



異世界に
移住する

4

宝くじで
40億当たつた
んだけど

すずの木くろ
Suzunoki Kuro
黒獅子
Kurojishi

モンスター文庫

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

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

- Volume 4 -

**-Author-
Suzunoki Kuro**

**-Artist-
Kurojishi**

[Yukkuri Free Time Literature Service]

宝くじで
40億当たった
んだけど
異世界に移住する
4



すずの木くろ
Suzunoki Kuro
III 黒獅子
Kurojishi

「……こうしていると、
全部が夢だったみたい
に思えてきます」

志野一良

宝くじで億万長者となった青年、
イステール領の改革に挑む

**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

「はい、あまり上手には
作れませんでしたけど……」

リーゼ・イステール

ナルソンの娘

「ん、これは……ブレスレット?」



「スラムスター」

バレッタは
地面を蹴り、
アイザックに
向けて突進した。

「Wow!!」

アイザック・スラン

ナルソンの部下

バレッタ

グリセア村 村長の娘



Chapter 74

Showing One's Real Ability

At night, 3 days later.

Inside the office at Nelson's estate, with a map of the agriculture fields area unfolded in front of him, Kazura explained the progress of the work with Nelson and others.

There were labels pasted at several places in the unfolded map, like [Waterwheel (good)] and [Waterwheel (defective)] , accompanied with a comment about the installed waterwheel in this world language.

Since Kazura practically still couldn't write or read this country's script^[1], the labels were written by asking Zirconia to do so not long ago.

Inside the room, there was Nelson and Zirconia, also Isaac and Havel.

As always, Zirconia sat beside Kazura, while Nelson sat opposite to him and listened to his explanation with a serious expression.

Isaac and Havel stood beside the table and viewed the map from above.

Lieze wasn't in this place since she was in the middle of bathing right now.

At the first day when Lieze was accompanying Kazura, she asked him to teach her the criteria to decide the location for installing the waterwheel and the points to note of its construction. On the next day, she volunteered to do some of the workloads and commanded the servants and the guards by herself.

Thanks to this, the progress of the waterwheel installation work was doubled and today they were joyously able to finish the waterwheel for the main waterway of the northern and western grain fields.

However, as expected since she was doing a work she was not accustomed to for a long period of time, when the first day was over Lieze seemed as if she was going to collapse from all the heat and fatigue.

Perhaps because she was trying not to make Kazura worried, in front of Kazura she made a lively expression and behaved cheerfully, however, there were slight shadows of fatigue that appeared and disappeared, which could be seen on her face.

After seeing her praiseworthy deed of frantically doing her best for the territory, Kazura's heart was moved a bit.^[2]

By the way, the things about showing a fleeting tiredness while forcibly acted lively, all were behaviors that Lieze had calculated.

It wasn't wrong that she wanted to give her best in dealing with the work, it wasn't wrong that she was considerably fatigued than the usual, either. But the expression she made was something that she had properly thought about where and how much these could be displayed in the most effective way.

In front of someone like Lieze, who held an excellent ability to fabricate her expression and ambiance, furthermore, the expression that she showed was as if it was completely not artificial, Kazura shouldn't be able to see through her true intention.

"Thanks to Lieze-san, the waterwheel installation is able to be finished much earlier. After this, it will be about the waterway in the south and the east, but this is not that seriously urgent, right?" (Kazura)

"It is relatively in a better situation compared to the north and west, but there are damages from the drought. The crops still have not withered yet, so I believe we still have some margin in time, but thinking about the next planting situation, it will be better if we installed waterwheel ahead of time." (Nelson)

Nelson picked up the document placed at the table's side where the grain fields current condition was jotted down and pointed the regions at risk of their crops withering on the map.

Kazura then pasted a label at that place to mark the priority place to install the waterwheel in the future.

"Then, let's install the remaining waterwheel at that place tomorrow. Will it be a problem for Lieze-san to lend her hand tomorrow too?" (Kazura)

"Of course not. Zil, what about you?" (Nelson)

“I’m fine with it since I will finish all of the other arrangements in one way or another, let’s have Lieze help in this case as well. I am glad that my daughter was helpful for you.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia nodded at Nelson’s question and smiled delightedly with a proud expression for her daughter.

“Since Lieze-san will come to help, not only the waterwheel installation work but in the fertilizer scattering as well, the work efficiency would remarkably increase. This is just something that I heard, but Lieze-san popularity with the citizen is amazing.” (Kazura)

After Lieze was working together with him, the fields fertilizer scattering from that day on progressed with an incomparable speed than before.

To have such blatant difference, when Kazura heard the report from the work supervisor Isaac and Havel, he was astonished.

This phenomenon might happen because of Lieze who had deep interaction with the citizen and always gently came in contact with them, thought Kazura as he felt admiration for her.

“I am also surprised. I am truly not aware that she has this much popularity with the citizen.” (Zirconia)

“Hm, while this is embarrassing, I also am surprised by this. It seems that I have been taking light of my daughter a bit. If she has this much, then it will be necessary to ask Lieze to cooperate in the territorial governance earlier.” (Nelson)

If Lieze would help with Kazura’s work in the future, then all of the work would progress at a faster rate than the initial estimate.

Though this was something that will not happen anytime soon, in several months, they planned to begin the flood control work inside the city.

If the work plan that he had requested to the construction company in Japan was finished, perhaps it would be a work that needs mobilization of a considerable number of people in its execution.

If Lieze were to participate as the supervisor for that work, then surely the

construction work would progress with an amazing speed.

“Then from tomorrow Lieze-san and me will continue the waterwheel installation work. I will entrust the next fertilizer scattering to Isaac-san and Havel-san.” (Kazura)

“Certainly. Please leave it to us.” (Isaac)

During the last several days, it had been the job of Isaac and Havel to become the supervisor of the fertilizer scattering work. After reporting the progress of the work, they will gather materials about the sanitation situation inside the territory to show it to Kazura.

Sometimes they will be helping Nelson or Zirconia’s office work, but compared to their work before, their body was lighter and their countenance was much better.

Above all, this might be the effect of the Lipo-D that they drunk several days ago.

“What about Zirconia-san’s condition? Have you rested properly?” (Kazura)

“Yes, I am sorry to make you worried. Since I have also taken a proper sleep in the night, my health is already alright.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia made a sweet smile at Kazura’s worries.

The bags under her eyes also had disappeared, her expression was better and her health was good.

Mostly since the work at the grain fields that should have been done by Zirconia had been entrusted to Lieze, she was able to concentrate on dealing with the works that had been piled up until now.

Although sometimes Kazura met with Zirconia and talked with her when he was going to the kitchen for hot water in the middle of the night, it seems that Zirconia didn’t stay up late every day.

Perhaps if Zirconia was hopelessly worked exhaustingly, and her physical condition deteriorated more than this, then Kazura thought about giving her a Lipo-D, too. However, it seems that there was no need to do so.

Kazura personally boils the hot water to brew the tea by himself; this was because he

deliberately didn't call the maid to bring it to him.

Since he likes to walk inside the mansion by himself, which count as strolling for him, he will refuse to bring the guard in front of his room and walk towards the kitchen to boil the hot water himself.

It felt like the time when he was working late-night at the company he worked before and walked inside the pitch dark building to buy the coffee from the vending machine at the break room.

"I'm glad to hear it. But, from now on please don't force yourself too much. If there is something that I can help, then I will gladly offer my cooperation." (Kazura)

When Kazura smiled while offering that suggestion, Zirconia made a slightly surprised expression, but she quickly smiled and offered her thanks.

For the last few days, Kazura had seen how Zirconia frantically working her fingers to the bone for the territory sake, so his impression of her had become greatly favorable.

Since Kazura himself was also worked frantically, he began to have a feeling of fellowship with her as if they were comrades working at the same workplace.

Such feeling of solidarity could be said as one of the few good things that can be obtained in a workplace with exhausting workloads.

"Then, with this the matter of the grain fields area could be assumed to be finished, so today I wanted to hear about the territory financial situation a bit. Since I had made you finance the cost of the personnel and the materials for many things, which can be said as something unreasonable during these short time, how is the money situation right now?" (Kazura)

When he asked about the financial situation, Nelson made a slight bitter expression.

"We had economized many things, so we somehow shift them to others, but it had become quite strained. The budget framework that had been decided before was temporarily thrown off balance and since it was shifted into the budget for the current work operations, if this keep going then we must squeeze out the remaining budget and temporarily cease some of the project." (Nelson)

"I see... Could it still manage somehow if the food situation in the territory improved?"

(Kazura)

“It will be improved to an extent, but it will be hard just by it alone. Waiting for the crops to ripen will take too much time, and it will take even more time for the damage of the current drought to recover. Originally, it was a situation where we economize the budget and shift it to essential parts, and then if we don’t somehow have way to raise the money then we couldn’t greatly improve the current situation.” (Nelson)

About the harvest time for the crops, Kazura had learned it by asking Lieze the other day.

Therefore, he knew well what Nelson wanted to say.

It will be a different story if he makes the crops in Isteria fields grew at an abnormal rate like in Grisea Village, but the currently scattered fertilizer won’t cause the crops to grow at an abnormal rate.

Then, Lieze had said that the bean and the winter tuber couldn’t be harvested before the winter arrives, and they couldn’t plant Rata wheat or bread wheat to be used for bread or porridge if the early autumn hadn’t arrived.

If the harvest time was the same with Japan’s wheat, then the harvest will perhaps be no less than the spring next year.

Even if the winter tuber and beans could somehow improve the current food situation as a stopgap measure, waiting until the staple grain harvest would take too much time.

“Hmm, that’s true... Do you have any idea for this situation?” (Kazura)

“It will be either requesting more aid money obtained from the Capital or cutting down the surrounding forest to produce lumber in large number. The mine in the northern mountains could produce silver and copper also tin and lead, so we can also greatly increase the spare budget for the mining operations. However unless we find a new ore vein, with only the present already dug ore vein, then the productivity will not increase too much.” (Nelson)

Though all options seem to be a bit effective, but it would take time until the result came out.

Lumber production could be immediately put into operation, but if one put the flood

control into consideration, then deforestation was something that couldn't be promoted.

“Is there no gold at the northern mountains?” (Kazura)

Although he didn't know what to do if there was a gold mine, since he was interested in it, he tried to ask it.

Since even on Earth, gold is a scarce metal, so in this world too, the value might be high.

“There is no gold mine in Istelle Province. In our country, only the Capital province that can produce gold.” (Nelson)

“Hmm, I see. Well then, what should we do...” (Kazura)

Kazura folded his hand and looked down, pondering what's to be done with the current situation.

What currently troubled Kazura was whether there is some good way to raise money quickly.

After the grain fields area had been restored and the food situation inside the territory become stable, then they could produce oil from beans or exported the surplus food and generate some money.

Furthermore, since the province's citizens had been exhausted, even if he developed a new stopgap project, there is a possibility that the stamina of the Istelle province wouldn't last long.

“(If this place is close to the sea then we can mass produce salt. Isteria Province is inland, so the only thing that can be produced quickly is only mortar, right... Since mortar could be sold as it is since it would harden, but on the other hand we also can't let the other territory or country to know the manufacturing method...)” (Kazura)

Salt seems to be relatively expensive in this world, so if Isteria was close to the sea then he could borrow Japanese salt production method and mass produced the salt, but unfortunately Isteria Province was located inland.

It will be impossible in the first place to ask other provinces to help in making salt, as

it was currently difficult to make a move outside of Isteria Province.

Since it was only used as an insect repellent in this world, by procuring a large amount of lime that was considered as not having much value, they could also produce mortar by using the lime.

However, it was necessary to start a specialized mortar manufacture industry to obtain the profit.

In short, it could be done by asking Isteria's craftsmen as new plaster worker. However, currently, not only the citizen but the feudal lord too had no money. In this barely scraping by situation, if they suddenly were told to make mortar, an invention that wasn't related to the current food condition problem, he felt that he would receive a harsh stare.

In a way it should happen as naturally as possible, he wanted to improve the feudal lord's power one way or another, but if it was done in this way then the means that he could choose was limited.

"Oh well, as expected this way is the fastest." (Kazura)

The other people in the room hold their breath and attentively watch Kazura who made a groaning sound before he raised his face and spoke up with a similar nervous expression.

Kazura noticed that he had become the center of the attention, even though it felt a bit uncomfortable, he took a small cloth bag from his handbag.

"Nelson-san, how much can this be sold?" (Kazura)

When he asked this, Kazura opened the cloth bag and retrieved several gems from it.

When Kazura returned to Japan he bought power stones^[3] for 250 yen a piece from the power stone corner in a stone dealer shop.

The ones he took from the bag were lapis lazuli and turquoise that had been cut into a perfect circle of 2 centimeters diameter and then the rose quartz like the one he had previously sold at the general store in Isteria.

The rose quartz that he brought this time had a deeper pink color, the color was darker

but in exchange, it wasn't transparent.

The lapis lazuli and the turquoise were the same, it wasn't transparent and had a deep color.

Nelson looked amazed at the gems that Kazura retrieved and hummed in wonder.

Zirconia and the others too had their breath taken away by this sight.

"I don't really know the value of the gems, but I believe these can be sold for quite a large sum of money. Gems that is in a perfect circle like this, furthermore, to have such beautiful luster without a single chip, I had never seen something like this before. Perhaps one of these could be sold for no less than 10000 Ar." (Nelson)

"Eh? Really?" (Kazura)

Kazura couldn't believe his ear at the astounding amount of money that Nelson had uttered.

When Kazura sold the rose quartz at a general store in Isteria before, it was only for 2500 Ar.

He had thought that it was sold for quite a large sum of money, but it seems that he had actually been ripped off.

"I don't know, I don't really know how much the value will be. Perhaps it can even be sold for a higher price; conversely, it can also be cheaper than the value that I have said before. However, it won't change that these have quite a considerable value. May I see it closely?" (Nelson)

"Yes, feel free to do so." (Kazura)

Nelson took a gem into his hand, then he looked it and after that stroked it with his hand.

It was as if he was ascertaining that there was really no chip on it.

"If we talk about gems, which characteristic that is more valuable, the deepness of the color or the transparency of the gem?" (Kazura)

“Generally, transparent gems are more popular. Especially, the beautiful transparent obsidian that rarely appeared on the market, this kind of gem have a tremendous value. After seeing its beauty, there might be no one who doesn’t desire for it.” (Nelson)

“Obsidian? Obsidian is that black stone used for arrowhead?” (Kazura)

Obsidian is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed from the cooled volcanic rocks.

Because it has an extremely sharp edge when it’s fractured, in ancient times it was used as arrowhead or knife, and in some area fragments of obsidian were inserted into a wooden board and used like a sword.^[4]

“Yes, that’s the one. It’s mostly only colored pitch black, but rarely there are translucent black obsidian, or beautiful green or blue colored transparent obsidian from mining that appear on the market.^[5] The green or blue colored gem especially have tremendous value, so it was not something that can be obtained easily. Only an influential great noble or royalty that able to obtain it.” (Nelson)

“Eh? Is it really that expensive? That obsidian thing?” (Kazura)

When he heard Nelson’s explanation, Kazura nodded in admiration and then put his hand into his handbag.

“Then, how much will these be?” (Kazura)

When Kazura spoke this words, he took out one more small cloth bag from the handbag and placed it in front of Nelson. He opened the small cloth bag.

“It’s obsidian bargain sale.” (Kazura)

When ten marbles like bead appeared from the cloth bag, the atmosphere of the room immediately froze.

Chapter 75

Money Raising Conference

“...Ah, sorry. It’s only something that I wanted to try saying for a bit.” (Kazura)

An awkward sweat appeared on Kazura’s forehead as he apologized to all the people present in the room who were looking motionlessly at the marbles which appeared from the bags.

“Ka-Kazura-san these obsidian called *baargenseyl*...” (Zirconia)

“I am really sorry, please forget the *bargain sale* part. This obsidian, which was made in the God’s Realm, is called ‘glass marble’. It can also be called as ‘*glass*.’” ^[1] (Kazura)

It seems that the meaning of the word *bargain sale* itself didn’t get transmitted, so Zirconia had misunderstood bargain sale as the name of the marble inside the bag.

Kazura completely felt bad for this.

“Glass... Inside of its transparency, there are various colors mixed in it. So God’s Realm even could make something like this... It looks like the plastic that you had shown to us before.” (Zirconia)

“I don’t mind if you want to see it closely. T-then how much can these be sold? If we have these, then could we somehow be able to keep the budget afloat?” (Kazura)

When Kazura encouraged them to do so, Zirconia and Nelson looked at the marbles closely.

If colored obsidian is extremely expensive, then the glass marble would surely possess a considerably large value.

“That’s true... Though currently, I couldn’t say precisely how much it will be, I believe we could sell this for a fairly large sum of money. However, this is too extraordinary and it will be hard to claim it as something mined from the mine... Not only this thing being transparent, it’s also mixed with color and also a perfect sphere, so it is likely to

gather considerable attention.” (Nelson)

“That’s right... It will be fine for obtaining temporary fund, but in the future, there might be people who probe into it.” (Zirconia)

“Ugh, is that so. So that means, rather than a marble a colored glass might be better.” (Kazura)

“I see”, Kazura nodded, and so Zirconia, who was gazing at the marble, shifted her sight towards him.

“So there is colored glass too?” (Zirconia)

“Yes, it does. It’s called crystal glass, but unlike these marbles, the color isn’t within the transparency itself, but it is a transparent glass that possesses many colors. Perhaps it is similar to the obsidian that sometimes appears on the market in this country.” (Kazura)

The crystal glass that Kazura mentioned is the colored glass that is used for glasswork.

It could be obtained in any amount at a shop that deals with lampworking goods in Japan, Kazura intended to procure the glass from there.

“I will procure some on my next return to God’s Realm, so that you may sell it as a source of fund. Do you have any color you wish for?” (Kazura)

When Kazura asked so, Nelson returned the marbles into the bag and turned towards to Kazura.

“Thank you very much. Then, may I ask the color to be yellow-green or light blue like the ones that appeared on the market? Also, I believe that rather than a sphere like this marble, it will be better if the shape is rugged and uneven.” (Nelson)

“I understand. I will bring some suitable pieces, if it’s good then please sell it. Then supplement the lack of funds for public works with that money. Also, when that money is used for the services of public works, it is necessary to ensure the citizen receive a part of the money too.” [2](Kazura)

Though he didn’t know how much money could be obtained with the crystal glass that he intended to bring, it seems that based on Nelson’s story, they could fetch quite a

sum of money. With the addition with the aggregate mining yield, there will be no doubt that it will be a considerable amount.

“We can assume that the near-future finance will be good with this, then after the issue of food situation inside the territory has stabilized, the next issue will be of securing funds. When I asked Nelson-san before, I had received an explanation that the territory had a chronic lack of funds, but does the current situation have no prospect of improvement at all?” (Kazura)

“Yes, if the grain fields had been perfectly restored and the harvest income increased more than before then we could secure funds to some degree. However, every year several thousand emigrants from other provinces will come to the provinces, so the free food assistance from the other provinces to feed the emigrants is a must. There is no problem with the support from Fraise Province in the south, but the support from Gregorn Province in the west is worrying...” (Nelson)

“Ah, now that you mention it, I had heard this situation before... Gathering people to anticipate the resumption of war, is it?” (Kazura)

When Kazura first arrived at Isteria with Valetta and others, he had received an explanation about Isteria Province population from Lodurr.

He said that it was gathering people to anticipate the resumption of war, but with the population increasing by several thousand each year, without a large and quick agricultural land expansion, the crop's output wouldn't be enough.

He was informed that there was free food assistance from the other provinces, however, from Nelson and Zirconia's explanation, the assistance amount from Gregorn Province in the west had decreased significantly.

As a result, the food shortage situation in Isteria Province ended up worsening, so they must increase food production by any means.

“Then, let's also expand the farmland beside the current grain fields. I will teach you how to make a tool that can draw water up called a hand pump.^[3] If we use this, then we can surely expand the farmland.” (Kazura)

“Hand pump... This is also a tool that I have never heard before, can't we just use the existing waterwheel? Even if there is a problem in parts precision, since it is already in mass production, I think it will be simple if we amass their number.” (Zirconia)

“(Hm? I thought she will immediately bite at this topic. Is she being considerate to me?)” (Kazura)

Kazura was a bit disappointed at Zirconia’s lack of immediate snap at the plan to offer new tools.

If Kazura was at Zirconia’s position, he would jump at the proposition to offer advanced tools.

Kazura tilted his head as he thought whether she was deeply grateful for the continuous offers of tools and knowledge from the last few days.

“...It will be fine if that place could use waterwheel, but not only waterwheel has a large size, due to how it works, the places where we could install it are limited. The hand pump is comparatively smaller so we wouldn’t need to be that concerned about the installation site. In addition, it could even draw water to more than 5 met-... to a place higher than the city outer walls, and the water can be drawn up quickly. However, different from waterwheel, a human action is needed to draw the water and compared to the waterwheel, the amount of water it draws is relatively smaller.” (Kazura)

Kazura explained while remembering the subject that he had investigated using the internet on his last return to Japan. Nelson and the other 3 people, “Ooo...”, expressed their admiration.

The waterwheel installed on the river was wheel-shaped with a diameter of 4 meters, so it could only draw water up as high as its highest parts, minus its submerged parts.

However, the hand pump that Kazura explained right now could draw water up to an even higher place than the waterwheel.

Not only it could bring water up without problem to somewhat higher place, using a relay combination of water ponds and hand pumps, then it could draw water to an even higher place.

If the water reservoir pond at a higher place was constructed using traditional method, then if they were not careful, the water would seep through the soil and decreased, but if they build the reservoir pond with mortar using the lime that can even be procured from this world, then the water wouldn’t be able to seep away.

In case there was a need for a large-scale water storage then it should be fine to

construct a simple large box-like water tank.

“That is an amazing tool. I will make the arrangement for the necessary personnel and tools as maximum priority.” (Zirconia)

“Yes. I supposed I have been requesting too much; even so, I will leave the preparation to you. Since I will bring a sample hand pump and the paper with the method to build it from the God’s Realm eventually, the production of it need to wait until then.” (Kazura)

“...Kazura-dono, there is something I want to ask.” (Nelson)

Kazura smiled back at Zirconia who was smiling delightedly after she heard Kazura’s explanation, when Nelson, who had been thinking with a somewhat serious expression, began to talk.

“Can that tool called hand pump be installed in a narrow place like a mine tunnel?” (Nelson)

“Although it depends on the area, but the pump itself is not something that’s large, so I believe it could. The size will be this about this big... its underside will be attached to a long pipe, and by putting that pipe into the water table, you can draw the water up.” (Kazura)

While Kazura was explaining, his hand demonstrated the hand pump’s size with his hand.

“Fumu... Kazura-dono, if we have that hand pump, then perhaps we could greatly increase the mine productivity. If it had been completed, then I want to use several of it in the mine.” (Nelson)

“The mine? How will you use it?” (Kazura)

In contrast with Kazura who asked as if he completely didn’t understand how it will be used, the others made a surprised expression.

“It’s to drain the underground water. At the northwest mountain, other than open-air mining there is also a horizontal tunnel mining, however, there were many cases where the underground water gushed out in the middle of mining. If the water is not much then it could be drained using buckets, but if the underground water is too much

then there is nothing to do but to abandon the ore at that place. However, if we can use that pump..." (Nelson)

"I see, it will be possible to mine the whole unobtainable submerged ores, isn't it?" (Kazura)

Kazura admiringly nodded when Nelson explained.

Even though he was just informed about the hand pump, he immediately thought about how to use it outside for farming, as expected from someone with feudal lord position.

"Furthermore, if we could gather a massive amount of water using the hand pump, then it will be possible to instantly rinse off the entire ore deposit in at the open-air mines.^[4] The force of water should be able to expose the ore deposit close to the ground surface and we will be able to detect the ore deposit that we weren't able to find until now too." (Nelson)

"(...What with this person, his head is amazingly sharp!)" (Kazura)

Although Kazura was nodding at Nelson's explanation, he shuddered inside his heart at Nelson's inventiveness and thinking rate.

Since until now Kazura didn't work together that much with Nelson, Kazura only could imagine him always busy and pressed by the office work.

However, as expected from the feudal lord that govern Isteria where 300,000 people lived, even though he only heard the matter once, he might come with many ideas about it.

"Besides, if we could save a large amount of water then we could also collapse the already exhausted tunnel by flooding it. If we scavenge the collapsed tunnel, then we would still be able to mine some of the ore or find a new ore vein. Then by using the water that had been gathered beforehand, we could wash and sort the gathered ore and the amount of mined ore would exceptionally increase.^[5]" (Nelson)

"T-that's true, that is a good idea. Please try it by all means." (Kazura)

Though he felt a chill at his back, Kazura acknowledged him with a smile, Nelson also made a smile and thanked him.

“Kazura-san, about the matter that I had heard when we were going together at the fields before...” (Zirconia)

When it looked like the talks with Nelson had reached its conclusion, this time Zirconia approached to talk.

“I remembered that Kazura-san had a good plan that could improve the citizen’s daily life and generate profit at the same time. May I hear that plan in detail at this time?” (Zirconia)

“Daily life?..... Ah! That’s right. Let’s talk about it right now.” (Kazura)

Although he had hinted about it to Zirconia before, it had completely escaped his mind since he was tired day after day.

If Zirconia didn’t bring up this subject again, perhaps he would continue to forget about this for a long time.

“Zirconia-san, have you ever heard about a building called ice house?” [6](Kazura)

“Ice house?... No, this is the first time I ever heard about it. Do you know about it, Nelson?” (Zirconia)

“No, I also never heard about it... What kind of building it is?” (Nelson)

Kazura nodded at the two who showed a confused expression and he made a brief explanation about it.

Of course, since he hadn’t investigated the ice house in details, he could only explain to the extent of the meager knowledge he had right now.

“Umm, to put it simply, it’s an ice storehouse. It’s a building to store a large quantity of cut-out ices from the lake or pond during the winter, so it can be retrieved for use in the summer.” (Kazura)

“...The winter ice could be stored until the summer?” (Zirconia)

Zirconia made a doubtful expression at Kazura’s explanation.

“Won’t it melts?” , was written on her face.

“Although you might think that all the ice would be melted away before the summer, but with this method, we could store the ice for a long period of time without melting. I will teach you how to build the ice house later.” (Kazura)

“To be able to use ice even in the summer, then if we store meat or fish in that ice house, you mean we could preserve it with the cold?” (Nelson)

Nelson asked with a great interested, so Kazura nodded.

“Well, something like that. With the method that I remembered, the ice that had been saved in the winter could be sold when its summer. If we could also produce and sell a cabinet-sized ice house, that is called ‘refrigerator’, the demand for the ice will be inexhaustible.” (Kazura)

“Cabinet-sized?... If it’s that big, then it could even be placed inside the common citizen’s house. If we can store the ice that is cut during the winter, which originally will be worthless, then... I see, I see.” [7](Nelson)

Perhaps he somehow could understand what kind a thing a refrigerator is, Nelson nodded with an admiration on his face.

“So, the problem is we need a pond where we can cut that ice. I was thinking whether we could make the ice by using the reservoirs in the grain fields area, but will the ice that formed will be enough to be cut?” (Kazura)

When Kazura mentioned this to Zirconia, she put her hand at her mouth and made a thinking gesture.

“...I think the size will be a little problematic to be cut. Since in the mountain the winter is relatively colder, if we make new reservoir there and put water into it, I believe in midwinter we could obtain a thicker ice. I will investigate if there is a suitable place to make the reservoir.” (Zirconia)

“Please do so... Ah, but, this time I also want to investigate together, please hold the location selection until then. When I return from God’s Realm, I will reexamine about the ice house once more.” (Kazura)

Kazura temporarily thought to leave the reservoir construction location to Zirconia, but when he thought about it, there should be a good and bad location to build the reservoir.

What kind of place to be chosen for reservoir construction was something that he didn't know, hence it would be better if he asked an expert trader once he returned to Japan.

Thought it was close to a simple thinking that this way will be good to make ice, the ancestor knowhow about what needed to be done should exist, there was no other option but to utilize it.

After all, the knowledge that can be used had been investigated it in detail so it could be utilized effectively.

“(...reexamine?)” (Zirconia)

“Umm, for now we will put the matter of the ice house on hold at this point, what we are going to do next...? Ah, it is indispensable for us to discuss about the waterwheel manufacturing precision. I want to go to see the workshop.” (Kazura)

When Kazura said so and stretch his hand to the documents that had become a huge pile atop the tale, Zirconia who stood beside him threw a sidelong glance at him.

However, she immediately helped Kazura take out the document, and then she began to explain about the workshop inside Isteria to Kazura.

Chapter 76

Late Night Tea Party

Later that same day at midnight.

In a spacious room that had just been granted to her 3 days ago, Eira lied down on the bed.

Eira's room can be called as a 16 tatamis^[1] wide room in the Japanese standard, for a room assigned to a servant, its wide was above the standard.

The first-class carpet that had been spread out on the floor, the bed, the tables and every other prepared furniture was obviously of excellent elegant quality.

Inside the pitch dark room, Eira was closing her eyes and lied down motionlessly for a moment, but suddenly she get up in an abrupt manner.

“(I can't sleep...)”

Eira made a deep sigh as she recalled the situation she was appointed into and was worried to her wits end.

Three days ago, Zirconia had personally ordered her, “Make Lieze and Kazura end up together” , it was an order that she reluctantly undertook, and even after 3 days had passed, Eira still couldn't make any move.

During these three days, Eira was accompanying Lieze and Kazura, as they visited the grain fields each day.

The times Eira ever meets with Kazura was when they depart to and return from the grain fields, and then at every breakfast, lunch and dinner time.

When Eira met with Kazura, Lieze was always together with him, so it was vanishingly improbable for Eira to be alone with Kazura.

Until now, Eira never joined their conversations, even once. She stood by in waiting

behind both of them like a servant, silently, in perpetuity.

So basically, even to deepen her interaction with Kazura, the opportunity for this was nonexistent.

In the current situation, where only business like words were exchanged between them, naturally there wasn't anything that she could do to somehow hitch Lieze and Kazura together.

In the plan that Eira first formulated, though it might take times, one way or another she would get friendly with Kazura by any means. Then, when it reached a state where she could chat naturally with him, she would interweave stories in the conversation to promote Lieze.

However, the current situation was hopeless.

Eira couldn't speak with Kazura when she was together with Lieze, and when she wasn't with Lieze, Eira needed to handle her own share of work. Kazura also moved around busily every day, so there was simply no time to have a nice slow chat.

How could she capture a target whom she didn't even have a moment of contact? Eira was hurting her head thinking about this every day.

“(At least, it will be alright if I can switch position with Marie-chan... But this is impossible from the start, right?...)”

The other servant that had been tasked to be Kazura's servant together with her, Marie, had markedly more chances to make contact with Kazura compared to Eira.

Perhaps if she could exchange position with Marie, then there might be a small chance to have a chat with Kazura when waking him in the morning, or escorting him before and after bathing, and then when confirming the content of every meal.

Perhaps because Marie had previous experience as a maid in Leveson House, she is really skillful in completing her daily works.

It was only at the first day when her work began that she didn't comprehend the workplace environment, so she looked a bit confused, but after she had been explained about the sequence of jobs that need to be performed at the kitchen, the washroom and the other places, while she was seeking Eira and the other maid's

instruction, she performed her work almost perfectly.

If there was something that she didn't understand or couldn't manage, then without trying to do it by herself, she would immediately seek instruction and consult with Eira. In doing so, she avoided worsening the problem.

Furthermore at the evening assembly performed every evening, she would properly report to Eira about the summary of the work details performed that day.

Even though she was still a young 13 year old, Eira felt that Marie was quite an excellent maid.

However, whether or not someone could immediately work as Lieze's servant just because they are excellent would be another matter altogether.

Since Eira had always been beside Lieze since she was small, Eira was amongst a very small number of people whom Lieze permitted to see her true nature.

Even amongst them, Eira is the only one who could attend to Lieze, in which Lieze could completely let her guard down without any hesitation. And it was Eira alone whom Lieze strongly depended on. Eira was aware of this fact too.

If perhaps Marie replaced her as Lieze's personal servant, or even if it was a proposal to relieve Eira from attending personally to anyone, perhaps Lieze would obstinately refuse it.

Furthermore, if Eira made that proposal herself, it was easy to imagine that Lieze would ended up terribly sad.

Ultimately, it was futile.

If Marie was a common citizen, then she would have 2 days of break for every 10 days. During that time, Eira might be able to make contact with Kazura.

However, unfortunately, Marie is a slave.

Slave don't receive any holiday, so there wouldn't be a single day where Marie was released from her duty as Kazura's servant.

All doors were completely closed for her.^[2]

Lieze seems to have taken a liking to Kazura and Kazura didn't seem to be that unhappy either. Even if she left both of them alone, she believed that both of them would end up together.

However, every afternoon when Eira was reporting Lieze's schedule for the next day to Zirconia, she always asked, "What about those two?". So, Eira couldn't do nothing either.

It would be alright if Eira's heart was strong enough to say "Don't ask for unreasonable things" to Zirconia, but unfortunately, she was a timid person.

If she didn't show any result one way or another, before long she might be reprimanded by Zirconia, which filled her with trepidation.

"...Let's drink some tea."

Muttered Eira while sighed. She crawled out from the bed and put on the trouser placed at the bedside, and since she was only wearing a knee-length tunic, she also put on a stole.



"Hmm, what to make today? Since recently I have been staying up late, perhaps I'll drink some Echinacea^[3]."

Under the illumination of the candle in his hand, inside the kitchen where no one else present, Kazura was boiling a water in a small pot on the stone stove.

On top of the table beside him was a wooden basket that contained paper bags with herbs that had been minced and divided into small portions and a glass pot.

Kazura took out the paper bags containing Echinacea and Licorice^[4], and broke the cellotape seal.

Echinacea has an immune boosting effect, so it is an herb that is useful when the body is tired.

The Licorice, which he also took out from the basket, was used for its sweetness this time.

“Ah!”

“Hm?”

Suddenly there was a voice from his back so Kazura turned around and saw the sight of Eira in sleep-wear, standing on the kitchen entrance holding a candlestick.

Eira was not expecting anyone to be in the kitchen at this hour; furthermore, for that person to be none other than Kazura. She wanted to cry from the bottom of her heart for her carelessness to go outside the room with sleep-wear and her stupidity to spontaneously let her voice out to be heard.

Even though it was outside her working hours, to appear in front of her master in sleep-wear, it was an act that was unacceptably impolite.

“Good evening, Eira-san. Perhaps, you came for hot water?”

Without completely unnoticing what happened inside Eira’s mind, Kazura smiled at her and began to address her.

“Ah, yes, I thought I want to drink some tea... *A-ano*, I am terribly sorry to be in this appearance. I never thought there would be another person, that...”

“Ah no need, since it’s already outside working hours I don’t mind it at-... E-eh, Eira-san?”

Kazura was instantly confused when he noticed that Eira had replied disorderly with an expression close to crying.

However, he quickly noticed that he was the cause of this and after thinking for a few seconds about what to do, he smiled once more towards Eira.

“Umm, I also thought that I want to brew some tea right now. If you’d like to, can I offer you one cup?”

“E... eh!? M-me!?”

“Yes, since you are always helpful to me, let me thank you for once. Now then, please have a seat there.”

Without minding Eira who was frozen from the unexpected proposal, Kazura held the small pot with hot water and then walked towards the big dining room next to the kitchen.

Eira hurriedly pursued him with a half-run. Then, in front of the table, “Have a seat” , Kazura pulled out a chair while smiling to her.

“Shall we put Elderflower^[5] and Rose Hip^[6] and... German Chamomile^[7]?... Eira-san?”

Kazura called out to Eira, who was standing in the dining room entrance with a bewildered expression.

Eira nervously approached Kazura and then sat at the chair while being prompted by him.

“This is tea from the herbs harvested in my country, it’s called *herbal tea*^[8]. I hope it will suit your taste.”

While he was saying so, he pinched the herbs and put it into the glass pot, before pouring hot water from the small pot into the pot.

The herbs inside the glass pot gently dispersed as hot water was poured on them. The peculiar color of each herb slowly seeped out and began to dissolve in the hot water.

“(Blimey^[9], what I am thinking by using the glass pot in front of Eira-san?)”

Kazura turned his face at Eira while thinking what to do if he was inquired by her, but Eira still had a nervous expression as she stared fixedly at the glass pot in silence.

Since it seem that she wasn’t going to ask anything, Kazura let out a sigh of relief inside his mind.

Previously, he had been told that the people in the Estate had been ordered by Nelson, “Do not inquire too much about Kazura” , so he thought that it had been thoroughly enforced without exception.

On the other hand, Eira being Eira, even though she was still confused at the situation where she was right now, she was captivated by the herbs that were floating inside the glass pot placed in front of her.

Because she had heard about Kazura to some extent from Zirconia a few days ago, she ended up not being flustered even when looking at the transparent glass pot placed before her.

However, the fact that the glass pot is an unknown tool was unchanged, and so she was engrossed at the beauty of the curious looking drifting herbs.

“Eira-san, what kind of tea do you usually drink? Is it something like what the maids brew for me at mealtime?”

Kazura addressed Eira who was engrossed at the pot, so Eira removed her eyes from the pot and straightened herself before looking at Kazura.

“Yes, it is mostly tea made from herbs that were bought from the city... *Ano*, to pay consideration to someone like me, I am truly grateful. And yet, I am in such appearance... Please pardon my impoliteness...”

“No, not at all, please no need to be that formal. If you are that tense, I will also feel tired. Let’s be more at ease.”

“E-even if you say that to me...”

Kazura made a wry smile at Eira who was still bewildered with a nervous expression, while he picked up the glass pot.

“Then, it will soon be the proper time.”

He took out a teacup from the basket and placed it in front of Eira before he poured the tea that had been just decocted into it.

The mixture of the tender scent peculiar to German Chamomile and the fruity scent of the Rose Hip was a truly indescribable scent which faintly spreading out.

“Have a taste. If the taste doesn’t suit you, please say so. Since I brought various types of herbs, I can brew a different type.”

Kazura said this as he took his seat, took out another teacup from the basket and poured the herb tea into it.

Then, ignoring the bewildered Eira in front of the teacup, he brought the teacup to his

mouth.

Seeing this, Eira too picked the teacup up and after giving a word of thanks to Kazura, she tasted the tea.

“...Delicious.”

After she taste the herb tea, Eira finally smiled from its taste and fragrance, and so Kazura smiled in relief.

“I’m glad to hear it. Also this is a snack called cookie, please have a taste of this too. It’s delicious.”

Then Kazura took out a paper bag with cookies from the basket. He unwrapped it onto a nearby plate and offered it to Eira.

Eira gave her thanks to Kazura, picked up a cookie and took a bite.

“(Cookies are something that is sold in the city, even I sometime make i-... ah, delicious!)”

Cookie were a food that exist in this world too. It is generally made by kneading bread wheat flour with salt or fruit mixed in and then baked.

Although it seemed that from how Kazura talked about it, it was as if he thought that Eira didn’t know what a cookie is. Eira then remembered the talk about how Kazura is Greysior.

If Kazura is really Greysior, then it was understandable that he didn’t really know in detail about the food in this world.

Eira remembered how the food that Kazura usually ate was something custom made by Marie, so perhaps the food of this world didn’t suit his taste.

“It’s really delicious! This is the first time I ever ate sa delicious cookie this sweet!”

“That’s good to hear... Eh? So it seems that cookies are not a particularly unusual food... Forgive my rudeness.”

Eira answered with a wide smile on her face. Kazura made a wry smile and scratched

his head from his slip of tongue.

“...Ah.”

Eira noticed that her previous statement had made Kazura lose face^[10] and immediately her face became pale white, but Kazura didn't seem to be bothered at all, he just went, “Oh well” and swept away the issue.

Furthermore, if the initiative to chat in this friendly manner came from Kazura's side, now was the best opportunity to be friendly with him.

Eira had quite a resistance to suddenly converse in an easygoing manner with a superior that she practically never talk to beforehand, but she might as well stifle this resistance and converse with him in a normal manner.

“U-umm, I sometime make cookies too. It's mostly by baking dough mixed with minced fruits, but even though this cookie doesn't contain any fruits, it is deliciously sweet. What is mixed in it for it to have a taste like this?”

“Hmm, this is something that I had bought, so I don't really know it in detail, but certainly it is sugar, butter and salt... I'm certain that the ingredients are something like that...”

“Sugar...?” ^[11]

Kazura was thinking while holding his teacup. Eira tilted her head and ask him back.

“Yes, its appearance looks like salt and has a sweet taste. It's different from the sweetness from a fruit. It's like a seasoning that simply only has sweet taste.”

“So it's a sweet salt? So there was something like that... Also, I have never heard about butter before.”

Eira began to ask questions with a fascinating interest as if something inside her had burst out. Kazura also answered her question while feeling relieved that her nervousness had finally been loosened.

“Butter is certainly something that is eventually be made by repeatedly shaking animal milk inside a container... Since I only have a faint memory of it, I will investigate it in details when I return to the country later. If it's possible to make it, then do you

want to make it together next time?”

He tried to explain while relying at the faint memory of butter making trial class when he went to play in the ranch with his parents in his childhood, but that memory was too vague so he wasn't confident enough whether or not this method could make butter.

On the next return to Japan, he intend to investigate the right process to make it either from searching on the internet or going to the Gunmā Ranch.^[12]

“Eh, but...”

Eira flinched at the unexpected proposal.

She thought that she should gently react and refuse in polite way of speaking, but if his proposal was serious then this would be an unparalleled chance to deepen her friendship with Kazura.

She had noticed this from observing Kazura for the last few days, that since Kazura behaved really kind and polite even to the servant, he would forgive a little impoliteness.

I should push through this chance, Eira cheered herself.

“T-then, please do so, by all means. Since we can extract some milk from the Myagis that are kept inside the mansion grounds, I think I can procure some for use.”

“(Whoa, she jump on board.)”

Although he thought that perhaps she would refuse, since there was nothing to lose, he tried to ask her. Unexpectedly, Eira accepted Kazura's invitation.

However, Kazura thought that it would be convenient if he met with Eira every day, since he wanted to get along and deepen the friendship if it was possible.

Kazura thought that because in the future he would be living at Nelson's Estate for a long period of time, he wanted to have steady communication with the people he often met with.

“I understand. Two days from now, I will temporarily return to my country and I think

I will come back to Isteria again in 7 or 8 days. Therefore, let's try to make the butter at a day where Eira-san is free."

"Thank you very much. Perhaps if we can make the butter, I could make more delicious cookies than what I had made until now. I will also prepare the fruits too."

Perhaps because she was still a bit nervous, there was still some stiffness remaining in Eira's smile.

However, Kazura nodded in his heart that if he could repeat this kind of interaction in the future, then sooner or later he could see her honest smile.

"Also, I always come to the kitchen to boil water around this hour. If you feel like it, then you will be always welcomed to join me. I will treat you to herb tea again. Of course, with cookies."

"*Fufu*, then, I will also make some snacks to bring when I come next time. I am quite versed in making snacks."

"Oh, then I will be looking forward to it. I also need to think about a more delicious herb blend."

Thus, the late night tea party (indeterminate) just for both of them and the opening of butter making class (schedule pending) has been decided.

[1] 26.44 m² (or 284.7 ft²)

[2] Today's idiom: 八方塞がり = blocked from eight direction; cornered; embattled on all side

[3] Echinacea: mostly refer to *Echinacea purpurea*, also known as eastern purple coneflower, hedgehog coneflower, or purple coneflower. It belonged to Sunflower family. It is purposed use is for increasing body immunity. But honestly as a doctor I will ask Kazura to get a proper sleep. Echinacea tea taste rather nice actually.

[4] Licorice is the root of *Glycyrrhiza glabra*. Also known as sweet root. Licorice had been used in many traditional Chinese medicine, perhaps because of its sweet taste and corticosteroid mimicking pharmacology.

[5] Elderflower is the flower of elderberry or *Sambucus nigra*. Elderflower cordial (flower and sugar water) has been popular in North Western Europe where it has a

strong Victorian heritage. However, versions of an elderflower cordial recipe can be traced back to Roman times. Nowadays it can be found in almost all of the former Roman Empire territory, predominantly in Central Europe, especially in England, Germany, Austria, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, where people have acquired a special taste for it and still make it in the traditional way.

[6] The rose hip, also known as rose haw or rose hep, is the fruit of the rose plant, that is typically red-to-orange, but ranges from dark purple to black in some species.

[7] There are two Chamomile: German (*Matricaria chamomilla*) and Roman/English (*Chamaemelum nobile*)

[8] Herb tea is in gairaigo (foreign loan word written with katakana). Kazura also say herb in gairaigo. In general, no Arcadian people say gairaigo words other than what Kazura introduced to them.

[9] Or drat, or turd, or crap, or darn, or shit, or damn, or 頂 or 该死, or 糟糕. Why blimey? Since I think Kazura is kinda more British like with all his tea drinking... (no offence real British people)

[10] Or embarrassed, I put lose face since its sound more 'Eastern', LoL. The original word is 恥をかかして, which is to cause disgrace/humiliate someone.

[11] Kazura said 砂糖 (satou) in Kanji which means sugar, while Eira said it as just the hiragana さとう (satou). This is how the author displayed Eira's unfamiliarity with "sugar". By the way, the other very famous Satou is written as 佐藤 in Kanji.

[12] The Ranch where he buy the manure before.

Chapter 77

The Craftsmen's Situation

The evening of the next day.

Kazura and Lieze, who had finished with the constant works at the field yesterday, met with Zirconia and visited a certain workshop.

They had sent Eira, Marie and the servants to the mansion firsthand, so the ones who accompanied them now were only several guards.

The workshop that the three visited was a carpenter workshop numbered 1, where numerous large timber were piled at one of the corners of the yard, waiting to be sawed.

In the middle of that yard was a building to store the completely sawed lumber and an annex workshop building.

Right now, the three were inside that annex workshop building. Together with an elderly carpenter, they were surrounding a table. Unrolled atop the table was the blueprint for the waterwheel parts.

He was the master of this workshop, a veteran that had tread upon this field for 40 years,

Zirconia had explained about the previous waterwheel parts' precision to this master but the master made a moody face and fell into silence after he heard the explanation.

The other people inside the workshop were three young carpenters, who were working the wood wholeheartedly using the bronze saw and wooden hammer, relying on the illumination of nearby candles.

It seems that, after the cease fire treaty 4 years ago, this workshop had always worked in such manner and they continued even late until night every day.

The master was still staying silent like this for some time, but finally, he reluctantly

started to speak out.

“...Perhaps this is just a guess, but the defective parts were made by the Krupp’s place at the workshop number 2 on the next building. Since they should be the one who drilled the blade planks of the waterwheel, so if the waterwheel rotation speed is irregular, I see no other cause but that. If after we corrected it, it still doesn’t work right, then it would be the workshop who made the wheel outer parts.” (Master Craftsman)

“I see. Then, let’s go to visit that workshop right now. Kazura-san, Lieze, shall we?” (Zirconia)

After prompting Kazura and Lieze, Zirconia walked towards the entrance.

Kazura greeted the master, “Pardon us for the intrusion” and began to walk towards the entrance, chasing after Zirconia.

“...Zirconia-sama. I know this might not be someone of my stature could say, but may I speak it nonetheless?” (Master Craftsman)

Just when the three was about to exit the building, the master suddenly addressed Zirconia.

“Yes, what is it?” (Zirconia)

Zirconia stopped walking, turned back and looked at the master who called her with a nervous expression while tilting her head to the side.

Kazura and Lieze also turned back and looked inquisitively at the master.

“We are craftsmen. It’s obvious that if we receive a work then we will do everything we can to complete it, we also absolutely won’t let any defect in the work we received. In the current waterwheel parts case, if Krupp is really the cause of the defect, then I will punch him so hard until he pukes out blood. But, you know, please turn a blind eye just this once.” (Master Craftsman)

“...Umm, let’s have a seat and talk about it.” (Zirconia)

The master spoke with a great sadness on his face. Zirconia returned once more into the room and sat on the chair near the table and prompted the master to take a seat.

Kazura and Lieze also followed Zirconia and sat together on a nearby wooden bench.

The young carpenters that had been working in the room, cease their work and turned their attention to the silent master.

The master sat at the chair and made an imploring expression as he faced Zirconia.

“That guy had lost his old man and his best disciple in the war back then. Even at the other workshops, most of them had their skillful workers either died or crippled in the war, so they lack hands for the job. Even at my place, the guy who had always working with me died, while the other guy lost his right hand so he couldn’t do any carpentry anymore. The ones in this place now, are their children or relatives.” (Master Craftsman)

“...Keep on.” (Zirconia)

With a serious expression, Zirconia prompted the master to continue his story.

The master looked at Zirconia before he began to speak in a downhearted manner.

“We know that we must postpone everything else when there is a request from the Lord and we also understand that this request is important for the province, hence why all the workshop accepted the request. Even if we made it in a hurry and it was a rush job, this is no excuse for the lack of precision; of course, the whole craftsmen could understand. But, you know...” (Master Craftsman)

The master only spoke until that point, his words temporarily cease.

His voice slightly trembled.

“Even we have a limit. All of the craftsmen had been sent into the front lines to repair the equipment or constructing the camp field. There were many of the older craftsmen died from disease due to unable to adjust to the life on the camp. A craftsman is not something you can obtain from just one or two years of teaching. A craftsman can be said to be able standing on his own only after 20 to 30 years of working. In Isteria, there are no more people to replace them.” (Master Craftsman)

The young carpenters, who heard what the master had said, gulped.

What the master had said was something that could be said to be a criticism of Isteria’s

leadership.

^{Okaa-sama}
“Mother, what the master has said is justified.” (Lieze)

Just when Zirconia was about to say something, Lieze called out to her as if to obstruct her.

“These craftsmen have forced themselves to work excessively for the province’s sake. So please, please do not blame these people.” (Lieze)

“Eh? I’m not going to do any...” (Zirconia)

Zirconia showed a perplexed expression at Lieze who said those words as if she was trying to protect the craftsmen.

Perhaps the master and Lieze had a misunderstanding, that Zirconia was about to punish the craftsmen due to the defect on the manufactured part.

Zirconia didn’t have the least intention to do any punishment, as she could wholly sympathize with the carpenters and the other craftsmen, who had to work to the limit every day.

That’s why she wanted to greatly reward the craftsmen who were involved in the waterwheel production and since it was a rushed order she didn’t even put any production quota on it.

“Lieze-sama... Thank you very much...” (Mob Worker 1)

“How compassionate...” (Mob Worker 2)

However, seeing that the craftsmen gratefully articulated their words of gratitude for Lieze’s cover, so Zirconia, who was going to explain her remarks before, closed her mouth and keep silent.

Since the situation had calmed down somehow and Kazura was nearby, she decided to just take up the villain role.

“I understand what you want to talk. I only came because there was a defect in the completed goods, not to deliver any punishment, so please be at ease. It will be alright as long as you can pin down the fault and fix it.” (Zirconia)

When they heard Zirconia's words, the carpenters raised their voice in amazement.

Then, for some reason, once again they gave their words of thanks to Lieze.

Lieze smiled gently at the carpenters' action.

"(...Am I, that scary?)" (Zirconia)

Seeing that warm scene from the side, Zirconia was a bit sullen and hurt.

"(How should I say it... Good job...)" (Kazura)

From her appearance, Kazura could guess what Zirconia had been thinking and appreciated her inside his heart.



Three hours had passed since then.

After finished with their inspection on the various workshops, the three people returned to the estate and had a quick dinner with Nelson.

Currently, Kazura, Zirconia, and Nelson were having a meeting in the office room.

As usual, Lieze also had a bath today and afterward, she went straight to the bed after it.

Since it was Lieze's habit to sleep early and wake early, it would be hard for her to stay up late for the clerical work like the rest.

It was something that Kazura had heard from Nelson not long ago that Lieze's age is 14 years old.

For a girl in puberty, staying up until late in the night might harm their beauty and growth, so even if she proposed to help, everyone might unanimously tell her to sleep instead.

"It was only a brief inspection, but it seems that every workshop has a shortage of skilled workers... In addition, they are so buried with works, that the parts came out with defects in their precision." (Kazura)

“I had already grasped the situation of the craftsmen since some time ago... However, it seems that my dealing of this matter didn’t turn out well. I am deeply sorry for this...”
(Zirconia)

As Zirconia said this, she hung his head in shame with a pensive expression.

After the event with the master, Kazura’s group had inspected the workshops, but it was just like what the master of the first workshop had said, when they asked the craftsmen, there was a dearth of skilled workers for the work.

When the workers saw Zirconia at first, they shrink back and so the group couldn’t immediately talk about what are the obstacles in their work. However, at Kazura and Lieze’s prompt, they began to share the situation little by little.

“Well, as you can see, this situation is inevitable. The lack of workers could be compensated with tools. I will examine whether or not I could supply a waterwheel rotation-powered sawmill to saw the timbers and any other needed tools. If we increase the work efficiency then the craftsmen workload could be considerably reduced.” (Kazura)

“...Yes.” (Zirconia)

These were what Kazura proposed, but Zirconia’s expression was still gloomy.

When Kazura first arrived at Isteria, she had a more covetous impression but lately, he felt that she had become somehow pessimistic, or more precisely, become diffident.

Kazura worried that perhaps the consecutive failure of the things she managed had made her lost her confidence.

“Please don’t make such a face. It will be alright, surely it will turn out well.” (Kazura)

“...Yes, thank you very much.” (Zirconia)

When Kazura spoke those words to her, Zirconia finally showed a smile.

It was a smile with a hint of gloom behind it, but it was much better than showing a depressed expression all the time.

“Then, let’s leave the matter of carpentry workshops for now. Concerning our

inspection of the blacksmiths and the well-diggers, I also want to examine whether or not there are something we can do about them when I return to God's Realm. Especially about the well, since it's greatly concerned the health and sanitation issue of the place where there is no access to draw river water, so we will need to deal with it one way or another." (Kazura)

After Kazura's group had inspected several carpentry workshops, they inspected the workshop of the blacksmiths and well-diggers.

The problem that the blacksmiths complained about was completely the same as the story they had heard from the carpenters, so he believed that only the introduction of machine tools might solve this problem.

However, from the discussion with the well-diggers, the problem that they encounter was a completely different set of problems

When they were digging well in Isteria, they would dig through a layer of brown sand for about 6 to 8 meters deep before the water gushed forth.

However, this water wasn't that good for use, white clothes washed with this water would become bright red on the next day.

Cooking food with it would cause a bad taste and prolonged consumption of it would be harmful to the body.

By the way, under the brown sand was a layer of bedrock, which the well-diggers inform him was the place where they constructed a wooden-reinforced well.

They could also construct a stone-reinforced one, but since this was costly, they were mostly using wood as the reinforcement.

"Thank you very much. Well water had been a problem since long time ago and it had long cause inconvenience for the people who lived far from the river. We also couldn't construct waterway to cover the entire city, so we had given up on this problem as we couldn't do anything about it." (Nelson)

Nelson bowed his head and thanked Kazura for his proposal.

Perhaps if they could solve the well problem then Isteria's health problem might be drastically improved.

For Kazura, well-digging was outside his realm of knowledge, so when he returned to Japan he would borrow the wisdom of the experts and by supplying technical treatise or if the circumstance permits, the well-digging tools, then they should manage one way or another.

“By the way, when we were walking towards the well-diggers, Lieze-san seems speaking quite friendly with the craftsmen. Does Lieze-san often visited the workshops, too?” (Kazura)

When they visited the well-diggers workshop, the craftsmen were at first shrunk back when they saw Zirconia, but when they noticed Lieze, their expression softened. They were actually talking with her in a friendly tone.

Kazura heard the words “Thank you like always” mixed at their conversation, so he was curious whether or not she had previous encounters with the craftsmen.

“Ah, perhaps it was because Lieze personally replenished the mud she used to wash her hair and body from the well-diggers. Most of the washing material used to wash the noble ladies’ hair or for the dishwashing in the noble’s mansion are purchased from the well-diggers. There are many who used soap, but Lieze prefer that mud better.” (Zirconia)

“Hah, mud?... Is it much better even than the soap?” (Kazura)

“Depending on the mud type, but the one that is used by Lieze, the White Mud, is a top quality item, so it is far more superior than the soap. Does Kazura want to try using it? If you ask Lieze, she could procure some.” (Zirconia)

“Hmm... Then, next time I will ask Lieze-san personally for it. I am a bit interested.” (Kazura)

Using mud to wash body or head, could be said as counterintuitive, but even in Japan, cosmetics company also sell mud face cleaner or mud pack.

Since mud was also used even in Japan to some extent, the mud in question might have a performance that was unbeatable by even the scientifically produced soap or detergent.

“Does Zirconia-san use that mud too?” (Kazura)

“I rarely paid attention to such things... However, perhaps I will try it for once.”
(Zirconia)

Even while having this kind of idle chat, the three people then continued their discussion about the workshop.



“Glass, flour mill, threshing machine and... Isn’t this had become quite an amount? It will take time to prepare all of these...” (Kazura)

After finished with the discussion, Kazura returned to his bedroom and sat down on his bed while writing down what the goods that he needed to prepare in Japan.

At tomorrow morning he would depart to Grisea Village, so now he was sorting the information at hand so that he won’t forgot what he needs to purchase or examine.

Since one-way trip from Isteria to Grisea Village will take about 2 days of travel, if he forgot to buy something then he couldn’t immediately return.

It was a distance that is not close yet not that far, nonetheless, he was greatly vexed by this.

“If the carriage and the guards do a forced march then we would arrive in the village in one day, but if the carriage move that fast, then Marie and I would vomit. There must be something I can do with the carriage...” (Kazura)

Because the road between Isteria and Grisea Village was an unpaved bare soil road, if the carriage traveled too fast, it was equivalent to a suicidal act.

Even if he could endure it one way or another using the essential oil, he didn’t want to bother Marie too much, even on the last rushed return trip to Grisea Village, the rocking of the carriage was quite harsh for Marie.

It might be better to leave Marie in the estate, but he thought that considering Marie’s position, it wouldn’t be a good thing to do.

“Ummm, receiving the generator, confirming the progress of construction plan...”
(Kazura)

While he kept muttering like this, Kazura spent the whole night looking at the notebook.

By the way, at that time, Eira was waiting in the kitchen for Kazura. However, Kazura who was busy with the preparation of his trip tomorrow didn't show up in the kitchen.

In the end, Eira who remembered that Kazura was going to depart to Grisea Village on the next day, returned to her room in dejection and then went to sleep.

Chapter 78

The Perfect Advocate

The morning of the next day.

Kazura, as usual, had a breakfast together with Nelson's family. When it was finished, he, accompanied by Lieze, Eira and Marie, went to the estate's plaza.

In the plaza, Isaac and Havel had already waited with the carriages along with 30 soldiers as the escort.

There were 20 servants who will accompany this journey, wagons to carry goods necessary for camping and empty wagons to transport the goods that Kazura would bring from Japan.

The members for this journey was around 50 people so it was like a small convoy of an army.

"It will take 5 or 6 days... Perhaps it might take even longer, but I will return after getting the goods. During my absence, I will entrust the waterwheel construction works for the fields to Lieze-san, if you please." (Kazura)

"Yes, I will give my best. Kazura-sama too needs to take care of yourself... Also, this" (Lieze)

Lieze presented a small pouch that was on her hand to Kazura.

"Hm? This is... a bracelet?" (Kazura)

Kazura opened the pouch and look at the content. Inside the pouch was an indigo cloth bracelet held by a silver clasp.

It looked like handmade and adorned with a beautiful embroidery from a red string.

"Yes, although it's not something well made..." (Lieze)

Said Lieze who then made an embarrassed smiled.

She might have said that it wasn't well made, but in Kazura eyes, the embroidery had been done quite skillfully.

“Thank you very much. I will treasure this.” (Kazura)

「はい、あまり上手には
作れませんでしたけど……」

リーゼ・イステール

ナルソンの娘

「ん、これは……ブレスレット?」



Kazura expressed his thanks with a smile and put the bracelet on his left wrist.

Seeing this, Lieze's cheek was a bit blushed as she made a delightful looking smile.

"Then, I will be going. Marie-san, follow me." (Kazura)

Kazura called out to Marie who was standing behind him and then they board the carriage together.

Isaac closed the carriage door and after bowing to Lieze, he moved to the front of the carriage.

Then with Isaac's order, the convoy began to move towards Grisea Village.



After seeing Kazura's group exited the estate gate, Lieze let out a sigh as if she had finished a difficult task.

"Now then, let's us go to construct the waterwheel. Since I want to buy something when we return, let's finish it a bit early today... Hm, is something wrong?" (Lieze)

Eira was still looking at the sight of Kazura's group who had left the gate.

"Lieze-sama, isn't that just too mean to Isaac-sama...?" (Eira)

"What do you mean? After all, it couldn't be helped." (Lieze)

Lieze understood what that Eira wanted to say, so she objected with a frowned face.

"Since I am truly not interested in him at all, on the contrary, it would be rude to him if I paid him special attention, right? Rather than endlessly giving him hope, I believe this is much more considerate." (Lieze)

"However, to present Kazura-sama with [Dearest Bracelet] in front of Isaac-sama is such a heartless act..." (Eira)

The bracelet, that Lieze had given to Kazura, was mainly gifted when a woman wants to send a regard to a man.

The color of the bracelet's cloth didn't have any meaning, but the color of the string used in the embroidery would change the regard's meaning.

White string means, [I wished that you come back earlier before the white of the string changed.]

It was a gift for people that will take a long journey or for a lover who will be going to a war.

If it was given at the times of departure, it could also be used as a confession on parting.

Black string means [I will be waiting for you tonight.]

It was used as a reply that the giver's passion was frankly roused up when receiving the confession, or in the case when the giver wanted to convey that they felt a bit lusty but embarrassed so they couldn't say it. It was a bracelet with a rather adult message.

Then, red string means [I have a high regard for you.]

Just like it says, it was a bracelet used when conveying a regard or confession.

The scope of the meaning was wide, from the simple [I love you] to the intricate meaning of [I am interested in you].

For that reason, just by handing this, it might be interpreted as a sudden proposal of "Let's love-love-kiss-kiss!" and be turned down, so it was necessary to paid attention on how the bracelet was given.

"It might be called that but isn't this much better than meeting face to face, not for confessing, but to say [I don't hold any feeling for you] ? At least with this, I believe that Isaac's father won't lose his face." (Lize)

Lize had already locked-on to become Kazura's wife candidate.

Since she still didn't know his backgrounds in detail, she performed seductive techniques to create a fait accompli, but she wasn't going to do any scheme to make him eventually take her hand in marriage.

However, when Zirconia strongly informed her that there is no doubt that he is an

excellent individual, she decided that it would be better if she established a proper pleasant relationship without any delay.

During these last few days, while working in the fields, Lieze was able to talk closely with Kazura.

Furthermore, Lieze also felt that Kazura response was as if he acknowledged Lieze not only from her appearance but also her character from the beginning.

She thought that before long she might be able to do some probing at his backgrounds, but she had a second thought that it would be better to be done after she had passed another stage.

If she probes at this point of time, then perhaps Kazura would felt uncomfortable with her and had his impression of her worsened. There was a possibility that all she had done for several days would turn meaningless.

Lieze believed that there are no such things as clearing the decks too much^[1]. So for any plans she intends to take, she would play it safe as much as possible.

To begin with, Lieze didn't see anyone that could become her rival in the people around Kazura, and this was one of the reasons Lieze was being careful on her conduct. She thought that there was no need to hurry.

“That might be true... Isaac-sama is so pitiful...” (Eira)

Eira once again pointed her pitying eyes at the gate's direction. Lieze unconsciously fell silent.

Lieze only didn't see Isaac as a marriage partner, she didn't have any particular hate towards him.

Looking objectively, Isaac had an honest and hard working personality, a high-born, and also a nice look. A youth with nary a fault to be found.

That he was respectable as a military officer and had done his best to be useful for Nelson, was something that Lieze also knew.

Because of that, when Eira said it in that kind of way, it was as if she was saying that Lieze is a horrible woman and this made Lieze's feeling a bit hurt.

“Ah! I-I’m sorry! I don’t really mean in what I had said!?” (Eira)

Eira noticed that Lieze was a bit pouting, then she realized what her words mean and quickly apologized in hurry.

“It’s fine, it doesn’t matter. Look, let’s head to work any time now. Could you do the preparation?” (Lieze)

While still be unconciliatory, Lieze gave out an instruction. Eira bowed to her and then dashed into the estate in order to arrange the preparation for the work.



The morning of the next day.

When they arrived in Grisea Village’s entrance, Kazura got down from the carriage while holding the travel bag on his hand and was stricken dumbfounded at the sight that his eyes discovered.

Isaac who was beside him too let out a gripe at the sight of the village.

“It’s as though the village is an army garrison... To think that there will be this much change in just 10 days...” (Isaac)

Grisea Village was previously looked like a poor village in the countryside, but the impression it had, had changed completely into a field encampment.

The village was surrounded with sharpened thick wooden palings that were pointed outside like a spear, furthermore, it was encircled by a steep moat.

The four corners of the palisade would be furnished with wooden watchtowers, but it looks like their construction was still incomplete.

Beside the entrance of the village was a huge mound of logs that seems to be just recently cut.

Valetta had said that she wanted to install a drawbridge in the village entrance, so this logs might be for that purpose.

While Kazura and Isaac were overwhelmed by the village’s appearance, Valetta

walked from the village entrance by herself.

Valetta met eyes with Kazura and then she rushed over to Kazura while smiling delightedly.

“Welcome back, Kazura-san.” (Valetta)

“I’m back. Umm, this has become quite amazing. I had heard the construction plan outline before, but to think that it has progressed this much...” (Kazura)

Kazura had heard the explanation of the construction outline from Valetta 10 days ago, but Kazura never thought that they could perform that much work to reach this state in this short period of time.

He estimated that it would already satisfactory if they at the most, enclosed the village with a fence from wooden boards and dig the moat to nothing more than a mere obstacle.

But, the fence they actually constructed was the genuine sharpened wooden palisade that could be seen in middle ages war movies.

The moat was sloped 60 degrees and it seems that the depth was close to 2 meters.

Kazura realized that he had not taken Valetta’s personality seriously.

This girl is the kind of girl who will thoroughly perform things that she had said.

“Actually, I want to proceed with the construction much faster, however, the work was delayed more than I thought before and there were several materials that were insufficient..... Umm, although I might have proudly say that we will take care of this one way or another, could I ask to supply us with some materials and tools?” (Valetta)

“Yes, certainly. I will provide anything, just say the words.” (Kazura)

Kazura answered with smile and Valetta made a delighted smile.

“Thank you very much. *Ano*, perhaps we could talk about the rest inside the house...” (Valetta)

“Ah, you’re right, let’s do so.” (Kazura)

Valetta made a suggestion, which Kazura agreed. He then ordered Isaac to wait for several days and entered the village.



It had been a long time since Kazura was in Valin's residence. And now he sat around the central hearth with Valetta and Valin as they ate their dinner while having an idle chat.

The food that they prepared was the potato harvested in the village and the cooked rice that was mixed with crushed acorn-like nut, vegetable stir-fried with canned chicken meat, spit-roasted Arcadia Bug, and canned peach.

"I see, Isteria had been in such dire situation..." (Valin)

"Yes, it was a condition where they barely able to hold in just about anything. If the aid was started late even for just half a year, it might have become a disaster. For now, we have constructed waterwheels, then the next thing will be the expansion of the farm fields and the hygiene problem." (Kazura)

Kazura narrated the summary of the aids that he had done in Isteria. Valin nodded at his story with serious expression.

Valetta also made responses while hearing Kazura's story, but at times, she was looking at the bracelet that adorned his left wrist.

"*Fumu*, hygiene problem. I think we can do something if they could use constant freshwater like in this village, but the city was a mess of jumbled up districts so it didn't like we could just put water channels on it..." (Valin)

Valin said it emotively, while quickly ate the mixed rice in his bowl.

"...Alright then, I will now go out for a night patrol. I will return at dawn, so please have a good rest." (Valin)

"Eh? Patrol? Right now? But Isaac-san's unit is at the village entrance, so it will be fine if you take a ret today..." (Kazura)

"No, I can't. After all, we don't know what will happen in the world. Then, I'm off."

(Valin)

Disregarding Kazura who called out to him in surprise, Valin left the residence.

“(What with this pattern, recently it happened too often... No matter how I think of it. Perhaps, he was just being considerate.)” (Kazura)

At his previous stay in Grisea Village, for several days until the day Kazura depart for Isteria, every night Valin would be considerate and left Kazura and Valetta alone.

Since on the last time, the mood had risen up to some extent, as expected, even Kazura noticed Valetta’s affection and he also consider Valetta as likable.

However, Valetta was 15 years old, in Japan she would be in the Third Year of Middle School, so she was just that young and the excessive age gap made Kazura hesitated to make the second step.

To not make another step just by a simple reasoning, might be referred as a ^{hetare} loser mindset, but honestly speaking, he couldn’t refute this.

Kazura turned his sight to Valetta, who stared at Kazura with a slightly uneasy expression.

“Kazura-san, that bracelet...” (Valetta)

“Ah, this? When I departed from Isteria, Lieze-san... Nelson-san’s daughter gave it to me.” (Kazura)

When Valetta timidly asked, Kazura unfastened the bracelet and gave it to Valetta.

“Lieze-sama... Gave this...” (Valetta)

Valetta stared hard at the bracelet that she received.

“Lieze-san is still 14 years old, but she giving her utmost effort in helping the work for the province’s sake. She seems to be quite popular with the citizen, so with her help, the work efficiency had increased. She is still young but already amazing, how admirable.” (Kazura)

“I-is... that so...” (Valetta)

Seeing how Kazura praised Lieze, Valetta, who was still looking at the bracelet, only able to wring out a weak reply.

“Moreover, she also interacts with anyone equally and amicably. She even made a handmade bracelet for me. It’s because she is paying attention attentively like this that she is popular with the citizen, there should be many nobles proposing marriage to her. Since she is still a Noble Lord’s daughter, her actions are reflecting this fact.”

With admiration, Kazura narrated about Lieze, which made Valetta suddenly raised her face up with a “huh?” expression.

“To acquire such worldly wisdom and focused on the future at such age is really astounding. I also need to learn from her steps and...” (Kazura)

“*A-ano*, when Lieze-sama gave this bracelet to Kazura-san, did she say anything?” (Valetta)

“Hm? Nothing much... Ah, she said to take care of myself? Perhaps, is this bracelet something like a health charm?” (Kazura)

“Ah, yes, something like that. Like... Do your best to stay healthy.” (Valetta)

At the false information that Valetta immediately spew out of her mouth, Kazura nodded “I see”.

Valetta gripped hard the bracelet in her hand and then with a heartrending expression she cast her eyes down once more.

“...Valetta-san?” (Kazura)

For some reason, Valetta’s mood changed, which made Kazura panicked at heart, “Ah, I’ve done it”.

He thought that it was because he had kept praising Lieze, like her work style or how she is popular with the citizen.

However, Valetta immediately raised her face up and looked at Kazura with a serious expression.

“...Kazura-san, there is something I want to request from you.” (Valetta)

“Hm, request?” (Kazura)

Kazura asked back with a puzzled expression, which Valetta nodded to.

“When you return to Japan, I wish that you bought more books. If you can, I want to read history books or technical books.” (Valetta)

“History books and technical books is it? What topics do you want to read? There also many kinds of history books... Also, is the technical books about the construction engineering? I think that on the book I had previously brought, there are some good books amongst it.” (Kazura)

“I have memorized the entire content of every book in this house. Whether it will be engineering, medicine, military, the book topics won't matter. I want to read more book that has the content that I never see before. For history, if it's possible, I will be happy if I could read about a period that is similar to our world.” (Valetta)

“Eh, military too? Or rather, are you serious about reading every book in the house...?” (Kazura)

Kazura unconsciously asked Valetta back as she suddenly made an unbelievable remark of remembering the entire content of the books.

This house had several dozens of books that Kazura had bought before.

To remember the entire content of the books in this short period. It was something that Kazura couldn't imitate.

“Yes, perhaps it still couldn't be put into application, but I have remembered the entire content. However, it still not enough. I want to read many more, different varieties of books... No matter what, I...” (Valetta)

Valetta's words stopped at that point. As if to endure something, she cast her eyes down.

However, she immediately raised her face up and looked at Kazura, she was smiling yet there were tears in her eyes.

“This request, can you do it?” (Valetta)

“Yes, of course. I will buy a mountain of it.” (Kazura)

Kazura still couldn't read Valetta's intention, but he nodded with a smile.

Valetta made a slightly relieved expression and expressed her thanks to Kazura, then they once more resumed eating while having a chat.

[I want to be on your side.]

For Valetta to even be able to speak these words, just a little more time was needed.



Chapter 79

Divine Soldier

The morning of the next day.

Just like what he had declared before, Valin returned on dawn and joined Kazura and Valetta in the breakfast.

There was a brief break after the breakfast, so Valetta and Kazura were chatting while listing the Japanese goods that need to be supplied in the notebook.

Since Kazura would depart once more to Isteria in several days, he was carefully reviewing his list so that there wouldn't be anything he forgot to buy.

After a thorough review for about 30 minutes, Valetta saw Kazura off in the entrance of the residence as he headed towards Japan.

Then she nimbly washed the dishes on the washing floor. Afterward, she carried the laundry basket and bucket with soap outside the residence.

She headed towards the village entrance and walked to the aqueduct where the river water flowed.

“(As expected, I wanted an aqueduct that always has flowing water inside the village.)”
(Valetta)

During the time where they didn't send the water to the village's reservoir, the water that the waterwheel pumped would be returned back towards the downstream through the water channel in village's entrance so there was no water flowing inside the village's aqueduct.

Because of that, when the village's reservoir was full like the current situation, it was necessary to go outside the village to use fresh water.

Before Kazura arrived in the village, the water for cooking and laundry would be taken from the river using buckets or jars that they need to transport back to the village, so

they would use the water sparingly.

Compared to that time, their daily life had become much more convenient, but as you would expect, she wants the daily life to become even more convenient.

By the way, the current waterwheel installed in the river had been returned to the waterwheel that Kazura had brought from Japan.

Valetta arrived at the water channel and found the servants of Isaac's unit already did their laundry beside the channel.

Valetta greeted the servants and just like them, she squatted beside the channel and fetched water with the bucket. Then she put the soap in her laundry and began to wash it thoroughly.

About 10 minutes later, all of her laundries had been washed completely, so she stood up and look over the surroundings.

Not far from the water channel there was the campground where numerous tents were set up. The carriages were parked beside it.

Valetta searched the outskirts of the campground and found a certain person's figure. While carrying her laundry, she made a small run towards him.

"Isaac-san, good morning." (Valetta)

Isaac, who was conversing something with the nearby soldiers, turned back when Valetta called him and then made a smile to her.

"Good morning. I apologized to show up very late at night yesterday. Has Kazura-san already returned to God's Realm?" (Isaac)

After dismissing the nearby soldiers, Isaac made sure that there were no people around before asking for Kazura's whereabouts.

"Yes, he has departed just now. He said that he will return temporarily at noon tomorrow, but it is possible that he will need to depart back to God's Realm once more." (Valetta)

"Is that so... Even in Isteria, Kazura-sama has been truly assisting us with his utmost

effort without sparing any time for the sake of our country. When Kazura-sama returned, please let him have a leisure time during the duration of his stay in this village in one way or another. If there is anything that I could do to help, please inform me.” (Isaac)

Isaac said this with a smile. There was not the slightest arrogance a noble usually have that could be detected in his words.

Valetta was happy that he was really different from the other nobles.

Havel and Nelson also had been polite in treating her, but Valetta sensed that there was a difference if compared to Isaac.

As long as he was at Kazura’s side, he might be the most dependable person for Kazura, no matter what happened.

“I understand. It might be sudden, but there is something that I wish to request from Isaac-san. May I?” (Valetta)

“Of course. Please speak the words.” (Isaac)

“I hope you can teach me martial arts.” (Valetta)

It was an unexpected request from Valetta that made Isaac taken aback.

“Martial... arts? Can I ask why?” (Isaac)

When Isaac asked back, Valetta made a serious expression at him.

Though, since she was one head shorter than Isaac, Valetta need to look up at him.

“When the village was attacked by bandits, I was filled with fear and couldn’t do anything. Therefore, if something like that happened again, I want to be able to fight properly.” (Valetta)

After she said this, Valetta seemed to be a bit conflicted whether or not to continue her words. Even so, since she noticed Isaac also looked at her with a serious expression, her resolution strengthened.

She would speak the truth to this person.

“I want to protect Kazura-san. For that reason, martial arts is also necessary.” (Valetta)

After Valetta said this, Isaac smiled gently at her.

“Martial arts is also necessary?” (Isaac)

“Yes. Martial arts is also necessary.” (Valetta)

Then Isaac became silent for several second, and after one sigh, he began speaking.

“You may have stated that you want to protect Kazura-sama, however, martial arts isn’t something that you can master in just one night. If it is the technique to protect people, then it would take even more time. Furthermore, the opportunity for me to come to Grisea Village is limited. I am afraid that I can’t help Valetta-san learns military arts.” (Isaac)

“That might be true, but please, if Isaac-san could teach me the basics and the training methods then even if Isaac-san isn’t here in the village, I could train by myself.” (Valetta)

Isaac frowned at Valetta’s words.

“How many times do you think I could visit Grisea Village in one month? You might say that you will train by yourself, but if you pick a faulty habit when I’m not there, it could be irreparable. Furthermore, I think that Valetta-san didn’t suit for a fight at all. I think Valetta-san should turn that effort to another purpose.” (Isaac)

“...Then, please test me.” (Valetta)

“...Testing for what?” (Isaac)

Isaac looked puzzled at Valetta, who looked straight into his eyes.

“Please have a match with me. If I win, then please teach me martial arts. If I lose then I will give up.” (Valetta)

“...” (Isaac)

Valetta made an astounding proposal, that the words “What the heck is this girl saying?” was pasted over Isaac’s face.

However, Valetta didn't show even the slightest suggestion that this was a joke.

It was obvious that she was indeed serious.

Isaac let out a sigh as if saying "good grief".

"Since you had say that far, then let's have a match. However, if you lost then this discussion is over. Will this be fine for you?" (Isaac)

When Isaac accepted, Valetta made a relieved expression and smiled.

It was a smile as if she had already won the match.

"Yes, thank you very much. I want to dry the laundry first, so will you be fine if we have the match after this?" (Valetta)

"I understand. I will prepare the equipment. Will you fine with sword and shield?" (Isaac)

"It won't be a problem. Even if it's a heavy shield, I will be fine. Also, it's better if the location for the match is inside the forest at the outskirts of the village." (Valetta)

"The forest at the village's outskirts? I understand. I will head there after I finished with the preparation." (Isaac)

"Yes, thank you very much." (Valetta)

Valetta made a bow and then with a light stride, she ran towards the village.

Even though Isaac felt rather unsatisfied by this, he went to the campsite to get the equipment.



30 minutes later.

Inside the forest at the village's outskirts, Valetta held a round shield and wooden training sword in her hand as she standing off against Isaac.

The wooden sword's hilt was made from bronze, so it wouldn't snap from the shock.

The shield was the one that usually used by the soldiers, a round shield reinforced with bronze on its rim.

There was a leather belt handle for the forearm to grip into so the shield weight could be distributed evenly.

Isaac and Valetta had the same equipment and the two stood 5 meters from each other.

“Umm, thank you for preparing this match. Then how we decide the victory?” (Valetta)

“Let it will be when one of us say ‘I give up’. Otherwise, we will decide based on the situation as we go.” (Isaac)

Valetta asked with a bit nervous, while Isaac stared at Valetta with an indifferent expression.

While his opponent might be a small girl 5 years younger than him, Isaac won't be careless or going easy on her.

Isaac predicted that Valetta might be thinking that he would surely be considerate for her.

However, he didn't intend to live up to her expectation at all.

If he goes half-baked and kind on her, then in the future, she might lose her life.

He will face her unsparingly, it's for this girl's future. Isaac's hardened his heart.

“Then, come to me with your full power. So that there won't be any regret, fight with everything you have.” (Isaac)

“Full power... is it?” (Valetta)

When Isaac mentioned full power, Valetta made a slightly uneasy expression.

It seems that she was troubled about what she should do as she was asked to exert her full power.

“That's right. Full power. Come at me with killing intent. As if to carry out a revenge against a hateful opponent, with full power.” (Isaac)

“E-even if you said it like that...” (Valetta)

“Then, imagine me as a foe who wants to kill Kazura-sama. A foe that wants to rob the life of someone you treasured, and right now your hand will strike him down.” (Isaac)

It was a strange way to fight, but so that there won't be any regrets arise later, Isaac attempted to have Valetta attack with her full power.

Fighting while holding anger would make it hard to think calmly, so this was not an actually good way to fight.

However, in the current situation, such fine details could be ignored.

Valetta, an amateur, and Isaac, a genuine soldier. There was a huge gap between their combat skills, instant judgment, furthermore, in their physical ability.

Attacking with her full power for her treasured person, even if she lost as the result, she would accept this, or so what Isaac thought.

“...Kazura-san's... foe.” (Valetta)

Valetta muttered and quietly closed her eyes as she focused her will.

“...” (Valetta)

She imagined Isaac in front of her is going to kill Kazura.

He swung down his sword and Kazura's arm was lopped off.

The body was pierced, blood vigorously gushed out from the wounds.

Cold-bloodedly slain, her beloved person crumbled down to the ground as a speechless corpse.

While such scene transpired before her, even though she was near him, she couldn't do anything, and only could watch that scene in shock.

In calm and quiet, she repeated this scene over and over again inside her mind.

The tragedy she constructed with such concentration, had made the darkish emotion,

hatred, simmering and arise from the bottom of her heart.

She muttered in her heart, I will kill him, and her mind was immediately filled with killing intent.

“!?” (Isaac)

When Valetta opened her eyes, the air around her was different, that made Isaac unconsciously gulped.

Any expression had faded from Valetta’s face.

Inside the eyes that were staring at him dwelt a tremendous bloodlust.

Before he knew, the birds’ singing and the insects’ chirping, that had always been in the background sounds of the forest, had stopped.

「スラムスター」

バレッタは
地面を蹴り、
アイザックに
向けて突進した。

「Wow!!」

アイザック・スラン

ナルソンの部下

バレッタ

グリセア村 村長の娘



“Here I go.” ^[1](Valetta)

With that short declaration, Valetta gouged the ground as she kicked it and rushed towards Isaac.

The 5 meters distance was covered in just a mere seconds.

In an instant, she collided.

At that moment, the wooden sword in her right hand was sweep sideways with her full power.

“Gugh!?” (Isaac)

That was not a skilled attack, nor a weak one, only a strong blow loaded with tremendous destructive power.

Isaac could barely defend with his shield thanks to his reflex.

Together with a loud clang, the cacophonous impact sound, the unbelievable attack momentum was transferred to his hand from the shield.

Even though Isaac was staggered back from that fierce attack, he swung the wooden sword in his hand diagonally at Valetta.

Despite his unstable posture, it was a genuine attack without any intention of going easy for the opponent.

However, though he believed that the attack should strike Valetta’s shoulder, the sword only cut through the empty air.

“...” (Valetta)

Valetta had agilely turned and barely evaded Isaac’s attack.

She immediately back-stepped and jumped 2 meters backward. By gaining a distance, she corrected her posture.

She dropped her waist low, once more kicked the ground and traversed the distance in one go.

Again, she put her whole strength in a strong side sweep attack.

Thinking that she would use the same attack method for the second time, Isaac timed so that when at the same time when Valetta's sword met his shield, he would also pull the shield back to stymie Valetta's slash.

"What!?" (Isaac)

But the moment Valetta's wooden sword impacted to Isaac's shield, Valetta let go of her sword in her right hand and gripped at the edge of his shield.

Utilizing the reverse momentum, he was forcibly pulled forward by an extraordinary strength.

"Guagh!" (Isaac)

He was greatly unbalanced and tripped forward as if being sent flying.

Isaac completely lost his posture and fall to the earth, landing face down on the ground.

"I win." (Valetta)

Valetta pressed the edge of the shield on Isaac's head who was lying prone on the ground.

Chapter 80

Asking For The Best

Feeling the hard shield pressed behind his head, Isaac judged that he had lost.

The whole event just now happened so fast that his head was confused about what was going on.

“...*Ano*, are you alright? Can you get up?” (Valetta)

The shield’s sensation disappeared from the back of his head as Valetta’s worried words arrived on his ears.

Isaac let go the wooden sword that he had continuously gripped until now and put his right hand on the ground to prop his body up.

He thanked Valetta who was offering her hand and then he took it to help himself up.

Isaac mumbled “Hmm” when he stood up as he remembered Valetta’s strong power that belies her delicate appearances.

He wiped the dirt clinging in his hand at his body and once again took a deep breath to calm himself down.

Then, with a slight frowning expression he turned towards Valetta.

“Is that the gift of strength, the one that was conferred by Kazura-sama?” (Isaac)

“*Etto*... Yes.” (Valetta)

Valetta was a bit troubled about how she should answer Isaac’s question, but since it might be not a mistake if it’s only the gist of the truth, she honestly nodded.

Seeing her reply, Isaac’s held his head and made a deep sigh.

“Weren’t you just too merciless? If you are this much strong, then please mention it

before the match. I had said for you to come at me with a killing intent, but when I receive your slash, I honestly felt as if my life was about to fly away.” (Isaac)

“I-I am terribly sorry. I wanted to win against Isaac-san no matter what, so... I thought that if I didn’t say anything and suddenly attack with my full power then I could attack you unguarded.” (Valetta)

The reason why Valetta rushed headlong to Isaac with her full power when the battle started was to make Isaac perturbed and seize the battle initiative for herself.

As the effect of continuous consumption of the food that Kazura had brought, her physical strength had increased. But no matter how much it increased, her opponent was a real combat veteran soldier.

If the match became prolonged then he could easily read the movement of the combat amateur Valetta and her chance to win would become slim.

Hence, after her first surprise attack was defended she repeated the same attack once more, to convince Isaac that it was a monotone attack from an amateur.

As the result, Isaac took one of the several movements that Valetta had predicted before.

Afterward, Valetta’s action was also was “if he moves like this then I will do that” action that she had decided beforehand in the simulation inside her mind when she was drying the laundry.

Perhaps if Isaac succeeded in defending that attack, then to be frank, Valetta didn’t know whether or not she could win against Isaac.

“You surely catch me unguarded... I lost. I will honor my promise.” (Isaac)

When Isaac admitted, Valetta smiled in relief.

No matter what kind of person Isaac was, she was a bit worried that his feeling would be hurt by losing to her in such way, but it looked like such worry was needless.

“Thank you very much. Also, please keep this secret from Kazura-san. I think he might be... worried...” (Valetta)

Valetta said this with a slight hint of loneliness behind her words. Isaac nodded straight away.

“I understand. I won’t say anything to Kazura-sama. When Valetta-san could stand with pride before Kazura-sama, then at the time let’s inform him about everything. Of course, I won’t tell another person about your blessing of power, so please do not worry.” (Isaac)

Valetta smiled delightedly when she heard this.

“Yes. I will be in your care.” (Valetta)

Valetta made a deep bow and Isaac’s heart was filled with joy.

It seems that this girl held a great respect and devotion to Kazura just like himself.

He still didn’t know how much this girl’s talent is, but if she was blessed with the strength that she had demonstrated, then if she was trained properly then she would become a powerful warrior.

Kazura seemed to be extremely pleased of Valetta, so after he had given her training, then he could recommend her to Kazura and Nelson, that she might stay beside him as a close bodyguard.

“(In that case, surely... Stupid, what I am thinking.)” (Isaac)

The scene of exchange between Lieze and Kazura two days ago appeared in his mind. Isaac quickly rebuked himself.

If Valetta were able to stay near Kazura, then Kazura’s eyes will surely turn towards Valetta and not Lieze. Even if it’s just for a little bit, this was what he had thought.

It was a foolish thought that didn’t have the sliver of sincerity for either Kazura and Lieze. Isaac felt ashamed on his own wretched heart.

“Then, let’s begin immediately. Start with the basic stance when holding a sword. Please do not be hurry, do it slowly, until you properly master it one by one.” (Isaac)

“Yes!” (Valetta)

Thus, the secret special training between Isaac and Valetta began.



When Isaac and Valetta's special training started, Kazura was sitting in the entrance of the Japanese mansion and talking with his father Shinji through his handphone.

"500 kilograms of copper and tin, what are you will use it for? Do you want to build a temple bell?" (Shinji)

"No, it doesn't mean that I want to use it right now, I only want to place them nearby. Though, I hope you can arrange it with a material store to send it to the mansion." (Kazura)

Unconcerned about Shinji who asked back with bewilderment in his tone, Kazura pushed through about the materials procurement.

Shinji had managed a small workshop before and it was where they produced metal souvenirs, so procuring metal materials like this was his specialty.

At first, Kazura thought about procuring the materials himself, however, searching for the dealers and the negotiation would take too much time, so he delegated everything to Shinji.

There was the issue about the money, but since Kazura had cast 500 million yen into Shinji's account, then the money should be enough.

"If it's possible, I want it so that it arrives at least before the day after tomorrow. Please?" (Kazura)

"...Ah, okay okay. I will contact you again when the date for the delivery had been decided, so you can leave it to me. Also, if you want to create bronze, then the tin ratio is only 10%. You can't just plunge them together in equal amount." ^[1](Shinji)

"Oh, is that so? I don't know about that." (Kazura)

"Hey, hey, will you be alright? Don't do something haphazardly. If there is something you don't know, you can ask me. Since I will teach you anything." (Shinji)

"Then about the room inside the mansion..." (Kazura)

“I had told you, I don’t know anything about that.” (Shinji)

Shinji immediately refused, so Kazura let out a big sigh.

“I understand. Then, I will entrust the materials procurement to you. If I have something else, then I will call you again.” (Kazura)

“Ok. Don’t do absurd things too much, you hear?” (Shinji)

Kazura cut the call and then put the handphone back to his trouser pocket.

“What do you mean by absurd, geez...” (Kazura)

Good grief, he scratched his head as he walked towards the car parked in the front yard.

He turned the key and started the engine before he booted the car navigation and searched for his destination.

His first destination was a glass workshop in the city.

There was a mountain of things that he needed to do in Japan, so he couldn’t do things too leisurely.

He had already finished contacting the engineering firm for the water turbine generator he ordered before and he had arranged it to be delivered to the mansion on the noon next day.

The first thing he was going to do now was searching and procuring the goods that Valetta asked and the goods that he intended to bring to Isteria, after that he would investigate the things he had in mind before.

“If it’s possible then it will be nice if everything could be finished by tomorrow morning. But let’s see how things go.” (Kazura)

Kazura confirmed the route that the car navi displayed before he stepped on the pedal.



1 hour later.

Kazura had arrived at the glass studio and now he was examining the glass rod displayed on the shelves inside the studio.

The shelves where various colored glass rods lined up were separated from the shelves where they placed the glass materials.

There were two kinds of glass rods placed inside the studio, hard glass from the gas-oxygen torch and soft glass from the gas-air torch.^[2]

Then they were divided into the transparent colored crystal glass and the nontransparent soda-lime glass.

The studio itself was a 3-storey building, currently Kazura was on the second floor, the first floor was where the completed manufactured glassware like glass beads was displayed, the glass rods and the glassmaking tools were displayed on the second floor.

At the label placed on the stairway, the third floor was where the glass studio offered glassmaking class.

“Now then, which one should I buy?” (Kazura)

While comparing the hard glass and soft glass shelves, Kazura was a bit confused on which type he should buy.

Just by a glance, the hard glass had a more beautiful luster than soft glass.

After this hard glass had been melted to some degree into a big lump of glass, then it could be struck on the ground to smash it into irregular forms, which Nelson could easily sell at the market.

Next to the shelves where the glass was placed, was where the shelves for the special glass.

The rainbow-colored dichroic glass or boards of iridescent glass that was shining beautifully, or glass rods with various patterned color like a Kintarou candy.^[3]

“Wait. To melt this, a specialized burner would be needed... So, I need to buy the tool set to process the form and size to what that side preferred.” (Kazura)

The glass rods that was displayed in the studio was mostly about 1 cm to 2 cm thick.

As it is, not only their size was small but their current form was also too uniform, so Kazura needed to melt them into a lump of glass.

Kazura called out to the female clerk that was sitting behind the register and asked her for the explanation about the tools.

“Sorry, but I want the tools to process this hard glass. Can I ask you to choose the good tool set? Since this is my first try, I don’t know what is needed.” (Kazura)

“I understand. The oxygen-gas torch is quite expensive, will it be fine for you?” (Clerk)

“How much? If it within my capacity then I can prepare the money.” (Kazura)

“The torch and the oxygen concentrator to refine oxygen are quite expensive, even the small tools will cost close to 300000 yen^[4]. In the case for the tools for soft glass, 40000 yen^[5] is enough for complete set.” (Clerk)

It seems that there was quite a gap between the price for hard glass tools and soft glass tools.

Of course, although it depends on the type of tools chosen, to choose the hard glass tools compared to soft glass tools would need a courageous amount of money.

However, for the super nouveau riche like Kazura, it was an inconsequential matter.

“Ah, no, the oxygen-gas one, please. Then can I also ask you to explain how to operate it?” (Kazura)

“I understand. Please follow me.” (Clerk)

After Kazura said this, he followed the female clerk and entered the room where the torch tools were placed.

Inside the room, there were many kinds of torches and there were several oxygen refining devices called oxygen concentrator were placed.

The goods cost a considerable amount of money, there were many that was above 200000 yen^[6].

“First, the torch. The flame that comes out from it is different depending on the product. You can choose based on the degree of how much the nozzle flame size could be adjusted, how big the works that want to be made, or the quality of the flame that you seek.” (Clerk)

“Hmm... Which product that you recommend? If possible, a sturdy one that will not breakdown easily.” (Kazura)

“If you seek a sturdy product, then it will be this one. It cost 250000 yen^[7], not only it produced good flame but it was constructed sturdily so it will be rare for a breakdown to occur.” (Clerk)

When the female clerk explained, she pointed at one of the torches placed on top of the shelves.

“Is that so. Then that one please.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. Also, for the oxygen concentrator, the cheapest one will be 100000 yen, a good Japanese made one will be 250000 yen. As for the efficiency...” (Clerk)

After he had heard the female clerk’s explanation about the oxygen concentrator, he understood the gist of it.

To simplify her words: The most expensive one have the best performance.

“Then, that most expensive one please.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. How about an electric kiln? The best on is 350000 yen.” (Clerk)

Perhaps because she had concluded that Kazura was loaded with money, the female clerk began to explain about electric kiln.

The purpose of the electric kiln was to be used in the “cooling” stage of glass making.

If a glassware made from a mixture of several glasses was just left cooled in room temperature after the burning process, then it would be deformed due to the different

coefficient of thermal expansion between the glass components.

If the cooling speed was too fast, then the glass would reach the limit of its resilience and it would end up cracked.

In technical term, it would be called “thermal shock”.^[8]

“Hmm, since it’s called electric kiln, then it will use a lot of electricity, right? A device that needs a lot of electricity is a bit...” (Kazura)

“I see... The big one could use more than 20 amperes. Even without electric kiln, if you put the newly burned glassware into the slow cooling materials like this silica annealing bubbles^[9], then generally it will end up fine.” (Clerk)

The female store clerk took a bag from a nearby shelve and handed it over to Kazura.

Inside the transparent bag was a large number of white beads the size of rice grains.

Though Kazura won’t necessarily made something from the mixed colored glass, this annealing bubbles might be useful.

“Then, that annealing bubbles please.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. The annealing bubbles could be placed inside a container like an empty tin can. I think the size of a cookie tin will be enough. Or perhaps you can use a specialized container that this shop sells.” (Clerk)

“A cookie tin... Ah, it’s okay, I have just the right size tin can. Then can you help me choosing the other tools? It doesn’t matter even if they are expensive as long as they are the easiest one to use.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. Then, first the goggles and tweezers...” (Clerk)

And thus, just like what the female clerk told him, Kazura purchased one good after another.

She also recommended a small propane gas cylinder, but if the gas ran out in Isteria, Kazura couldn’t immediately return to Japan.

Although he thought that he wouldn’t use that much gas, it is better to have a surplus

amount, so he decided that he would contact his father Shinji once more to procure a large-size propane gas cylinder.

In the end, the final cost of the goods was close to 600000 yen

Chapter 81

Bedrock Crushing Plan

After the purchase at glass workshop was over, Kazura was inside the reception room of a company that sold and produce hand pump, which he had searched on the internet at the mansion before.

This company was located quite far from the city premises and its size wasn't that big, but it had a wide selection of commodity ranging from the standard deep well hand pump to antique gardening pump.

On the bookshelf in the reception room that Kazura had been asked to wait, there were numerous thick hardcover books that describe the history of the hand pump and well digging.

Because the company name was written parallel to the author names of these books, it might be something that was written under this company editorship.

Kazura took one of the books, sat down on the sofa and sipping the tea that had been prepared for him while flipping the pages and skimming the content.

The book described the well construction and digging technique of each era, and then the history of well related work, it was written in a way that won't be boring when someone read it.

The explanation was mingled with the regional history, so it was easy to read.

Kazura was engrossed in reading the book for awhile, then a knock came from the door and a middle-aged man in a work cloth entered the room.

The man took out his business card from his pocket and then bend his waist to greet Kazura.

Kazura also stood up, received the business card and bowed his head down.

The title written on the business card was Section Chief.

“Thank you for visiting our company for this occasion. I heard that you want to purchase a hand pump and consult us about well digging?” (Section Chief)

“Despite the sudden visit, I am thankful for this reception. At any rate, I want to seek a professional opinion about this matter...” (Kazura)

As gestured by the Section Manager, Kazura once again sat on the seat and explained Isteria’s well water problem.

The content of his explanation was exactly what he had heard from Isteria’s well digger.

He explained how the water that came out from the excavated place was of bad quality, and if someone were to use that water for washing then the towel would become bright red, and also the condition of the excavated dirt.

After hearing Kazura’s explanation, the Section Chief nodded.

“I see. Perhaps the water that came out from the water well that Shino-sama had dug was [metallic rich water] that have too many dissolved iron content and isn’t useful for normal usage. The soil where the water came out was a sand layer called [mountain sand] , the water that came from that soil layer had bad quality.”

According to the Section Chief’s explanation, non-useful water that was contaminated with iron often came out at the excavated well depth and the type of the soil in Isteria.

For this kind of water well, when the rain was falling, then the muddy water level would swell up that it could be even scooped out from the well just by using a ladle.

However, the opposite happens, when the rain was few, the water well might become dried up, so it was a well that is unpredictable as a water source.

The Section Chief guessed from Isteria’s well condition, which Kazura had explained, that if they penetrate under the bedrock layer then there will be a soil layer of fine sand called [sea sand]. Then he informed that it is possible for a water of good quality gushed out steadily from this layer.

By the way, the water that came out from above the bedrock layer seems to be called [top water].

“I see, then so we have to dig and break through that bedrock layer one way or another?” (Kazura)

“I’m afraid so, we have to. Otherwise, we shift the location of the digging and find a location where there is no bedrock layer. If Shino-sama could inform us the location of the well digging, then we could examine the soil stratum for a fee. We also could act as the agent for the well construction.” (Section Chief)

“Ah, there is no need to go that far, we will be fine. I want my group to try it ourselves, so if you could only sell the needed tools to me then we will do the rest somehow.” (Kazura)

When Kazura said this, the Section Chief was “hmmm”-ing and nodded.

“I see. After all, well digging is a man’s adventurous dream, right? Please do your best. Since we could teach you any needed tools and the instruction for it, I hope you can entrust the preparation of these to us.” (Section Chief)

“Thank you very much. Also, I also want to buy this book, too. I am engrossed in reading this.” (Kazura)

“Oh, is that true? That is a book that the Director had written, I am sure that he will be happy to hear those word just now.” (Section Chief)

In this manner, Kazura kept listening to the explanation from a professional well digger while obtaining the hand pump and the related tools.

The well-digging tools that Kazura purchased were one gasoline-engine jackhammer for rock breaking, two small water well drilling augers, two bronze hand pump (since it had charming hue, it was a popular item), and one air compressor to be used to ventilate the drilled hole.

Since the items that he purchased were very heavy, it will be delivered by a transport company directly to the mansion.

What is a jackhammer? It’s a device that using the vibration of a metal-tipped chisel to strike against the surface of a rock to break it.

The size of the device is mostly 80 centimeters and weigh more than 20 kilograms. However, since it was powered by a gasoline engine, it was easy to handle and the

strike power is also powerful.

Though he had put smaller sledgehammer into his list, since he already brought gasoline drum to Isteria, he thought, “let’s have bigger power”, so he purchased a large jackhammer.

The small water well drilling auger was just like its name, an auger to drill a water well. The ones that the company sold was a device that could continuously drill a small 20 centimeters wide hole.

As for its working principle, first the auger cylinder was thrust into the ground and then when its handle was turned, it will dig through the soil.

Afterward, the auger was pulled out from the hole and the dug soil thrown away to the outside.

The dug soil would remain inside the auger, but since there were blades at its edge the soil won’t fall down to the hole. By repeating this procedure numerous times, it was possible to dig a deep hole.

However, if it hit a hard rock then it reached its limit, also since the well drilling auger was pulled with human power, it naturally had the limit on the depth of the hole it could dig into.

So, the maximum depth was the depth where the well drilling auger still could be pulled out.

Since the jackhammer that he purchased produced a very loud noise, he planned to only actually use it outside Isteria where there are no other people.

It might be useful in creating farmlands in a place far away from a river.

The small well-digging auger could be helpful in a place that has no bedrock, so it was most appropriate for digging test wells inside the city.

Not only he didn’t need to worry about the noise, the size of the hole was small so it could be finished in a time span that won’t stand out.

Other than these, he was able to obtain super steel rock chisel that was not used and neglected in the company.

Originally, he thought about buying this in a Home Center, but it seemed that they didn't sell a rock chisel for rock breaking.

Since he really wanted hand tools in case they have no choice but to penetrate the bedrock inside Isteria city, he asked the Section Chief to arrange for 30 pieces of this chisels.

Since the number that he requested was so much, the Section Chief asked, "Why you buy that much? What it's for?" , but Kazura deceived him by lightly saying that it was something for a person he indebted to.

It would take too a lot of time to break the bedrock with manual labor, but with stone chisels and hammers, the work could progress without being too conspicuous.

The steel stone chisels had exceptionally better efficiency in rock breaking than the bronze stone chisel that had been in use for now, but he must be absolutely careful that no tool is lost and also need to select suitable workers for this job.

Although it might be easier to just teach them iron metallurgy, the discovery of iron was a revolutionary event in ancient history, so it might be bad if he taught them the metallurgy method.

Then again, depending on the surrounding country situation, there was a likelihood that it would be better to introduce iron metallurgy, so it might be better to properly consult this matter with Nelson or Zirconia when he returned to Isteria.

If the other country already manufactured iron, sooner or later, even Arcadia would arrive at the Iron Age, so it wouldn't be a problem if Kazura personally introduced the manufacturing method.

In the case that he introduced iron metallurgy then it might be better if he purchased books about the history of iron metallurgy technology.

Other than the machines that he had bought, he also obtained copies of the blueprint of hand cranked ventilator used in the Meiji era and hand pump that is popular in Japan at early Showa era.

With this blueprint, though it might take quite a time and labor, it might be possible to mass produce them using Isteria's tools.

“We are really grateful for the huge amount of purchases. If you have anything else, we will always happy to listen, so you are always welcome to contact us anytime.” (Section Chief)

“Thank you very much. I will be depending on you when that time arrives.” (Kazura)

Like this, Kazura succeeded in purchasing well-digging tools and various blueprints and so he left the pump company.



Night.

Kazura was staying in a business hotel inside the city premises.

He sat down on the bed and opened his notebook as he put a line on the entry that he had finished today with a ballpoint.

The business that he had finished today were; buying glass related goods, buying well digging related tools, gathered blueprints for flour milling machine, threshing machine, and others, then gathered documents about ice house.

After he left the pump company, Kazura was buying documents about flour milling machine and the likes at the local history museum in the city, then obtained those devices design and historical documents.

Afterward, he drove his car to several places and succeeded in gathering documents about the ice house.

The information that didn't covered by the books was collected from the Internet at a Net Café, printed out and then put into the file folder with other documents.

He thought that he need to consult directly with ice house or agricultural machines related companies, but the amount of the documents and then the blueprint he had in hand was considerably a lot than expected, so for now there was no need to consult with agricultural machines company.

He also wanted to investigate the production method of home refrigerators, but the refrigerator's turn was still far in the future at this current point of time, so he put this

matter off for now.

By the way, the gathered documents and blueprints had two copies since he believed that Valetta would like to look at it.

“I am really tired today... No, more correctly, I am also tired today, huh?...” (Kazura)

He placed the notebook on his lap and then fell face up on the bed, catching his breath while staring at the ceiling.

Tomorrow too, he will need to move around several places, but the remaining schedule was only buying books or tools that Valetta had asked, and then books and groceries for himself, finally, getting some electronic appliances.

Tomorrow morning, the electric generator and the well-digging tools will arrive at the mansion, so the purchases might be on the afternoon.

“Ah, that’s right, I need to examine how to make butter... Also, a centrifuge. Where to buy those, I wonder?” (Kazura)

Kazura muttered these words and then after awhile, his consciousness became hazy, but at that time, the handpone in his pocket rung a tone.

He took the handpone from his pocket and checked the caller.

The one who was written on it, was his father, Shinji.

“Hello.” (Kazura)

“Hello, Kazura. The copper and tin that you have asked, also the propane cylinders, will arrive at the mansion at 10 o’clock tomorrow morning. I asked the materials form to be in round bars, will this be a problem for you? Just in case, I also add metal saws.” (Shinji)

“Ok, thank you, it saves me a lot of work.” (Kazura)

Since he succeeded in gathering the materials in the expected time frame, Kazura breathed a sigh of relief.

Kazura was worried since he didn’t know how long the metal materials procuring will

be, but it looks like he was just overly anxious.

If he had metal saw then it will be easy to cut the materials.

“Also, that place... you didn’t gather any bad attention, right? Or get involved in a trouble?” (Shinji)

“Hmm? I still didn’t encounter any bad attention... Maybe a bit. Trouble?... Well, it’s something that can’t be helped since I can’t help it... So, yeah.” (Kazura)

Shinji was talking in a way that packed full with implied meaning, so Kazura also replied in a vague manner.

It was a complicated conversation, whether both of them understood or not understood what each other want to say.

“...Hey, right now, you...” (Shinji)

“Hmm?” (Kazura)

“...No, sorry. It’s not important. If you have anything else, call me anytime.” (Shinji)

“Eh? Wait.” (Kazura)

At the sudden disconnection, Kazura was muttering, “Just what did he want to say?...”

Chapter 82

A Peaceful Fine Day

Noon, the next day.

Kazura had received the water turbine generator and the well-digging tools from the transport company, which he moved to the agricultural tractor parked in the mansion garden before returning to Grisea Village.

While the loud sound of the engine was roaring, he exited the tree groves, and slowly traveled towards Valin's residence.

Kazura greeted and waved towards the villagers that he met midway and the villagers too were waving and bowed towards him.

The villagers were not deliberately gathered towards Kazura, they were only returning his greeting when they met with him.

The villagers knew that Kazura was very busy and couldn't stay for long, so they were being careful not to be a hindrance to him.

His travelled until the middle of the village when Valetta ran approaching him from the direction of the residence.

It seemed that she heard the tractor's engine sound and so come to greet him.

Her expression was very bright, she seemed cheerful.

"Welcome back, Kazura-san. You have bought a lot of items... It's full with tools that I never seem before." (Valetta)

"I'm back. It full with big items that are very heavy, so I ended up transporting it using the tractor. Sorry for the noise." (Kazura)

Kazura shut the engine temporarily and greeted Valetta, who then began peeking at the tools piled in the tractor's cargo cart.

Then she found the blueprint file folder amongst the items, after informing Kazura she took one and flipped through the pages.

“I had prepared two copies of that files, one of them is for Valetta-san.” (Kazura)

“Th-thank you very much!” (Valetta)

Valetta showed a delightful smile towards Kazura, and then she nodded “I see, I see” while skimming the blueprint for threshing machine and winnower.

A winnower is a tool that separates threshed grain and its husk by using the wind that was generated from hand-turned blades.

In the past, most Japanese farmer house would have one of this.

“In threshing and winnowing, if we use this then it won’t cost too much time and labor, right?... If we have these detailed blueprints, then even I could make it myself. Since it isn’t something that difficult to make after all.” (Valetta)

“R-really? Well, they are indeed tool that used in the past...” (Kazura)

Valetta made an astonishing remark, as she only skimmed the blueprints.

Kazura didn’t know how serious her words were, but he had a hunch that if it’s this girl then she could really make it by herself.

Valetta skimmed the blueprints for a moment and then returned it back to the file folder on the cargo cart with a satisfied face.

“I had just prepared the food for the lunch. Since I had put my best effort in it, please look forward to it! Also, I also tried to cook a sekihan^[1].” (Valetta)

“Oh, then I will look forward to it. It’s been awhile since I had sekihan... That reminds me, I had bought several cans of adzuki beans back then.” (Kazura)

Amongst the large amount of groceries that he purchased before in supermarket, other than canned side dishes,^[2] he also put other canned food that could be used in the dishes like canned adzuki beans and whole tomatoes.

It was the result of his impulsive bulk purchase that he purchased the whole shelf in

the supermarket, but thanks to this the variety of the dishes that could be cooked in the village increased too and the dining table dishes in each house became extremely plentiful.

Since Kazura did buy some glutinous rice too, Valetta should be able to cook a proper sekihan.

“By the way, sekihan is something that is cooked when there is something auspicious. It’s a bit like a celebration.” (Kazura)

“It’s indeed a celebration.” (Valetta)

Valetta answered immediately and this answer made Kazura tilted his head confused about the meaning.

“After all, Kazura-san has returned.” (Valetta)

Valetta said this with a heartfelt joyful smile.

Though it was a line that is quite embarrassing to say for the speaker, she didn’t show any embarrassment at all, so her words might have no especially deeper meaning.

Though, Kazura became a bit embarrassed by it.

“I-Is that so? Then, let’s return and have a lunch.” (Kazura)

“Yes!” (Valetta)

Even though Kazura was puzzled inside his mind about why she was in such a good mood, he started the agricultural tractor’s engine once more and then drove it towards the residence.



When both of them arrived at the residence, Valin already started to serve the sekihan in the pot at the sunken hearth into bowls.

Other than sekihan, there were salt grilled river fish, (canned) chicken and tomato in basil stew, herb flavored-grilled potato and (canned) sausage, thickly fried omelette (sweet version)^[3], stir-fried leaf vegetable and arcadia bug. The variety of the dishes

was higher than usual.

Though there were some dishes that he had eaten in Japan before, this was something that Valetta cooked from trial and error using the information she got from the book for Kazura's sake.

"Oh, this is really an amazing feast! It's been awhile for me to have an omelette."
(Kazura)

"This is the first time I ever cook this, so I don't know if this suit Kazura-san's taste... It might be a bit too sweet." (Valetta)

Valetta said this as if feeling a bit embarrassed as she made a smile.

Since it was the first time she cooks Japanese dishes, she was a bit nervous inside.

"Hmm, that's not true. I think the slight sweetness is delicious." (Valin)

"Really? Then, I'm glad... Wait, Father, does that mean you had eaten the food before the meal begin!?" (Valetta)

"L-let's eat before the food gets cold. We also have cold water that had been just drawn from the well. Kazura-san, please have a seat." (VI)

Valetta was puffing her cheek from anger, so to dodge the problem, Valin prompted Kazura to sit down.

Kazura made a wry smile while taking a seat at his usual position in the room and then received the wooden cup with water and the bowl with sekihan from Valin.

"*Mou...* Even though I want Kazura-san to eat first." (Valetta)

"Well, sorry, sorry. Since it's so delicious, I can't control myself." (Valin)

"Well, in front of these delicious dishes, it will be cruel to ask someone to be patient. Valetta-san really have an excellent cooking skill." (Kazura)

"E-even if you say that... Ehehe." (Valetta)

The situation was glossed over by that 'delicious' talk, so everyone said "Itadakimasu"

and then began to eat.

For the opening, Kazura reached for the omelette that had been cut perfectly into eight pieces.

But if he looked carefully there was a strange gap inside of it, so Valin only eaten the part from 2 pieces of it and then to cover his track he joined them together.

This degree of completion was as if it's an artist's technique.

"Then let's have the omelette first... Delish~! What's this!? Compared to every omelette that I ate until now, this is the top most best delicious!!" (Kazura)

Valetta's handmade omelette had such exquisite perfectness in both taste and frying degree.

The outside was colored lovely golden, the inside was slightly half-cooked, a perfect omelette.

Even though it should have been cooked in a round pan, but it was a perfect square, just how she could create this, Kazura had no idea at all.

"Thank goodness... Please eat the other dishes a lot too!" (Valetta)

"Hmm, everything is delicious. These dishes don't lose even to the dishes I ate in Havel-san's manor." (Kazura)

Valin who put the Arcadian bug stir fry to his mouth, expressed his impressions and Kazura also nodded in agreement.

"That's true. Or rather, I think I enjoyed the food made by Valetta-san every time. This chicken tomato stew is also so delicious. Perhaps it's the basil effect?" (Kazura)

"I see, I see. Then, Kazura-san, Valetta will become a good wife, right?" (Valin)

"Gu-ho--!?" (Kazura)

"W-w-w-wait, Father! Ah, Kazura-san, water! Drink water!!" (Valetta)

"Ahahaha" (Valin)

Like this, the peaceful-like lavish lunch continued.



Meanwhile,

In the campsite at the village entrance, Isaac was stood still while looking towards the village's direction.

Sorrow was floating at his back.

“Isaac-sama, the lunch preparation seems to be ready soon... Is something wrong?”
(Havel)

Isaac turned back to look at the voice that came from his rear and saw Havel stood with a fishing rod and a bucket in his hand.

Behind Havel, there was Marie, who was gripping a fishing rod in her hand.

“Ah, I only think that a real genius might look like that person...” (Isaac)

“Genius?” (Havel)

“Ah, no, it's nothing. By the way, have both of you been fishing in the river? I haven't seen you since this morning.” (Isaac)

“Yes, Kazura-sama have said that it's fine to do as what we like, since my imouto is with me, I decided to have a trip with her to the river.” (Havel)

Marie who was standing behind Havel made a surprised expression as she looked at him after Havel said this words.

Isaac was also the same, this was the first time he heard about this, so his eyes were blinking in surprise

“Eh? By imouto, you mean Marie? But, I think I heard that she is a slave...?” (Isaac)

“Indeed, Marie's social position is a slave, but she is my imouto. Since our mother is different, then it can be said that she is my imouto from different mother.” (Havel)

Without being especially perturbed by the word “slave”, Havel answered Isaac’s question while smiling.

Isaac himself didn’t question in the least about Marie accompanying them since she was a slave, he only has the impressions, “That’s how it is.”

However, that feeling was only related to Havel and Marie’s relationship, when it was related to Kazura then the story was different.

“I see, so that how it was. Does Kazura-sama knows that she is your imouto?” (Isaac)

“No, since it’s not something that is especially essential to inform him for... However, since Marie has always received great kindness from Kazura-sama, then when Kazura-sama returned tomorrow, I plan to meet him and express my thanks for the current free time.” (Havel)

“...You, while seeing Kazura-sama’s action for the whole time, weighed when the time to say the truth, right?” (Isaac)

“No, I never have such intention. I don’t have any ulterior motive.” (Havel)

Havel denied with an honest expression, so Isaac scratched his head.

He had vaguely noticed this since a long time ago, but Havel was someone who have tendency to act calmly like this.

Saying from how the event happened until now, it was certainly that Havel’s recommendation for Marie to Zirconia could be thought as a natural flow of events, but the flow of events afterward appeared to be extremely well too.

Havel might act like that since he judged that there wouldn’t be a problem even if Marie was assigned to Kazura.

This matter itself wasn’t a problem, however, if there was a self-interest motive to put Marie under Kazura’s patronage, then Isaac wouldn’t let it pass.

“Havel, if you did something in secret towards to Zirconia-sama or me, then I wouldn’t mind it. However, I hope you are sincere towards Kazura-sama. That person, is someone who had answered us with sincere action and thoughts. You must not do anything to take advantage of him.” (Isaac)

“That is of course. I swear that I don’t do any of such action.” (Havel)

Havel looked straight at Isaac’s eyes and reply.

Isaac wasn’t feel relieved inside at Havel’s action, but he didn’t let it show on his face and retrained that feeling down.

Havel was an exceedingly excellent officer, someone that Isaac depended heavily to watch over every minute details.

However, to change one’s action depending on the superior’s attitude and moving in secret if it could be useful, though he understands that this widespread practice in the society was a natural behavior, for Isaac who has a honest personality more than others, it wasn’t a conduct that he liked at all.

In the future, he must not leave everything to Havel, even if he was really reliable, he needs to pay attention even more to the situation and people’s actions around Kazura.

This might be too heavy for his shoulder, but it was something that he must do.

“Don’t ever forget those words.” (Isaac)

As if to encourage himself, Isaac reminded Havel with such words.

[1] Sekihan or red rice is a Japanese traditional dish. It is sticky rice steamed with adzuki beans, which give a reddish color to the rice, hence its name. Sekihan is so strongly connected with celebrations that the phrase "Let's have sekihan" has acquired the meaning "Let's celebrate."

[2] Yes. Japanese canned their side dishes too. Like canned steam crab meat, fried tofu, and even full course meal.

[3] 厚焼き玉子 The staple bento egg dishes.

Chapter 83

Mass Consumer

Kazura ate the lunch leisurely for about 1 hour and after putting the dishes away, he and Valetta went together towards the residence garden.

In front of both of them, there were numerous herbs growing from the seed they planted before on the ground.

Next to them, was the lemongrass and peppermint that Kazura bought as seedlings and then numerous herbs that were planted in the pot.

The agricultural tractor that Kazura had driven here was parked at the corner of the garden.

“They have become bigger, but as expected, their growth rate is slower than what is written in the book.” (V)

Valetta said so as she squatted down and looked at the herbs.

Kazura also squatted down and try to take a look at the herb, but sure enough, it seemed to be not that big.

However, they didn't look to be diseased, it was indeed a bit frail, but the leaves were healthy green.

“Even when they didn't get any disease, their growth rate is slow, wonder what does this mean... The Peppermint seems to be a bit bigger though.” (K)

Comparing the herbs growing on the ground and the herbs planted in the pot, the peppermint that grew in the pot had faster growth rate, even if it was just a little bit.

Since the pots with the peppermint were given fertilizer, this difference in growth rate was without a doubt came from the presence of fertilizer.

However, the peppermint growth rate was relatively slower than the growth rate of a normal seedling.

“I thought that perhaps the problem lies in the fertilizer, but the growth rate is still slow even though it had been given fertilizer, so I don’t really know why... The herbs that are planted in the pot and given fertilizer are also have a slow growth rate.” (V)

“When you observe the herbs daily, did you noticed something?” (K)

“Something... Hmm.” (V)

At Kazura’s question, Valetta put her hand over her mouth and start thinking.

“Nothing at all... I watered them frequently, I pulled out the weed when I noticed them growing around... I didn’t find anything particularly strange.” (V)

“Hmm, is that so... No, wait a minute.” (K)

“Ah, do you realize something?” (V)

Kazura made an expression as if he realized something, so Valetta turned her gaze, filled with expectation towards him.

“I want you to tell me, how big is the weed that grows in the peppermint pot?” (K)

“The weed? Since I pulled them out as soon as the sprout out, they weren’t that big. About 1 centimeter.” (V)

“Did it always look like that recently?” (K)

“Yes, it never change.” (V)

At Valetta’s reply, Kazura focused at the peppermint inside the flower pot, crossing his arms as he thinking.

After several seconds of silence, he turned back at Valetta as if he had settled his thoughts.

“...Perhaps, there is almost no nutrient left inside this pot? If there are nutrients then the weed will become big quickly, so it seems that the nutrients have been completely

exhausted.” (K)

“Eh? But, it can’t be...” (V)

The conjecture that Kazura thought up sounds crazy, the nutrient from the fertilizer put into the pot had been absorbed by weed, so the nutrient inside the pot had been completely exhausted.

Valetta opened her eyes wide from surprise, but when she quickly fix her expression and thought about it before speaking.

“But that won’t explain the growth of the vegetables in the field. The weed should have been sprout out in great number every day, so before the nutrient went to the vegetables that were planted individually, it should have been taken by the weed that grows in its surrounding.” (V)

“That might be true, but didn’t everyone in the village immediately pulled the weed out as soon as it sprouts? If you pulled it out immediately then the weed’s root will still be shallow so the deep soil that had been mixed with the fertilizer’s nutrient will still untouched. Since the vegetables still growing their roots, then just as they reached the untapped fertilizer and took up the large amount of nutrient, they grow immediately. Or so I thought.” (K)

As far as Kazura know, the villagers went to the field everyday and pulled absolutely every weed that grows around the vegetables with their hand and then stirs the ground with triangle weeding hoe.^[1]

Kazura often helped when living in the village, so he knew how thorough the weed removal is.

The pulled out weed would be left on the ground surface, where it will dry up under the strong sunlight.

“B-but, that might be the reason why the herb planted from seed had slow growth rate, however, it won’t be the reason why the peppermint seedling had slow growth rate. Since I pulled out the weed every day, there should be nutrient left in the pot.” (V)

“Yes. That might be true, ever since Valetta-san returned to the village. But, during your absence from the residence when you went to Isteria, only the villagers who were asked to take care of the herbs, knew about the pot situation, right?” (K)

“...Ah.” (V)

When Kazura pointed this out, Valetta made a surprised expression.

“Furthermore, you watering the pot everyday so the soil is always wet, right? If the soil is wet then when the shallow rooted weed absorbed the water, the nutrient at the bottom of the pot get absorbed too. That’s why, the small remaining nutrient left in the pot had been absorbed by the weed, so this pot doesn’t have nutrient anymore. The vegetable field also watered, but the watering frequency and the blazing sun prevented the field’s soil from being constantly wet. More importantly, the vegetables are growing fast and so defeated the weed in the competition for nutrient.” (K)

“Eh... Then that means the plants of this world... This is, this is no matter how you put on it, it is absurd...” (V)

“Ah no, this is only a conjecture after all. It doesn’t mean that this is the truth...” (K)

Valetta eyes were looking at the weed that was growing in the garden as if they were a frightening thing.

If Kazura’s conjecture was correct, then the plant of this world would absorb absolutely every nutrient that its root could reach and its growth could continue without limit as long as the nutrient last.

Of course, depending on the plant there might be a limit on the growth, but based on how the village’s vegetables looks like, it wouldn’t be strange to think that they could become even bigger.

Furthermore, Kazura already confirmed that he couldn’t obtain any nutrient from eating the abnormally quick growing vegetable, so even when the vegetable became bigger, there was still little nutrient in it for some reason.

The nutrient inside the Japanese fertilizer might be used up only for the vegetable huge growth, so it resulted in a strange situation where the nutritional value of the vegetable itself didn’t change at all.

Perhaps, if these vegetables died and returned to the soil, those nutrients didn’t return into the soil at all.

If this cycle repeats, then as the result, the soil of this world might end up with almost

no nutrients.

In that case, it was understandable why the concept of fertilizer was unknown in this world.

Since it had hardly any nutrient from the beginning, the concept of fertilizer never arises.

However, this was still no more than Kazura's conjecture.

Unless Japanese experts investigate this world's plants, the truth might still be unknown.

"...Then, so that no weed seed could enter the peppermint pot next time, let's try to put it inside the house. If Kazura-san's conjecture is correct then if we give it new fertilizer then this peppermint should grow just like what written in the book." (V)

"Yes, there is no other way to confirm it but this, right?" (K)

Kazura nodded to Valetta's proposal, then he stood up and stretched his back.

"Now then, I will return to Japan once more. Since I will buy a lot of books, please look forward to it." (K)

Kazura said while smiling, so Valetta also stood up and smiled.

"*Fufu*, then I will look forward to it. Will you return at dinner time?" (V)

"Yes, I will return around that time. Then, if it possible, I want to eat Valetta-san's omelette again..." (K)

Kazura spoke embarrassedly. Valetta blinked her eyes in surprise for a moment but then she immediately made an honest delighted smile towards Kazura.

"Yes! Just wait, I'll make one which is extremely delicious, so come back quickly, okay?" (V)

"Roger that. Then I will finish this quickly and return." (K)

After Kazura said this, he boarded the agricultural tractor in the corner of the garden

and started the engine.

As the engine was started, a roaring loud noise filled the surrounding.

At the sudden noise, the Rootcut Birds inside the fence at the back of the residence was raising a cry and flapping their wing out of surprise.

Then, the tractor in the residence grounds began moving.

“Then, I’m off... Perhaps I ought to park this somewhere else next time.” (K)

Kazura said his farewell and then drove the tractor towards the stone-paved corridor that leads to Japan.

Valetta saw Kazura off, turned around to enter the residence and then she stopped.

Then, she looked at the weed growing near her feet and then at the herbs that were growing in the garden.

“...” (V)

Perhaps there was something on her mind, but Valetta kept looking at the herbs.

On her eyes, just for a while, there was a sadness floating by.



One hour later.

Kazura, who returned to Japan, arrived at a large bookstore in the city.

Inside the shop there were several hundred thousand books lined up on the shelves, the genre collection was also very plentiful.

For someone who buys a lot of books, the shop had prepared shopping carts.

So accordingly, Kazura was strolling in the shop right now while pushing one.

The location that Kazura headed first was the history book corner, mainly the shelves that cover European history book.

At its left were the shelves for Japanese history book and they had regional history too.

Behind Kazura was the flat stand that displayed a large amount of stacked light novels, there was a board where [This Month New Release!] written on it beside the stand.

The board also pasted with poster promoting the light novel, with an illustration of a kind-hearted looking young man and a blond beautiful ^{bishoujo} girl, sat back to back.^[2]

“Hmm, I wonder what kind of history book that I should buy?... Perhaps Europe BC Era? Or Ancient Rome?” (K)

He reached out to the history shelf related to Ancient Rome that he saw by chance and then try to skim the pages.

That book depicted the daily life of Ancient Romans, the technologies they employed and mundane tools that they use in an easy to understand manner.

“Oh, so the Ancient Romans lead such kind of life.” (K)

After reading while standing for a moment, he put the book into the cart.

Afterward, he skimmed several books about Ancient Rome and then put them into the cart one after another.

The technology and tools that were used in Ancient Rome seemed to be relatively more advanced than the ones used in the other world, but the variety of the books related to Ancient Rome history was so much and complete.

Since only Valetta who will read this book, he didn't pay any special attention to matter like it might advance the technology of that world, et cetera.

About people daily life and clothes, since it had considerable similarity to the other world, it might satisfy Valetta's thirst for knowledge to some degree.

For the military related book, he purchased the military strategy history that centered around Ancient Rome.

Historical important war and battle, how the battle progressed or why the battle happened and its background were described using an easy to understand

illustration.

Also, on the Japanese regional history at the nearby shelf, he put several books that explain the history of the region nearby his home in Saitama into the cart.

After that, Kazura walked around the shelves for technical books and put technical books related to metal smelting, agriculture, surgery, nursing, and others into the cart.

Several of the books inside the cart have second copies, since it was for his own use in case it was needed at Isteria

Since only technical books might not be that enjoyable, at the hobbies corner, he put cooking magazines, room design magazine and various other magazines that have lots of photos into the cart.

Some time ago, Valetta seemed to enjoy reading the book with photos, “How to start a popular Café” , so she will surely be pleased with these magazines.

“...How should I say this, it ended up as an amazingly chaotic selection of books. I wonder how much these will be?” (K)

The content of the books that he had put into the cart one after another, had become a chaotic mess with zero uniformity.

To see a military strategy history placed atop a book titled, “How to make a delicious herb-tea” was truly surreal.

To pay for the cost, Kazura pushed the heavy cart towards the register.

Chapter 84

Honorable Customer

After finished with the shopping at the bookstore, Kazura arrived at the electronics store that he had visited before.

Next to Kazura was the clerk who was once explaining the power generator to him before, and right now the same clerk was explaining to him about the appliances.

“Then, please get me this largest business-use refrigerator. Also, microwave oven and air conditioner. Printer, camcorder, and small projector. Ah, the projector with battery equipped one, please.” (Kazura)

“Certainly! Because we have every item that you asked, please this way!!” (Clerk)

Starting with the 500-liter capacity large business-use refrigerator, Kazura looked at the memo that he had written during his stay in Isteria and casually recited it out.

The sudden large amount of request didn't perturb the shop clerk, rather he began to explain the appliances to Kazura with great zeal and grandiose action.

“For the printer, how about this latest inkjet printer-scanner combination? For photo-printing, it could deliver excellent result compared to other models. In the ink charge too, it had been improved and lasts 20% longer compared to the existing manufactured model...” (Clerk)

“Then one of this printer-scanner and 10 sets of its ink cartridges. For the printing paper, please a box of A3 and A4. Also some glossy paper for photo-printing.” (Kazura)

When dealing with Isteria's maps and documents, he couldn't write a memo in those important documents since it will damage the original copy, so he worked by pasting written memo tags on the documents.

However, if this keeps going in the future, then the documents will end up filled with tags and if for some reason the tag that had been pasted in the document fell down, it will be useless.

He intends to rapidly increase the possibility for him to be able to write on the document itself next time, so he planned to bring the scanner-printer and makes document copies for him to write on.

He didn't thought about printing thousand documents, but it will absurd to be run out of ink when in Isteria, so he also bought a lot of ink cartridges as spares.

The scanner-printer in the Isteria might be mostly used to print out the construction blueprint or photos for Nelson or Zirconia or to copy an important document that needs to be transcribed.

Well, he could always buy a thermal printer for business use for this usage, but he didn't have any plan to print in a large amount for the moment, so he just buy a compact ink-jet printer for home use.

Why it's not a laser printer was because of his personal preference.

Since the parchment sold in Isteria might not be usable for the scanner-printer, he also purchased printer paper.

If the parchment could be used, then he might try to use them after cutting them into printer paper size using a cutter or cutting machine.

"Thank you very much! Then, about the small projector, here is the latest model that was just released last week, the battery that it had too, compared to..." (Clerk)

"Yes, that one, please." (Kazura)

"Certainly! Then, for the camcorder, this was the latest model released only 2 days ago..." (Clerk)

"I'll have that, please." (Kazura)

"Thank you for another purchase! For the air conditioner..." (Clerk)

"Give me that one." (Kazura)

In this way, Kazura purchased every latest model that the clerk recommended.

He paid everything with his card and have them to be delivered to the residence by

tomorrow morning.

While waiting for the purchasing procedure to complete, for some reason the store provided him with tea and even sweet jelly bean confectionaries.^[1]



After he finished the purchase in the electronics store, Kazura arrived at the usual Home Centre DIY store.

What he planned to buy this time was additional drum for gasoline and large size cooler box, then numerous work tools and illumination devices.

Last time, he put frozen food in the cooler box and transport it to Isteria, but since he was too late in retrieving the frozen food from the cooler box, the ice had already melt away completely (the meat and the vegetable melt halfway).

For that reason, this time he intended to put a bit more dry ice than last time.

When he put several cooler boxes that were similar to one he bought previously to the trolley, a clerk recognized him from his sight and then came running towards him.

Perhaps, his face could be said as familiar. It was the usual head clerk.

“Shino-sama, thank you for visiting our store. What are you searching for today?”
(Head Clerk)

“Ah, good day. Today I plan to get drum and cooler box. I also want to look for other things too, so can this be transported to the register?” (Kazura)

“Certainly. Then I will place this at the service counter. When you finished browsing the goods, you can retrieve it at that place.” (Head Clerk)

“Thank you very much... Ah, that’s right. Do you sell a centrifuge? I want to extract oil from soybean.” (Kazura)

When he left the goods to the head clerk’s hand, Kazura asked him if the store have a centrifuge for sale.

Kazura had been thinking about using a centrifuge to extract oil from the bean

harvested at Isteria, but the bean planting season itself hadn't started yet.

He had heard from Lieze that the bean harvest will be just before the snowfall, so if he wanted to put the centrifuge in actual use, it will be in December this year at the fastest.

Today was still late August, so he still has a 3-month time margin.

Perhaps, if he could successfully extract the oil by using the centrifuge, then he could try to build a similar tool in Isteria.

However, for the bean container that can stand the high-speed rotation, not only he must pay great attention to its construction precision, but also need to prepare a special part called "ball bearing".

For a tool that creates a huge rotational force like a centrifuge, if the construction wasn't sturdy then it will have a great risk for a serious accident.

So in the case he really builds one, he must pay great attention to its design.

By the way, the ball bearing is several balls that are placed in the axle to assist the rotation of a shaft.

After fixing the ball bearing to the fixed axle, the shaft will be placed in the middle of the balls, so the friction that is generated when the shaft rotated can be reduced.

If a centrifuge is built without using a ball bearing, then the frictional heat generated during the rotation will damage the fixed axle or the shaft.

"C-centrifuge? Such specialized machine is not sold in our store... Umm, if you agree, we could order a catalog from the manufacturer on your behalf. I think the centrifuge for oil extraction will be listed in the Centrifugal Deoiling Machine." (Head Clerk)

The head clerk flinched for a moment at Kazura's whimsical question, but he quickly proposed an alternative plan.

Kazura didn't expect that the store could do that far, so he was a bit surprised.

"Eh? You can do that kind of service?" (Kazura)

“Of course. Shino-sama is a special person, so if it something that we could help then we will surely help... However, there will be some commission fee, will this be fine?” (Head Clerk)

“Then, I leave this in your hand. Since I don’t need the item in hurry, it will be fine if I can get it in 2 or 3 months. Since I will visit tomorrow morning to see the catalog, I intend to make my order at that time.” (Kazura)

“I understand. Then I will quickly inquire the manufacturer and arrange for the catalog. We will select several of the devices that are suitable for soybean oil extraction in advance.” (Head Clerk)

“I understand. Thank you for the help.” (Kazura)

Kazura had unexpectedly made arrangement for the deoiling machine, and so he parted with the head clerk and lightly walk towards the next sales floor.

The next goods to buy was illumination devices to be used in Isteria and several work tools that Valetta had asked this morning.

“Hmm, silicone tube, aluminum tape, large glass bottle... What is Valetta intend to do with these?” (Kazura)

While looking at the memo that had been reviewed together with Valetta at the morning 2 days ago, he threw the goods one after another into the cart.

Though he didn’t understand the purpose of several foods that Valetta asked, she only said, “A secret” , when he asked her this morning and left him in the blank.

Kazura was curious about what she intended to, but since it was Valetta, then it shouldn’t be something strange.

Because he forgot to ask her how many he should buy, he just put the likely amount needed, 5 meters of silicon tube and 5 large glass bottles.

When he was throwing goods into the cart while loitering in the commodity shelves, his eyes caught sight of drawing boards that were lined up in a place not far from him.

He pushed the cart until he arrived at the drawing board and then stared unblinkingly at the good.

“Ah, a drawing board. Until now, I had been drawing in the notebook, so perhaps it will be easier if I have this...” (Kazura)

A drawing board is a wide board used when drawing a plan.

The drawing board that this store sell was a portable model with rulers attached, so it was something mainly used by architects.^[2]

Though he thought to buy one since it might be useful when drawing a plan in Isteria, when he asked the nearby clerk, he bought 2 pieces, as expected.

The other one was, of course, a present for Valetta.

Since Valetta seemed to try making many things in the village, she will surely be happy.

In addition, he also threw several small articles like scale ruler for drafting and compass into the cart.



After his shopping in the Home Centre finished, Kazura arrived at a drugstore.

Since he believed that he might be going to Isteria for quite some time, he needs to purchase daily necessities and other sundries in large amount.

So that his nutritional balance wouldn't go out of balance, he threw vitamin pills from the nutritional supplement shelve into the shopping basket.

Other than that, he also threw several portable nutrition supplements, like CalorieMate or energy bar, and non-essential luxury goods, like fancy vegetable soup powders that can be used just by adding hot water and gelatin powder to make jelly, into the shopping basket.

Because last time, the large amount of Lipo-D that he purchased had been transported to Isteria, he decided to not buy it this time.

He confirmed that he had bought quite a lot and so headed towards the register when he happened to saw the cosmetics corner.

“Ah, cosmetic... If I buy a hand cream or something perhaps Valetta-san might be

delighted?” (Kazura)

He picked one hand cream in a pure white container from the shelf and looked hard at it

This was a cream used mainly to prevent rough hand, but on the shelf, there was a bunch of various cream lined up, from cutting UV effect to preventing dry skin.

Other than hand cream, there were beauty lotion, moisturizing gel, various skin care products were crowding in the shelf.

Each of the container lined up on the shelf had various designs to show it as a high-grade product or to give a sense of transparency.

Each of their design was beautiful, coupled with the illumination effect on the shelves, it made someone unconsciously wants to take it from the shelf.

“That reminds me. Nelson-san had said that Lieze-san somehow used mud for her skin care, right?” (Kazura)

Previously, when they were talking about well-digging, Nelson had said that Lieze purchased a special mud from the well-diggers to be used for her skin care.

Though Zirconia said that she didn’t usually pay attention to such thing, on the other hand, it didn’t mean she was uninterested in this matter either.

“...Perhaps I should buy some for Zirconia-san too. Recently, she had been working hard, after all.” (Kazura)

When Kazura first went to Isteria, he had the impression that Zirconia was the type who is quite pushy around the conversation to acquire his support, but for some reason, it seemed during these several days she wasn’t quite as lively and Kazura felt that she had become considerably unenthusiastic.

However, it wasn’t like she was not putting herself in her usual work. Kazura knew this just by looking how she was putting her best effort. Every day she was busy and moved around places to negotiate for the administrative work or the subordinate.

Seeing such extremely overworked appearance, at times Kazura had called her out, but she always said “Thank you very much. I am fine.” and smiled.

If it was the previous Zirconia, then it wouldn't be strange if she used this situation to get close to Kazura and acquire his support, but recently Kazura felt that she was doing her best as if saying, "Let's do it with my own power", so she wouldn't be a bother to him.

Since Zirconia had been quite pushy on him up until now, Kazura was a bit on guard to her, but she had become so unenthusiastic that made him worried for her instead.

"Should I also buy something like bath salts? It should relieve tiredness a bit and put an ease on the mind." (Kazura)

He thought that whether or not to give her LipoD to recover her physical strength right away, but he felt that the problem is not the physical fatigue, but the mental fatigue instead, so he decided on products that can be received by women to sent some to Zirconia.

Though if she returned to become pushy, he might distance himself from her, but on the other hand, it was hard to completely act indifferent to her.

Using this occasion as the start, Kazura thought about wanting their relationship to reach a level where their conversation could be a bit more lighter.

He ended up purchasing cream and moisturizing gel combination and two sets of origami paper.

Chapter 85

Looking at Tomorrow

Several hours later.

Kazura returned to Valin's residence just before the sunset and ate dinner together with Valetta.

The dinner menu was thick fried omelette and vegetable soup, plus the leftover from the lunch.

Valetta made quite a large amount of lunch today, so there was still a third of the food remained.

Since the humidity of this world was lower compared to Japan, if the leftover food was put into a wooden box and placed in the ground floor corner that had a lower temperature, it could be preserved for about one day.

As always, Valin was going to night patrol and quickly left as soon as dinner was over, so right now only two people remained in the room, Kazura and Valetta.

"So, for the time being, you plan to perform farmland expansion and city sanitary improvement, right?" (Valetta)

"Yes, at the current situation, if the population keep increasing and the other province cut out their food aids, then the food production wouldn't be able to catch up, so I plan to expand the farmland into the area that wasn't able to be cultivated before. But, before that, we must dig wells and mass produced hand pumps, so it will take a bit more time until the farmland expansion could begin." (Kazura)

"How long until the farmland expansion could begin, then?" (Valetta)

"Let's see... Considering the city's craftsmen situation, it looks like it will take quite some time until hand pump mass production could begin... Perhaps, I could ask the blacksmiths, but they already had their hands full producing armaments and daily necessities. I need to slot in the hand pump production somehow in between their

schedule, but just how long until the production could begin..." (Kazura)

Kazura was explaining his work plan that he wanted to perform in Isteria while Valetta inquiring it.

Since Valin left the residence some time ago, Valetta was asking Kazura about his Isteria's work plan in this fashion.

"Since it will be difficult to do everything at the same time, how about doing the farmland expansion in the spring next year? Since you also need to make the machines for the craftsmen and the icehouse, if you start every work at the same time then there could be not enough hands in the future projects and this could be a great problem." (Valetta)

"Ah, certainly... Perhaps it's safe that we only stop at digging wells and investigating new farmland location for this year. About the tools, perhaps we should focus on producing the machines." (Kazura)

"Also, when do you plan to begin the flood control work?" (Valetta)

"I had called the construction firm through the phone not long ago, it seems that it will take another month until the construction plan to reinforce each past-flood prone area finished. Since I also need to arrange for the personnel and prepare the work construction site until that time... Ah, the thing that I needed to do is so many that my head hurts..." (Kazura)

When he inquired the construction firm's director, who undertook drawing up the construction work plan, through the phone not long ago, the work plan was progressing well.

However, since the investigation for the construction procedure and technique took time, it seemed that he needed a month until the construction work plan to reinforce the priority flood prone area could be delivered.

In the phone, the director was saying with excited voice, "This is the first time I have a work this enjoyable."

"But, if you get the construction work plan after a month, it still could be in time for the rainy season on May next year. Even at the quickest estimate, the construction would need half a year." (Valetta)

“I see. The problem after that is to improve the whole river length, but when should that begin?... Since the subject of the work will be to improve the sanitation and living environment condition straightaway, the city’s appearance could have a complete changeover.” (Kazura)

“That means, even using mortar to put sewer service in every city district?” (Valetta)

“I will use the mortar, but even then, it won’t cover every district. That scope is too big, so even if I perform it, then it will be waterworks like public water source or washing place. I still don’t really know about creating a sewer.” (Kazura)

Kazura finished his meal while answering Valetta who asked even to the minute details as the emptied tableware was moved to the washing place on the ground floor.

Even if it was called as washing place, it was just a simple low wooden rack where a large oblong tray was placed.

On top of this tray there was a scrubbing brush made from plaited rope to clean the dishes, then the scrub will be washed from the filth inside a water bucket, and repeated, which was the sequence of how the dishwashing go.

If there was a leftover, then it will be placed in the tray. When the dishwashing completed, the tray will be taken outside together with the bucket, where the leftover food and the water will be thrown together into a hole dug for this purpose.

Since Grisea Villagers had known deeply how precious a food is, they rarely produce any leftover from their meal, and what remained behind was just the inedible part like vegetable’s hard stem or rind.

In Nelson’s estate, any leftover food will be eaten by livestock like Myagi and the likes, so depending on the place, the method in dealing with kitchen waste is different.

Both of them were standing side by side and conversing in the washing place while finishing the cleaning. After the waste water in the bucket was discarded outside, they returned back into the living room once again and sat down.

“That’s right, I had bought a souvenir for Valetta-san.” (Kazura)

Kazura took out a plastic bag from the travel bag placed nearby. And took folding mirror and several beauty care products like hand cream from it.

“Waa, what a beautiful box...” (Valetta)

Valetta received it from Kazura and leaked out her admiration for the beauty of the box design.

Until now she had repeatedly seen the box for LipoD and canned food, but she never saw a box which had such lovely design like this beauty care product.

“The content is more beautiful. It’s a beauty product to be used for skin care, so please try to use it if you don’t mind. It could be said as a medicine hand cream, you used it when your hand gets rough from cleaning and before sleeping you also use it with moisturizer gel and face lotion. There are also daytime cream to be used during the day.”

Valetta quickly opened the box that had [Medicinal Collagen Gel White] written on it, took out the instruction inside and started reading it.

Kazura didn’t really know much about beauty products so he was thankful that there was instruction included.

“..W-what an amazing promotional phrase. [Don’t be afraid of spots and wrinkles! The supreme brilliance is yours!!] is what written in here.” (Valetta)

“Ah, it seems that those lines make the impression greater, don’t just believe it blindly... No, in this world, I’m not sure if this will be true or not.” (Kazura)

When he considered the current situation where the nutrition from LipoD and the food granted extreme physical strength, the beauty goods that contained a lot of beneficial ingredients like collagen, perhaps would exhibit an astounding effect on the people of this world.

Nonetheless, since it will be troublesome if there are some bad effects on the skin, before using it for real, it might be better to use it a little on the back of the hand and see the response.

If the beauty goods that he gave had any bad effect on a girl’s skin, just apology won’t be enough, it’ll be harakiri.

“Tonight, let’s use a bit on the skin and see what happen tomorrow morning. Since there is a possibility it doesn’t suit your skin.” (Kazura)

“That’s true.” (Valetta)

In the first place, not only Valetta is still young, but thanks to the effect of the food that Kazura brought, her skin and hair were in a very good condition, so it might be difficult to confirm the effect of these beauty products.

However, it would be a different matter about maintaining her condition, there might be a long term difference.

Valetta was still a young girl, so she should have an interest in this kind of products.

After both of them read the instruction of the beauty product, Kazura took out a shampoo from vegetable source and conditioner from the bad and explained briefly how to use it to Valetta.

Afterward, Valetta asked once more about the plan in Isteria next time and he spent dozens of minute to explain it.

After he explained almost every plan that he likes to do at the current point of time, they took a break while drinking a warm chamomile herb tea.

“*Ano*, Kazura-san.” (Valetta)

Kazura was fully relaxing while enjoying the herb scent, when Valetta who sat beside him took out a small cloth bag from her waist and presented it to Kazura.

“What’s this?” (Kazura)

“Please open it.” (Valetta)

Kazura opened the cloth bag and inside there was a small woodcraft cylinder pendant.

On the face of the pendant there was a pattern carved in it, it was a carving of what looks like an image of a lavender flower.

He didn’t know what is used to carve the pattern out, but it was an amazingly skillful carving.

“Ah, there is a scent of lavender...” (Kazura)

That necklace had a faint scent of a lavender.

Kazura's nose twitched at that scent and Valetta made an embarrassing smile.

"I tried to make an aroma pendant. I made it hurriedly during the day, so it might not turn out well..." (Valetta)

"How should I put this, this is so good that it could even be sold in the market. To carve this so beautifully, your finger is really skillful..... An aroma pendant, right? The one with hollow in the center?" (Kazura)

An aroma pendant was a pendant that was hollow in the center where a cloth soaked in aroma oil inserted into, it was a pendant that could be enjoyed on the design and the scent.

Since Kazura had given several books about aromatherapy and oil to Valetta, she might have read about the pendant in those books and tried to make it using wood for Kazura.

The dimension of the cylinder pendant was about 5 centimeters long, while the diameter was about 2.5 centimeter.

There was a wooden stopper lid at the bottom so there was something soaked in aroma oil inserted through it.

"Yes, inside it there is a cloth soaked in lavender oil. I wish that you wear this during your trip in Isteria..." (Valetta)

Valetta said it while being embarrassed, so Kazura nodded with a smile.

"Thank you. When I'm there I will wear it close to me." (Kazura)

"...That's good." (Valetta)

When Kazura replied so, for some reason, Valetta broke out a complicated smile just for a few moment.

But he quickly fixed her expression and then took out a machine blueprint from the file folder placed nearby her and then started to ask Kazura about how the machines mentioned in it were used.



Noon, the next day.

At Grisea Village's entrance, Kazura was exchanging farewell with Valetta and the other villagers.

In the end, Valetta's barrage of question continued until late night, the time when they went to sleep was close to 2 o'clock in the night.

Nevertheless, since Kazura slept until 8 o'clock in the morning, his body was in a good shape.

Several carriages behind Kazura was fully loaded as they were transporting the electronic appliances that he received this morning in Japan's mansion and the water turbine generator that he transported to the village yesterday, then the cardboard containing the large amount of groceries he purchased in the supermarket this morning and the cooler box packed with frozen foods. The content of the cooler box was frozen vegetables, meat, and seafood.

Since last time the ice completely melted up, this time he put a lot of ice until there wasn't any gap that could be seen between the frozen food.

He put quite an amount of dry ice this time, so he wouldn't see a disastrous scene where everything melted when he reached Isteria.

"I plan to return in one month, but if something happened or there is something important, then..." (Kazura)

"Yes, we will immediately inform you, right? Kazura-san too, if there is anything we could do then please say so. Since everyone will come in haste to assist." (Valetta)

Valetta answered with a cheerful expression, so Kazura felt a relief inside his heart.

Last time when he was leaving Grisea Village, he noticed that Valetta had an expression as if she was trying to hold back her tears.

However, seeing how she was this cheerful, it seemed she was fine with the parting this time.

Until Kazura returns next time, she ought to pass her day in the village lively.

Kazura waved his hand while Valetta and the villagers sent him off as he boarded the carriage and left Grisea Village.



After sending Kazura off, Valetta returned to the residence with Valin and carried every book that had been left in the living room to her own room.

She took a book titled [History of Metal Smelting] from the pile and flipped the pages.

“The photos are certainly... There. Perhaps this will going to be fine.” (Valetta)

She found the page that had the color photo of her objective and put a cloth on the page as a substitute for a bookmark.

She put the book inside the sack placed in the room, in addition she also put one cloth towel into the sack.

Furthermore, she wrapped the leather belt placed at the corner of the room to her waist where she inserted a short sword at her back.

After she got her equipment ready, she took the sack and left her room into the living room and step down to the ground floor.

In the ground floor, Valin was washing the dishes used for lunch.

“Hm? Leaving out?” (Valin)

“Yes. I will go to the mountain with Lodurr-san and return at dinner time.” (Valetta)

At Valetta’s answer, Valin made a confused expression.

“To the mountain?” (Valin)

“Yes. Perhaps when I return, it will already dark, so I’ll leave the dinner making to you.” (Valetta)

Valetta answered so and quickly headed towards the residence’s entrance.

“What are you planning to do there? Furthermore, I believe the mountain is quite far...”
(Valin)

“I want to search for iron ore. If I run then I think it won’t take much time, it will be fine.” (Valetta)

Valetta answered Valin’s question with a smile and then after saying “I’m off” she left the residence.

“...Iron ore? What’s that?” (Valin)

Valin who was left alone, inclined his head in confusion while still holding the rope brush in his head.



Valetta exited the residence and then headed towards the village’s entrance where she had just parted with Kazura not long ago.

In the village’s entrance, Lodurr had been waiting for her.

On his back was a hatchet and empty backpack tied together. Other than these, he didn’t carry anything else.

“Lodurr-san, thanks for waiting. I will be relying on you for the guidance.” (Valetta)

Valetta bowed her head to Lodurr and took out the aforementioned book from the sack before she opened the page with the bookmark.

Lodurr went hunting every autumn on the mountain that could be seen in the distance, so he knew the mountain terrain really well.

Since it will be an immense effort to search the mountain around for the iron ore by herself alone, Valetta sought the cooperation from Lodurr who know the area well.

“I want to search for this kind of stone. Have you ever seen it?” (Valetta)

“Ah, I often saw this red one beside the mountain river. I also often find this black one in riverbed... By the way is the picture in this book really a picture? It had been drawn really well.” (Lodurr)

“This is called photograph, it’s a drawing produced by a tool that could catch and reproduce a true image of a scene. Kazura-san had informed me so.” (Valetta)

“Oh, that’s amazing.” (Lodurr)

Valetta explained about the photograph and Lodurr nodded with great interest.

The reason why he wasn’t that surprised might be because he had gained tolerance from seeing the many tools that Kazura had brought.

After seeing something with a great impact like the agricultural tractor, perhaps he already wouldn’t be surprised that much anymore.

“Then, shall we go now? We will be running.” (Lodurr)

“Yes.” (Valetta)

Lodurr saw Valetta nodded and then began running towards the distant mountain.

Valetta also running with the sack in her hand and lined up beside Lodurr.

“Are you fine?” (Lodurr)

While running at the speed that could surpass the first place runner in Hakone-Ekiden long distance relay running, Lodurr asked Valetta who was running beside him.^[1]

“I’m still alright. Let’s increase the speed a bit more. Since I need to return before dinner, let’s hurry.” (Valetta)

“I understand. Here we go.” (Lodurr)

Lodurr nodded at Valetta’s words and increase the speed even more.

Valetta also matched with Lodurr, increased her speed and lined up with him.

While raising a cloud of dust, both of them accelerated, and now reached a speed of 40 kilometers per hour.

[1] Hakone Ekiden (箱根駅伝), is one of the most prominent university ekiden (relay marathon) races of the year held between Tokyo and Hakone in Japan on 2 and 3 January. It is a popular spectator sport that draws large crowds (a million or more) along the whole route and receives full network television coverage nationwide over the two days. This ekiden event was so great that many university student runner describe it as the peak of their life.

Chapter 86

Natural Resource Survey

“Can you keep going at this speed?” (Lodurr)

“Yes... I can still go... at this speed.” (Valetta)

While intensely running on the dry ground towards the mountain that could be seen in the distance, Valetta and Lodurr exchanged words.

Both of them was running at a speed that surpassed the average record of 100 meters running in the world, but there was no sign that it was particularly difficult for them.

Valetta, who didn't usually run too much and not accustomed to it, was running while paying attention to her pace and breathing, but Lodurr still had energy left to spare.

“By the way, when I went to the mountain last time, I find an abandoned tunnel. Perhaps, there might be ores like the ones on the photograph you had shown me near it.” (Lodurr)

“A... Mine?” (Valetta)

Compared to Lodurr who was talking smoothly without any change, Valetta replied while matching it with her breath.

“Yes, perhaps it was dug long ago... Ah, if it's hard for you, you don't need to reply. It will be fine if you just listened to it.” (Lodurr)

Valetta nodded at Lodurr's suggestion, so she quickly returned on looking at the front and concentrate on running

Normally, there won't be a problem of running while not talking, but if she talked while keeping her speed at it is, the difficulty level will immediately increase.

It wasn't like she didn't have any energy to talk, but it was a difficult task for the current Valetta to talk normally like Lodurr while running until reaching the

mountain.

Even if she could do it for the first few minutes, her breathing might go disordered and her stamina would be depleted immediately as the result.

“I believe that it’s an abandoned mine with an exhausted vein, but the stone that they discarded in the surrounding had become a huge mound. I don’t remember if there is any red stone like in the photographs, but there is a merit to try to visit it once.”
(Lodurr)

Even though Valetta was running carefully so her breath won’t be disordered, she was delighted at the information that Lodurr gave.

In the middle of the discarded rock pile from the already mined tunnels, perhaps there might be iron ore mixed in it.

If she found a place where the iron ore was dumped altogether, then even without any mining, she could easily obtain it.

“So, when I find that mine, there was a heavy rain coming down. I entered it thinking to shelter from the rain, but there is a large nest of bats inside. The bat dung under my feet had piled up so deep, on the other hand, if I went outside then I will be quite drenched up from the rain... In the end, I stood inside the tunnel while my feet smeared with dung until the rain is over. That experience is so agonizing.” (Lodurr)

Lodurr who was deeply narrating his experience, made Valetta unconsciously slipping out a smile.

Then, while continuously listening to Lodurr’s reminiscence story, they ran for one hour.

Without taking a single break on their trip, both of them arrived at the open field at the mountain’s foot.

This mountain was part of the mountain district located on Isteria northwest, or the mountain located north from Grisea Village.

There was groves of dense trees stretched out in front of them.

Since the tree grove was overgrown with trees and grasses, they couldn’t see what lies

behind it.

“Fuu. Finally, we arrived... Are you alright?” (Lodurr)

Lodurr worriedly asked Valetta who was putting her hand on her knees while panting for air.

“Haa, haa... I-I’m al, right... Let’s rest, awhile...” (Valetta)

Valetta was breathing roughly as sweat dripping off from the tip of her nose and chin.

In the other hand, Lodurr there was sweating on his forehead and his breath had become a bit faster, but it wasn’t as bad as Valetta who was gasping for air and sweat like a bucket.

The difference in the fundamental physical strength that could be compensated just by physical strength enhancement was vividly depicted in this situation.

Lodurr recommended to sit down and take a rest, so Valetta sat down at that place and then wiped out the sweat with the cloth towel she brought while resting her body.

During that time, Lodurr casually entered the mountain overgrown with trees and quickly returned with one branch as big as an adult’s arm.

He cut that branch with his hatchet and at the slanted cut cross-section into a clean ellipse shaped.

From the branch cross-section, water was dripping down.

“Here, Valetta-san. If you tip this branch then water will come out. Don’t drink too much or you could get stomach ache... Though, we had drank it numerous times till now so it might be fine.” (Lodurr)

“Ah, thank you very much...” (Valetta)

Valetta received the branch from Lodurr and then tip the cut out branch into her mouth.

And then, a lot of water immediately flowed out from the branch.

Its taste had a bit peculiar bitterness, but it wasn't a problem at all for drinking it.

Valetta's throat made gulping sounds as she drunk the water and then she presented the branch to Lodurr.

"Ah... I feel more refreshed. Do Lodurr-san also want to have a drink?" (Valetta)

"Hm... No, I'm fine. Also, if I received it, Kazura-san might be angry." (Lodurr)

"Eh?... A... u..." (Valetta)

When she noticed that she was about to hand over the branch that had entered her mouth, Valetta looked down with blushed face at Lodurr's words.

Seeing Valetta behaving like this, Lodurr raised a laugh and once again entered the mountain.

Then five minutes passed.

Valetta, who had completely regained her stamina, stood up and brushed off leaves or sand that stuck to her clothes when Lodurr came back from the mountain.

The sack behind his back had become a bit bulged, so it seems he had taken something from the mountain.

"Lodurr-san, I'm already alright. Let's search for the ores." (Valetta)

"I understand. Then for now, let's go to the riverbed." (Lodurr)

Lodurr nodded at Valetta's words and took out the hatchet from his back and walked once more into the trees.

At times Lodurr would swing the hatchet to cut obstructing ivy so it won't be a hindrance and Valetta followed several steps behind him.

"What have you picked not long ago? It seems that there's something inside your bag." (Valetta)

"I picked a polishpowder branch. Recently the sliding door in the house had become bad, so my wife asked for it." (Lodurr)

The polishpowder branch that Lodurr was speaking about was a branch from a tree that was smoothly covered with a white powder on its surface.

If this powder was spread over the threshold of a sliding door that had become bad from years of use, its slide will immediately become better.

It was far more effective than using wax, so bringing this branch home was very handy.

As long as the branch was stick into the ground then it will continue to produce powder for awhile, so everyone in the village could use it.

“Ah, I also want to use some. The barn door’s slide had become bad recently...”
(Valetta)

“Then, I’ll give several branches when we returned to the village. Since I took a lot, I plan to split them with everyone in the village.” (Lodurr)

While having such conversation, they walked for about 20 minutes.

Using their high physical strength, both of them considerably forceful in pushing through the mountain, they moved in almost straight line until they arrived at their destination, the dry riverbed.

Because during the heavy rain of the rainy season had washed the soil away with a flash flood, the dry riverbed surface was mostly bedrock.

On the cliffs that ran on both the riverbed’s side, there were places where various sized rocks had piled up as if it had been sweep to gather them up.

“Waa, what a beautiful place!” (Valetta)

At the beautiful scenery that unfolded before her very eyes, Valetta’s eyes brightened as she raised words of admiration.

At the rocky ground that covered most of the riverbed, there was one deep river flowing from the mountain beyond this point between the rocky cliffs that stood at both sides.

The sound of flowing water and the songs of birds and the murmurs of the trees that echoed from the forest, orchestrated an ambiance that was truly refreshing.

“Isn’t it? When I came to hunt in this mountain, I will make a campfire and pass the night in this place. There are many potholes around this place just the right sized where you could bath into, occasionally you can even catch a fish inside that pothole. This is my favorite place.” (Lodurr)

Valetta walked towards the direction Lodurr pointing at and there was a hole that was waist deep close to the river.

The hole was about 3 meters in diameter and the river water slowly flowed into the hole.

Perhaps because the water constantly being replaced, the water was so clear that she could see until the bottom of the hole.

The rock surface of the hole was really smooth, so even if someone’s skin touching it when entering the hole, they wouldn’t get injured.

By the way, a pothole is a hole opened on the rock because of water current over a long period of time.

“It’s nice that the water is clear... Ah, it’s quite cold.” (Valetta)

Valetta squatted down beside the hole and placed her hand in the water.

The snow-melted water that came from the mountain felt cold to the touch, so it felt good on the hot skin from walking through the mountain.

Due to the river source located near the summit, the water temperature was lower than the water at the river that flowed near Grisea village.

“So, I often saw the stones in the photographs around this area. Look, there.” (Lodurr)

Valetta lifted her face when Lodurr spoke up and followed his line of sight.

“Ah, you’re right. There are a red stone.” (Valetta)

Amongst the jumbled pile of rocks beside the cliff, there was a red discolored hematite, that could be considered as an iron ore, mixed in it.

Valetta stood up and then dashed atop the rocks towards that rock piles.

While being careful not to slip, she dashed atop the rocky surface and arrived at the big rock piles.

Valetta squatted down at that place, took out the book from her sack and then opened the bookmarked page.

She compared the color of the ore in front of her with the color photograph in the book.

From the surface appearance and the color, it appears that it was unmistakably hematite.^[1]

“How is it? Is that stone the correct one?” (Lodurr)

“Yes, there is no doubt that this stone is iron ore. There are also a lot of it.” (Valetta)

Amongst the large amount of stones, not only hematite but magnetite^[2] could also be seen mixed in it.

Just by a glance, she could see that there was quite an amount, so if these stones were properly sorted then it is possible to obtain a large amount of iron ore.

“Lodurr-san, is this river the same river that flowed near the village?” (Valetta)

“Yes, it’s the same river. Though midway it split into and merge with several other rivers.” (Lodurr)

At Lodurrs explanation, Valetta nodded happily.

If this river and the river near the village was connected then it is possible to easily transport the ores obtained in this place to the village by using a raft.

Not only the timber material for the raft could easily be obtained from the surrounding mountain, after the raft descended the river and arrived at the village it could be used as firewood, so there would be no waste.

Though the fault was that it took time to reach this place, since this place was located very deep in the mountain, there shouldn’t be any interference from other people.

In addition, there was no need to do any mining for the present, so it was surely a

perfect ideal location.

The charcoal used for iron smelting, could be obtained by establishing charcoal making hut either in this place or the village.

Since there was a lot of wood that could be gathered from the village's surrounding, there was no need to worry about the fuel.

Charcoal making knowledge and methods to build iron smelting furnace was recorded in details in the technical book and regional history that Kazura had brought.

Since they were fully borrowing the knowledge of the previous pioneer, there shouldn't be any major failure when performing the operations.

"Do you also want to see the abandoned tunnel?" (Lodurr)

"Yes, since I have gone this far, let's try to see it. I want to know where and how many ores it have." (Valetta)

Valetta put the book into the bag before standing up and looking at the surrounding riverbed.

Then, she happened to notice the red and black striped pattern on the surface of the cliff.

"What's wrong?" (Lodurr)

Seeing Valetta stopped moving when she saw the cliff's surface, Lodurr tilted his head and asked her.

Valetta hurriedly opened the bag and took out the book before flipping through the pages.

Finally, she found the color photo she wanted and looked once more at the cliff that she saw before.

"...Banded... Iron Formation..." (Valetta)

While muttering those words, she followed the cliff surface into the direction of the river upstream.

The striped pattern that could be looked at the cliff surface, continued on and on without interruption.

Valetta turned to look at the other cliff and she also found the same striped pattern drawn at the surface.



“Eh... then, this whole...” (Valetta)

Valetta muttered dumbfounded and looked at the photograph of the same pattern on the riverside cliff in the page.

What Valetta had witnessed was the cross section of a geological stratum of iron ore veins that was called banded iron formation (BIF).

There is no mistake, this place had a large iron ore vein.



Afterward, Valetta and Lodurr once again climbing the mountain and arrived at the abandoned tunnel that Lodurr had discovered before.

This tunnel was located at the upstream from the riverbed.

It was dug in a place about 30 minutes following the river upstream and about 100 meters away from the river itself.

The tunnel entrance was covered with dense vegetation that the inside was dark and felt ominous.

The entrance was reinforced with wooden support, however, it looks like it had been abandoned for quite a long time, that most of the support already tattered and rotting.

It has an eerie circumstances that ghosts might even appear.

“This is the tunnel. Just like when I came before, as soon as we enter, there will be bat dung, so it’s better if we don’t go inside.” (Lodurr)

“It’s so dark that anything couldn’t be seen.” (Valetta)

Valetta tried to look at the inside from the tunnel’s entrance, but the inside was so dark that she couldn’t see anything.

She thought that she might find some ore vein inside the tunnel, but if she went too far then she might get injured, so for today, it might better to not enter and leave it for now.

“The discarded rocks don’t change at all. It’s quite an amount, though.” (Lodurr)

Valetta turned to look at the direction where Lodurr was looking and saw a large mound of rocks.

The soil that had been carried by wind and water was plugging the gaps between the rocks, where grasses and ivies grow.

It might need a bit work, but if the grass and ivy at the surface were cleared then it’s possible to retrieve the stones.

Valetta walked towards the rock mound and observed the rock that could be seen at the surface.

“Ah, it’s limonite^[3]. But not much.” (Valetta)

Amongst the rocks there was a small amount darkish yellow iron ore called limonite.

Since it was mixed up on the discarded rocks, then if she searched the tunnel she might find a vein.

Valetta once again returned to the tunnel entrance, she put her hand on the tunnel and tried to look at the walls inside.

However, she couldn’t see any ore vein on the wall near the entrance, it was just a normal rock surface.

She squatted down and then using a fallen twig nearby, she tried to clear the ground surface a bit.

Then some dark brownish thing scattered when she moved the twig, it might be the bat dung.

“...Ah.” (Valetta)

“When we return to the village, let’s make leather boots. It wasn’t that deep around the entrance, but if you go inside a bit then the dung will become greater. Spare me from entering the cave just by wearing these straw sandals.” (Lodurr)

Valetta looked fixatedly at the ground that she had brushed off, but she nodded at

Lodurr's words and quickly stood up.

Since it wasn't like she must search the tunnel right now, she could continue on another day.

From the gap of the ground that Valetta had brushed with the twig, there was a slightly white thing peeked out.

Chapter 87

More Haste, Less Speed

Later that night.

At the residence's yard that was illuminated by moonlight, Valetta was wiping her wet hair with the towel at the bath.

She had already changed her clothes and only wore a tunic, but without putting pants and still barefooted.

Since there was a board used for the bath underneath her, her feet didn't get dirtied by the yard's soil.

She was sweating heavily after returning from the mountain and most of her body felt sticky, but after washing her entire body with soap, she felt clean and refreshed.

She unfastened the leather strap that binds her hair and the beautiful shoulder length blond hair was shining brilliantly under the moonlight.

It was not the soap that she always use, but instead, she used the shampoo and the conditioner to wash her hair, so it felt remarkably smoother than the usual.

At times the refreshing wind that came from the yard felt comfortable on her skin and the insects at the surrounding thickets were playing a chiming beautiful music.

“(I have found iron ores, so next is to learn the iron smelting technique. It's necessary to test many things for the engineering projects, and for the farm machinery and machine tool, I want to create one piece for each of them...)” (Valetta)

From now on, Valetta planned to perform any production that could be done in the village like metal smelting or machine tool.^[1]

Even if she had memorized the content of every book that Kazura had brought, there was anxiousness remained unless she applies it in the real test.

First of all, based on the knowledge of engineering and smelting she obtained from the book, she chose what could possibly be performed in the village, something that could be done with just their own power.

For the next step, searching for possible efficient methods for mass production through lessons learned from the production of the mechanism of the machines and tool that they had created.

If the machines or tools were to be used just for the village, then it would be enough just by making several of them and there was no need to think about mass production.

However, Valetta decided that in the near future, by presenting the technology and knowledge that she had learned, she could hurry to join Kazura's side in Isteria.

After she acquisition as much as the technological knowledge that she could earn right now and mastered the practical application method, surely her power would become needed by Kazura.

He wouldn't say, "You may return first", just like when she parted with Kazura in Isteria before.

At that time, Valetta was assailed by the foreboding that Kazura might go to a place her hand couldn't reach and she experienced a dreadful sense of loss.

She didn't really know why her heart was so badly damaged like that, but she didn't want to experience it for the second time.

I will become someone who is absolutely needed by Kazura, was the strong resolution that Valetta made.

"Also, I'll need to do basic stance training every day... Isaac-san, I wonder when will he come again?" (Valetta)

At yesterday and the day before that, Isaac had taught Valetta the methods by the military for basic training.

Usually, when a recruit entered the military, they will begin with a training to improve basic physical strength with physical training like a marathon and push-ups, also living as a group to make them get used to discipline.

However, in Valetta's case, just by her physical power, far from a new soldier (新兵 shinpei), she already reached divine soldier (神兵 shinpei) level, so she didn't learn any method for basic physical strength improvement training.

First of all, she learned the way to hold and how to swing a sword and shield, then the basic stances, but just after two days of training, she obtained Isaac's passing verdict, "...You passed."

This might be the result of her previously learning the way of handling weapon from Valin, despite reluctantly at that time.

In addition, since she was not reluctant this time and longed for training, she wasn't the same person anymore.

The next training that she had informed to perform was to cut down a mock enemy, a 1.8 meter tall log.

The real sword and shield that she used were heavier than the training ones, but for the current Valetta, it wasn't such a big problem.

Slash. Stab. She clearly remembered the attack technique that she had learned from Isaac, the next thing she had to do was to repeat this attack technique and hammered it into her body.

Then after she had familiarized with it, she would also perform javelin, archery, and horseback training.

Since her aim was to be able to protect Kazura, then wouldn't she only need to learn melee fighting, so she tried to ask Isaac, but he immediately rejected it and informed her, "It will be useless if you can't do everything".

She didn't know how long it would take, but to measure Valetta's skill, there would be also mock combat inserted at times.

Actually, she wanted for Isaac to continuously eat Japanese food too and so he will also stand at the same ground like her, but Valetta couldn't just let the secret out only by her own arbitrary decision.

In the village there were many people who had experienced war, so she could ask them to have a match with her.

Since they surely much stronger than Valetta, they wouldn't object as a training opponent.

Valetta put the cloth towel that was used to wipe her hair dry into the basket, put the thin waistcloth and the pants, then wore the wooden sandal, placed the wooden board that she had stood on before and leaned at the residence wall.

There was a mountain of things that she needed to do tomorrow.

There was no time to spare for idling.

So that she could be together with Kazura, she had the confidence to give her best no matter what.

She also had the resolution to even do anything.

She didn't want to experience that feeling for the second time.

"...But before that, maybe I need to build a bathroom." (Valetta)

While holding her hair near her nose, Valetta muttered as her cheek slightly loosened.

There was a gentle scent of lavender drifting from Valetta's hair, the same scent as the lavender scent of the aroma pendant that she gave to Kazura last night.



Meanwhile,

In front of the camp fire that was crackling as it burns, Kazura was having a pleasant conversation with Isaac and Havel.

Marie also sat beside Kazura at the same bench he was sitting and holding the handle of the copper cup that contained the herb tea that Kazura brew.

Marie looked a bit apprehensive, so at times she stole a look at Kazura's face while still holding her cup.

The surrounding soldiers and the servants of the convoy were relaxing at their preferred places, so the campsite where numerous camps had been set up was

wrapped in a calm atmosphere.

On the perfectly clear night sky, the stars were shining brightly, a splendid sight worthy to be called as a starry night.

“Now that you mentioned it, certainly Marie-san slightly resemble Havel-san. But, it never crossed my mind that both of you are sibling... It will be great if you had told me this from the start.” (Kazura)

“I truly apologize for failing to inform this matter. I thought that this is not an especially important information for the course of my duties...” (Havel)

Just now, Kazura found out for the first time that Marie is Havel’s imouto.

Kazura had thought that Marie was just a young servant, so he was surprised when he knew that Havel and Marie were a sibling.

“But, leaving your parent’s home and live in Nelson’s residence should be hard, right? It might be a bit late, but I won’t mind reducing both of your working time to only until the evening, so both of you could return home together. How about this?” (Kazura)

“I am thankful for your consideration. However, the current condition is already fine, we wish to be near Kazura-sama’s side as siblings from hereafter. I will give my all in my work so that I could be useful to Kazura-sama even for a little bit.”

Havel replied with a smile at Kazura’s concerned offer.

Isaac was looking at their conversation with an indescribable expression.

“Huh? Wait, even though she is a noble’s daughter, could she work as a maid?” (Kazura)

At the sudden question that came from Kazura’s mouth, Havel made a slightly sad expression

But inside his heart, “Alright, here it comes!” and clenched his fists.

“...Actually, Marie is a girl born of my father and a slave, she is an imouto from different mother.” (Havel)

“Eh?” (Kazura)

Havel spoke in a low voice as he informed Kazura, who was opening his eyes from surprise.

“A slave’s child will be a slave since the time they born. Hence, Marie is not a family member, but a slave who worked at the house. Marie’s owner is my father, so I can’t do anything, Marie also faced difficulty every day and it made me grind my teeth when thinking about this... Since by assigning her to serve Kazura-sama’s side, she doesn’t need to return back home, so her situation was improved. To grant her a much better situation than the usual, I am really grateful. Right, Marie?” (Havel)

Marie, who was mentioned by Havel, was frozen with nervousness, even so she nodded many times.

“Y-yes. Kazura-sama is always showing kindness towards me...” (Marie)

“Well, Marie-san has always worked very hard for me, so I also want to say my gratitude. Thank you very much for each and every time.” (Kazura)

“! N-n-n-n-not at all! T-thank y-you.” (Marie)

Kazura spoke up and made a slight bow to Marie, so Marie became teary eyed with extreme nervousness and vigorously bow down while stuttering her words.

“Eh? No, don’t be that nervous.” (Kazura)

“M-my apologies.” (Marie)

Seeing Marie bowed repeatedly like a broken toy, Kazura made a wry smile.

Marie always had a neat and tense appearance while working and in anything she did, and yet, she did it with good and reliable skill.

Despite all that, she was actually a timid girl, a trivial cause could send her into a deep fluster.

Recently, he thought that this aspect of her had become somewhat better, but Marie’s nervousness today was a bit unusual.

“(...Ah, she might be scared that she will be fired since I found out that she is a slave.)”
(Kazura)

When Kazura was pondering why she was that nervous, he arrived at that conclusion.

But the true reason why Marie trembled like that was because she was feeling guilty of participating with her brother frightening plan to seduce Kazura for their convenience. Kazura was completely ignorant of this fact.

“(That reminds me, the words that Havel-san had said at that time.)” (Kazura)

Seeing Marie was trembling like a puppy under the rain, Kazura remembered Havel’s reply for [The reason for joining the military].

Certainly, at that time, Kazura asked him, “Why did you join the military?” , and he answered, “Since there is someone I want to protect.”

Surely enough, that someone should be Marie.

He had said earlier that Marie’s ownership lies with his father, then his plan might be to promote himself to a high position in the military, so he might obtain a recognition from his father, then he could ask for Marie’s ownership and took care of Marie who was a slave.

Kazura was moved by the wonderful sibling love that ignored the difference in social position.

This was something that he can’t help but support from behind with all what he could do.

If he supported them secretly then Havel’s hard work will bear fruit sooner or later, Kazura nodded inside his heart.

“Don’t worry, I am not someone who minds about social position. From now on, let’s get along well, alright?” (Kazura)

“Y-yes!” (Marie)

Kazura said this while gently smiling at Marie, so she replied and bowed her head by reflex.

“Then, this might be a different topic, but there is something I want to ask to everyone. About the medicine that is used in Isteria...” (Kazura)

“Eh?” (Havel)

“Hm?” (Kazura)

At the sudden change of topic, Havel who had confidence that his plan had worked out well, raised her voice in surprise.

Seeing Havel behaving like that, Kazura turned towards him and tilted his head.

Beside Kazura, Marie was still trembling.

Isaac who sat in front of Kazura and was listening in silent at the conversation also opened his mouth in great surprise.

“Is something wrong?” (Kazura)

“Ah, no... About Marie...” (Havel)

“Ah, I really don’t mind about it, so no need to worry. Just like always, from now on, let’s get along well, shall we?” (Kazura)

“Y-yes.” (Havel)

Seeing that Kazura was smiling while saying this, Havel nodded despite being in confusion.

Why Kazura didn’t say, “Then let’s release her slave status” even after he knew Marie’s circumstances, it was inexplicable for Havel.

Havel thought that Kazura’s personality was someone who after seeing someone close to him troubled or in an unfortunate condition, will unconditionally lend his hand and do anything to help them.

However, Kazura’s true personality wasn’t simply a soft-hearted person.

Kazura really like people who do their best with utmost effort...

If he saw someone doing their best and work hard then he will want to assist them in one way or another, a personality that was diagonal from what Havel had in mind.

“B-but, that...” (Havel)

“...Ah, I see! That’s true, right?” (Kazura)

Seeing Havel was tenaciously trying to repeat the conversation, Kazura seemed to notice something and then he nodded.

“It’s better if we inform Marie-san too about me being Greysior, don’t you agree? I will leave the rest of the explanation in detail to Havel-san.” (Kazura)

“...I understand.” (Havel)

Havel felt relieved thinking that Kazura finally guessed his intention, but when Kazura remark completely went to a different trajectory, he dropped his shoulder.

It was deplorable that the conversation didn’t progress like he had intended but there was a big significance in Kazura’s permission to inform Marie that he was Greysior.

In the future, surely the distance between Kazura and Marie will become closer.

If that happens, then Kazura’s patronage of her will become stronger, so Havel felt satisfied that this was enough for now.

Beside Kazura, Marie who couldn’t understand the situation was still trembling like always.

Chapter 88

Trauma + Character Introductions

“Then, let’s continue where we left before. I want you to tell me about the medicine used in Isteria. I had heard from Valetta-san that medicine is quite expensive in this world...” (Kazura)

When Kazura first arrived in this world, Valetta mistook LipoD as this world’s medicine that she said “I am fully aware that even if I sell myself, the money is still not enough to obtain one.”

He didn’t know how much the market price if a farmer’s daughter were to be sold in a slave shop, but the amount of money would be between 50 to 100 Ar.

Isaac, who was silently watching the conversation between Kazura and Havel until now, began to speak up to answer Kazura’s question.

“Certainly there are many expensive medicines, but it depends on the kind. Salve, mouthwash, constipation medicine are relatively cheap and can even be obtained in the grocers. However, for medicine to treat illness, the medicinal plants itself are very rare so it is expensive and the Shaman Guild monopolize the recipe for the medicine. Even the medicinal herb cultivation that will become the source of the medicine is run by the Shaman Guild at the medicinal herb garden in the middle of Isteria.” (Isaac)

“Shaman?^[1]... Uum, you mean the people who apply curses or cure diseases with charms?” (Kazura)

When Kazura heard the word “Shaman”, he remembered the television program back in Japan that featured a backwater tribe.

He also recalled that the shaman was also called as witch doctor or medicine man, but he only remembered the image of a person chanting some kind of mysterious incantation or burning a smoke.

He also felt that he saw the scene of them creating medicine by boiling herbs, but his memory was rather fuzzy.

“That’s right. The role of Shaman is divination and healing diseases with prayers and medicines. Before the war, they will also perform divination using animal’s entrails to forecast victory or defeat.” (Isaac)

“Divination... Is it reliable?” (Kazura)

“It’s fifty-fifty, so it’s not reliable.” (Isaac)

Kazura asked with a keen interest and Isaac answered him while smiling wryly.

“However, there are also cases where the divination results had been decided beforehand to raise the morale. I don’t know how many people will believe it, but since there are no people who feel bad when they are informed that the result is good, at the very least, it has a good effects on the morale. Well, there are many soldiers that thought that if they have spare time, then rather than hearing a divination, it should be used for praying to Ormasior-sama instead.” (Isaac)

“Ah, is that so? I see...” (Kazura)

Kazura was curious about what kind of grandiose divination that was practiced, but as expected, a fortune telling might be correct and also might not be correct.

He also wanted to ask about Ormasior, but since it will be strange for a God to ask about another God, he refrained from doing so.

By the way, Kazura didn’t know about this, but Ormasior is the name for the God of War.

A God of War who is believed to grant courage and strength to his believer.

It wasn’t a powerful God who will grant victory just by believing, but he granted courage and strength. Though his divine protection tends to be complicated, on contrary, he was friendly, so he was widely loved even by people outside the military.

“Therefore, Shaman’s main duty is to heal diseases. Since I will hand the report of the varieties of medicine and prayers later, I hope that you may confirm it.” (Isaac)

“I understand. I leave it in your hand.” (Kazura)

Since he was planning on tackling the sanitation and well digging problem first, the problem of whether or not he could get involved in medicine would be left for the next time.

If things didn't progress well then this could be after several months, so it best to collect information beforehand.

Afterward, Kazura and the others continued their friendly conversation around the campfire for awhile.



Night, the next day.

Kazura and the others had arrived at the plaza at Nelson estate that was still and silent.

Kazura carried his travel bag and alighted from the carriage and then Zirconia came from the estate to welcome him.

Zirconia's attire was the usual loose pink tunic.

The time was already 1 o'clock in the night.

Usually, Zirconia or Kazura would stop their work in the office at 11 or 12 o'clock, so she might have been waiting for Kazura's return.

Although, even when they returned to their room, they would bring their work with them and continue, or they often remain in the office and continued with the work as it is, so she might have been staying awake and working.

“Kazura-san, welcome back. The long journey must be tiring.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia spoke up her greeting towards Kazura who was stretching himself.

Behind Kazura, Havel was helping Marie to alight from the carriage.

When Marie had alighted, she ran towards the wagon to help Havel unloading the cargo.

Isaac and the servants were already at the wagon and began to carefully unload the cargo.

“I’m back. I’ve been able to return just as planned. Ah, so tired...” (Kazura)

“Fufu, you must have a tough time, right? Did your investigation turn out well?” (Zirconia)

“Yes, I have found everything that is needed. I also have procured various tools, this surely will be useful.” (Kazura)

When Kazura answered like this, Zirconia smiled delightedly.

“Well, that is gladdening. But, you must have been tired from travelling inside the carriage for a long time, right? Since the bath had been warmed, you could enter anytime.”

“Oh, I appreciated that. Has Zirconia-san already taken a bath yet?” (Kazura)

“Eh? No, I haven’t yet.” (Zirconia)

“Then, when you have a bath, try to use this. It will remove your tiredness.” (Kazura)

Kazura took out a paper bag that contained bath salts from his travel bag and then handed over the paper bag to Zirconia.

Other than bath salts, the bag also contains shampoo, conditioner, and then the same soap that was used in Grisea Village.

“This is?” (Zirconia)

Zirconia looked at the goods inside the paper bag with a puzzled expression.

Kazura took out the bath salt plastic case from the paper bag that Zirconia held.

The label that was written in large letters spelling out [Shinsuu Shirahone Onsen’s Essence] [2].

“This is what’s called Onsen’s Essence. You mix it with the water before entering the bath. It has a good scent and will warm your body to remove the fatigue. The amount

to use is about..." (Kazura)

Zirconia nodded attentively at Kazura's explanation of how to use the goods.

When he finished explaining everything, Zirconia held the bag near her chest and smiled delightedly.

"To give me this much, thank you very much. I will use it at once tonight." (Zirconia)

"You're welcome. I am glad if you are pleased with it... Ah, that's right. After you came from the bath, can you come to my room? There is something else I want to give."
(Kazura)

Inside the paper bag, there were no beauty care products like the moisturizing gel.

Since Zirconia couldn't read Japanese at all, Kazura thought that he must explain while showing how to use it directly, so he didn't put these products inside the paper bag that he had given to her.

If she came to his room after bathing then it might also be the right time to explain how to use the beauty products.

Since Kazura had read the instruction paper with Valetta about how to use it back in Grisea Village, he should be able to pull it off one way or another.

Even so, until Zirconia came to his room, he thought that it might be better to do some review.

"...Me?" (Zirconia)

When she heard Kazura's request, Zirconia for some reason made a surprised expression and asked back.

"Hm? Yes?" (Kazura)

Kazura didn't comprehend the meaning behind Zirconia's reaction and so he replied while tilting his head.

"I-I under... stand..." (Zirconia)

Zirconia nodded with a slight stiffened expression while still holding the paper bag close to her chest. Even though that Kazura thought that it was strange, Kazura entered the estate to enter the bath.



After bathing, Kazura returned to his room and then connected the large refrigerator that had been transported to his room with the power generator and turned it on. After that, he quickly transferred the frozen food inside the cooler box to the large refrigerator.

Currently, he was sitting in the bed and reading the instruction paper of the beauty care products.

Atop the table in front of Kazura, there were a flask that contains the hot water he made in the kitchen, glass pot with herbs, and then the wooden box with the beauty care products.

The beauty products inside the wooden box had been taken out from its packaging box.

Kazura carefully reading the explanation for some time when the door was knocked.

“It’s me, Zirconia.” (Zirconia)

“Come in.” (Kazura)

The door opened after Kazura replied, and then Zirconia entered.

Zirconia wasn’t wearing her usual tunic, but a beige shin-length one piece dress.

Perhaps, this was her sleeping clothes.

For some reason, her expression felt a bit gloomy, so something might have happened.

“Thank you for waiting...” (Zirconia)

“Ah, please have a sit. I am brewing a tea right now.” (Kazura)

Kazura called out to Zirconia who was standing still in the room’s entrance and then

stood up from the bed before heading towards the table and took the flask.

Zirconia nodded, and then for some reason, she didn't walk to the table but towards the bed and sat on it.

"(...Why is she sitting on the bed?)" (Kazura)

A strange premonition arose at Kazura's mind towards Zirconia who had a very different air than she usually had.

However, he rethought it as just his imagination and then pour hot water into the glass pot while turning his back at Zirconia.

"What do you think about the bath salts that I have given to you? Your body feels warmer right?" (Kazura)

"Yes, my body feel a lot warmer and my tiredness is gone." (Zirconia)

"I see, then that's good." (Kazura)

"Yes." (Zirconia)

"..." (Kazura)

"..." (Zirconia)

"W-what about the shampoo?" (Kazura)

"Yes, my hair has never been silkier than right now and it's really easy to wash them. The soap too, has a nice scent." (Zirconia)

"I see." (Kazura)

"Yes." (Zirconia)

"..." (Kazura)

"..." (Zirconia)

The conversation didn't continue and silence descent into the room.

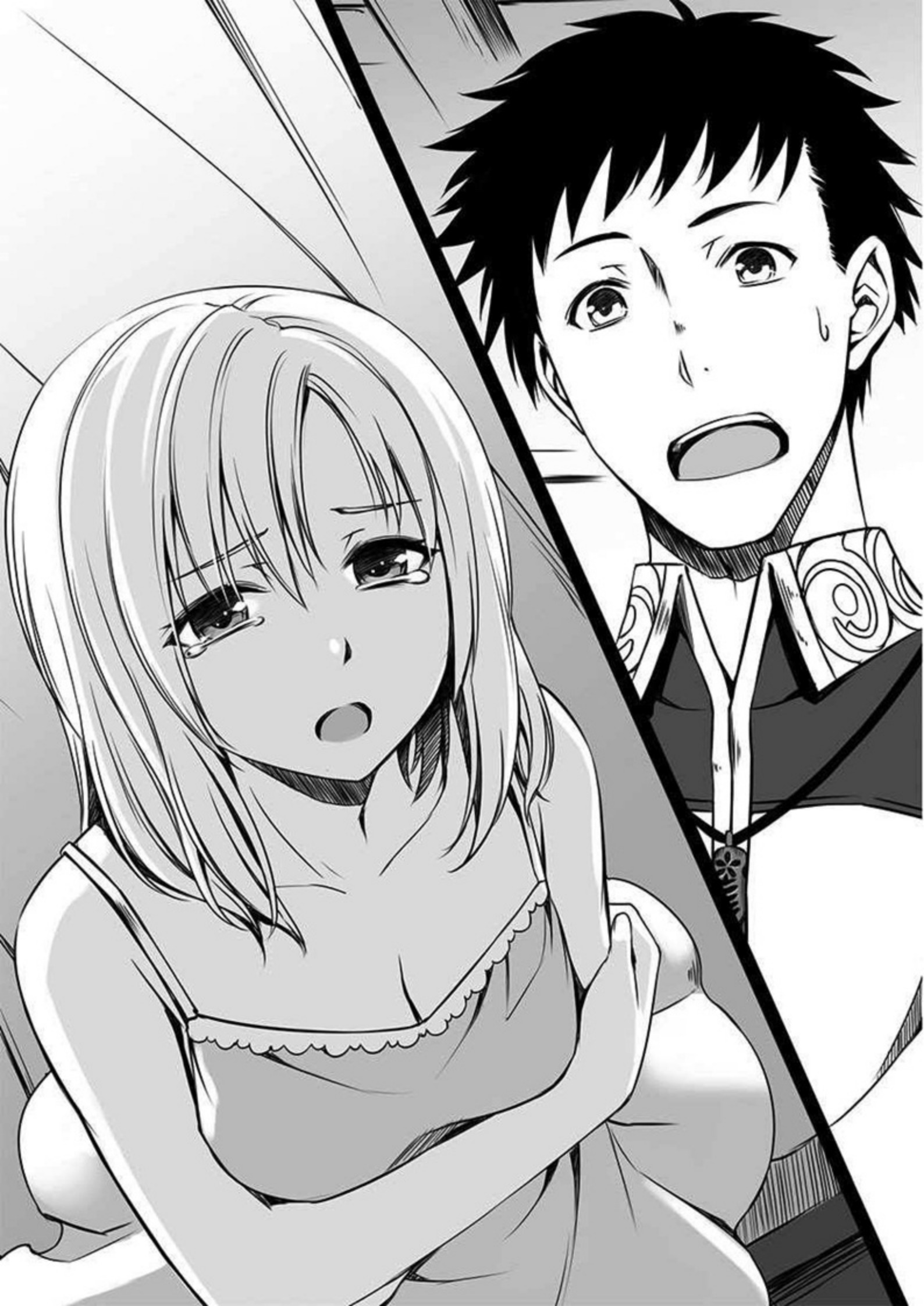
Only the tick tock sound from the needle of the analog clock placed at the small table beside the bed could be heard inside the room.

“Alright, the tea is ready. Since it’s hot, be careful not to get... burne-...”

Kazura spoke these words as he holds the cup with the herb tea and turned around.

Then, when he looked at Zirconia’s expression who was sitting on the bed, he stopped moving.

Zirconia was huddling herself from extreme nervousness and looked at Kazura with an expression as if she was ready to cry.



“...Ka-Kazura-san, I-I... I’m...” (Zirconia)

“Y-yes?” (Kazura)

Kazura spontaneously made a reply with a shrilled voice.

Zirconia was averting her eyes from Kazura and looked down at her own fists which were tightly grasping each other above her lap.

“I-I will do it properly, since this is... my first time...” (Zirconia)

“...Eh?” (Kazura)

“Please go... easy on... me...” (Zirconia)

“Wai-!?” (Kazura)

Zirconia was trembling while her tears started to fall, so Kazura hurriedly put the cup on the table and rushed over to her.

Zirconia unintentionally startled and quivered at Kazura who was rushing towards her.

Kazura kneeled at that place and then reached his hand out to touch Zirconias shoulder, but when he saw Zirconia’s quivering appearance, he withdrew it.

“Why are you suddenly crying!?! To begin with, I did not call you for that reason!!” (Kazura)

“Eh? But... Eh?” (Zirconia)

Zirconia was still trembling and her eyes were still brimming with tears as she looked at Kazura who was kneeling in front of her.

“Ah... I see, that’s true, this is my fault...” (Kazura)

Kazura reminded of the conversation with Zirconia at the plaza and regretted his own thoughtless request.

Not only it was in the middle of the night, furthermore, he requested a woman to come

to his room after bathing. Normally, it was an unthinkable request.

Since he recently had been working together with Zirconia from late night until dawn, his sense for such matter might have been numbed.

Zirconia's misunderstanding could also be thought as going too far, but considering the situation, the fault can be said to be on Kazura's side.

Since Zirconia was already frightened and began crying, there was no other option than to throw out an apology.

"I'm sorry to cause a misunderstanding. The reason why I called you to my room just now didn't have any meaning of asking you to accompany me in the night. It was just like I said, there is something that I want to give to you, only that." (Kazura)

"Eh? Ah... I-I se... e..." (Zirconia)

"Yeah..." (Zirconia)

"..." (Kazura)

"..." (Zirconia)

Once again, the awkward silence descended upon the room.

Whilst either of them didn't let out any words, time flowed like an eternity.

For the second time, only the tick tock sounds from the clock's needle resounded in the room.

There was only awkwardness.

The one who couldn't endure the silence first was Zirconia.

"M-my apology. There is no way that such request would be asked from someone like me. Even in the estate, there are a lot of beautiful girl... To misunderstand, how foolish I am..." (Zirconia)

"Ah, no, I think that Zirconia-san is beautiful too. Your presence is also warm, like, or rather, healing!" (Kazura)

“Eh?” (Zirconia)

“Eh?” (Kazura)

“...” (Zirconia)

“...” (Kazura)

Once again, silence.

“...etto... will you do... it?” (Zirconia)

Just what kind of interpretation she had on Kazura’s words, Zirconia once more said out an outrageous remark.

“N-no, since it’s alright, you could return already, thank you.” (Kazura)

“I-Is that so...” (Zirconia)

After Kazura replied so, Zirconia unsteadily stood up from the bed.

“Ah, *ano*, I am truly sorry. I hope you can forgive me.” (Zirconia)

“No, the fault lies completely on me, so no need to apologize. I sincerely apologize.” (Kazura)

Both of them deeply bowed their head to each other.

Zirconia raised her face and then said, “Excuse me” and left the room.

Kazura who remained in the room saw Zirconia off and then squatted down and held his head.

“...Hey me, what kind of face I have to make when meeting with Zirconia-san from tomorrow? Stop joking around you know.”

Though there were many curious statements from Zirconia just now that he had heard, currently Kazura wasn’t paying attention to that.

Even if it was a misunderstanding, it was still a fact that she disliked the “night

partner” matter that she even cried, even considering her status as a married woman, the plain mental damage was humongous.

“...Let’s just sleep.” (Kazura)

Kazura stood up with a blank expression and headed towards the bed.

Then, he fell down to the bed and let out a long sigh from the bottom of his stomach.



Character Introduction at the point of time of Chapter 88

· Shino Kazura, 25

The Story’s Main Character

The owner of a very strong luck who obtained a large sum of money of 4 Billion Yen from Lotto6. Former company employee.

He discovered a room where he could come and go to another world in the mansion that had been inherited by Shino family through the generation.

A soft hearted and hard worker person.

Grisea Village

· Valetta, 15, Commoner

The daughter of Grisea Village’s Chief, Valin

Extremely smart and clever

So that she could be together with Kazura, she was in the middle of a strenuous effort to increase her knowledge and skill.

· Valin, 40, Commoner

Valetta’s father. Grisea Village’s Chief.

Exhibit great fighting prowess against bandits.

He had military service experience in the Isteria Region Arcadia Army at the continuous war with Balveil until 4 years ago.

· Lodurr, 35, Commoner

The first villager that Kazura met in Grisea Village.

Master archer hunter. His eyesight is outstandingly good and his physical ability is considerably high.

He had military service experience in the Isteria Region Arcadia Army at the continuous war with Balveil until 4 years ago.

· Taana, 28, Commoner

Lodurr's wife. Beautiful. Her demeanor is really gentle.

Excel in butchering animals.

· Myura, 6, Commoner

Lodurr and Taana's daughter. Colts close friend.

Even though she is young, she is clever. Has very good sociability.

· Colts, 6, Commoner

A mischievous boy.

Accidentally divulges Kazura's existence to Isaac.

Currently, passing his days while tormented by guilt.

Isteria and others

· Nelson Istelle, 45, Noble

The Lord of Isteria Province. Head of Istelle House.

The Chief Commander of Isteria Region Arcadia Army.

Lieze's father. Extremely treasured his daughter, Lieze.

· Zirconia Istelle, 26, Noble

Nelson's second wife. Former Commoner and soldier.

Married Nelson when she was 16.

The Second-in-Command of Isteria Region Arcadia Army.

Usually, she had a gentle and meek demeanor, but when related to military she becomes more forceful.

Has a very high combat ability, with equipment he could be equal or even surpass an experienced Noble Guard, a point she proud about.

· Lieze Istelle, 14, Noble

Nelson's daughter

Her base personality is a relatively rough and self-assured, but usually, she feigns innocence.

Since she doesn't mind in interacting with citizen or subordinates, she was extremely popular regardless of status.

Really love shopping for clothes or accessories.

Right now, she is dead set at Kazura as excellent marriage partners.

· Eira, 25, Commoner

Lieze and Kazura's personal servant

Since Lieze was 3, Eira had been together with her as her servant.

Right now she was under Zirconia's order to watch over and get Lieze and Kazura hooked up in one way or another.

She has a natural special skill where she could remember a person's name and face just by looking at them once.

· Isaac Slan, 20, Noble

The eldest son of Slan House. A natural born soldier and a member of the military. A noble.

Has actual combat experience for several months during Balveil War.

Has a very honest personality. A man who is like a lump of hard work.

· Havel Leveson, 20, Noble

The second son of Leveson House. A natural born soldier and a member of the military. A noble.

Has actual combat experience for several months during Balveil War.

Has excellent observant eyes and is quick witted.

Really treasured his imouto Marie.

· Marie, 13, Slave

Havel's imouto from a different mother.

Since her mother is a slave, she is a slave too.

She had worked at Leveson House as a maid, but due to Havel's scheme, she now works at Istelle House as Kazura's personal servant.

During her time working in Leveson House, it seems that she wasn't treated that nice.

Since the change of her circumstances, she seems to a bit happy recently.

She is tense when working, but she is a timid girl who will tremble from nervousness.

· Alrond Leveson, 25, Noble

The eldest son of Leveson House.

Went for negotiations and inspection to Gregoria with his father Nor.

Has antipathy against Marie.

· Nor Leveson, 50, Noble

Head of Leveson House

Went to Grisea and brought Alrond with him.

The biological father of Marie, but he didn't treat her like a daughter.

· Root Slan, 17, Noble

Isaac's cousin. Has similar personality like Isaac.

Know about Kazura's matter.

· Serette, 19, Commoner

A female guard who also do a night shift. Tasked to guard Lieze's Room.

· McGregor, Noble

Lieze's tactic lecturer.

Details are unknown.

· Diaz Gregorn, Noble

The Lord of Gregorn Province west of Isteria.

Good with business.

Details are unknown.

· Heyshell Fraise, Noble

The Lord of Fraise Province east of Isteria.

Details are unknown, but he increased the amount of aid for Isteria Province.

· Nibel Ferdinand. Commoner

A wealthy merchant who persistently request for a meeting with Lieze.

· Otis, 40, Commoner

An escort soldier who deliver Valin and Valetta back to Grise Village.

Havel's private army. Has one married daughter.

Japan

· Shino Shinji, 54

Kazura's father.

Managed a small factory and worked in metal milling.

Has a curt way of speaking, but a soft person a heart.

He appeared to know about the secret of a room that is connected to another world, but at the present time, it was unknown how much he knew about it.

· Shino Mutsumi, 54

Kazura's mother.

Had a younger appearance compared to her age.
Is worried about Kazura.

Chapter 89

The Doable and the Undoable

Zirconia returned to her own room and then closed the door behind her, before slowly crouching down on the spot.

“...u... uh... gu...” (Zirconia)

She was trying to forcefully suppress the leaking out sobs while hugging her slightly shaking body with both hands.

How could she improve Kazura’s impression of her? Zirconia had observed Kazura for quite some time ago.

After seeing how Lieze successfully curried up favor with Kazura, Zirconia mimicked Lieze’s action.

Perhaps because it was effective, she felt that Kazura had perceived her friendlier than before.

However, she never thought that he would make a night call for her this fast.

When she decided to take action to obtain Kazura’s favor, she should have resolved herself that one day she might be called for a night companionship.

She thought that she will do anything if it was to obtain power.

If it’s possible, even afterward, she would seduce Kazura, even if she only ended at his favorite night partner.

However, when that time came now, she had a frightening flashback scene of the past, something unbearably scary and dreadful.

Even though she was just offering her own body, her head was helplessly filled with fear.

It was different than that time.

It won't dirtied herself like that time.

It won't be the scene that she saw at that time.

Even when she had persuaded herself with those words, her shaking body didn't stop.

"How... pathetic..." (Zirconia)

While her tears fell down, she began to curse her own disappointing self.

The regret of having completely lost the opportunity that came unexpectedly before her very own nose started to swirl around her mind.

"I didn't call you for a night companionship". Herself who felt relieved when those words came out was pathetic.

She should have mustered some courage somehow and proposed for another night companionship, but she had excused herself from his room without thinking about this.

Perhaps, she might not even be called for a night companionship anymore.

From now on, she only could pray that Lieze or Eira would be successful and Kazura would take an interest in them.

She didn't know if she could obtain powerful blessing or additional aids, but she couldn't help but pray that it will be successful.

"Father... Mother... Everyone... Sorry..." (Zirconia)

While speaking out words of repentance, Zirconia continued to cry for awhile.



Morning, the next day.

Kazura, who was sleeping while putting his hand on the analog clock that was placed on the small table beside the bed, was awakened by the knocking sounds from the

door.

Actually, he had awakened when the alarm clock rung its metallic sound earlier.

However, since he was so tired, he stopped the alarm and slept for the second time.

While rubbing his sleepy eyes, he got up from the bed and called out to the door, "Come in".

The door soon opened and Marie entered the room.

Different from Kazura who was still groggy from waking up, Marie had a neat appearance and already in her working mode.

Marie was holding a basket and inside the basket was clothes that had been ironed (the ironing used roasted hot charcoal inside a flat bronze pan).

The clothes inside the basket were a collared shirt and trousers from fine fabric.

Usually, the clothes that Kazura wore in Nelson's residence were mostly in this fashion.

The clothes that he used as sleepwear, were plain and loose shirt and trouser.

"Good morning, Kazura-sama. Please treat me well too for today too." (M)

"Yes, good morning. I will be depending on you again today. Can you come here for a second?" (Kazura)

Marie bowed her head and Kazura replied with smiled. Then, he went down from the bed and headed towards the refrigerator that was close to the wall.

While still carrying the basket, she followed Kazura with quick steps.

"Umm, let's see, this is a tool that is called refrigerator. I will explain how to use it, so please remember it. From now on, you will take the ingredients from this place." (Kazura)

Marie arrived at his side, so Kazura showed how to open the refrigerator door to her.

Inside, there were many ingredients filled the refrigeration space; salmon flakes, jar

of pasta sauce, tube butter, retort vegetable soup and many others.

“The inside of this tool always maintain a cool condition, so the ingredients placed inside it could last longer... Umm, are you alright?” (Kazura)

“Y-yes!” (M)

Marie was petrified and wide-eyed when she first observed the scene of the opened refrigerator.

Until now, she had received canned food or frozen vegetable or frozen meat from Kazura and ordered, “Please use this for today” , but this was the first time she looked at the contents of the refrigerator.

She had wondered how chilled ingredients could appear in this midsummer, but she never thought to shed the doubt she had by asking Kazura about it.

The reason for this was because Marie had been ordered beforehand by Havel to absolutely never investigate the secret around Kazura.

Moreover, Marie had been educated by her mother to only sincerely concentrate on the work that had been given to her.

She also had been trained daily to not do such indecent conduct like untactful meddling or participate in gossip.

The people in the Leveson House too, excluding Havel who cares about her for some reason and his brother Alrond who usually hit her hard and indiscriminately, they didn’t meddle in any particular matter about Marie.

Hence, so that she wouldn’t be stood out as much as possible, Marie made “concentrate only at the work” as her motto.

Even when she came to Kazura’s room, she never touched any of the mysterious tools that were placed inside the room.

Then this time, not only she received an explanation of the tools, but she was also ordered to remember how to use it.

At this sudden development, Marie already began to tremble.

“So, this lower shelf is called ice-bin, ice will be created inside it.” (Kazura)

Kazura didn't mind the trembling Marie and pulled out the refrigerator's ice bin/

Inside, there were several blocks of ice.

“You can use these ice freely, so if you want to drink a chilled drink then you could use it as you wish. When you want to create a chilled dishes too, I won't mind if you use it.” (Kazura)

“Yes!” (M)

Marie frantically and repeatedly nodded while giving a strong reply like a sports club member.

“Then, below this there is a freezer, inside it, there are a lot of frozen foods. The large box beside it is also a freezer.” (Kazura)

“Yes!” (M)

“I want you to freely use the contents to create dishes, but since I think you wouldn't be able to imagine their taste until you familiar with them, for awhile, we will choose the ingredients together. If you like to, then I won't mind cooking together with you in the kitchen.” (Kazura)

“Yes!” (M)

“Then, let's choose the ingredients to be used for breakfast... or rather, it will be strange to use frozen food for breakfast, so let's use this retort soup. For the bread, let's use the canned one.” (Kazura)

“Yes!” (M)

Together with Marie, who repeated the same reply like a bot, Kazura began to choose the ingredients for breakfast.



1 hour later.

After preparing the breakfast with Marie in the kitchen, accompanied with Marie, Kazura headed to the room he always used to eat.

When Kazura and Marie arrived at the room, Lieze and Nelson already took a seat inside.

“Good morning.” (Nelson)

Both of them gave a warm smile at Kazura who just arrived and then greeted him.

“Kazura-sama, you must be tired from that long journey. How do you feel this morning?” (Lieze)

“Good morning. I had taken a restful sleep, so I feel completely well... Umm, where is Zirconia-san?” (Kazura)

While answering Lieze’s question, Kazura sent a glance at Zirconia’s usual seat.

There was no food prepared at that seat.

“About that, it seems she doesn’t feel well this morning from overworking. Just to be on the safe side, she told me that she will rest in her room for today.” (Nelson)

“I... see.” (Kazura)

Kazura’s expression darkened, so Nelson’s tilted his head in confusion.

However, he immediately realized that Kazura might be worried about Zirconia and then he prompted Kazura to take a seat.

“During Kazura-dono absence, Zill was always working hard... She is too eager that the accumulated fatigue might have come to surface all at once. It might be better for her to take a rest for several days.” (Nelson)

“I see... Please tell her to do so.” (Kazura)

As he took his seat, Kazura remembered the event last night and replied with an uneasy mental state.

He didn't realize how far Zirconia was frantically working when he was away from Isteria,

However, he couldn't think of any reason for her absence in this place other than his last night's fault.

He might need to do a follow up to patch things one way or another after this.

"I will assume responsibility for Zill share of work today, so please do not be worried. If there is anything else, then tell me by all means." (Nelson)

"No, I'm fine with it. Thank you very much. " (Kazura)

Based on Nelson's behavior, it seems that Zirconia didn't tell Nelson about last night event.

If she had told him, then surely the current situation in this room would become like a mourning vigil.

"Kazura-sama, from now on, I will help you as much as I can. Since every waterwheel installation had been finished, from this day onwards, I could help you in other jobs as well." (Lieze)

As if she noticed Kazura's gloomy face, Lieze intruded in the conversation.

"Eh? Everything? You mean that the waterwheels in the eastern and southern side had been entirely installed?" (Kazura)

Kazura asked with a surprised expression. Lieze smiled and answered.

"Yes, since everyone did their best, the work finished earlier than we had expected. I predicted that the precision of the waterwheel too will increase in near future." (Lieze)

"That's amazing... but, the precision will increase in the future? How do you achieve it? I believed that we should have a lack of labor so it is not possible to do so." (Kazura)

"I asked the disabled soldier from previous military service to take some of the work

that came to the carpenters' workplace. I thought that since they have experience of encampment construction and equipment maintenance from their long service in the front line, they have acquired working skill to some degree." (Lize)

"Yes, at the next day after Kazura-dono departed, Lize went to visit the citizens' house, door to door accompanied by the carpenters. They selected people whom injury wouldn't interfere in work, then found a new job for them and at the same time decreased the work burden for the carpenters. Because of Lize skillful negotiation, the new worker's wage will be paid by the carpenters, so it didn't hurt our coffer either." (Nelson)

Nelson added an explanation and Kazura spontaneously opened his eyes wide in surprise.

To think that during his absence, Lize was able to think that far herself, was something that never crossed his mind.

She was not only just all talk and no action, but able to think how to do things better and take initiative to do it. Even if she was still young, she was this talented.

Of course, since she had been extremely friendly in interacting with the commoners until now, it proceeded this smoothly.

It wasn't a feat that anyone could do.

"Since I ordered them to perform not only woodworking and sawing works, but routine chores like purchasing errands or cooking too, the work burden of the carpenters should be reduced to a great extent. If we assigned several people to one workshop, then they would be able to take turns in working and not overworked themselves." (Lize)

"I see, without needing to do routine chores, the craftsmen could concentrate on working... Furthermore, a proper shift system, huh?" (Kazura)

Until now, the craftsmen would perform every work by themselves from buying and delivering the goods, in addition to washing and cooking.

If they don't need to do the majority of that trivial work in addition to routine chores, then the time that could be assigned for craftwork will increase.

The disabled soldiers who couldn't take a proper work too, at least could obtain an employment, even if the wages weren't that high.

In addition, since Lieze positioned herself as their guarantor, the disabled soldiers could work at ease.

To match both party's interest, it could be said as a wonderful plan.

"If the craftsmen had additional time, then their work precision naturally ought to increase. Also, there is something I want to consult with Kazura-sama... Perhaps, if that is alright with you, can you spare me a bit of your time after the meal?" (Lieze)

"I understand. Is it about the carpenters?" (Kazura)

"Yes, since the craftsmen have modified the waterwheel blueprint, I want Kazura-sama to take a look at it... Since the blueprint is in the reference room, let's go there together after the meal. Father, may I?" (Lieze)

"Yes, if it's Kazura-dono then you can enter any room." (Nelson)

Nelson nodded and so Lieze showed a relief.

The reference room that Lieze wanted to take Kazura into was a place where a large number of important documents related to Isteria province being stored for safekeeping.

Actually, even if Nelson disapproved, Lieze could just take the documents out from the reference room, but this will trouble Lieze.

There will be no meaning if she can't be alone with Kazura in the reference room.

In that room, no hindrance will come.

"Reference room? Now that you say it, I never went there." (Kazura)

Kazura muttered those words and Lieze smiled as lovely as always.

Chapter 90

The Reference Room

After the breakfast was over, Kazura and Lieze arrived at the reference room.

This reference room was quite wide, but a large amount of tall document shelves placed inside the room made it felt a bit cramped.

The space between the shelves was only wide enough for one person to walk, that two people can't avoid colliding if they walk from opposite direction.

There were openings for ventilation at the wall, but there was no window.

Because of that reason, the room was dark and the only illumination came from the candlestick that Lieze held in her hand.

"Since it is dark, please be careful with your step. The waterwheel design plan is this way." (Lieze)

While illuminating her feet with the candlestick, they proceed deeper into the reference room.

Kazura was taking a glance around the shelves inside the room while following Lieze's back who walked between the shelves.

"This are such an amazing amount of documents... Is every important document stored in this place?" (Kazura)

"Yes, excluding the documents placed in Father's office, every important one is stored in place. But since the amount is too much, I don't really know which and where the documents are." (Lieze)

There were long wooden planks nailed at the shelves, where a memo of what kinds of documents are stored on the shelves was written.

Beside the parchments that were piled up on the shelves, there were many large rolled up parchments stored in it.

Lieze continued deeper into the room without change and lit the candle stand that was furnished at the wall.

Deep inside the room, there was a bit open space, where a 2 meter long table was placed.

Lieze took a big rolled up parchment from the innermost shelves and then placed the candlestick on the desk before unfolding the parchment on the desk.

It seemed she wanted to show the design plan to Kazura at this place.

“It’s the wheel and the wooden box parts. It seems that the craftsmen modified them a bit to increase their strength. Since I couldn’t judge whether or not this is good, I want Kazura-sama to take a look at it...” (Lieze)

Lieze said this while pinning the design plan with one hand so it won’t be rolled back as her other hand restrained the hair that touched her cheek by putting it behind her ear.

This action was curiously seductive, that made Kazura’s heart throbbed unconsciously.

“L-let me have a look...” (Kazura)

While being careful to not glance towards Lieze, Kazura also pinned one of the parchment ends with his hand and took a look at the design plan.

The water drawer wooden box of the design plan’s waterwheel was a bit bigger than the waterwheel on Kazura’s design plan and to increase the wheel strength it had more framework.

From a glance, there shouldn’t be any problem in the design.

“*Fumufumu*, perhaps to increase the amount of drawn water? Do they feel that the amount of water of the current waterwheel is not enough?” (Kazura)

“No, it isn’t actually insufficient, but... When I consulted with the craftsmen, if we want

to collect the water into the pond at the end of the aqueduct then it will take a lot of time. And then, the next day the craftsmen immediately bring a new design plan that they had drawn..." (Lieze)

"T-the next day? The craftsmen are really working hard." (Kazura)

"Yes. Furthermore, they don't desire any payment, so I say that for the time being, I will see if the design could be used or not... I apologize for this." (Lieze)

It seems that the craftsmen were under the impression that Lieze was troubled by this matter, and then they drew a new modified plan.

They might have urgently drawn the design by utilizing their spare time between their busy work, all for Lieze's sake.

"I see. So that means, the construction of it hasn't begun yet, is that correct?" (Kazura)

"Yes, at the present time, the waterwheel production is using the existing design plan. Perhaps if this design production is approved then I will quickly inform the craftsmen to start production using the new design plan." (Lieze)

"I see... Then, for the moment, let's make one trial prototype. Let's use it in a test run and if there are no problems, then mass produce it. The waterwheel that already in production could be used in another place, so there will be no problem if they complete it for now." (Kazura)

When Kazura expressed his permission, Lieze smiled in relief.

"Thank goodness... *Ano*, kazura-sama, I am truly grateful for your various help for Isteria Province. How should I express this gratitude..." (Lieze)

"No, that's fine. Please don't be troubled by it too much." (Kazura)

When Kazura replied so, Lieze showed a delightful smile towards him.

While tightly grasping her own hand close to her chest, she made a look of respect and affection towards Kazura.

"Until now, when the situation in the province worsened, it had become tough for Father and Mother... But since Kazura-sama came to this place, we can now have a

hope for the future. If there is anything that I can do, then I will do it. Please let me stay at Kazura-sama's side to help from hereafter." (Lieze)

"Y-yes, then I hope we can keep getting along well." (Kazura)

Lieze came and looked at him with a slight flushing on her face. Kazura somehow nodded to her even when he fumbled his words.

Lieze's eyes looked a bit moist but it might be the fault of the candle's light that was flickering in this dark room.

When Lieze was about to speak, she suddenly turned her eyes at Kazura's chest.

"...This is?" (Lieze)

"Ah, this? This is called aroma pendant." (Kazura)

Kazura held the pendant in his hand and showed it to Lieze. Then she approached Kazura and touched the pendant with her fingers.

"What a beautiful image of flower... Furthermore, it has a very nice scent. Is this made from fragrant wood?" (Lieze)

"No, inside this wood there is a cloth that had been soaked in a liquid called essential oil. This scent came from that essential oil." (Kazura)

"Is that so... *Ano*, where do you get that pendant?" (Lieze)

Lieze's expression when asking this had unconsciously taken Kazura's breath away.

Lieze's eyes that were looking up towards his direction right in front him, certainly were a bit moist with tears.

However, there was a different anxiety compared to her previous expression, there was a transient-like fear for Kazura's answer.

Her face that was illuminated by the subdued light of the candle was extremely beautiful, that made Kazura stared at her without him realizing it.

"I-I received it when I return to the village several days ago." (Kazura)

“Village... From a commoner?” (Lieve)

“Eh? Yes, that’s true.” (Kazura)

When Kazura nodded to her question, Lieve’s eyes showed a slight rejoice.

But that was just for a few moment and Lieve cast her eyes down at Kazura’s chest with an anguishing expression as her hand that had touched the pendant began to approach Kazura’s chest.

“Kazura-sama...” (Lieve)

“Y-yes!?” (Kazura)

Lieve showed a sorrowful-clad expression and looked up at him, that made Kazura turned the other way and replied with a nervous tone.

Why the situation became like this, his head couldn’t comprehend at all.

“Kazura-sama... I...” (Lieve)



Lieze was going to say something with a resolved expression, but just at that time, there was the sound of the door opened from the room's entrance.

Surprised by that sound, both of them immediately distanced themselves.

"Hm? Kazura-dono, so you are still here with Lieze?" (Nelson)

Nelson peeked his face from the entrance and showed a surprised expression when he discovered that Kazura and Lieze were still inside the room from the gaps of the shelves.

"Yes. I just showed the waterwheel's design plan to Kazura-sama..." (Lieze)

Lieze erased her previous sorrowful-clad expression and replied to Nelson with her usual calm expression.

"Even so, you didn't need to look at it in this dim place as you may take it out outside. Won't it be better to use the nearby lounge?" (Nelson)

"There is no need to do that since it will be finished just by taking a quick look at the content... Father, what kind of document you are looking for?" (Lieze)

"I see. I come to retrieve documents about conscription. I need to inquire the population property once more, and sort over the equipment and organization division of the conscription again... Since I recently had become busy, I had left it unfinished midway. Since Zill seemed to be overworked, before she starts working on it, I need to do it first. If I don't do it, then she will be worried about it." (Nelson)

"I see... How is Mother's condition right now?" (Lieze)

"She is a bit unsteady and there are shadows under her eyes, but she doesn't look that worse. If she rest today and tomorrow, then she should be able to return back to her duties." (Nelson)

"I see... I'm glad." (Lieze)

Seeing how Lieze smiled in relief made Kazura felt a very unendurable guilt.

The cause for Zirconia's worsened condition was himself, but he couldn't say this at this place.

“Nelson-san, can you let me look over the matter of that work even for a moment?”
(Kazura)

“...Will it be fine for you?” (Nelson)

Nelson made a surprised expression at Kazura’s proposal.

Until now, Kazura didn’t lay his hand on military related work at all, so it was understandable that this was outside his expectation.

However, though Kazura had indirectly refused when he was asked to give military related support, it didn’t mean that he decided to absolutely not give any support at all.

At that time, he didn’t know anything about this country’s diplomatic and the province’s situation, so he was only avoiding a situation where he just accept their request blindly

For the present, he began to give assistance in province related domestic matters as he began to grasp little by little which area that needed his help.

It might be better for him to know about military related information before long.

Although he couldn’t say that the suggestion he offered this time was out of guilt towards Zirconia

“Yes, please show me how the military preparations in the province are done. I don’t know if I could interfere in it, but let put it aside for now, I hope you could tell me each and every situation.” (Kazura)

“I understand. Then, let’s quickly go to my office. Lieze, help me carry the documents.”
(Nelson)

“Ah, let me carry some too.” (Kazura)

Lieze was looking at Kazura’s back who was walking beside Nelson while gripping her fist hard.

Although her expression was her usual calm self, inside her heart it wasn’t calm at all.

“(...Even though it’s just a bit more!!)” (Lieze)

If there was no interruption just now, Lieze would surely have conquered Kazura.

She didn’t have that intention when she came to this room, but when she heard the talk about the pendant that Kazura wore with him, she changed her mind.

Kazura had said that the one who gave him that pendant was a commoner.

If Kazura was a noble, then he wouldn’t always carry a commoner’s present with him, so in other words, Kazura himself was without any doubt, a commoner.

If a commoner like him could be that close to Nelson, then Kazura surely is an influential person who came to support from Claylatz, a country where commoners held great power.

An influential person from neighboring country that's even recognized by Zirconia. Furthermore, him being generous with his tremendous wealth was also nice, his personality was calm and full of consideration but also a hardworking person.

Lieze never found someone with such superior qualities until now.

It seemed that there was a sign of a woman close to him in his own country, but the other day he received the [Dearest Bracelet] that Lieze gave to him, so that means he had considerably taken an interest in Lieze.

In that case, there was nothing but to preemptively attack.

If she made Kazura’s heart as her own in one way or another, slowly but sure she could get him to sleep with her, what happens next will already be decided.

Once he slept with a daughter of a High Noble Lord like her, then even if he was an influential person from Claylatz, as Kazura was a commoner, he couldn’t do anything else but to assume responsibility for her.

In this happen, then it will surely be a straight road to marriage.

The naïve Kazura would surely be taken into Istelle House as a son-in-law.

However, the important first step for that to happen, had been obstructed by none

other than her own father.

Lieze had predicted that since there were only limited people who could enter this room, surely there would be no hindrance that will come, but that judgment turned out to be a mistake.

If no hindrance entered and the situation progressed, surely he would have been carried away by the good mood.

If it went smoothly, then being pushed by the mood, perhaps she could draw out the words of romance out from Kazura.

While thinking this, Lieze was so vexed that she wants to grind her teeth.

“Lieze-san, is something wrong?” (Kazura)

Noticing that Lieze was just standing in place, Kazura turned back and tilted his head.

“No, nothing is wrong.” (Lieze)

Lieze lovely smiled towards Kazura, and released her gripped fist, and walk towards Kazura’s side.

Chapter 91

Armaments Situation and the DIY Work

After they returned to the office, Nelson were explaining to Kazura about the several documents that were unfolded on the table.

The content of the documents were mainly the basic matters concerning conscription inside the province.

Because Kazura still couldn't fluently read this country's script, Nelson explained the main points of the documents orally.

Lieze sat beside Kazura and read the contents that were written in the document that Kazura asked.

"So everyone prepared their own prescribed equipment according to their assets, but the quality standards of the equipment itself isn't standardized?" (Kazura)

"The private soldiers of the affluent nobles often have standardized equipment, but the equipment of the citizens that were gathered for the conscript is disorganized. However, for those above the Second Class, they had been instructed to prepare long spear and shield in the specified size." (Nelson)

From the explanation, the conscription in this land varies according to the income.

The draftable citizens were divided into five classes according to their assets, which will determine the equipment and the units they will join.

The First Class was the wealthiest, while the Fifth Class was the ones with the lowest income.

The equipment for every class in Istelle Province was in the following manners.

First Class: a helmet, a round shield, greaves, a body armor, a long spear, and a sword

Second Class: a helmet, a round shield, a breastplate, a long spear, and a sword

Third Class: a helmet, a round shield, and a short spear

Fourth Class: a short spear, and a javelin

Fifth class: A sling, and stones

From these, the First and the Second Classes were classified as Heavy Infantry, and the others were Light Infantry.

Also, the shields that were prepared by the First and the Second Classes must be made of bronze, and the size was strictly specified.

Other than this, anyone who was proficient in the bow will be assigned as archer regardless of their Class.

Because the nobles commonly underwent riding training from a young age, they were pretty much assigned to form the cavalry.

The equipment of the nobles' private soldiers was supplied by the nobles, and the quality of their equipment is often excellent.

They were also often provided with a Rata, so those who had riding skill would participate as a cavalryman, while the rest will be treated to be in the same line as the First Class soldiers.

Also, those who had riding skills even if they weren't a noble and could prepare a Rata would be recruited as a cavalryman disregarding their income class.

The riding skill was something that demands proficiency just like the bow, and rather than just able to ride a Rata, it will take months and years until someone was able to swing sword or spear while on the mount.

Hence, other than the nobles who received riding training from young, there were really few people who could fight as a cavalryman.

"I see, the citizens with few assets will have to prepare few equipment." (Kazura)

"Other than the spears, equipment like the body armors, swords, and shields are costly to procure and to maintain. If the entire soldiers need to prepare standardized equipment, it will place a burden too great for them. So, we specified the bare

minimum necessary equipment according to their income.” (Nelson)

“Can’t the Lord’s side prepare and distribute the equipment?” (Kazura)

“As expected, it is very hard to prepare in that amount... Bronze equipment is expensive, even in the peacetime, it will take time and effort to prepare and to maintain the equipment, so we need a considerable financial resource.” (Nelson)

“Hmm, I see. It’s the matter of financial problem again...” (Kazura)

Originally, it would be best if the Lord’s side prepares the standardized equipment and distributed it to put it into use.

If the standards are unified, it will decrease the disparity in the strength, and more than anything, regardless of the difference between rich and poor, they could exert the same strength.

However, it was useless to say about this if the prerequisite for it was missing.

First of all, they need to resolve the financial problem of the province, before they were able to discuss what to do about the equipment.

“So that means, we have no other way than to increase the yield of the farmlands and introduce new tools in various place to reduce the cost... If the introduction of the hand pump could increased the output of the mine, it will be even nicer.” (Kazura)

“That’s true. Especially if the amount of the mined silver increased, it should ease the financial situation. Furthermore, the increase in the mined copper and tin, will also decrease the price of equipment, so the equipment quality of the conscripted soldiers will also be improved.” (Nelson)

“Price and quality, right?..... **fumu**” (Kazura)

After hearing Nelson’s explanation, Kazura pondered about the introduction of iron metallurgy that he considered before.

If they could obtain iron ore nearby, the introduction of iron metallurgy will drastically reduce the armaments cost.

On Earth, the iron had more deposits that couldn’t be matched by metals like copper

and tin.

The fact that there were many deposits means that it had a low rarity value, which means that the procurement cost will be low.

If they use iron instead of bronze, then they surely could lower the armaments cost.

Since iron is harder and more durable than bronze, it will also improve the quality of the equipment.

Compared to bronze, iron will take time and labor to process, but the introduction of iron will have great advantages.

The burden of the blacksmith will be dramatically increased to manufacture the equipment, but it is possible to reduce their burden to some extent by introducing a waterwheel-powered trip hammer machine.

From what he had heard from Valletta before, the war with Balveil might be resumed in 4 years.

Although the result of the last battle was a draw (with many damages on both sides), it was uncertain whether or not on the next war this country could endure like it did in the previous time.

Since if he was just stood and watch and late in giving the aid, it could cause irrecoverable damage that ruins Arcadia, then he should to introduce the iron metallurgy if it became needed.

However, if war didn't get resumed and peace can last like it was right now, then there was no need to introduce a disruptive technology like iron metallurgy.

If the iron metallurgy was introduced, then surely it would greatly disturb the power balance with the neighboring countries, so it was necessary to be cautious about the introduction.

“Nelson-san, about the diplomatic situation with the other countries...” (Kazura)

Kazura spoke up until that point when he realized that Lieze who was sitting next to him was staring him with a curious expression.

He was careless. Lieze didn't know that Kazura is Greysior.

Of course, she would be curious since she observed how Kazura was asking about armaments like he was completely clueless about it.

"...Please let me hear the details at some other time. There is still opportunity to continue this talk later." (Kazura)

Kazura said this and stood up, and beside him, Lieze also stood up.

"Hm is that so? I understand. The details will be for another time. Thank you for listening to our situation." (Nelson)

Nelson deeply bowed his head to Kazura.



After leaving the office room, Kazura was walking on the mansion's corridor with Lieze.

Right now, it was almost noon, but later this evening, he planned to dig a water channel in the courtyard for the hydroelectric generator with Isaac and Havel.

The current time was a bit past 11 o'clock and there was still quite some time left before the lunchtime.

"Kazura-sama, about the conversation before..." (Lieze)

Kazura was walking while thinking about the armaments when Lieze spoke out timidly.

"Ah, yes. What is it?" (Kazura)

After he gave his reply, Kazura remembered the series of events in the reference room and he felt as if his back was wet with cold sweat.

If Nelson didn't enter the reference room at that time, then he can't imagine what would have happened.

He felt as if he was drawn by a great influence, but what is that really?

“If you are interested in the military affairs, then I can guide you around in the military. Since the Noble Guards soldier and the other private soldiers are training every day, then you can see their training if we go to the training ground or barracks.” (Lieze)

“Huh, it’s not that topic?” (Kazura)

“Eh?” (Lieze)

“Ah, it’s nothing! Please do so! Since I would like to see the army even for a moment!” (Kazura)

Kazura thought that she was surely going to continue their conversation in the reference room, so he never thought of an unexpected proposal that he unintentionally yelped.

Like this, it was like he was expecting for that conversation to happen, so he hurriedly returned a nod to Lieze.

“Then, since it will be noon soon..... Ah, I am scheduled to have an audience soon... Tomorrow... there also an audience... I'm sorry, I will set the time later, then let's go together.” (Lieze)

Lieze became dejected when she remembered her schedules.

When Kazura returned back to Grisea Village, Lieze refused every audience request that came to her so she could finish her work as much as possible.

However, the refused suitors didn’t just give up, but postponed the audience and requested for an audience again, so Lieze was in a condition where she was unable to move.

Lieze was thinking that if she canceled the audience by saying that the circumstances not permit, then those scheduled audiences itself would disappear, but this idea wasn’t that good.

As expected, if she continues to repeatedly refuse it will tarnish her social appearance, so this situation couldn’t be helped. She would receive the audience from the noon today.

“Oh, that’s fine. I also have a schedule this afternoon, so let’s go together on the next

occasion.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. Then when that time comes, please say so. I am also looking forward to it, even if it’s only a trip to the city.” (Lieze)

“Well, as soon as the circumstances permit, let’s take that trip.” (Kazura)

When Kazura matched her conversation, Lieze made a very happy smile.

“Yes! Then, I’ll inform you about the possible time after I sort my schedule later!” (Lieze)

“Eh? Yes, I understand.” (Kazura)

Seeing how Lieze was looking forward to that event, Kazura nodded even when he was a bit bewildered.

From the event in the reference room, and how she clung unto the conversation just now, Kazura felt that Lieze’s attitude suddenly changed, after he returned to Isteria.

He thought that it was because she was a rather sociable girl, but he felt that somehow the vector had changed into an unexpected direction.

After that, Kazura passed time talking with Lieze until the lunchtime arrived.



That afternoon.

After his lunch with Nelson and Lieze, Kazura was in the courtyard just outside his room with Isaac and Havel.

Besides Kazura, there was a cardboard box that contained the hydroturbine generator, and above it, the unfolded instructions.

By the way, Zirconia didn’t show up at the lunch.

It seems that for today she was taking a good rest in her room.

“Let’s see, [You need a slope to some extent for the generator to operate]… So, I can’t

generate electricity in a flat ground.” (Kazura)

The hydroturbine generator that was purchased by Kazura was a type that uses the water flow inside a thick vinyl chloride tube.

Fan-like blades were attached inside the tube, that rotated when water flows in the cylinder and exerted its force on the blades.

The blade shaft was connected directly to the generator, so when the shaft was rotated by the force from the water current, it will drive the generator.

“Is it necessary for the water to flow from higher place?” (Havel)

Havel, who heard Kazura’s muttering, asked.

“Yes. We have no other way but draw water with the waterwheel, construct an aqueduct at a higher position and then directly connect it with this tube. So it will be another do-it-yourself work...” (Kazura)

“We will prepare the personnel who would undertake the work, so please tell us anything that we needed to do, since we will quickly work on it” (Havel)

“Then, can you install a waterwheel in the waterway of the estate to draw the water from it and then built an aqueduct to bring that drawn water until it reaches the front of this room?” (Kazura)

He had originally thought that it would be enough if he just extended the waterway that was flowing in the estate until it reached his room, but it looks like this wouldn’t work.

Although it would be quite taxing, it seems that there was no other way than using a waterwheel and the aqueduct to bring the water into the front of his room and then install the generator at its end.

“Certainly. Then I will gather the needed personnel immediately.” (Havel)

“Please do so. I will confirm the necessary components and the installation location for the aqueduct. Isaac-san please prepare the waterwheel. I’m sure that there are some waterwheels that are under construction in the carpenter workshops, please bring them all here.” (Kazura)

“I understood.” (Isaac)

Currently, the gasoline generator could only cover the electricity for the refrigerator, but if he could use the hydroturbine generator he prepared this time, then he would be able to use other electric appliances such as the air conditioner and the microwave oven.

The gasoline used for the generator could be kept in reserve and be brought out together with the generator when he needed electricity at another place.

And the best above all, if he could use the air conditioners then his daily life ought to be slightly more comfortable.

From the amount of the electricity that can be generated by the hydroturbine generator that will be installed, it could cover every electric power requirement needed by the home appliances that he brought here.

If the installation of the hydroturbine generator was successful, then he would be able to pass the days in almost the same as his life back in Japan for the foreseeable future.

Chapter 92

Late Night Tea Part (2)

Later that night.

In his room, Kazura was using the oxygen burner to melt a clear green glass rod.

The blue flame that came blowing out from the oxygen burner was extremely hot, nearly 2000 degrees Celcius.

Since the sight when the flame hit the glass wasn't good for the eyes, he was working while wearing special glasses.

He held the glass rod on the left hand so the rod's tip hit the flame and turned it around as it slowly melted.

After the tip melted became a ball of a certain size, he took it out from the flame and pushed it against a carbon plate placed on the desk to deform it into an oval shape.

He pinched the edges of the deformed glass with special tweezers and cut the part of the glass rod that turned into a bead with the flame, before he adjusted it by baking the surface of the beads. Finally, it was completed.

"I have made it quite well... Even so, how much will this sold for?" (Kazura)

He threw the oval beads that he made into the annealing bubbles inside a cookie can before he turned the burner flame off and stretched his back.

Inside the annealing bubbles, there were already 30 glass beads of various sizes.

He had been burning glass for about 4 hours, but there were still a lot of glass materials remained.

"If we are going to pretend that we have mined it all together, perhaps it would be better to burn all of this... This unexpectedly takes a lot of time." (Kazura)

The glass rods that Kazura prepared this time was about 6.5 kilograms in weight.

It seems that it would take quite a lot of time to burn all of these, so he would have to burn them little by little every day.

After this, perhaps it would be better to show the glass beads to Nelson and ask how many beads that will be needed.

When Kazura pondered about this, he recalled the red crystal that he sold at the general store in the city he visited previously.

The red crystal that was sold at that time wasn't of low transparency like what he showed to Nelson the other day, it was half-transparent and translucent.

Moreover, since it was machine-cut perfect sphere one, its value should be tremendous.

"That old lady, perhaps she was living in ease and comfort right now... Should I take a look at her next time?" (Kazura)

Nelson said that even if it was a gem with low transparency, a perfectly cut sphere gem was worth close to 10,000 Ar.

At that time, the gem was bought at a considerable low price, but he didn't know at what price that general store old lady will sell that gem.

When he showed the gems to Nelson the other day, Nelson and Zirconia seemed to be very surprised that the gems were in a perfect sphere shape.

From their reaction, there was no doubt that they had never seen or heard jewels like these until then.

Since it was common that expensive jewels were going to be acquired by influential great nobles House and the Royalty, if the red crystal that he sold at that time appeared on the Isteria's market, it should become a not-so-insignificant talk of the street.

But there was no such rumor reached the ears of Nelson or Zirconia, which means that the general store's old lady sold it in different province or country.

In that case, that old lady would be a person who has a business channel that allowed

her to trade such extremely valuable jewels of unknown origin.

It would be very helpful for him if he could use that business channel to trade the glass beads that he wants to sell this time.

Nonetheless, the fact that she was a person who was making profits by calmly doing fraud didn't change, so he needs to approach her carefully so that he would not be deceived again.

For now, even if he wasn't going to use that old lady's business channel, it might be better to have a look at her current situation.

Since it would be troubling if he was penniless when going out with Lieze next time, it was a good idea to visit the old lady's store while also cashing some kind of appropriate items.

When he had put his thoughts together, he sighed and then turned his eyes to a paper bag placed at the edge of the table.

The content of the paper bag were cosmetics such as cream and moisturizing gel as well as one bottle of Lipo-D that he couldn't deliver to Zirconia last night.

“Perhaps, Eira-san was there.” (Kazura)

Kazura stood up from the chair and then picked up a basket of herbal tea ingredients and the paper bag.



“Ah, Eira-san. Good evening.” (Kazura)

When Kazura arrived at the kitchen, he found the sight of Eira sitting on the chair.

Eira stood up with relieved expression when she saw Kazura, and deeply bend her waist.

Eira's clothes were not the sleepwear that she wore like last time, but the same maid uniform she wore on the daytime.

Apparently, she seemed to have been waiting for his coming for a long time.

“Kazura-sama, please excuse me for loitering this late at night. I was trying to make the dessert that I had mentioned before, but... am I bothering you?” (Eira)

On the table next to Eira, there were compotes from apple-like fruits that were placed on the silver plate.

A compote was the generic term for dessert made by cooking fruits with syrup or fruit wine.^[1]

“No, I am not bothered at all! This looks like a very delicious dessert!” (Kazura)

Kazura approached the table where Eira stood and showed a smile at Eira, who made an uneasy expression.

When she saw his smile, Eira had a relieved smile.

“Thank you very much. These desserts are something that I sometimes made for my brother and sister at home, but it is quite popular. Even Lieze-sama had tried this several times and she praised that it is delicious.” (Eira)

“Really? Then I will be looking forward to it. I’ll brew a tea, and then, shall we have a taste of these?” (Kazura)

“Ah, I already boiled the water not long ago, so you can brew it right now.” (Eira)

Eira moved to the stove and then filled a copper pitcher with the hot water from the bronze pot.

Then while still holding the pitcher, she returned to the table and poured the hot water into the glass pot that had been filled with herbs by Kazura beforehand.

The herbs slowly floated up as the hot water was poured, and the water quickly became pale red.

The herbs inside the glass pot was a blend based of hibiscus and rose hip that was good for recovering fatigue.

Eira moved the compote to a small plate that was on the table, placed a fork beside it, and arranged it in front of Kazura.

The two of them took their seat, then after saying “itadakimasu” ^{thanks for the food} [2], they picked their fork.

“Hmm, this is sweet and delicious!” (Kazura)

When he put the compote into his mouth and tasted it, Kazura smiled widely.

The fruit that was well-boiled with fruit wine, the refreshing sweetness was really delicious.

The sweetness was moderate because it didn’t use sugar, but this one would be enough if it served as a dessert after the meal.

It looks like that it would be more delicious if you thoroughly cool it in the refrigerator.

“Thank you very much!... Thank goodness.” (Eira)

Eira, who was staring at the sight of Kazura eating the compote, smiled widely as if she was relieved.

“Ah, Eira, please have a taste too. You don’t need to be that tense, let's enjoy this together.” (Kazura)

“Yes, I shall.” (Eira)

At Kazura’s behest, Eira too set her hands on the compote.

Until now, Eila repeatedly standing at the side while Kazura was eating, so this was the first time for both of them to eat something together.

“When do the maids usually eat? There is this impression that the maid is always moving around and busy.” (Kazura)

“In the morning and the noon, after the Kazura-sama and the other ate their meals, the maids will quickly eat what the people in duty had made. This dining hall is open at night, so the ones that are free at that time can order and eat dishes that they like. It is really delicious.” (Eira)

“Oh, by things that they like, that means the menu isn’t fixed?” (Kazura)

“It depends on the ingredients that are present on that day, but they are quite accommodating. If you inform what you wish for to the chef beforehand, they could cook most of the things. But since the ones who came to eat are mostly the night shift people, they might not prepare a lot of ingredients.” (Eira)

“I see... Then perhaps I’ll try to come and eat, too.” (Kazura)

“Ka-Kazura-sama, too? The chefs will surely get surprised.” (Eira)

“Hmm, that’s true. Then, how about if I disguise myself as one of the guards?” (Kazura)

“Ah, that way maybe... No, it will get found out. Absolutely.” (Eira)

“So, it’s not good... Darn, I want to try to eat it for once...” (Kazura)

In the beginning, Eira was being reserved, but as Kazura conversed with her in a friendly manner, it seemed that her nervousness gradually loosened little by little.

They were chatting while eating the compote for quite some time, but suddenly Kazura interrupted the chat and get into the main subject.

“Does Eira-san usually have the opportunity to meet with Zirconia-san?” (Kazura)

“Yes, every day in the evening, we will meet to adjust Lieze-sama’s next day’s schedule and to report on my work.” (Eira)

“I see... Well, actually there is something that I want to ask you.” (Kazura)

Kazura picked out the paper bag that he placed at his feet and placed it on the table.

“This is something that I want you to deliver to Zirconia-san.” (Kazura)

“I understand. Will it be fine if I delivered it just like this?” (Eira)

“Hmm... I will explain about the contents, so please inform that explanation as well to Zirconia-san.” (Kazura)

Kazura said so and took the cosmetics and Lipo-D from the paper bag and lined them in front of Eira.

Eira had her eyes nailed down on the cosmetics' beautiful container that appeared in front of her eyes.

"This is my country's cosmetics. It's the ones used to care for the skin, to use it... Eira-san?" (Kazura)

"Y-yes!" (Eira)

Kazura called out to Eira who was unmoving while seeing cosmetics, and then she replied while startled with a nervous expression.

To suddenly see goods like these, it wouldn't be strange for her to be surprised.

Kazura was about to open his mouth and continued the explanation, but then he suddenly decided to ask Eira about another thing that appeared in his mind.

"Had Eira-san heard something about me from Nelson-san or Zirconia-san?" (Kazura)

"Eh..." (Eira)

When Kazura asked her, Eira's expression instantly stiffened.

"So-so-some... thing?" (Eira)

"Yes. I guess you had been given many orders, but had you been informed about something peculiar?" (Kazura)

Previously, Nelson had said that he had informed that "Kazura-dono is from a relatively high-ranked noble family and so you shouldn't prying needlessly" to his subordinates.

However, even if Nelson said that Kazura was from a high-ranked noble family, he hadn't heard about what kind of position he had in the fake identity setting.

Because he brought various unusual tools, he could imagine that he is supposedly someone from another country.

It might be faster to ask directly Nelson about the fake background setting, but Kazura thought that it was also fine to ask Eira indirectly on this occasion even if it was just the surface of that setting.

“Umm...” (Eira)

Eira looked tremendously nervous and seemed a little troubled of how she should reply, but then she began to talk with a resigned face.

“Kazura-sama is Greysior-sama and are conferring enormous support to the Istelle province...” (Eira)

“...Eh?” (Kazura)

What kind of fake setting that Nelson had made for him? Kazura wasn't that much concerned about this, so when Eira gave an unexpected answer, his expression became those of great surprise.

When Kazura showed such expression, Eira shoulders were trembling.

“Ah, no, please continue. What kind of support that I gave that they had said?” (Kazura)

Kazura never expected that Eira had learned about this so his inner mind was greatly perplexed.

However, he could comprehend that perhaps she received such explanation when she became his personal maid and set aside questioning further for now, before he urged Eira to continue.

“...It is to grant a blessing of strength, for us.” (Eira)

Then when he listened to what Eira said again, Kazura was shocked.

Until now, he never explained that the consumption of the food that Kazura brought over for a long period of time would confer a tremendous physical strength to both Nelson and Zirconia.

He had given Lipo-D to Isaac and Havel for them to drink, but he had told those two people that they should keep this a secret.

Also, there shouldn't be any other effect other than physical strength recovery from drinking Lipo-D only once, so they should be unaware of the tremendous physical strength increase from long-term food consumption.

“About that blessing of power, have you heard any specific details about it?” (Kazura)

“That is... I just heard that it is a monster-like strength. I didn’t hear it in much detail...”
(Eira)

“Then, who else knows about this matter?” (Kazura)

“I-I I don’t know that far. When Zirconia-sama ordered me to be an exclusive maid for Kazura-sama, I only received a brief explanation...” (Eira)

“I... see.” (Kazura)

Kazura folded his arm and then pondered of what might have happened.

The fact that Eira received various explanations from Zirconia wasn’t strange seeing it was the explanation when she became Kazura’s exclusive maid.

Although he wanted at least a brief contact with her, Zirconia was also very busy, so there might be times where she inadvertently forgot to communicate with him.

However, he never expected that the topic of the tremendous strength would be brought up.

At the present time, the tremendous physical strength increase that was granted by the food that Kazura brought shouldn’t have been known by anyone else, other than the residents of Grisea Village.

He thought for a moment that someone in the village had revealed this, but considering the villagers’ worship-like attitude to him and Isaac and Havel’s behavior, this possibility was small.

“(That means, the traces from the time the village attacked by the bandits... Ah, I see?)”
“(Kazura)”

After Kazura thought that far, he realized that he overlooked one thing.

Not every bandit that attacked the village were killed by Valin and the others, but some survived and had been caught.

Of course, the captured bandits should have seen how Valin and the others fight, so

there was no doubt that the topic was leaked from there.

If that topic was leaked from the bandits, then it can be assumed that the food effect didn't get found out.

Since Kazura never meets with the bandits even for once until now, he had forgotten about their existence.

When Kazura had put his thought in order, he noticed that Eira was peeking at him with a very uneasy expression.

"Ah, I'm sorry, I didn't know that Eira-san had heard that much... Please don't make such expression, I'm not mad at you." (Kazura)

"Y-yes, But,... I am terribly sorry." (Eira)

"There's no need. It's just a miscommunication. It's not Eira-san's fault." (Kazura)

Kazura said so with a smile, so Eira loosened her expression as if she was a bit relieved.

There were various unexpected topics came out, but if Eira recognized that Kazura is Greysior, then that made explaining the cosmetics and Lipo-D became easier.

Since he would be relying on Eira in the future, perhaps it would be convenient if she knows that he is Greysior.

"Then, let's continue where we left before. First of all, this is called moisturizing gel. After washing the face properly then you put this much..." (Kazura)

Kazura took one of the cosmetics containers and began to explain to Eira.

Chapter 93

Trial Digging Commence

Two days later, morning.

At breakfast, when Kazura arrived at the dining room together with Marie, there were already other people inside.

This morning, Zirconia also participated and she smiled when she noticed Kazura's presence.

There were no trace nor signs of the slightly exhausted expression she had the other day and her physical condition seems to be excellent.

Since Kazura had I given Lipo-D for Zirconia to Eira, perhaps this was the result of its effect.

"Kazura-san, good morning. Please accept my apology to be absent for two days."
(Zirconia)

"No, it's fine. Do you feel better today?" (Kazura)

"Yes, I'm already feeling well, I can work even right now." (Zirconia)

Zirconia spoke with a bright expression, so Kazura sighed a relief inside his mind.

For the past two days, Kazura couldn't erase the Zirconia's crying face that stuck in his mind and felt depressed of what's happened with her.

However, seeing her expression, it seemed that for the time being, she had recovered somehow.

"*Ano*, Kazura-sama, about the work for today..." (Lize)

When Kazura took his seat, Lize who was sitting on his right, spoke to him with an apologetic face.

It seemed that there was traces of fatigue remained on her face.

“Similar to the yesterday, there are another audiences has been scheduled and so I couldn’t accompany you for today... I am terribly sorry.” (Lieze)

“Is that so?... but the audiences are also important matters, right? I already appreciate if you can help me when you are free, so please don’t worry about it.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. Actually, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow there will be audiences even until the evening... So will it be alright if the military inspection is performed 3 days from now?” (Lieze)

“The audiences are 4 consecutive days? It will be alright even if the inspection is at a later date, so please take a rest at least for a day...” (Kazura)

“No, 3 days from now, my schedule will be absolutely empty, so please let me accompany you. “ (Lieze)

Since Lieze’s schedule was very packed, Kazura was worried about her.

Lieze must have been very busy with the waterwheel installation in the farmlands and negotiation with the craftsmen every day in his absence.

Furthermore, it seemed that she received territory administration and military related lectures from her exclusive tutor between the gaps of her crowded schedule,.

Although he felt sorry to interrupt her meager break day, the person herself didn’t feel like taking a day off.

“Are you planning to inspect the military?” (Zirconia)

Listening to their conversation, Zirconia looked at Kazura with a surprised face.

“Yes, the day before yesterday, Nelson-san had given me some explanation about the armament, but I wanted to at least see it personally firsthand. Also, if there is a time later, then I would like to hear about the diplomatic situation.” (Kazura)

“Oh my, thank you very much! Then if you don’t mind then... ah, no, it’s nothing.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia was about to say, “should I guide you for the inspection after the breakfast”, but she felt a dark aura behind Lieve who sat opposite of her, so she retracted her words back.

Since she heard unanticipated words coming from Kazura, it seemed that she had unconsciously going to say an unnecessary remark.

From Eira’s words, the relationship between the two was progressing favorably.

Since Lieve seemed to aggressively trying to conquer Kazura, so in a situation where these two were together, then it would be better if she stepped aside as much as possible.

In these past few days, Zirconia was aware that Kazura was really concerned about her.

Until the yesterday evening, she kept feeling depressed due to the failure of the night visit, but after having experienced the effect of the cosmetic products and the Lipo-D brought by Eira, she felt that her mood made a complete change into an exhilarated state.

After drinking the Lipo D, her body that felt heavy like lead from overwork and lack of sleep was fully relieved in a mere 2 hours and her current physical condition was top form.

In addition, thanks to the cosmetics given to her, her skin that looked rough began to radically improve overnight.

She experienced similar phenomenon when taking a bath with the bath salt, but the effect of the cosmetics surpassed that by a wide margin.

Even though she had been surprised many times by the performance of the goods that were brought by Kazura, it was unexpected for her that he even possessed drugs and cosmetics with magic-like effect.

For him to give medicines and cosmetics with such effects to her as if these were apology gifts, she realized that she was just she was too over-concerned about the event that evening.

If Kazura had lost interest in her, then he wouldn’t be this concerned for her like this.

On the contrary, her really depressed-like state was able to induce Kazura's sympathy and concern.

If she made good use of this situation then she could successfully attract Kazura's attention even more.

"If there is any information you that you need, please inform me. Since I supervise the military, I believe I can answer that question." (Zirconia)

"I understand. Then, I hope for your cooperation when that time comes. But, since I don't know if I can give any advise, please don't expect too much." (Kazura)

I mustn't fan their expectations conceitedly, Kazura appended his words.

However, Zirconia didn't made any particularly disappointed expression and smiled brightly at Kazura.

"It will be enough, even if you only observing. Thank you very much." (Zirconia)

"Yes, we are truly obliged that Kazura-dono is helping us in internal affairs as well... Nonetheless, we are truly saved to also receive an advice in the military affairs. We are extremely grateful." (Nelson)

"Ah, yes, for now, I'll be just looking around. Lieze-san, I'll be depending on you next time." (Kazura)

"Yes!" (Lieze)

Meanwhile, the breakfast preparation had been finished, so after 2 days, the four of them finally ate the breakfast together.



The same day, afternoon.

In a certain corner of the Isteria city, kazura explained to the well-diggers about how to use the small well-digging auger.

Beside Kazura there was the armored figure of Zirconia, who was listening to his explanation seriously.

There were cloths stretched around to conceal the work scene from the surrounding.

Isaac and Havel didn't accompany Kazura, so the people in this place were Kazura, Zirconia, several escorts, servants, and the craftsmen in this place.

Since it was necessary to construct aqueducts for the hydroturbine generator at Nelson's mansion, Isaac and Havel were working at that task.

"Pierce the tip into the ground like this, then turn the handle and it will dig the ground. The dug up soil will be gathered at the tip, so after you dig to a certain extent, raise the well-digging auger and remove the soil. Keep repeat this step." (Kazura)

The small well-digging auger brought by Kazura was a T-shaped handle attached to a cylindrical container at its tip.

The container tips was a sharp edge shaped like opened bird's beak, if the handle is turned when it was pierced into the ground, then it will gouge the ground to dig it.

Because there was a valve inside of the container, the dug soil wouldn't flow back.

Since it was made from steel, unless they didn't apply too much force then its edge shouldn't break.

Although it wasn't able to pulverize large bedrock, if it was just a seam of a small stone, then it could crush the stone by exchanging the tip with a special blade fitting.

"If you keep digging throughout the day, I believe you will reach the brown sand layer where the poor quality water gushed out, but don't stop digging even when water comes out, but please continue to dig until it reached the layer where good quality gushed out. But if you hit the rock bed, stop digging and dig elsewhere." (Kazura)

The wells in the city of Isteria, not only turned up water that containing large amounts of iron content, which was called metallic water, but the amount of water also varies depending on the season.

There should be a groundwater water vein where good quality water could gush out more steadily in deeper depths, so the current hole digging work was to dig into that underground water vein.

However, because there was a thick bedrock under the ground, the objective was to

find a place to reach the underground water vein without hitting the bedrock.

If they couldn't find layer without a bedrock even after digging at many places, then there was no other way but to use the prepared ultrahard steel chisel to manually dig through the bedrock to secure the good quality water.

Since the existing wells had already reached the bedrock layer, he planned to distribute the chisel to the craftsmen and conduct the bedrock digging work in parallel.

Since it was currently a drought season, most of the well had dried out, so this was a good timing to perform the bedrock drilling work.

If he uses the gasoline-engine rock breaker then it would the work would be finished in the blink of an eye, but because the noise during the rock drilling was too extensively loud and so conspicuous, he didn't consider to use it inside the city.

When Kazura and Zirconia observed that the craftsmen who began their work, they moved to the next place with only the escort soldiers.

"Kazura-san, I apologize for losing my composure the other day, also I am grateful for medicine and cosmetics." (Zirconia)

Kazura walked alongside with Zirconia in the middle of the group, and then Zirconia started talking to him in low voice.

Perhaps Zirconia had been waiting for Kazura's reaction, she made an apologetic downcast look.

"No, it was my actions that caused the misunderstanding, I'm truly sorry for this. That... ended up gave you a frightening experience..." (Kazura)

"Ah, no! Since I misunderstanding of my own accord, it's not Kazura-san's fault! Since I' already alright, please don't be bothered with it too much." (Zirconia)

Kazura apologized and so Zirconia hurriedly made a follow-up response.

"I am thankful... Umm, did the medicine I gave effective?" (Kazura)

"Yes, it was truly a wonderful medicine. After drinking it, just one night passed and all

of the tiredness in my body had vanished. As one would expect from a medicine from the God's Realm." (Zirconia)

Zirconia answered with her usual gentle smile and Kazura felt relieved from the bottom of his heart.

Although he had seen her cheerful figure at the breakfast, he didn't have the confidence that they could normally converse like this again.

But looking from her current state, it seemed that he didn't need to worry anymore.

"That's good to hear. Are you pleased with the cosmetics as well?" (Kazura)

"Yes, after I applied it, my skin became so beautiful overnight, that I couldn't recognize myself. It is truly like a magic." (Zirconia)

When he looked closely at Zirconia's happy smiling face, certainly the skin felt more firm and moist than before.

Perhaps because the effects of shampoo and conditioner also began to appear, her hair also looked glossier and more beautiful than before.

"Since I still have some in hand, please inform me when the cosmetics are about to be used up. Also, please inform me immediately if your body felt unwell, since I'll give you that medicine again." (Kazura)

"Thank you very much. However, I will be careful to not overdo myself in the future, so please don't worry about me. But, perhaps... If you do not mind, I wish that you can share the medicine with Nelson and Isaac as well. Surely, they should be more tired than me..." (Zirconia)

Timidly Zirconia came forward with a suggestion, the greedy atmosphere that she had previously had completely disappeared.

Kazura didn't know what is happening on her, but recently he really felt that she held gratitude and attentiveness towards him.

This might be too meddling, but somehow after seeing how she was doing her best with her own power, he ended wanted to help her.

“I understand, I’ll give it to them after this.” (Kazura)

“Thank you very much. Since Nelson doesn’t know the medicine’s effectiveness, surely he would be surprised.” (Zirconia)

Zirconia said this while smiling delightedly and Kazura smiled back and then he asked the question that had been bothering him since last night.

“By the way, you have caught three bandits who attacked Grisea Village before, right? Did you interrogate those bandits?” (Kazura)

“Yes, when Kazura headed back to the village, I interrogated them.” (Zirconia)

“So Zirconia-san personally interrogated them... What kind of thing had you heard from them?” (Kazura)

Kazura asked and Zirconia thought for a while as if to recall it before she opened her mouth to reply.

“*Etto*, I heard about the details of the crime they had committed so far. Since it matched the content of the other damages recorded in the documents, it seemed that they had confessed honestly without lying.” (Zirconia)

“So they habitually attacked people... Did they told anything else?” (Kazura)

When Kazura continued to inquire, after a while, Zirconia made a sidelong gaze at Kazura.

That gaze was trying to infer Kazura’s expression.

“About that... they said that the villagers of Grisea Village were strong like a monster...” (Zirconia)

“...Like a monster?” (Kazura)

When Kazura murmured like this, Zirconia looked at Kazura’s face with a panicked expression.

“Ah, no, it doesn’t mean that I intend to treat the people in Grisea Village differently! As for the blessing of strength, only Naruson who knows about it besides me... Ah, Eira

also knows this..... Then I should have properly conveyed the content of the interrogation... I apology for not saying anything..." (Zirconia)

"No, it's alright. Please don't mind it." (Kazura)

While calming Zirconia who was ruefully apologizing, Kazura felt relieved.

He didn't know how much had Zirconia aware of the villagers' strength, but at least if she knew about it then she would like to utilize it.

From her words [Blessing of Strength] , perhaps she didn't aware that the strength was gained from the continuous consumption of the food.

He also thought that she would appeal to him to give them that strength too, but there was no sign that she would do this at all.

She was nothing but modest and this was an unexpected response for Kazura.

"So where are those bandits now? Are they being imprisoned in a gaol somewhere?" (Kazura)

"No, they were executed immediately after the interrogation. Their heads were displayed on the South Gate exit, but soon might be the right time to collect them." (Zirconia)

"..." (Kazura)

"Because they had honestly confessed about their past deed, I decided to punish with the least pain,... *ano*, I wonder if I should have consulted about the execution method too?" (Zirconia)

"N-no, it's alright. I see, so they were decapitated..." (Kazura)

Although Kazura was at a loss for words from this sudden dreadful information, he could understand that this was natural for this world.

Though he thought that the bandits weren't given any trial if they were executed immediately after interrogation, but there might be no need to try each and every bandit.

While Kazura shuddered at this difference with his own world, he shifted the topic of the conversation into a harmless and peaceful one.

Chapter 94

Phalanx and Lead Bullet

Three days later, morning.

After finished with his breakfast, Kazura was guided by Lieze to a military facility inside Isteria City.

This military facility was surrounded by a 3 meters high stone wall, so the people outside couldn't peek at the inside.

Inside the facility premise, there were many armored soldiers and servants.

When they saw Lieze, they straightened their postures and bowed down to greet her.

"Every soldiers except for the guards are training at this facility. At this hour, they should have been practicing in the yard, so shall we take a look?" (Lieze)

While replying the soldiers with a smile, Lieze brought Kazura further inside.

Lieze herself was wearing an armor, but for today, her hairstyle wasn't in a chignon^[1] as she let her long hair flowing down her back like her she usually did.

"Yes, please. Even so, this place is a rather big facility..." (Kazura)

Kazura previously had a rough look at the facility from the outside, but the stone wall had a considerable length as if it extended all the way.

He was wondering if a military facilities this huge inside the city won't become a major obstacle from the city traffic point of view.

However, for the soldiers staying in it, this place was a good location where they always could sally forth to the city, so perhaps this arrangement also takes the soldiers living environment into the consideration.

Perhaps they were targeting the soldiers, there were many shops like small restaurant

or clothing stores lined up around the facility.

“Since this facility is modeled after the Army Fortress on wartime, it has considerable size. If war actually happened, there will be many facilities about this size constructed on the front lines.” (Lieze)

“The same size like this? It’s as if you are constructing a city.” ^[2](Kazura)

Inside the facility’s premises, there were numerous wooden one-storied buildings lined at regular intervals.

Each building covered a wide-ranged different purpose, such as barracks, armory, hospitals, or granary.

Perhaps to protect against vermin, the granary’s floor was constructed 1 meter above the ground.

Also, there were several wooden watchtowers alongside the stone walls, which gave the facility a rather tight security impression.

“Yes, it indeed feels like that. When it’s winter, neither enemies nor allies able to move, furthermore, the fort on the front are constructed facing each other, so they will pass the winter there. Though in a real fort, they wouldn’t be stonewalled like this but will use earthen walls or wood palisades.” (Lieze)

“I see, since it’s a temporary residence limited to the winter season, is it?” (Kazura)

According to Lieze's explanation, a fort like this place will be constructed as near as possible to the largest river.

Though obtaining water for daily necessities was one of their objectives, they also could establish a line of communication with the other cities by using ships.

Since rivers transport is far less expensive than land transport, if they could construct an encampment in a place that could be reached by ships, it would also make the transportation of goods easier.

If there are villages or towns nearby, they would build a fort close to it.

“By the way, I had heard about a fort construction near the border with Balviel, but is

that fortress constructed differently from this fort?" (Kazura)

"Although not completely different, the fortress near the border is much larger than this fort. It also furnished with city services for the stationed army, so rather than a fortress, it might be more accurate to refer it as a fortified city." (Lieze)

"Fortified city... So it is like a smaller version of Isteria City?" (Kazura)

"Yes, I think that that impression is not wrong." (Lieze)

While having a conversation like this as they walked, the two arrived at the training ground.

The training grounds was quite large and covered with bare earth.

On the center, there were several hundreds of Heavy Infantry soldiers standing in rows with gaps of equal interval.

The soldiers were holding a 5 meters long spear and a bronze round shield on their arms.

There was a cord attached to their round shield, and they hold up the shield by the cord on the rims.

On the Heavy Infantry's side, there were Cavalry and Archers forming a line, each one appeared to be composed by 100 people.

In front of the soldiers, there was an elderly man wearing a fine armor and was talking towards the soldiers.

When the man noticed Lieze's presence, he ran towards her.

"We are waiting for you, Lieze-sama. Our preparation has already been completed, you may give out your instructions at any time." (Macgregor)

"Thank you, I'll be in your care today. Kazura-sama, this is McGregor, the training instructor." (Lieze)

When Lieze introduced him, McGregor turned towards Kazura and lowered his head.

McGregor was a man with grizzled blond hair, sharp eyes, and an impressive trimmed beard that grew from his temple until his chin, which really gave off an impression of a skilled old soldier.

His body was firmly muscled and his height was about 180 centimeters.

“Kazura-sama, it’s an honor to meet with you. My name is Macgregor Slan, the one in charge of supervising the military training.” (Macgregor)

“My name is Kazura. I will be counting on you today.” (Kazura)

Macgregor smiled at Kazura spontaneously reply

“I heard that Kazura-sama had helped my nephew Isaac in many ways. I hope that you will also do so in the future.” (Macgregor)

“Eh? By nephew, are the two of you related?” (Kazura)

“Oh, you are unaware of it?” (Macgregor)

Kazura made a surprised expression, so Macgregor found this to be unexpected.

Although Kazura had many opportunities to speak with Isaac until now, they always talked about work, and never had a chat or a personal conversation about Isaac himself.

“This is the first time I heard about it. Which reminds me, I have never had a talk with Isaac-san about something like this...” (Kazura)

“I see. Well, that boy is not someone who likes to talk much about his relatives after all... Because he dislikes getting a preferential treatment just because his relatives are holding a high position. It’s better not to touch this matter too much.” (Macgregor)

“I see, that’s so like him.” (Kazura)

“That boy is not really clever, but he is an honest man. Please let him be of use to you even in the future.” (Macgregor)

Macgregor once again lowered his head to Kazura and then he turned towards Lieze.

“Lieze-sama, for the first demonstration, how about the basic movement of the heavy Infantry?” (Macgregor)

“Yes, that won’t be a problem. Are the Cavalry and the Archer’s had finished with their preparation?” (Lieze)

“Of course. They are ready to perform anytime.” (Macgregor)

“Thank you. The details are like what we talked the other day, please.” (Lieze)

“I understand.” (Macgregor)

After Macgregor gave a bow to Lieze, he ran to the lined up soldiers.

“Umm, is by some chance this military training has been deliberately arranged for my sake?” (Kazura)

“Yes, if you want to see to do an observation, then I would like you to see it in its proper form. Please tell me if you have a request. I will prepare for it immediately.” (Lieze)

“I understand. I am sorry since I seem to have been increasing Lieze-san’s share of work...” (Kazura)

Kazura said this while feeling grateful to Lieze who just smiles like she usually does.

“No I’m fine. If it can be useful Kazura-sama, I feel no hardship at all. Please don’t hesitate to request something from me anytime.” (Lieze)

“Infantry Company!” (Macgregor)

While those two were talking, the soldiers seemed to be finished with their preparation, and so Macgregor’s order resounded throughout the training ground.

His voice was really loud that it could even be heard clearly at the edge of the training ground.

The Heavy Infantries reply with a simultaneous loud yell and prop their round shield in front of their body.

The blunt metallic sounds when the round shield hitting their armor reverberated in

the surroundings.

“Close Formation!” (Macgregor)

The Heavily Infantry quickly closed their distance to each other and form a regularly aligned close formation.

There was a space about 1 meter in front of and behind each soldier, but on their left and right side, the gaps were only wide enough to prop a spear.

“Prepare Spear!” (Macgregor)

The soldiers in the front row raised the spear they held in the left hand and pointed the spear horizontally forward.

Those in the rear row held their spear forward between the gaps, while those behind them held their spear obliquely upward.

In addition, the soldiers in lines behind them also held their spear obliquely upward, but with an even steeper angle.

“Oh, a Phalanx formation. This is the first time I see it live...” (Kazura)

At the impressive sight of hundreds of soldiers form battle formation all at once, Kazura spoke out his admiration.

The formation that the soldiers take is a Phalanx formation... the term for a Heavy Infantry close formation^[3], a battle formation that concentrates the offensive to the front.

With a mass of spears protruding forward, it boasts overwhelming strength against anything in front of them.

Accordingly, it is extremely fragile to an attack from its left or right, and so in this formation, it is indispensable for its flank to be protected by any means.

“Compared to other provinces or countries, the spear that the Isterian Heavy Infantry carry is really long, so this might be a novel one. Is this quite different from the spear in Kazura-sama’s country?” (Lize)

“Umm... well, I guess it's..... different...” (Kazura)

While Kazura's faltering at Lieze's question, Macgregor's order “Forward!” could be heard.

While still holding their spear in position, the soldiers started to walk forward without any lines become disordered.

And after they had advanced to some extent, another command was given, and the soldiers stopped their advance.

“Raise Spear! Right Turn!” (Macgregor)

The soldiers instantly hold their spears upward and turned right about face around on the spot.

Once more, “Prepare Spear!” order was given, and a Phalanx formation towards the right side of their previous attacking direction was completed.

“They are well-trained... Their movement is flawless.” (Kazura)

“It's because the regular Heavy Infantry is the army's main force. So that they could maintain their high-level of skill, they never fail to conduct a constant training.” (Lieze)

“How will these units operate in an actual battle?” (Kazura)

“Normally, the Light Infantry and Cavalry will be positioned beside the Heavy Infantry, to prepare against the attacks from the flanks. The army then will advance in this formation, the infantries will try to nail enemy's movement, while during this time, the cavalry will ride around to the enemy's rear and perform a pincer attack from the rear.” (Lieze)

“What in the case the cavalry couldn't break through the enemy?” (Kazura)

“The Heavy Infantry will crush the enemy's center and once the enemy starts to rout, the remaining Light Infantry and Cavalry will move to pursuit.” (Lieze)

“Then, what if it was the enemy's cavalry that attacks from the rear?” (Kazura)

“In that case, then the Reserve Unit including the Noble Guards stationed behind the

Heavy Infantry will counter attack the,. Since the Reserve Unit is the army's most elite units, as long as the rear attack was that overwhelming, the attacks won't be able to break through." (Lieze)

While keeping her attention on the Heavy Infantry who was advancing in an orderly manner, Lieze smoothly answered Kazura's question.

After that, the two of them were discussing how the military units operate, until the Heavy Infantry went around the training ground and returned to their original position.

The cavalry that had been in standby up until that point, then deployed themselves on the Heavy Infantry sides, while the Archers line up in front of the Heavy Infantry.

Then with an order, the archers held their bow and began shooting at the straw targets standing in the front of them

Perhaps because he had finished giving orders to the troops, Macgregor once again walked towards Kazura and Lieze.

"In the beginning, it will be a shooting battle using bows and then the infantry will advance afterward, correct?" (Kazura)

"Yes, actually, the slingers will also launch an attack together, after that the Light Infantry equipped with javelins will move forward, but those soldiers are only composed of conscript... If only we could have a demonstration of it, but..." (Lieze)

Perhaps she judged that Kazura doesn't have any military knowledge, Lieze carefully explained how the military units operate.

Actually, Kazura's knowledge about the army that he was looking right now was only to the extent of what he read or saw from the books or television, so he was really grateful for Lieze's explanation.

"Slingers? I want to see what they can do... Even so, Lieze-san is really well-informed about the military. Is it because you had been studying every day?" (Kazura)

"Yes, in the future, I will be in a position to lead the army, so I have been learning how to use weapons and tactics since I was still a child." (Lieze)

“Ah, that’s why you are always training in the courtyard every morning.” (Kazura)

When Kazura talked with Lieze in the courtyard the other day, Lieze had said that [As a member of the Istelle House, I must know how to use a weapon].

In order to lead the army, she must be familiar with the use of every weapon used on the battlefield.

“Lieze-sama is naturally talented, so in the future, she will have great achievements on the battlefield as an excellent commander.” (Macgregor)

When Macgregor arrived at their side and stood next to Lieze while observing the soldiers who continued their training.

The archers had finished shooting, so the cavalry equipped with short spears was advancing forward.

The heavy infantry also began to move forward in Phalanx formation.

“I am not a that talented at all... Rather than that, I would like to show a sling to Kazura-sama, where we could try it?” (Lieze)

“There is a sling and a staff-sling for training. I will have them prepared right now, so please wait for a moment.” (Macgregor)

Macgregor lowered his head to Lieze and then went into nearby barracks.

“Is this place studying every weapon used on the battlefield?” (Kazura)

“Since it’s the Isteria Province. There are documents that summarized the past combat results in the reference room, would you like to take a look at it later?” (Lieze)

“I see, then I will accept that offer.” (Kazura)

Both of them were conversing like this when Macgregor returned from the barracks.

In his hand, there were a weapon with semicircular leather cup joined by two cords — a sling — and a weapon with a sling attached to a 1-meter long pole — a staff-sling —, while carrying big wooden board affixed with targets.

“Thank you for waiting. Would you to have a try, Lieze-sama?” (Macgregor)

“Eh?” (Lieze)

To that unexpected proposal, Lieze was confused.

However, when she took a quick look at Kazura who was observing the slings with great interest, she accepted a sling from Macgregor.

“Would you like to have stone bullets or lead bullets?” (Macgregor)

“I will have lead bullets. Could you prepare the targets?” (Lieze)

“Certainly. How much distance should I place it?” (Macgregor)

“At close range, please. I will have a straight shot.” (Lieze)

After McGregor handed over a cloth bag containing lead bullets to Lieze, he ran for 30 meters before stopping and placing the targets on the ground.

“You can use a sling, too?” (Kazura)

“Yes, I have trained with it for a while. However, it’s been a long time, so I don’t know if it will hit... Since it could be dangerous, please stand slightly away.” (Lieze)

Lieze put a lead bullet on the sling’s cup and started to rotate the sling over her head with one hand.

The cup loaded with lead bullet begins to rotate with intense force and it produced sound as it cut through the air.

When the rotation speed reached the limit, Lieze released one of the cord from her grasp and the lead bullet was launched at a great speed.

The lead bullet hit the center of the target and created a harsh sound as if the wood burst.

“Well done!” (Macgregor)

With a satisfied expression, Macgregor clapped his hand and gave his praise.

Then the hundreds of soldiers who should have been training in the ground, clapped their hand and cheered for Lieze.

It seemed that before Kazura's group realized, the soldiers had stopped training and was watching her.

"Oh, you hit it right in the center! Even though it's that far, you have a clean hit..."
(Kazura)

"Ah, I see. Lieze-sama is a hard worker, after all. Lieze-sama should be constantly training secretly on a place other people couldn't see." (Macgregor)

"...McGregor." (Lieze)

"Please excuse my slip of tongue." (Macgregor)

The relieved Lieze gave Macgregor a scowl, Macgregor made a fake apology while laughing.

"(...What with that "I see"?)" (Kazura)

Even though he was confused by that incomprehensible exchange, Kazura also applauded Lieze.

Chapter 95

The Scene We Saw That Day

5 days later. Evening.

Kazura was on board a carriage with the armor-wearing Zirconia and was traveling through the Isterian farm fields while watching the passing scenery.

The carriage that both of them was boarding on was a stagecoach-type carriage with covered roof.

At the front, Isaac and Havel were riding their Rata while guiding the carriage.

Following behind the carriage was the Second Corps of Noble Guards who were also on Rata's back.

"About the glass that you have given to us, the merchants had said that even the smallest one has a sales value of 20,000 Ar. If that many amounts of glass appear on the market, then it will be inevitable that it will attract attention." (Zirconia)

"Hmm... Does the mined glass from the mine that rare?" (Kazura)

"The ones that similar to what Kazura-san had given to us are extremely rare. Although the northwest mountain region also yield obsidian, however, there are few finding of a beautiful one like Kazura-san's." (Zirconia)

A few days ago, Kazura handed several glass beads that he burned in his room to Zirconia and Nelson.

He had asked them to investigate the selling price and sales route, but as expected, it will be inevitable that it will attract attention.

"Is that so... Then, there are hardly any means to sell it without attracting attention, is it?" (Kazura)

"I think that there is a way to sell it if it is not through a legitimate distribution.

However, for a merchant who can deal with that kind of amount... It might be possible if they are merchants who deal with stolen goods. But, since Isteria Province had severe crackdown of this activity, I believe that there hardly any merchants like these left in the Province.” (Zirconia)

“Hm, I see. So this means that shop will be quite important.” (Kazura)

“Do you have a place in mind?” (Zirconia)

Zirconia looked surprised at Kazura’s words.

It was unexpected that the always busy and moving around Kazura had this kind of connection.

The fact that he had a connection with a store that sells stolen merchandise itself was unthinkable considering his standing.

“Yes, I only know one store who seemed to be that way. I think that perhaps we can make use of it.” (Kazura)

“Is that so. Then let's visit that shop together. If you mention Istelle family name and order a transaction in exchange for their safety, that merchant will have no choice but to comply.” (Zirconia)

“Ah, no, if we pressured them too much, then it will cause them to run away or any bad idea, so let's do this in a quiet way.” (Kazura)

Zirconia proposed a high handed measure, so Kazura quickly proposed a counterproposal.

If he ordered the merchant to cooperate in exchange for their safety, they will certainly be nodding on the spot.

But then there is a high possibility that they will go into hiding, or leaking everything about the proposal to third party as an act of revenge.

“Since I am asking the other party to sell the glass in secret, I believed that unless we give some profit to them, they wouldn’t move like we wanted to. I believe that we need to prepare some reward.” (Kazura)

“I see, that is indeed true. I have never done a tactical move like this...” (Zirconia)

Zirconia nodded as if she was convinced by Kazura’s proposal.

Rather than threatening them to obey, it is easier to give them bait so that they are easy to handle in the future.

As long as we give them sweet juice to suck on^[1], they would obey whatever we say.

However, they must be careful to not let the merchant get conceited by this.

“Anyway, how did Kazura get acquainted with such a person? I believe that Kazura-san usually don’t have much opportunity to go to the town by yourself.” (Zirconia)

“Umm... Well, it’s a long story.” (Kazura)

While chatting about this topics, the carriage arrived at the planned farming land outside the farmlands area.

A well had already been dug there. Its entire outer frame and its inner surface, too, were reinforced with wooden boards.

When Kazura and Zirconia alighted from the carriage, Isaac and Havel also dismounted from their Rata and ran towards them.

“Well, let’s drill through the bedrock immediately. Isaac-san, please hold this.” (Kazura)

Kazura took out the gasoline-powered engine rock breaker that was placed on the corner of the carriage and handed it over to Isaac.

After that, he placed a gasoline-powered electric generator and an air compressor that he had brought from the mansion beside the well.

He equipped the safety goggles and a respirator dust mask, while a yellow helmet with the words [Safety First] was covering his head.

After he wore gloves and put cloth towel on his neck, his preparation was complete.^[2]

“Take care, it will going to be quite loud.” (Kazura)

After Kazura gave a warning, he turned on the generator.

Instantly, the generator engine started to produce a loud sound that could even vibrate one's stomach.

Even when they heard the operating sound from the generator, the Noble Guards didn't alter their expression at all.

Kazura thought that they would be surprised, even for a bit, but perhaps it was because they were elite soldiers or something like that?

Kazura connected the air compressor with the generator and lowered the ventilation hose into the well.

The current well depth was about 7 meters so he shouldn't worry about oxygen deficiency, but when the digging close to 10 meters deep, there might be a possibility of oxygen deficiency if he didn't use the air compressor.

For a deep drilling work, the use of a ventilator is indispensable.

By the way, the hydro turbine generator in the mansion was already functioning.

Just this morning, the water channel and the aqueduct in front of Kazura's room were finished, and so the power for the electric appliances that was used inside the room had already been provided by the newly operating hydro turbine generator.

"Then, I will go down below first. Afterward please lower this rock breaker with a rope." (Kazura)

"I understand." (Isaac)

"Please tie the rope tightly. It will be not funny if this falls into my head." (Kazura)

While making sure Isaac understand, Kazura went down to the bottom of the well, using the rope ladder hung on the well.

The bottom of the well had a combination of heated air from the blazing sun and the moisture from the soil, so it was considerably hot and humid.

Under his feet was the surface of the bedrock, but it was mixed with mud at several

places.

“I will lower it down!” (Isaac)

“Please do it little by little and slowly!” (Kazura)

Kazura received the rock breaker that had been slowly lowered and unravel the rope binding it.

He pressed the rock breaker’s chisel against the bedrock and gripped the handle firmly with both of his hands.

“Alright, let’s do this! I wonder how long it will take...” (Kazura)

Kazura talked to himself while turning on the rock breaker.



Four hours later.

After repeating putting the bedrock fragments and mud in the rope-attached bucket for dozens of times, Kazura had dug he nearby bedrock for almost 2 meters deep.

The rock was very hard, and even to dig through it needs quite a lot of effort.

Although he had taken break several times midway, Kazura’s back was painful and his fatigue had reached the limits from the unfamiliar work.

More than anything, due to the vibration of the rock breaker, he his hands went numb.

Just when he started to consider about stopping for today, he noticed that cool air was rising from underneath him.

“Hmm? Somehow the air feels cool... Perhaps water will soon appear.” (Kazura)

In the history book of well-digging he had brought from Japan, it was written that as one approach the water vein, the sound of the rock drilling machine will suddenly change accompanied by a waft of cool air.

He didn’t notice it since he was half-dazed while drilling the rock, but when he tried

to remember, he felt that there was indeed a slight change in the sound.

After he put his mind together, Kazura turned on the rock breaker again and resumed the rock drilling.

“Hmm... Oh, it indeed becomes cooler!” (Kazura)

As the rock drilling sound changed into a high-pitched sound, his surroundings became cooler as if when opening the refrigerator door.

At the same time, water gradually seeped out from the bedrock.

Kazura, who saw the water, suddenly regained his energy and joyfully committing himself in drilling the rock.

Soon, from the cracked bedrock spaces, a bluish fine sand layer could be seen.

Then, without delay, a trickle of water gushed forth above the sand layer.

“Oh, so this is the [sea sand]. It is indeed looked like the sand on a beach.” (Kazura)

Then after he broken the rock and opening a 10 cm wide hole, water steadily gushed out.

Kazura turned off the rock breaker and breathed a sigh of relief, then he threw the stone fragments scattered under his feet into the bucket.



“Yes like that, lower it slowly just like that... Alright, that's fine.” (Kazura)

Tens of minutes later.

Kazura, who came out from the well, ordered Isaac and Havel as they installed a hand pump above the well.

The wooden board base where the hand pump was placed was installed in such way that it served as the well cover.

“Alright, after we fix it with bolts, it will be completed.” (Kazura)

Using an impact driver^[3], the well's frame and the base were firmly fixed with bolts.

Putting the primer water into the pump, he gripped the pump handle and moving it up and down repeatedly.

After he repeated this for a while, muddy water flowed out from the discharge pipe of the pump.

It seemed that for this depth, there will be no problem in drawing the water up.

"Amazing... If the water can be drawn this easily, it will greatly ease the peasants' work." (Zirconia)

Zirconia shouted her admiration when she saw how the water was discharged with great force from the pump.

Since Zirconia had said that she was formerly a peasant, she should understand the painful labor of drawing water.

Even the Noble Guards, who were guarding the surroundings, leaked out a small "Wow" at this sight.

It seemed that rather than the electric generators or the air compressors, the sight of water coming out from the hand pump was more astonishing.

"Since work efficiency is totally different from drawing the water from a well with a bucket. It also doesn't require much power, that even a woman can easily draw the water." (Kazura)

"A-ano, could I also try it?" (Zirconia)

"Please do." (Kazura)

Kazura gave the go-ahead to Zirconia who slowly moved to where Kazura was standing before and started to pull the handle.

At the same moment, water was vigorously flowed out from the discharge port.

Seeing how a large amount of water was flowing out from the pipe according to her hand movement, Zirconia leaked out a wow.

Her eyes were glistening like a child who had been given a toy they saw for the first time and it seemed that she really enjoyed this.

“Oh, the mud in the water is gone... Yup, this is fresh water.” (Kazura)

Kazura, who had been dripping with sweat due to rock drilling for a long time, gulped the water with both of his hand and put his head under the water.

The water that came from underneath the bedrock was very cold, so it felt good for Kazura’s hot body.

“Since we have this pump, everyone might try playing with the water as well. The cold water feels nice.” (Kazura)

“Since I will pump it, everyone else can play.” (Zirconia)

“Zirconia-sama, I will do it. Therefore, Zirconia-sama, please have a try too.” (Isaac)

“Isaac-sama, I will pump it, so please take a break first.” (Havel)

“No, Havel, you should be tired too. I will do it, so play with water and take a rest ahead of me.” (Isaac)

“If it only pumping the pump, then it isn’t tiring at all. Since I am in the lower position, please leave this to me.” (Havel)

“Isaac-sama, Havel-sama, we will perform that duty, so please play with the water with everyone else. Now please, Zirconia-sama...” (Noble Guard)

“You do not need to be that concerned about me. I will do it, so please play with the water with everyone else.” (Zirconia)

“No, we can’t possibly let Zirconia-sama perform something like that.” (Isaac)

“Zirconia-sama, let me do it.” (Havel)

“No, I will.” (Noble Guard)

“That’s fine! Since I will be the one who doing it!” (Zirconia)

“Won’t it be better if everyone pumps it in turn instead...?” (Kazura)

Kazura smiled wryly at the scene of Zirconia and the others, who started scrambling for the handles for some reason, while being relieved that it was good quality water that flowed from the pump.



After that, everyone spent about 30 minutes merrying around the well and as the sun began to descend, they decided to return to the city.

Starting with Kazura, everyone was playing with the water, so everyone is soaked from the top of the head to their foot toes.

Because there hadn’t been any rain, the air was pretty dry, so they should be dried up before they arrived at the city.

“With this pace, we should be able to set water pump at one well each day. So on tomorrow too, let us continue this rock drilling operation for a while.” (Kazura)

They had asked well diggers to dig similar wells around the farmlands region.

Since Kazura knew that water will gush forth if he digs the bedrock to a certain depth, for the next time, he would just repeat what he had done today.

“However, since hand pump mass production couldn’t be completed in time, let’s use a well ^{shaduf} pole until the mass production can begin.^[4] The work efficiency is considerably lower compared with the hand pump, but it should be far easier to draw water with it compared to a rope-tied bucket.” (Kazura)

A well pole or shaduf is a tool with a long pole in the center of a base, which brings up water from the well with a seesaw-like movement.

On the well-side of the rod, there is a rope and water bucket attached to it, while on the other end there was a counterweight.

Because of the counterweight, it was easier to pull the water bucket up, so the burden on workers would be considerably reduced.

The hand pump installed earlier was removed from the base, retrieved, and once again placed on the corner of the carriage.

Kazura planned that the newly cultivated farmlands will use the hand pump that will be mass-produced in the future.

The two hand pumps he brought from Japan will be handed over to the craftsmen later and will be used as a sample for analysis, and identifying how it works.

“If we can secure well water, then you can sow bread wheat or Rata wheat, right?”
(Kazura)

“If we can use the well rod that you informed us earlier, then the range of farming will be limited but we can do it with a smaller number of people than before. Because of the water mill installed in the farmlands, we have a spare manpower, so we can put these people to cultivate the new farmland.” (Zirconia)

While wiping her wet hair with a towel, Zirconia answered while smiling gently.

Although her mood was terribly high from the astonishment when saw the hand pump performance earlier, right now it had returned to her usual calm demeanor.

Perhaps because the others felt that they were too get caught in the moment, when they moved away from the well they looked a bit embarrassed.

“That’s great. Then let’s expand the farmland as much as possible for the moment. I will entrust the procurement necessary manpower to you.” (Kazura)

“I understand. I will instruct the officials to make preparation.” (Zirconia)

“Also, from tomorrow, I will ask Isaac-san and Havel-san to also help me and have them familiarize with the usage of the rock breaker that I had used. After we can entrust the well digging to both of them, let us go to the northwest mountainous region to find a place to build a pond. Soon we have to start building the ice house.” (Kazura)

As with the development of new agricultural land, reservoir ponds and ice houses for ice production also have to be built before winter comes.

Although he didn’t know how useful the ice house will be, considering the history of Japan's ice house, it should not be a useless attempt.

“I am familiar with the geography of that area, so I can help you. On that day, I will be your guide.” (Zirconia)

“Oh, that is reassuring. We need a flat location near a river, so is there a location like that?” (Kazura)

“Let’s see... There is a village halfway up the mountain and not far from it there is a river. Because there are farm fields no longer put in use there, we may be able to use it.” (Zirconia)

“That is a good location. Then let’s try to go look at it.” (Kazura)

If it was farm fields near the river, it should be a suitable location to transport the water.

Even if they couldn’t dig canal directly, as long as they connected a waterwheel or hand pump to an aqueduct, they should be able to draw water into the field.

“Also, I’m sorry to ask so a lot of work from you, but I’d like you to gather 20 to 30 carpenters and blacksmiths by any means since I wanted to produce a machine for log sawing and metal forging that I had informed you before.” (Kazura)

“Do we need that large amount of people... The craftsmen already had a mountain of tasks, so whether or not it is possible to gather them, is doubtful...” (Zirconia)

Zirconia frowned uneasily at the large number of people that Kazura asked.

Kazura also understood very well how the craftsmen’s busy situation, but as things were at this point of time, they wouldn’t be able to work on producing machine no matter how long they waited.

Though he felt sorry for the people who had put their orders on the craftsmen, for the future’s sake, he had no other choice but to prioritize employing the craftsmen before them.

“I think that the production will be temporarily delayed, but when those machines are completed, the production efficiency should rise to the extent that it will be balanced out afterward. Even if we have to put stop every other production, we have to put machine production as the highest priority.” (Kazura)

“...I understand. I will try to gather them one way or another. We should ask for Lieze’s cooperation too.” (Zirconia)

“That’s right. If we can get her help then it will go smoothly.” (Kazura)

For the past five days, Lieze was always at Kazura’s side and helped him in his work.

He had visited the craftsmen's workshops a couple of times, but if he left the negotiations to Lieze, the craftsmen will accept the job without making a reluctant face, which saved Kazura a lot of trouble.

Even in the negotiation that will be needed for this plan could progress well if it is entrusted to her.

Today Lieze should have a schedule for lecture and meeting with visiting guests, so she was in the mansion.

At this point in time, she should be in the middle of receiving a visiting noble or a wealthy merchant.

“Is Lieze that helpful?” (Zirconia)

“Yes, she helped me more than I could imagine! She is popular, working her best in her task, and properly take notice of her surroundings, there are no points to point fault at all. She is truly exceptional.” (Kazura)

Hearing Kazura praised Lieze like this, Zirconia smiled happily.

“Thank you very much. That girl seems to admire Kazura-san, so please keep her at your side from now on.” (Zirconia)

“Eh... sure...?” (Kazura)

Though he was somewhat curious at the Zirconia’s nuanced words, for the meantime, Kazura nodded at her words.

◇ ◇ ◇

“*sneeze*!” (Lieze)

“Oh, is it a cold? Even though it is summer, the evening will get cold... hmm, your hands will get a little cold. So, move slightly closer to me...” (???)

When Kazura and Zirconia were jolting around inside the carriage.

In the courtyard of Nelson’s mansion, Lieze was sitting on the bench alongside with a luxurious clothed middle-aged man.

The man's name is Nibel Ferdinand.

He was a merchant who came from the Gregorn territory.

“N-no, I’m fine... Or rather, the sun already sinking, so you should return back to home soon...” (Lieze)

Lieze answered saying while releasing her hand from Nibel's with a slightly cramped smile. After that, Nibel pounded his hand.

“Oh, you’re right. Let's have a dinner in a warm restaurant somewhere. The other day, I found a good place, so let’s head there today.” (Pedo)

“Uug-... I mean, no, rather, please let me treat you for today. We have hired an excellent chef, so they will quickly prepare the meal.” (Lieze)

At Nibel’s remarks who completely disregarded the second-half of her words, Lieze felt the danger to her safety and then immediately propose a counterproposal.

She didn’t have a single inkling about what kind of shop he would take her to, but she didn’t want to know for what reason he was brazenly trying to make her accompany him.

“No, no, until now, I have been treated so many times by Lieze-sama, so please let me be the one who treats once in a while. Now, let us go.” (Pedo)

“No need, because I will treat you.” (Lieze)

“Please don’t say something like that, please think of my position. To attend a dinner in this kind of attire, will be impolite.” (Pedo)

“Please don’t worry about it. Furthermore, the skill of the cook who we hired this year

is truly amazing, so I wanted Nibel to eat the dish once again no matter what.” (Lieve)

“Oh, is that so? Then, please invite me to that feast next time. Now, let’s go.” (Pedo)

“No! Today’s ingredients are also the best quality! So please let me prepare a feast for you!!” (Lieve)

“But...” (Pedo)

“Someone~! Please bring the chef here~!!” (Lieve)

After this, both of them continued this dispute for quite some time.



PDF by: traitorAZEN