current situation.

After the breakfast under such complicated mood finished, Valin asked Valetta to do the cleaning, and under the pretext of meeting with the villagers, he went outside while taking Kazura along with him.

"Kazura-san, Valetta's behavior is really strange." (Valin)

When Valin arranged so that Kazura and Valetta were alone last night, he was under an impression that Kazura could do something about her.

However, he never expected that Valetta's behavior became even stranger.

Last night, when he heard Valetta's crying from beyond the door, he was optimistic that she would say all the things that she had saved up and threw them all at Kazura.

Despite this, her state of affair become deteriorated.

He honestly didn't know what was going on.

“Yes, but I also didn't know anything at all. During the time when I'm not in the village, was there any change at Valetta-san?” (Kazura)

“Something is it?..... There is.....” (Valin)

When Kazura asked, Valin thought back at Valetta's situation during the last several days.

If something came to his mind, it was.....

“After parting with Kazura-san in Isteria, Valetta became depressed all the time. I thought that she would cheer up a bit after she met Kazura-san again, so...” (Valin)

“O, oh” (Kazura)

Valin had given an unanticipated information, that made Kazura replied with a troubled reaction.

If she felt depressed after parting with him, then that means it was hard for her to be separated from him.

Because the one who said this information was none other than the father of the person in question, it was quite a queer conversation.

“Also, when the bandits attacked the residence, Valetta was pushed down by one of the bandits. Fortunately, the bandit was defeated before he could do something, but.....” (Valin)

“Eh!?” (Kazura)

Although Kazura felt somewhat happy at Valin's previous information, he was surprised at what Valin had said just now.

If she was pushed down by a bandit, then that means she was going to be raped.

In most cases, it wouldn't be strange if she got a trauma.

So that means.

Last night, when Kazura hugged Valetta to calm her down, there was a high possibility that he had stepped on a big landmine.

Instead of calming her like he had intended, it might have opened her wound.

Thinking along this line, then he could somehow understand Valetta's behavior from last night until this morning.

".....Valin-san" (Kazura)

"Yes?" (Valin)

"Please tell me more about that incident, anything is fine." (Kazura)

"Y-yes." (Valin)

Valin was not really understood the current situation, so Kazura let out a deep sigh.



One hour later.

Kazura explained the situation with a young village girl who was close with Valetta and request her to do an appropriate care and follow up on Valetta.

"Actually, I want to do it myself, but I can only leave this to you since you are also a female. I apologize for the sudden request, but I really hope for your help." (Kazura)

"I don't really mind it, though....." (Village Girl)

The village girl, who had heard the story from Kazura, showed an expression of not fully understand the situation in any way, but for now, she tried to listen to the story and accepted Kazura's request.

Then, he stealthily returned to the residence and handed over a herb blend to her, then he asked her to ask Valetta how to make herb tea and drank the tea together with her.

After receiving the agreement with the village girl, Kazura headed towards the direction where Isaac and the other soldiers had camped near the village's entrance.

“Good morning, Kazura-sama” (Issac)

When Kazura arrived at the village’s entrance, Isaac and Havel were already waiting for him.

Maybe because both of them had a good night rest, something that they haven’t experienced for quite some time, their expression was cheerful and their physical condition was in top shape.

Their situation was in contrast with Kazura who couldn’t get a good night sleep due to being worried about many things.

“Good morning. Was there any changes in the surroundings?” (Kazura)

“We have found no problem so far. We had periodically sent out several scouts to the surroundings, but there was no one who were approaching the village.” (Issac)

Maybe because of the attack on Grisea Village, Isaac was being quite cognizant about someone shadowing them.

Since the veteran soldier in the Nobles Guard didn’t found anything when scouting the surroundings, then that means the surroundings should be really safe and secure.

“Do you know how soon the next carriages convoy will arrive?” (Kazura)

“I believed since they should have departed from Isteria this morning, then at the latest they will arrive at tomorrow night. Since we had set up patrol along the way, Kazura-sama will be informed several hours before their arrival.” (Ha)

“(In other words, I will have a free time for about 2 days.)” (Kazura)

After hearing Havel’s reply, Kazura began to calculate backward about the actions he had chosen until now.

In two days, 3000 bags and a lot of carriages and wagons to carry it would arrive.

In his original plan, he would make them wait in the village’s entrance for one or two days. During this time, Kazura planned to go to Japan and prepared the items.

However, when he knew that Grisea Village was attacked, he immediately departed from Isteria, and as the result, it had deviated from the schedule of his original plan by a bit. However, this was unexpectedly enabled him to use the time more efficiently.

“I understand. Then, while waiting for the convoy’s arrival, I will begin the preparation. Since I will go to God’s Realm for a moment, I wouldn’t be able to be contacted, but please wait in this place without worry.” (Kazura)

“I understand. We are in your debt.” (Issac)

With Isaac and Havel bowed respectfully while sending him off, Kazura headed towards the tree grove that was connected to Japan.



“Hah, I feel that it has been a really long time since I returned.” (Kazura)

Exiting the stone passage, Kazura had returned to the Japan’s mansion again after seven days.

During these seven days, as a result of the bewildering change in Kazura’s surrounding, when he returned to this mansion that’s always unchanging, he was wrapped in an indescribable sense of relief.

After enjoying the view in the mansion, Kazura took out his cellphone from the pocket and turned it on.

Afterward, just like usual, he began to search for the information he wanted on the internet.

“Umm, compost direct seller..... Oh, the location might be near.” (Kazura)

He searched using the keyword [Compost direct seller Gunma] and then immediately dozens of result from the search were displayed on the webpage.

Among them, there was one that located relatively close to the mansion, [Gunmaa Ranch Ltd.]. Kazura confirmed that this company directly sell compost from the ranch.

The ranch also produced compost in a large amount, so the available stocked amount was also huge.

If it only in a small amount, like the aid he provided to Grisea Village, then it was adequate by just purchasing fertilizer in Home Center, however, the scale of the current aid was different.

Just like what he had seen when travelling to Isteria before, he needed to restore the huge grain producing region that was covered by farm fields from one horizon to another.

Nonetheless, from his experience with the fertilizer usage in Grisea Village, he knew that even by using fertilizer commonly available in Japan, the crops would immediately grow in abnormal speed.

For the time being, he would try 1 : 10 dilution and depending on the crops condition then perhaps he could dilute it to 1 : 100 without a problem.

Even so, the amount of fertilizer was unlike the scale he had done in Grisea Village.

“Whoa, 1 ton is just around 3000 yen, even inexpensive should have a limit. I wonder if this is the market price.....” (Kazura)

While surprised by the direct selling price that was far lower than the fertilizer he had acquired in the Home Center until now, Kazura confirmed the address of the farm and began to walk towards the mansion entrance to board his car, when he stopped.

Then, he turned his sight at the tatami that covered the floor where he had walked until now.

“.....This... As expected, wouldn't the floor damaged this time?” (Kazura)

This time, the amount of the compost that Kazura would carry will be at least 500 kilograms.

Although at that amount, he still could transport it using the pull cart, but only using his own body to pull it would be a bone breaking effort.

Therefore he thought to purchase a four-wheeled buggy or a small tractor to pull the cart.

However, he just noticed that his plan had a glaring problem.

When he first arrived at this mansion, Kazura had heard from his father, Shinji, that this mansion was something that had been handed down through the generations.

It was a wooden mansion that looked like an antique building, so what would happen to it when a cart with 500 kilograms of compost and a buggy who pulled it, do a round trip multiple times?

Not only it would leave a hole on the floor but it wouldn't be strange if the floor collapsed.

As it is, he had done many trips using pull cart until now atop the tatami.

Even if he couldn't see it, perhaps the floor had reached its limit.

While having such worrying thoughts, Kazura grabbed a tatami side and lifted it.

Then, at the unexpected sight of what lies under the tatami, Kazura unconsciously opened his eyes wide.

What lies under the tatami was iron plates that were covering the whole surface.

traitorAIZEN note:



