

勇者を倒すために 魔王に召喚されました

Takeru Nezaki
根崎タケル
illustration
TEDDY

魔王に召喚されました

勇者を倒すために

Tale of Dark Knight
~Summoned to Defeat The Hero~

– Ankoku Kishi Monogatari –

- Volume 1 -
The Enigmatic Dark Knight

-Author-
Nezaki Takeru

-Illustrator-
Nishieda

[Cnine (wordexcerpt)]

- STORY -

This is the tale of a protagonist who was summoned to protect the demon king from the hero.

Kuroki was suddenly summoned to another world. The one who summoned him was the demon king, Modes. And, the territory currently ruled by the demon king was on the verge of destruction because of the hero.

The demon king Modes, possessing an atrocious appearance, bows toward Kuroki.

“PLEASE SAVE US, SAVIOR-DONO!!”

Kuroki then decides to save the demon king due to some turn of events.

//// 暗黒騎士 ////

//// モデス ////

//// ティベル ////

//// クロキ ////

暗黒騎士物語

勇者を倒すために
魔王に召喚されました

THE DARK KNIGHT STORY
I was summoned by the Devil to kill the Brave.

CHARACTER



クロキ

勇者を倒すために魔王モデスに召喚された少年。自分に自信がないが、負けず嫌いで努力家。



暗黒騎士

クロキが漆黒の鎧を纏った姿。魔王軍最強の騎士。



レイジ

レーナによって召喚された勇者。女好きで、困っている美女を見ると助けずにはられない。



シロネ

クロキの幼馴染。レイジや仲間達と一緒に召喚された。



モデス

凶悪な外見で邪悪に見える魔王。見た目に反して性格は良い。



ティベル

クロキと行動を共にする闇小妖精。子供っぽい性格。



レーナ

凛としたお姫様のような絶世の美女。見た目に反して性格は極悪で狡猾。

Chapter 1

Summoned By the Demon King to Protect the Hero

Summoned Youth, Kuroki.

I was surrounded by a group of monsters when I opened my eyes.

To be honest I don't even know why and how this happened.

I was asleep, on the floor of a great hall with glowing letters written in a circle formation.

And then, these monsters were surrounding me, who just woke up, from all sides.

One with dog's face, one with bird-like shape, one with tentacles, one with just big eyes, though a minority of them are shaped like humans, most looked from from human.

Should I scream out of extreme fear at this point?

But if I do, I won't understand why this happened, I need to resolve it myself.

Could it be that I'm unable to think due to this extremely unlikely scenario ?

It seems the monsters don't want to approach me and are just surrounding me from the distance.

They're only looking at me from where they're standing.

As expected, in the current situation, I'll definitely scream if they close distance between us.

But, I regained a bit of my composure as they're not any closer.

Where might this place be?

My memories before coming to this place, they are quite blurry right now.

One thing's for sure at least, I'm not in my own room back in Japan.

Why am I in this place?

This could be a dream.....

But, I know that this is not a dream as I can clearly feel the sensation of the cold floor.

If this is not a dream, what kind of place is this, Hell?

If that was so, I'm already dead, right.

There are way too many things flying around inside of my brain.

"How wonderful , our savior has arrived!!"

A voice suddenly come from the platform diagonally overhead.

Savior? Is he talking about Me?

Those words are obviously about me.

I quickly turned towards the direction of the voice. In my surroundings, which is surrounded by monster, there's a crevice in the middle in which there are no monsters.

I can feel that there's something inside that darkness.

After straining my eyes to look at that place, there was a big monster.

Why could I see it clearly despite such darkness around me?

That monster is clearly different from the rest of the monsters surrounding me, as even I can feel its mighty power.

Its form is similar to that of a huge pig standing with both of it's rear legs[bipedal]. It has tusks coming out from its lower mouth and a big horn on its head. Its nose was blowing what looked like black flames from its nostrils.

It wore a jet-black robe without even trying to hide its violent presence.

This huge monster is approaching towards my direction.

It then bowed its head in front of me.

“Our name is Modes. The one who’s called as demon king. And then, the one who’s ruling this land called Nargol. May I hear your name, savior-dono?”

The monster who is calling himself as the demon king brought his face closer to my own.

“Ah..... Yes, It’s Kuroki..... Yukisaki..... Kuroki”

I unintentionally answered honestly due to the vigor of the demon king.

“Ooh, so you’re called Kuroki-dono huh! ! Please Kuroki-dono! Please save this Modes”

Modes is again bowing his head towards me.

The big monster, who seemingly can easily kill me, is bowing his head for me.

This is becoming harder and harder to understand.

“Uhm, I’m sorry..... I don’t understand what do you mean..... Why do I have to save you?”

I asked timidly.

“Ooh. You’re right..... You won’t be able to understand even if I’m asking you to save us after suddenly being summoned”

Modes is raising his face and begins his explanation with a slightly warped face.

“The truth is, currently, this Nargol which is governed by this Modes is facing an invasion”

“Invasion?”

“Yes, invasion. It’s because of the hero who was summoned from the spirit world by

the goddess of Elios, Rena..... She's not satisfied with just banishing me from the land of Elios, she even wants to snatch my treasure....."

Modes is saying that with sad expression.

And then, an eerie smile appears on his face as he looks at me again.

"I want to make a request to Kuroki-dono to fight and defeat that hero"

Hero he says..... It's a word which I've never heard of except in games and manga.

"Hero....."

"Yup, hero. The brave and heroes of this world are no match for this Modes. That's why Rena summoned the hero from the world of spirit"

Hearing Modes' story, my feeling is like "What the heck is that".

Hero from another world, just like the story from the fantasy novel which I read long time ago.

If I remember it correctly, it was the story of a boy who lived in the modern era of Japan who was summoned by the goddess to defeat the demon king.

But, my situation is the exact opposite of that.

Somehow I was being summoned to this world by Modes, who proclaimed himself as the demon king, to defeat the hero.

Being summoned by the demon king to fight against the hero.....

Isn't that something a villain would do.....

"Let me show to you how that hero looks like, Kuroki-dono. Mona! !"

A woman is coming out from amongst the monsters after being called by Modes.

When I saw her, I felt as if the world came to halt.

She was an extremely beautiful woman.

Her beautiful and silky black hair was down to her waist.

Looking from the side, she had an extremely well ordered face.

My eyes are captivated by the rich bulge of her breasts.

The silhouette of her slightly transparent white robe made me sure that she has a well proportioned body.

I can't stop looking at this beauty.

Being surrounded by such ugly monsters, I saw her as a shining star.

I can't take my eyes off from that woman.

“What do you think, Kuroki-dono, she's beautiful right. Her name is Mona. She's my beloved wife. Mona, please greet Kuroki-dono”

Modes is proudly introducing the woman called Mona.

I received a tremendous shock.

How could have this earth shattering beauty become the wife of Modes.

She and Modes are basically beauty and the beast. To be honest I'm envious of him.

“It's a pleasure to meet you Kuroki-sama, my name is Mona. Please treat me well after this”

Mona's greeting while smiling at me.

Her smile is completely resembling that of cherry blossom petals.

I'm unintentionally charmed by her smile.

“Mona, show the figure of the hero to Kuroki-dono with your magical power”

“Yes, honey”

Mona's muttering something as she spreads both of her hands

Thereupon, some sort of glittering image is being displayed high in the sky.

Something was shown in there.

Large amount of monsters are rushing to attacking mere few humans.

But, despite few in numbers, the human side is far more superior.

After I'm taking a good look at them, I can see they're youth around my age. No matter how you look at them, their age is no more than 20 years.

Their party is made up of one man amongst 5 women.

The man is brandishing his shining sword to fight against the monsters. His truly knight-like appearance is something out of a fantasy story.

Even the appearance of the girl who's coming out afterward is fantasy-esque.

One of the woman has a swordsman-like appearance, three other women have a magician-like appearance, the last one has a ninja-like appearance.

They, along with the man, are once again displaying overwhelming power in the battle against the monsters.

"Kuroki-dono, that one in the midst of those women is the hero, Reiji"

Modes is pointing at the only man who's fighting as the center of those people. Thereupon, the image of the man in the center if being enlarged.

"What the..... That guy..... You say his name is Reiji....."

I unintentionally mutter such words when I saw that man.

It was the face that I knew. Moreover, I was familiar with his name too.

Midou Reiji. Nickname, Reiji.

That is his name.

He was someone that I preferred not to remember about.

I take a look at the women behind him. Their faces are also familiar.

Though they are a bit different from the ones in my memories, I won't mistake them for someone else.

A woman with long and beautiful black hair wearing magician-like attire, Mizuouji Chiyuki.

Behind her, the brunette woman who wears a white robe, Yoshino Sahoko.

The twin tailed girl who shooting fire from her hands, Sasaki Rino.

The girl with bob cut who's vigorously swinging around her short sword toward the surroundings, Todoroki Naomi.

And then, the swordslady who does her long hair in ponytail is my childhood friend, Akamine Shirone.

Everyone of them were famous beauties who were attending Kayou high.

And, those girl and Reiji were supposed to be missing.

Those guys are fighting inside of that image.

Chapter 2

Childhood Friend and Hero of Light

The Youth Who's Summoned By The Demon King, Kuroki.

Why is Reiji in this place?

And why did he become a hero?

And why is my childhood friend Shirone in there too?

I'm completely unable to understand the situation.

But, I'm glad to know that Shirone is alive.

These were my thoughts when I saw that image.

As for the reason, it's because Reiji current whereabouts are unknown.

Shirone went to play in Reiji villa right after the summer holiday had begun.

And then vanished just like that.

They even mobilized a search party for them. In addition, I also went to that villa in order to look for Shirone.

But, I've no memories of what happened afterward. What happened to me.

"But, thank god..... Shirone is safe and sound....."

I'm muttered in a low voice.

Me and Shirone have been acquaintances since as long as I can remember because our parents were always close with each other.

And then, our relationship goes on as we keep growing.

There's even the time in which we're running around the mountain together when I was a child.

And we're learning swordsmanship together in the swordsmanship dojo of Shirone's father.

Thus I was worried when Shirone went missing.

Shirone and the others were alive in this place.

I should be glad about that.

And they're currently fighting inside of that image.

It seems the this image of battle was taken a while before now.

Maybe because they're already annihilating the whole army, Reiji and those academy beauties are having a friendly conversation.

Tears are dripping from my eyes when I see that scenery.

Surrounding Reiji were beauties who were prominent even back in our high school. Those girls are happily talking with Reiji.

I'm really jealous of him.

"Fumu....."

I suddenly hearing a voice from my side.

Before I know it, Modes, who was on my side, is looking at my face.

"Fumufumu, I see....."

There might be something strange on my face.

Modes is nodding as if perceiving something.

"Kuroki-dono, let's continue our story. The hero suddenly appeared half-year ago"

Modes begins his explanation.

Half year ago?

I'm sure they disappeared around one week ago.

I am left wondering.

“Up till the point where they suddenly came and started raiding Nargol territories, the armies of the goddess weren't even close to defeating the armies of Nargol. Naturally, I wasn't just sitting and doing nothing, I send our subordinate demons and magical beasts but, it's completely similar to standing on the edge of sharp blade. Just 5 days ago, they even defeated our strongest elites, The Chivalric Order of Dark Knight. At this rate they should arrive this castle by tomorrow”

Modes saying so with vexed tone.

“When I was investigating about them, I was told that they're summoned from the spirit world in order to defeat me. Thus, this Modes came to a thought. It should be okay if we also were to summon an existence from the spirit world who can defeat the hero”

Saying so, he's looking at me.

“That person was you, Kuroki-dono”

“EH, wait a minute.....”

What's that about.....

I'm screaming like that from the bottom of my heart due to Modes' words.

“How is it, Kuroki-dono. Please save us from them, from the hero”

Modes is bowing to me.

“That's too absurd.....”

In short, he's telling me to fight against Reiji and the girls.

That's an extremely unreasonable story.

Midou Reiji, or more known as Reiji is a popular figure in the big combined school of Kayou middle and high to which I'm also attending.

He has well ordered face along with slender and well proportioned body that's around 180 cm tall.

Maybe because his mother came from foreign country, he has bright brown colored hair which can be seen as blonde under the sunlight.

To make matters worse, he has a good grades and is also good at sports.

And his family is very rich.

He's completely just like a character in a manga.

He's extremely popular with girls for these reason.

But, even if he is highly rated amongst girl, it's the extreme opposite for the boys.

The reason is simple, because Reiji has a completely different attitude when he's facing those from the same sex versus those from the opposite sex.

He's nice, only for the girls.

That's what I think about Reiji.

And somehow, Reiji has this strange ability of saving cute girls who are in danger at that place.

The number of women saved by Reiji is high.

Maybe for that reason, the girls falling in love with Reiji has never stopped.

By the way, I've never heard of the stories in which Reiji saved men.

No matter how troubled they're, if it's men, he'll somehow forsake them for himself.

Though Reiji's extremely kind toward girls, he's extremely strict toward boys.

This is the reason for the hate that's coming from the men's side.

In the first place, Reiji himself might have not worried about such matters.

The number of boys whose crush has been taken by Reiji is too many.

Moreover, there's another reason for his low popularity.

But, since Reiji's never forcing something against a girl's wish, the girls came to like him, and I've never heard any complaints from the boys.

They've no choice but to wait in silence.

The grumbling of the boys because of the girls to whom they're taking fancy to surrounding only Reiji is coming all out.

They can't beat the handsome guy.

And then, my childhood friend, Shirone, Akamine Shirone, is also one amongst them.

Could it be Reiji greeted her because Shirone is cute?

Or it might be because he was greeted by Shirone, I don't know which one.

As for me, I don't want them to be together thought. It was then turned into a quarrel when I told Shirone about that.

That was what happened before the summer vacation.

My first love is crushed.

I, who have nothing but common skills. *[TL : Your average guy]*

Am at disadvantage when facing against Reiji. I didn't have any choice but to abandon my first love.

This monster who call himself as demon king is telling me to fight that Reiji.

That's unreasonable.

Reiji is all powerful in a brawl.

I'll be ended being beaten black and blue.

Once upon a time, the captain of karate club is taking his revenge on Reiji and then brawling against him since the girl he have a crush on is taken by Reiji.

The result, the captain of the karate club have his jaw broken which need full 3 month to recover.

By the way, Reiji is unharmed.

Maybe because Reiji parent are moving behind scene, or maybe because the captain of karate club is fearing the retribution, I don't know which one it is.

But, it was somehow didn't goes on public.

But, it was an open secret amongst the student in the school.

In addition, there's this guy who love martial arts and goes to challenge Reiji.

There was even adult with body bigger than Reiji amongst them.

But, no one ever come victorious. Naturally myself included.

Reiji might have not remembered that I was amongst the opponent which he defeated in the past.

I'm not even wanting to remember such miserable defeat.

Moreover, the fighting scene is bad.

I myself is a pacifist.

It was only by chance at that time.

The matter about that fight is just too forced.

"Please wait a minute, your majesty!! !"

Someone is forcing his way through the crowds of the monster.

Thus I saw the figure of a lone man who wore jet black armor standing on that place.

He have darkish skin with well ordered face and then pale blond hair. If it's only that, he'll ended as a yankee lad who loves to cosplay but, there was pair of horn growing from the head of that man.

“Ooh, isn't it lord Runfeld! ! Is the wound inflicted by that hero already cured?”

The man called Runfeld is bowing respectfully.

“Thank you for your worry, your majesty. But, you've no need to borrow the power of someone with unknown nature like him. Though we were suffering such embarrassing defeat once, our chivalric order of dark knight is still in full power. Please just give a dispatch order to us”

The man called Runfeld is making an appeal to Modes.

“Moreover.....”

He's glaring at my direction.

“I don't think that this man can win against that hero”

It's as he say.

I'm unintentionally nodding at his words.

“Let me to see your power!!”

After saying so, he's drawing the sword on his hip and then slashing it at me.

“WAIT A MINUTE!!”

I'm twisting my body to avoid that slash. Somehow I feel that my body feels lighter than usual.

“HA!!”

Runfeld is keep coming at me.

Naturally, I'm dodging his next attack too.

My knees are weak, and I'm shuffling my feet to dodge the attack that keep coming from Runfeld.

I'm dodging the attack of my opponent with least movement without destroying my stance.

I unintentionally catch his arms after he send who know how many attack to me and fling him just like that.

"KUHAA!!"

Runfeld who's toseed to the ground is raising a groan.

"Ah, sorry!!"

I unintentionally apologizing for the matter of tossing him to the ground.

But, that wasn't the end of it.

"DAAAAMNN!!"

Runfeld is propping his body as he pushed out his left hand toward my direction.

He pushed the black flame that was flickering on his left hand.

"Wait a minute, lord Runfeld! That magic is! !"

Without even paying heed to Modes warning, Runfeld is throwing the black flame on his left hand toward me.

"EAT THIS BLACK FLAME OF MINE!"

The black flame on his left hand keep expanding in size.

I can't avoid this one.

If I'm going to running away from that flame, I've no choice but to run toward the flocks of monster who surrounded me. Moving toward that place with such close distance between me and the flame is quite difficult things to do.

The black flame is keep approaching.

So I unintentionally stretching my hand to the front to catch that flame.

My eyes opened with at such astonishing scene.

Flame is an immaterial object, it should be a matter that couldn't be caught by hand.

Was what should happened in normal situation.

But, I'm currently catching that black flame with both of my hand.

When I'm trying to crush the flame, it's dispersed easily.

"No way, the black flame of mine is....."

Runfeld is hanging his head down while muttering such words.

Could it be that it was actually his greatest technique.

It felt strange.

Though I'm taking a look at my hand to confirm it, there's no burn scar on it.

When I'm recalling the sensation from a while ago, the black flame suddenly erupting from my hand.

"!!?"

What a surprise, I crushed the black flame in my hand in panic.

And then i can hear the crackling sound of someone clapping his hands.

"As expected of you, Kuroki-dono. Runfeld-dono is the strongest knight of Nargol and yet, even that Runfeld can't even touch you, moreover, you even learn the black flame"

Modes is laughing. Even the hero might be defeated if I'm using this.

What the hell is this black flame?

Come to think of it, they're also making flame or light coming out of their hands in the image shown to me a while ago.

Could it be that I can use an unusual power after I come to this world?

My brain already unable to catching up with the situation.

Moreover, what the hell did he say about fighting against them for real.

In the first place, I've no reason to fight them.

The reason is because I shouldn't fight them.

What will become of me if I'm fighting against them?

Will I unable to return to my original world if I'm not fight them?

Maybe they're in the same situation as me too in the fact that they won't be able to return to their original world unless they beat the demon lord?

If that was the case, it should be better situation for me to cooperating with them to defeat the demon lord?

And then, I'll ask the goddess who summoned them to returning us to our original world.

But, Is Reiji willing to cooperating with me?

Reiji's cold towards men.

He might kick me out after saying that he don't want to see troublesome guy.

Though he might've saved me if I'm a cute girl, unfortunately I'm a man, there's something dangling on my crotch.

After beating the demon lord without my help, they might be returning to our original

world while leaving me behind.

Should I wear female clothes? And then getting closer to them hiding the fact that I'm Kuroki.

.....Am I just turning into an idiot.

I'm shaking my head which is thinking about such foolish action.

That's too prideless action.

Though there's a reason for Reiji, I don't even want to meet Shirone in that situation.

In the first place, I'm currently in the middle of quarreling with Shirone.

That's why, cooperation is impossible.

In that case, I just have to do it right.

In the first place, I might not be able to be back if I leave the person who summoned me.

I'm sending a sidelong glance at Modes.

"Uhm..... Am I won't be able to return to my original world if I'm not defeating them?"

I'll try to ask for the time being.

"Eh.....?"

But, Modes's letting out exasperated voice as if he wasn't expecting that question.

".....The way to retuning Kuroki-dono, is it?"

Modes started pondering deeply.

And then, he too out something like paper from his pocket.

I've a bad feeling about this.

It seems Modes was reading the letter written on that paper.

“Could it be..... You don’t know the method to send me back?”

Modes keep his silent to that question.

The unpleasant silent is dominating our surrounding.

“.....It seems there’s no method to send you back in this summoning art”

It was the worst result.

“W-WAIT A MINUTE——!! !”

I unintentionally shouted loudly.

“WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!! !”

And unintentionally shouting at the top of my lung capacity.

That’s irresponsible right?

“Yeah, my apologies”

Modes is apologizing.

It seems he’s quite timid person in contrast to his build.

“Please wait a minute, Kuroki-sama”

Mona who was on the side is standing in front of Modes.

And then looking at my direction with the face as if she’s going to cry.

I can’t say anything when I’m looking at that kind of eyes.

Those kind of eyes are lethal weapon to me who isn’t used to woman.

“Please, Kuroki-sama. Please hear Modes-sama’s story”

Chapter 3

The Reason to Fight

◆The Summoned Person, Kuroki

Long ago, there was one male god who live in the blessed land of god, Elios.

Though that male god held a mighty power even amongst the gods who lived in Elios, he was ugly.

For this reason, he's still a single man despite his peers being already married.

Nevertheless, the male god wanted to have a wife and went to court the single goddesses.

But, no one ever paid attention to him.

Thus, he courted the fairies and angels who were serving under those goddesses. But, they disliked that ugly male god and thus they asked for the help of the goddesses they were serving.

The goddesses who hated that ugly male god schemed to expel this male god.

The goddess who was moving as their pivot is the one called Rena.

The goddesses then made a false charge to the king of god, Oudith, about that male god forcing the fairies and angels to become his wife.

After consulting with the other gods, Oudith decided to banish that male god to the land of darkness, Nargol.

The male god cried. It was because that male god had never coerced anyone.

The male god also made an appeal to Oudith.

But, the goddesses conspired together to write an evidence which made that male god

to fall into a disadvantageous situation, thus the decision was never overruled.

The male god couldn't do anything but to follow the verdict.

At that time, the male god made a request to Oudith. He'll obey their decision if he can get a bundle of hair from Rena, the most beautiful amongst the single goddess.

Oudith complied with that request and then negotiated with Rena.

In the end, even Rena had to give a bundle of her hair, albeit unwillingly.

The male god then left toward the land of Nargol.

In that land, the male god made a decision: if there was no one willing to become his wife, then he'll make one on his own.

After various attempts, the male god successfully made one goddess with Rena as her origin.

But, that goddess was an existence which you could say as the clone of Rena.

Rena who noticed the fact that the male god had made her clone was furious; she demanded Oudith to give the order to send that goddess clone back to her.

After Oudith is discussing those matter with the other god, they decide to make a demand to that male god to send that clone goddess to Rena.

That male god didn't comply with their demands.

He erected a barrier around Nargol to show his resolution to resist them till the bitter end.

Rena made an appeal to the gods to subjugate that male god.

But, as expected, that was too much.

That male god was powerful; no one but Oudith could match him in power even amongst the gods.

But, Oudith just couldn't easily depart from Elios, the land of gods.

The other gods didn't want to fight that male god, save for Rena.

Unwilling, Rena then sent troops and the heroes of humankind to Nargol.

That was the beginning of the battle.

The male god who didn't abide to the gods demand soon became the one called as the demon king.

That demon king is Modes.

The troops of Modes and Rena clashed fervently.

The result is Modes troops' overwhelming victories.

In the end, Rena, who couldn't think of any way to achieve victory, asked for the help of goddess Casa who possessed the power of prediction.

Casa predicted that Rena can win against Modes if she summoned heroes from the spirit world.

Rena then summoned existences who could defeat Modes from the spirit world.

And those existences were the hero of light, Reiji, and his comrades.

Modes wasn't aware of this prediction at first.

Not until the hero Reiji and his comrades broke through his line of defense one after another at a terrifying speed.

Modes was astonished at the existence of the hero and his comrades and thus became aware of the existence of that prediction.

Modes might end up getting defeated if he fought against the hero according to that prediction.

Therefore, Modes couldn't choose the option to fight the hero.

So, he gathered even more information.

Therefore, like how Rena begged to Casa and got a prediction, he also got a prediction from her and came to know of the fact that the one who could stop the hero was another person who was summoned from the spirit world.

Thus, Modes stole the summoning arts which originally Rena used and summoned an existence who could stop the hero.

That summoned being is me.

This was the summary of Modes' story.

If Modes is defeated, Mona's existence might be erased. That's the only thing that he wants to avoid at all costs.

Modes is narrating that story to me while sobbing.

By the way, if it goes by Modes' story, the way to go back isn't written on the summoning arts that he stole from Rena.

Either way, maybe there's no way to send me back or I haven't found it yet.

In short, I can assume that even Reiji's side doesn't have the means to send us back.

I couldn't feel a lie in Modes' words.

Most of all, it's still better than a threat like "You won't be sent back unless you do as I say!".

If it's according to the above pattern, why are Reiji and the others fighting?

But, I won't reach the answer even if I think about it right now.

I went to the courtyard of Modes' castle.

It seems this courtyard is made based on Modes' residence back in the Elios.

It doesn't have that much splendor since it was designed to make one feel relieved.

It seems that only a select few people can enter this courtyard, including Modes and Mona.

I heard the events in detail until this point from Modes who sat on the round-shaped chair.

It seems the thing that was prepared by Mona in front of me was a tea.

Because the peculiar fragrance of tea was drifting around.

When I tried a sip of it, it's slightly bitter taste was superb.

I'm thinking of what I must to do from hereafter.

Must I have a rematch with Reiji?

I feel like I am dreaming.

If I fight him, it seems Modes will make another goddess just for myself.

Though it seems that it's not easy to make another goddess, it seems to be okay to add another one.

That is such a charming proposal.

Because, I never got the chance to be closer with girls till now.

Rather, they were avoiding me as if I was a filthy person.

I recalled about my past.

At first, the girls who were normally talking to me, suddenly started to take some distance for some reason.

It seems that I was unconsciously ogling at the body of cute girls.

Shirone is the one who told me about this. Normal attire aside, it seems my eyes are unconsciously ogling at the body of girls who were wearing miniskirt.

Even when she said that, it couldn't be helped since it was like an instinct to me, wasn't it...

Thus, I was doomed with the fate of being a cherry boy forever.

Somehow, I feel sadness surging inside me when I think about such a thing.

Let's stop thinking about such sad things...

Moreover, I even had a look on the appearance of goddess Rena.

She closely resembled Mona despite the slight difference between them.

The next goddess to be made might be as beautiful as Mona, right.

There's no way she won't be charming if I can get her.

And most of all, she'll give her love unconditionally, just for me.

I'm not a handsome person.

But still, I also want to flirt around with cute girls.

Not several of them like Reiji, I'm fine with just one.

This world might be a happy one if I can get such an extremely cute girl.

But...

For that, I must win in a fight against Reiji.

To be honest, I don't think that I can win against him.

In fact, I fought against Reiji a long time ago.

That was an uninteresting match.

Maybe it's just short while ago, Reiji who become interested in learning kendo during middle school fought all the members of the kendo school.

I was amongst his opponents.

I was mercilessly defeated by Reiji.

It's not like I feel that I'm that strong either.

But, I never expected that I'll be easily defeated just like that.

It was quite a shock for me.

First, his movements were different. I thought "Why can he move his body like that despite having similar age?"

I still remember Shirone's words who saw that match even now.

"Kuroki can't win against Reiji-kun. So don't mind about it"

Though Shirone said those words to comfort me, I felt really miserable on hearing that.

To be honest, I even wanted to stop doing kendo at those times.

But, I kept doing it for some reason even until now.

Maybe I became a little stronger, but Reiji might have become even stronger than me.

Anyway, I really can't refuse Modes' request.

Maybe I'll die if we fight using a real sword.

Though the reward is charming, it's no use if I lose my own life.

In the first place, i didn't have any obligation to fight for Modes.

I can even abandon Modes.

But, there's something that caught my interest deep in my heart.

The thing caught within the depths of my heart is something rather insipid.

And, Modes finally got himself a wife in Mona.

For some reason, I couldn't bring myself to abandon them.

"Please, Kuroki-dono!! I have no choice but to rely on you"

Modes is clasping my hands with tears spilling from his eyes.

I couldn't do anything but let out a weak laugh.

"...Excuse me, will you give me a little time..."

Chapter 4

The Mysterious Dark Knight Appears

◆The Comrade of the Hero, Sage Chiyuki.

“It’s just a bit more right, Chiyuki-senpai.”

Sasaki Rino, otherwise known as Rino, is saying that while dancing around me.

Rino loves to sing and dance and originally aimed to become a model to dance and sing in our world.

Could it be that the reason is because recently she’s aware of the fact that she’s being called as the goddess of dancing?

She becomes the center of attention wherever she goes since she keeps dancing while walking in the middle of the city.

The problem is she prefers a miniskirt-like attire.

Because of that there are many occasions in which she’s exposed to the indecent sight of many men.

When I point that out, she says that she doesn’t care about such things since she’s used to it; it seems the person herself doesn’t care about it.

Modelling is a line of work which no one will be able to do unless they get used to such gazes.

I definitely won’t be able to endure it if I was in her position.

“Yeah, it’s just a bit more, Rino-san.”

I’m nodding to Rino.

The demon king castle is just a little ahead.

We can go back to our original world once we defeat the demon king Modes who lives in that castle.

And put an end to this long journey.

“Yeah, this painful and long journey will end at last.”

Reiji’s saying so with a deep voice.

“That’s a lie, you seem to be the one who’s always enjoying this journey, aren’t you?”

“Did it look like that to you?”

When I tell him that, he laughs back.

For him, who was summoned as the hero of light, he might actually be enjoying all of what happened.

Or not, it’s not just him.

Rino and Nao were also enjoying this.

We came to this world around half year ago.

We were summoned by a woman called Rena who proclaimed herself as a goddess.

Rena made a request for us to defeat the demon king.

It was completely a manga-like situation.

To be honest, we were dissatisfied. What she did was a kidnapping. Definitely something unforgivable.

But, Rena told us that we couldn’t be back from this world.

Being asked by such a beautiful woman, Reiji easily agreed to help her and went to exterminate the demon king.

Due to that reason, the other girls were also involved with him.

But, in the end, I was the only one who's dissatisfied with the situation; Reiji, Nao, Rino, and the others are overjoyed at being able to come to this game-like world.

And just like that, our adventure began.

I was anxious at first.

I was anxious whether we can live in this world.

But that worry ended in an instant.

We were strong in this world.

After we came to this world, our physical strengths had raised to an absurd level just like a superman.

According to my observations, the rise in our physical strength is in proportion of our own abilities in our original world.

Because, Reiji and Nao, who originally had the highest physical ability amongst us in our original world, possessed the highest physical ability after coming to this world.

And yet, even Sahoko, the owner of weakest physical ability amongst us, can easily toss several average adult males of this world.

Another thing is magic.

It seems that only a handful amount of the humans in this world can use magic.

And we, all of us can use this magic. Moreover, we can even use the highest level magic that can't be used by the humans of this world.

By the way, the ranking of our amount of magical power is me, Sahoko and Reiji at the highest, and Nao is the least one amongst us.

I couldn't understand the reason why we couldn't use magic in our original world.

But regarding this magic, all of us couldn't use similar type of magic.

I'm not very good at using thunder and flame magic like Nao and can't win against

healing magic of Sahoko. Instead, Rino and Sahoko can't use magic such as transfer magic.

Rino is a spirit system magic user and Sahoko is a healing system magic user, as said by Nao in a game-like way. And then, I'm a magical power system magic user.

We, who can freely manipulating this kind of power became the strongest in the world.

Especially Reiji, his combat ability as the one who's summoned as the hero of light is terrifying. Even if the five of us form a group, it is still not enough to defeat him.

According to Rena, it seems that his combat power alone is on par with the king of gods, Oudith.

Even if it is a dangerous place for girls like us, we can easily get over it thanks to Reiji.

This journey will be ending very soon.

I think it's fine for us to be a little greedier when I think about it now.

Isn't that natural since we'll basically be sent back to our original world without even demanding some sort of remuneration?

Reiji couldn't make a demand for remuneration since he readily accepted Rena request, but it's still not too late even if we demand for remuneration later.

Maybe Reiji's weakness for beauties will bite back at him sooner or later.

I think that it'll be a good thing if he turns that kindness toward males too, but it seems he has no interest in the men.

According to what he says, a man must solve their own problems by themselves, thus he saves nothing but girls.

But from my eyes, seeing him saving those cute girls with pinpoint accuracy must be just my imagination right.

"I can see the demon king castle~"

Nao who had went to scout the situation has returned.

She's the ace of track and field club of our academy who came along with us and her physical ability is on the same level as Reiji.

In spite of being called as the feral child of the academy, she's actually a cute girl once you know her.

In game terms, her assigned job is Thief or ranger, so the matter of scouting like this is left to her.

"How is the situation, Nao-san?"

"Uh~n, there are no traps and they didn't even strengthen their defenses with soldiers. I think it's safe for us to advance"

"And yet it's their last stronghold, isn't that strange?"

"Are they staying inside in fear of us?"

Rino's saying that with an optimistic tone.

"Maybe it's just as simple as there's no soldier left to protect him, isn't it? I mean, didn't we just beat the one who called themselves as the chivalric order of dark knights the other day. Despite their appearance, you might think that they're the last ones....."

Shirone's saying so without self confidence.

Shirone's home runs a kendo dojo, and she also learns kendo.

She's already one of the strongest class swordsman of this world and she's the next strongest after Reiji, if those amongst us fight without using magic.

When I see her figure when she fights, her lively swaying ponytail made it as if she's dancing.

Thus, she wears a lightweight armor for ease of movement.

Reiji advised her to wear bikini armor, but as expected, she rejected that flat on the spot.

By the way, she's saying about the chivalric order of dark knights who fought us four

days ago.

Reiji took a different action at that time and the matter of us being cornered when we fought without Reiji is of great concern...

Especially the guy called Runfeld-or something who was acting as their leader was powerful; his swordsmanship was equal to Shirone, and have high magic resistance, we were being cornered.

Reiji, who noticed our situation, immediately took a U-turn and then rushed to save us. Runfeld ran away while barely keeping his dear life.

The chivalric order of dark knights was almost annihilated due to Reiji's counter attack and only few of them managed to survive.

"I felt that we're not the best, but....."

Sahoko says that.

She's the one who hates dispute the most amongst us.

She's a gentle girl who will offer a healing for injury or disease whenever she has some free time.

She's being referred as 'the Saint of healing'.

"Yeah, they definitely don't put any kind of resistance, and it'll be bothersome if only weak guys come out to meet us"

I agree with Sahoko.

"Well, we should know about that very soon. Everyone, let's go! !"

""O~h!! ""

Rino and Nao raise their voice of approval toward Reiji's remark.

We're advancing toward the demon king castle.

Few minutes later.

We arrived at the main gate of the castle without meeting any sort of trouble.

There are no troops. But, someone who wore jet-black armor was standing at that place.

“Dark... Knight?”

It was a figure which closely resembled the dark knight we fought before.

In spite of being unable to see his face since his head is covered with helmet, it seems he's not Runfeld.

But, why is he alone?

Everyone is tilting their head, except for me.

The dark knight who's standing alone wasn't our enemy.

What is that demon king thinking about.

The dark knight draws his sword.

“My name is dark knight Diehart! ! Hero Reiji, I request for a duel! !”

◆ **The Youth Who Became The Dark Knight, Kuroki.**

“My name is dark knight Diehart! ! Hero Reiji, I request for a duel! !”

I stand in front of them and introduce myself while wearing the armor of dark knight that is wrapping around my body.

I make a sweeping motion with the sword in my hand.

It was a cursed sword which was given to me by Modes. I'm told that it's sharpness varies depending on the magical power of its wielder.

The blade of the sword is black in color with several red patterns running across its surface.

The feeling of holding real sword is different from holding a shinai[i]...

It was closer to the feeling when I held a katana back in japan.

This blade, a naked blade, was different from the drawn katana at that time, this sword might really kill people.

In the end, I couldn't refuse Modes' request.

I was just unable to refuse the request of his miserable self.

Moreover, I wanted to laugh at myself when I introduced myself as Diehart.

Diehart. That is the name of the villain of the anime which I saw a long time ago.

He's a clown with uselessly high pride who is easily defeated by the hero.

That name is definitely fitting for the current me.

I called myself with the name of the villain in the anime since I don't want anyone to notice that it was me, especially Shirone.

The helm given by Modes is the one that's used as a defensive gear by the dark knight and is the type that covers my entire face.

I chose this one so that Shirone won't recognize that it's me.

It seems the helmet is equipped with the magic that won't hinder my words in spite of wearing a helmet.

And then, this magic also slightly altered my normal voice.

My usual voice will be heard as a different voice by the other party as long as I wear this helmet.

And, there were red gems attached on the eyes part of this helmet. It seems the effect is to protect my eyes from the magic that will affect my vision.

Moreover, in spite of the red gem covering the eyes, my field of vision is wider than usual because of magic.

I can see them from behind this helmet.

The one with fascinating, long and beautiful hair is Mizuouji Chiyuki.

The soothing beauty who's Reiji childhood friend is Yoshino Sahoko.

One of the two junior, a model, Sasaki Rino.

The other one is the feral child of the academy and also the ace of track and field club, Todoroki Naomi.

And then, my childhood friend, Akamine Shirone.

All of them form an army of beauties. They're surrounding Reiji.

Shirone's standing beside Reiji.

To be honest, I didn't want to see her standing beside Reiji.

That's why I didn't want to see it.

Never did I think that I'll see that scene today.

I look at Reiji.

Golden patterns are engraved on top of his pure white armor.

He is wearing a golden circlet with a blue gem embedded on it on his head.

There's a luxurious-looking crimson mantel attached to his back.

That was exactly the ideal figure of the hero of light who's summoned by the goddess.

To be honest, I feel that he's cool.

On the other hand, I'm the underling of the demon king. Moreover, I'm standing alone without any comrade beside me.

What the hell is with these differences. This tragic situation made me want to cry.

“Everyone, fall back”

As expected, Reiji’s telling the girls to fall back.

It seems he’ll grant my one-on-one match request.

I feel great pressure as I stand before him.

Now, I’m starting to regret my decision.

Why the hell am I not showing any refusal.

This is not a match but a battle to death.

And yet, I don’t have the resolution to die.

I’m burdened by fear.

I only have a feeling of being slaughtered miserably.

Fool, I’m such a big idiot.

Even at this moment, I can still throw away my sword and then beg for forgiveness from my opponent.

But, why do I keep tightening the grip on my sword.

Reiji’s also drawing his sword.

His sword blade is exuding brilliant light. It seems that my opponent also has a magic sword in his possession.

“I’ll end this in one attack”

Reiji let out a refreshing smile. That smile is the form of his absolute confidence in the fact that he absolutely won’t lose.

This will be our second fight. I think that his smile is similar to his smile during our first match.

We face against each other for several seconds.

“If you’re not going to come, I’ll come to you!!”

The first to move is Reiji.

Reiji kicks the ground and instantly closes the distance between us. His speed is far more higher than Runfeld.

But, I can see that his movement isn’t that much different from that time.

Reiji suddenly vanished when he’s right in front of me.

I also anticipated that move. It was the same move which defeated me.

I hold my sword in my right hand.

A shockwave is transmitted to the swordblade. I parried Reiji’s attack with my sword by turning my wrist and turning my waist while shuffling my feet.

Though Reiji stance is crumbled due to that—

“Oops!!”

One’s stance usually will crumble if they’re put in the same situation as him. That Reiji regained his stance with his self-styled rotation is...

Truly a monkey-like movement. Just what kind of reflexes does he have in him?

When Reiji regained his balance, he’s coming to attack from the front.

I won’t take that attack from the front; I parry it by turning my sword and then side stepped with sliding movement in order to not destroy my center of gravity.

The sliding movement on the ground[i] is something that I just learned recently after such long and arduous training.

Reiji, whose balance is crumbled, turns to the side.

Just like that, our blades interlock again.

Everytime our blades interlock, the inside of my head's becoming pure white.

The sound of our swords clashing at each other is resounding loud and clear.

“Kuh!!”

And then, during who-knows-how-many-of Reiji attack is coming at me.

It was a sloppy attack which is coming with an impatient voice.

I just naturally swing my sword while dodging that sloppy attack at the last moment.

The feeling of my sword tearing something is being transmitted to my hand.

I can feel as if the time stopped at that moment.

The sword that I swung tore Reiji's body from his right shoulder all the way to his left waist.

It might be a fatal wound and yet, it couldn't slice his body in two.

Blood is bursting out from his wounds.

“E~h.....”

Reiji's face possessed a disbelieving look while he looked at his own body.

And then, slowly falling forward.

“Reiji-kun!!”

“Rei-kun!! !”

“Reiji-senpai!! !”

“Reiji-kun!!”

“Reiji-kun!! !”

Five screams resounded at the same time.

The girls make their move.

I retreat to the back as I feel their killing intents.

That moment, a gigantic lump of fire came crashing down on the place where I was standing a moment ago.

Before I knew, a giant from that gigantic fireball is standing in front of me.

Standing on it's side is Sasaki Rino.

“Go, king of flame!! !”

When she screamed, that flame giant comes to attack me.

I, who feel the incoming danger, stretch my left-hand which isn't holding my sword to the front.

“O Black Flame!! !”

The black flame coming out from my hand protected me from the attack of that giant.

It's the only magic that I remembered before this fight.

“Rei-kun!! Heal the wound, ART OF HEALING”

Yoshino Sahoko is rushing to the side of the collapsed Reiji.

“Everyone! ! Gather at Reiji-kun's side! !”

The girls are standing on Reiji's side on hearing the panicking voice of Mizuouji Chiyuki.

“Transfer (TELEPORT)!!”

The attack of flame giant stopped almost at the same time as I heard Chiyuki voice.

Thus, I couldn't see the trace of people in front of me just a while ago.

“Have I won.....”

My body is trembling as I muttered those words.

Just like that, I fall on my knees.

Chapter 5

Melancholy of a Goddess

◆God of Craftsmanship, Heibos.

“You’re the god of craftsmanship, Heibos isn’t it!!”

That angry voice is resounding in this room.

This is my home, the sole dark place in the brilliant Elios.

This place might be a suitable place for me who’s an exception amongst those beautiful gods of Elios.

The other gods also rarely come to such gloomy place of mine.

But, today is an exception.

So, I’m going out of my house to see that rare visitor.

“What’s the matter, O goddess of wisdom and victory, Rena. For you to come to this place of mine without your usual messenger”

At that place was the angry Rena.

The angry face of Rena who’s one of the three most beautiful goddesses is also lovely.

It’s been a long time since I meet her.

Rena always sends her messenger whenever she has some important matter with me.

The important matter which told by her messenger before was regarding her request to make the summoning-assistance device to summon the hero from the spirit world.

Rena didn’t even come to my home when I made that assistance device.

And today, that Rena has come to my house, all by herself.

“IT’S NOT WHAT’S THE MATTER!!”

Rena’s raising her angry voice.

“You’re Heibos, right. You must have told the matter about the hero to the demon king Modes! !”

Rena’s inquiring me.

Modes, he was my only friend back when he was in Elios. There’s no reason to not tell him about what I know.

“Yup, I’m the one who told him indeed, Rena. He asked me about it, after all”

I managed to get the full knowledge about the summoning arts when I made that summoning assistance device.

Modes, driven to the corner because of the hero, sent his own messenger to me. At that time, I taught everything I know about the summoning arts and the hero to Modes.

“Modes disobeyed the decision of the gods. He’s the enemy of this Elios! !”

And I did not participate in that decision. By the way, I never even knew about that decision.

The first reason might be because I never left my gloomy house.

So, before I knew about it, Modes was already banished from Elios.

It seems the reason is because Modes did immodest things to the fairies and the angel who were the subordinates of the goddesses.

But, the Modes that I know will never do such direct harassment. At most, he’ll be ogling at them from afar.

But, it can’t be helped if the matter was already decided that what he did was harassment.

And, why Modes is fighting against Rena.

The origin of the war is because he made the clone of Rena.

So, it's not unreasonable if Rena is angry at the fact that Modes arbitrarily made her clone.

Thus, Modes is clearly in the wrong side for this matter.

But, I won't condemn Modes for what he did. Since Modes is just like me, an ugly person, he won't get a beauty on his hand unless he did that. I'm fully aware of his feeling.

I'm fully aware of Modes' feeling as to why he's refusing to deliver Rena's clone.

In spite of him being hailed as demon king for doing that.

Moreover, I also helped him to make that summoning-assistance device.

I just couldn't bring myself to condemn Modes.

Even if Modes became the enemy of Elios, I just couldn't bring myself to become his enemy.

"Modes definitely didn't abide by Elios' decision. But, it can't be helped since Elios' side made that decision without even contacting Modes first..."

The decision of the gods can't bind him. Those gods of Elios have no right to decide how they'll move.

The other gods couldn't do anything to Modes if he isn't following their decision.

Modes is strong, and no one but Oudith can win against Modes. If the gods of Elios want to beat Modes, Oudith has no choice but to make his move. Oudith, the king of gods, can't do anything since he can't leave Elios just like that.

And it's not like Modes is attacking Elios too. There's no problem even if Elios just left Modes at his own device.

For this reason, the other gods can't help Rena.

That's why Rena summoned the hero.

"That's just sophistry"

Rena gives a cold reply to my words.

"Well then, what would you do then, Rena. Kill this Heibos?"

Rena is silenced.

Rena's stronger than me and she can easily kill me.

"It's not like I'm going to kill you... You're the craftsman who's needed by Elios..."

Rena's saying those words in a vexed tone.

"But, if you help Modes just like this, I will consider disposing you. This is my warning, Heibos"

Rena's about to go back after saying so.

"By the way, Rena. Can I ask another question?"

I stop Rena who's about to leave.

"And what that question might be, Heibos?"

"The heroes possess such mighty power. I wonder, what you are going to do after they defeated Modes?"

Though I never met the heroes in person, I heard that they've power comparable to the gods.

So, it might be dangerous to leave them as such.

Or they might be welcomed as the gods of Elios?

But, those matters need the consensus of the other gods. It won't be an easy matter.

"Something that comes from the spirit world will return to the spirit world, that's just

natural, right?"

I tilt my head in confusion.

That summoning arts can easily summon the heroes toward this world, but it's difficult to return them to their original world.

Most likely, those heroes will be sent to another world which is different from their original world. If they're unlucky, there's the possibility that they might be stranded forever in the border between two worlds.

You can't even say that as returning them. At least I think so.

"Since they came from another world, they'll be back once everything ends"

I finally comprehended the meaning of Rena's words.

Rena's considering everything, both outside and inside. It's fine as long as it's not inside this world.

That's the same thing as releasing the fish caught from the ocean into freshwater.

"Then I'll go back if you've no more questions to ask, Heibos"

Rena's leaving.

"Fuhm, the hero is a disposable tool, huh. Modes is ugly but he's at least not as wicked as you guys, gods of Elios"

I'm muttering that to myself as I watch Rena leaving from the entrance of my house.

I knew it. Rena deeply influenced the plan to banish Modes. That goddess is beautiful, but her personality is the worst.

And then, I read a certain note on top of the desk as I walk toward my workplace.

That's a thank-you letter sent by Modes.

He's written a letter of gratitude to me since he managed to repel the hero thanks to my summoning-assistance device.

“What a honest fellow”

I unintentionally smile when reading his letter.

He likes to send a thank-you letter to all kind of guys who made various things to him.

He wished to say his gratitude to those heroes too since Modes would be defeated by them if I just leave him alone.

The gods of Elios, witnessing the power of the hero with their own eyes, decided to seal the summoning art forever.

That’s why Rena can’t use the summoning art anymore.

In addition, using that summoning art isn’t that simple. Various catalysts are needed before performing the summoning ceremony. It’s not that hard in case of Elios, but it’s close to impossible to collect those catalysts so many times in Nargol.

It might be a good thing since it’s close to impossible to see the people of spirit world coming to this world after this.

Dark knight Diehart.

That’s the name of the person summoned by Modes.

Defeating Modes will become even more difficult due to the existence of Diehart.

The power of the hero is needed to oppose Diehart.

Thus, even Rena can’t treat the hero like a disposable tool.

“Well then, I wonder how things will turn out after this”

Chapter 6

Queen of Darkness Speculation

◆Queen of Darkness, Mona

“Woah, how brave of Mona-sama to come into a place like this”

When I entered one of the rooms in the demon king castle of Nargol, the elderly person who's the owner of the room came to greet me.

That old one then bows respectfully toward me. This person's appearance is similar to a normal human but with a pair of horns growing on this person's head just like Runfeld.

His name is Rugaas. He was once one of the gods who governed over knowledge in Elios, just like my beloved Modes. When my husband was exiled from Elios, Rugaas followed along with him, since he's my husband's subordinate.

And now this person is the prime minister of Nargol.

Rugaas's strong point isn't his power, thus he couldn't participate in the fight against the hero.

“Raise your head, Rugaas”

When I say so, Rugaas raised his head and then he guided me to the chair at the center of the room.

“May I ask what kind of business you have today, Mona-sama?”

Rugaas's asking me.

“Rugaas. Kuro-..... No, what do you think about lord Diehart?”

“Lord Diehart?”

The duel that happened the other day. Everyone in the castle witnessed that duel. Naturally, Rugaas had also witnessed it.

“I think he’s an extremely powerful person since he managed to defeated that hero. It’s reassuring that such a person is our ally”

Lord Diehart is strong, no doubt about it. He defeated that terrifying hero by himself.

But, that is also the reason why I must consider that factor.

“Only that?”

Rugaas is tilting his head in confusion.

“Anymore to say about him?”

“The old and wise Rugaas. The hero is a man who came from the spirit world due to the prediction of that goddess called Casa. And then, lord Diehart also came from the spirit world”

“! !”

Rugaas exhibited a surprised expression.

“Don’t tell me... Mona-sama is”

“Yes, it seems there’s a possibility that Diehart-sama is a hero. We must dispose him if he’s a danger threatening Modes-sama”

Lord Diehart has no loyalty. There’s a possibility that he’ll betray Modes.

“But, Mona-sama. Because of the invasion of the hero, the demon king army is in a devastated state. Going against lord Diehart in this situation is too unreasonable”

Rugaas’s argument is based on the fact that it was easy to rebuild the goblin race’s troops and undead races which are easy to reproduce, but it’ll take a bit longer for the other races to rebuild their troops.

Especially the demon race and troll race, these two strongest races are in devastating situation.

In fact, the troll race received almost no damage in the fight against the hero. The king of trolls quickly surrendered after seeing the fact that he was no match for the hero.

In addition, this king of troll went as far as betraying the Nargol and even guided the hero. But then, it seems something happened on the way, making him unable to guide the hero till the end and leaving them alone.

In fear of being purged by lord Diehart who defeated the hero, the king of troll escaped from Nargol.

On losing their king, the various tribes of the troll race started to fight amongst each other which chipped away their unity. They won't become war potential for now.

But on the other hand, with regards to the demon race, the demon race is the strongest race of Nargol, no, they might be the strongest race in this world right below the divine beings.

The appearance of the demon race is similar to human race which became the basic feature of every race, but their distinct feature is the horn that's growing from both sides of their head.

Though the demon race is far more stronger than the troll race, they're also the most proficient one in magic in the entire race in Nargol and even overwhelming the entire race in this world in term of magic. The angel race may be the only race who could possibly contend against them.

Few days ago, the chivalric order of the dark knights, the best of this race, was almost annihilated by the hero.

The demon race is a race with long lifespan; thus, it was difficult to increase their number, because of this reason, it'll take a long time for their war potential to recover to their original state.

Lord Runfeld, the bravest of the demon race, seems to be troubled over something too.

For this reason, rebuilding the demon race which is the core power of demon king army won't be that easy.

"In addition, Mona-sama. Even if for example we can restore our troops, it's still impossible to beat lord Diehart"

The hero destroyed the demon king army. Rugaas is explaining that “doing something like defeating lord Diehart who defeated that hero is impossible even if the demon king army is completely restored.”

Instead, one can say that lord Diehart is the best war potential that the demon king army possesses now.

“And lord Diehart has already become the brave of the demon race. If possible, I don’t want to think him as our enemy”

Rugaas says that with a troubled face.

He doesn’t want to do something that will make the morale of the demon race, the core race of Nargol, to go down. It seems that was Rugaas’s opinion.

“I don’t want to make an enemy of lord Diehart too. But, we need to think about such scenarios too”

“Uhm Mona-sama, is your majesty...”

“No, Modes-sama doesn’t even consider the dangerous factor in lord Diehart like me. In addition, it seems the Modes-sama is also favoring lord Diehart. He says, “He possesses an extremely similar smell as me.”“

Modes, my beloved husband is welcoming lord Diehart without even a speck of consideration for his betrayal.

“In addition, Modes-sama is someone who can’t tell lies. That’s his attitude when I convey my worries to him”

Thus, this matter couldn’t be said to others.

“Therefore, this talk is a secret between us, Rugaas. You have to think “what if” the matter happens, for you are the wisest man in Nargol. Because no matter how strong someone is, he ought to have some weak point. There’s no loss in gathering information about him, right?”

Rugaas is nodding.

“Because that information is definitely important... I’ll send my subordinate to lord

Diehart. For this one will be the one who investigates lord Diehart”

“I wish for your help then, old Rugaas”

I leave the room after saying such brief sentence.

It looks like Rugaas had not even considered the potential danger in lord Diehart.

No, maybe he just doesn't want to consider about such a possibility.

Lord Diehart had already become an indispensable existence for the demon king army.

No one would ever want to consider that such person could become their enemy.

But, someone has to take some action.

“Ah~, my dear Modes-sama. This Mona will definitely protect you”

Chapter 7

Power of magic

◆The Youth Who Became The Dark Knight, Kuroki

“And this is the flight magic, Diehart-sama”

Is what Rugaas is saying to me while I am floating in the middle of the room.

This event is happening early afternoon a day after my fight against Reiji. I’m currently receiving Rugaas’s lecture about magic in a room within the demon king castle.

I received great praises from Modes after my battle against Reiji.

My current status in Nargol is second only to Modes.

I’m okay with receiving his gratitude, but I wanted to be pardoned from being embraced by him while telling me”Oh my best friend~”.

But I have to wait for a while for the reward regarding this matter. It can’t be helped that I have to wait in order to get the reward.

According to Modes, I can’t go back to the earth with the summoning magic that was used to summon me; it seems that I’ll be either stranded in the dimension gap or transported to a world which is different from earth. Therefore, the magic needed to go back ought to be a different one.

Unfortunately, Modes wasn’t well versed in this kind of magic in spite of being the one who summoned me.

Modes gave his promise to find a safe way to send me back.

Elios might have the method to send me back, right?

When I inquired about that matter.

Modes told me that the possibility for that is quite low.

Though I don't know where his self-confidence for that remark is coming from, I can feel that it is from a reliable source.

Though it'll be a different story if Modes is lying to me. For reasons such as "we won't send you back unless you beat the hero".

But, I don't think that Modes is lying. It's too much of a roundabout way of lying if he wants me to fight the hero.

Moreover, I think Modes isn't the kind of person(?) who will say such things.

I think as such on looking at a "Deredere" Modes when he has a conversation with Mona.

I think the two of them will still be a bakaple even if the woman isn't Mona.

If that's the case, what is the reason for this fight?

For Elios to forcibly summon someone from another world in spite of having no way to send them back to their original world.

Though I think that Reiji was seduced by that beautiful goddess, I don't know the reason for the other girls to join this fight.

I think Reiji and the others want to go back too.

By the way, I heard they managed to save Reiji this afternoon.

I felt relieved on hearing that news. Since, in fact, I never had any intention nor did I try to kill Reiji. I don't think that Reiji is detestable to the point that he deserves to die.

The relieved me then received lessons regarding these magic things, this world, and the nargol from Rugaas.

I need all information irrespective of how insignificant it is.

The old man with a horn growing from his head and pointed ears in front of me was apparently the wisest sage and the prime minister of this Nargol. By right, he should

do government work for Nargol and have no need to do something like teaching me, but let alone doing that, it seems that he was ecstatic when I asked him to become my teacher.

And then, currently I'm receiving his lessons about magic.

"...It seems that there's no problem with your flight magic. But, please be very careful, you're in a defenseless state when using this magic since you basically cannot use another magic when using this one. You must not become the prey for arrows..."

I create a small black fire ball on my index finger while floating in the air.

"...Though I'm telling you about the necessary precautions, it seems that my worry is baseless for lord Diehart."

Rugaas told me that with amazed expression.

Guessing from Rugaas's tone, it seems that using two magic at once is quite hardcore.

"You and the hero, the people of another world are truly enigmatic. Honestly speaking, even a normal human needs long and arduous training just to master the flight magic... Lord Diehart is also the same as the comrades of the hero since they can use high-ranking magic too."

By saying so, it seems that Reiji and the others are also capable of using high-ranking magic so easily, which normally can't be used without long training, as soon as they arrived to this world.

And then, it seems that they are similarly capable of using high-ranking magic as me too. If one were to ask the reason for such ease, to be honest, I don't know.

I cancel my flight magic and then descend to the ground.

"And then, it's about that black flame. Lord Runfeld and your majesty the king is supposed to be the only one who can use that flame and yet, lord Diehart can use it too. But, you're very interesting, lord Diehart, you can use the black flame so easily despite being unable to use any normal fire magic... To tell the truth, it should be the opposite of that you know"

Rugaas is waving his head as if he couldn't believe what he saw.

“But, it’ll be inconvenient since you can’t use normal flame with your own magical power. Well then, now let’s try to use fire magic with spirit of fire.”

Rugaas’s muttering something while seemingly pondering about something. Thereupon, a book suddenly appearing on hands of Rugaas.

“Now, let’s try to use spirit magic. Please be careful since this magic is different from the other magic skills that I taught so far”

I recalled a little about that magic before receiving the teaching from Rugaas.

It seems that this world has two major systems of magic, the magic that originates from one’s own self, and magic that originates from external source. It seems that flight magic is the former and the spirit magic is the later.

The spirit magic is a wish of one’s own to use magic and the invisible spirit by means of communication, in other words, a magic to hear the user’s wish. But, one must have a high mutual understanding with the spirits if they are to use this spirit magic.

The mutual understanding by means of magic is something that resembles a telepathy; they, who can’t understand each other words would gain mutual understanding by means of magic. It seems that I can use this mutual understanding by means of magic automatically since I can have a conversation with Modes who doesn’t understand Japanese language. In fact, it’s not a conversation with words, it was a conversation in which one triggers magic during conversation.

It seems that this magic can be learned easily as long as someone has sufficient intelligence to communicate with words, but it seems one needs an even higher knowledge to have a mutual understanding with magic beast or spirit who is not communicating with words and then, I’m also told that even someone with high magical power can’t use spirit magic unless one’s mutual understanding of magic is high enough.

“O FIRE SPIRIT IN THE AIR, HEAR MY WISH!!!”

Thereupon, a small flame formed on the fingertips of Rugaas.

And then, it left his index finger as it is. The little flame remains as such even after leaving his index finger.

And just like that, Rugaas is maintaining the little flame in the air. When he repeated his action for the tenth time, the fire is extinguished.

“Please try to do it like me”

I mutter the same words as Rugaas.

“Uhm... O SPIRIT OF FIRE IN THE AIR, HEAR MY WORDS!! !”

I mutter the same words as Rugaas while making my index finger to point up. Thereupon, the flame that was forming on my index finger suddenly ran away from my index finger to the separated room.

“UWAAA!! !”

I avoided that flame in panic. And just like that, the flame vanished after running around in this room and then crashing on the wall.

“My apologies, Rugaas-dono!! !”

I’m bowing to Rugaas.

“Dear me, it would have been a mess if I had not set a defensive magic in this room beforehand. It seems that you can’t use spirit magic very well”

Rugaas is saying so with an expression of great interest.

After that, I couldn’t make the rampant spirit of fire to abide my words no matter how many times I tried to do it.

Rugaas is telling me that I’m not very good in controlling the spirit of fire, so I’m trying to use the spirit of water since he tells me that it’s easy to use even for humans.

But, irrespective of whether I tried to use the spirit of water or spirit of wind, I couldn’t do anything but witness them scattering around in the room or flooding the room.

I’m considerably tired a while after the training to use the low-ranked spirit of undine since spirit of water will be somewhat convenient to me. Well, summoning a high-ranked spirit might be quite a burden for me.

It seems that I couldn't get into a mutual understanding with spirits who can't communicate with words.

I remembered that Sasaki Rino was using something that resembled a high-ranked spirit during my fight against Reiji.

I'm sure that her mutual understanding ability (Communication Skill) by means of magic is high.

Besides, even if it's impossible for the spirit, I've not tested it with magical beast who are also unable to express their intentions with words. I feel like testing it now.

"And that's our lesson for today"

The book on Rugaas's hand vanishes as he closed it.

"Uhm Rugaas-dono... May I ask a question?"

"What could it be?"

"Rugaas-dono, why are you opening that book while using magic?"

"Ah, I see what you mean, it is a grimoire"

A book suddenly appeared on Rugaas's hand as he muttered those words.

I nod at him.

"Lord Diehart, in fact this Rugaas is unable to use spirit magic"

"?"

I tilt my head in confusion.

"Uhm... You were using spirit magic just now"

So I ask him.

Rugaas used spirit magic just now. Why is he suddenly saying that he can't use spirit magic?

“I can use it since I’m borrowing the power of this grimoire. Even I can’t use that spirit magic just now unless I’m using this grimoire of the spirit of fire”

“Eh, in that case, I can use that spirit magic if I’m using that grimoire too, isn’t it?”

He should have said it sooner if he has such a convenient tool.

“Want to try it?”

“Eh, I can use it?!”

I nod to Rugaas’s offer as I received the grimoire.

The grimoire doesn’t react at all when I try to open it.

“I’m sure that it was shining when Rugaas-dono opened it”

“Fwofwofwofwo, this grimoire is a special one and no one but me, the owner, can use it” Rugaas is saying that while laughing.

“I see, so that’s the reason... That’s a bit regretful”

I’m saying those words with a crestfallen mood.

According to Rugaas, it seems that he can use any kind of magic save for spirit magic and healing magic which he can’t use, unless he’s holding the grimoire that corresponds to those magic. It seems that he has already surpassed Modes just based on the number of magic skills that he can use.

This Rugaas, who couldn’t come to fight the hero, will take a slightly longer time to use magic since he would have to change his grimoire correspondingly following the magic that he used, and it’s still not yet ready for combat since the magical power needed for summoning the grimoire and then using the magic is almost twice the amount of magical power needed to use the same normally.

“As for me, I’m really envious of lord Diehart who can use that black flame. Because I can’t use that black flame even with a grimoire”

Rugaas is saying so with a regretful tone.

And then, he's muttering something as he received his grimoire back from me; thereupon, the grimoire vanished as it left my hand.

"This power is sure convenient. Is there a magic which can recall something to a separated place to return?"

"Yeah, transfer object magic is surprisingly easy to use as long as you have a special magic item. For example, lord Diehart's cursed sword"

"Eh, is that so?"

I recalled the cursed sword that I received from Modes. Needless to say, it was the sword that almost killed Reiji.

"Please try to call that sword to come to this place in your mind"

I'm going to call the cursed sword to my hand.

Come! !

Several seconds later, a sword appeared in my hand.

"So you really are acknowledged as the master by that cursed sword. Such weapons with their own unique magical power will choose their own master. It's easy to call them too"

I'm looking at the cursed sword. The cursed sword looks quite sinister with the red pattern on its sword blade.

"The name of this cursed sword is the cursed sword of vile blood. Something sliced by this cursed sword will be infected by its dark power and will be gradually eaten from inside. The hero who received a slash from this sword is currently on the verge of dying due to this sword's power"

Rugaas is laughing happily.

Those words stirred my heart.

"Uhm... I heard they managed to save the hero life though..."

Or so at least from what I heard, I'm relieved when I heard that Reiji survived, but.....

"It seems that his life is currently anchored due to the power of the saint. But, even that is just a matter of time"

Rugaas's saying so while chuckling.

Reiji is the enemy of Rugaas and the demon king army, so it's natural for him to be happy when that enemy is dying.

But, I couldn't do that.

No matter what I say, I'm the one who did that to the hero, but I never had any intention to kill Reiji.

Though he's not someone that I like, I don't hate him to the point of wanting to kill him. While it might be true that I hate him, it's not to the point of wanting to hurt him.

To be honest, I'm worried.

As expected, I should go see his situation all by myself.

In fact, I'm not just worried about Reiji but also all of them.

Most of all, I'm worried about Shirone.

Shirone didn't show signs of missing her original world.

This Shirone exists in this world. No matter how I look at it, I'm worried about her.

So, I query after thinking about that matter for a while.

"Uhm... Rugaas-dono. I've something that I want to tell you"

Kuroki Meets The Demon King.

"I see, you're worried about the hero's condition. Understood, let me prepare the things that you'll need for a long journey"

Modes is nodding in agreement.

I'm relieved by the fact that he agreed to my request.

During the audience at the demon king's castle, I state my wish to Modes that I would like to see the condition of the hero.

Though I thought it was impossible at first, Modes readily agreed to my wish. Though he might think that I'm going to finish him[the hero] off, since I did not say the reason why I want to see his[the hero] situation.

But, I'm relieved that I got permission from Modes. This is because I've almost no knowledge about this world. His assistance for my journey will make a great difference for sure.

"Rugaas, prepare the necessary things needed for lord Diehart in his journey"

Rugaas stepped forward upon the call from Modes.

"Yes, I am finished with the preparations since he had already consulted with me about this matter yesterday. Let's assign a guide to him since lord Diehart barely knows about the human race territory. Come here, Nut"

A small animal shows itself at the foot of Rugaas when Rugaas called forth.

It looked like a rat or maybe a squirrel with red colored fur. This small animal walked forward till it arrived at my foot.

"My pleasure to meet you Diehart-sama, my name is Nut of the fire rat race"

The rat which called itself Nut introduced itself while bowing lightly at me.

In normal situations, a rat speaking is—! Made me surprised indeed, but I've seen many impossible creatures already. I won't be surprised anymore.

"I'm Diehart. It's my pleasure to meet you, Nut"

I greet it back.

Nut who's greeted back by me is showing a surprised expression. Though it might be wrong since it's a rat face.

“...It’s nothing, I really can’t trust those rumors. I heard that you’re an extremely horrible person”

Nut is saying so while shrugging its shoulders.

I’m smiling wryly for being deemed as an extremely horrible person.

It seems that somehow Modes’s subordinates are afraid of me.

In case of Modes’s subordinates, save for the demon race with appearance that resembles a human, most of the races are with appearances resembling that of monsters, so for them to be afraid of me gave me a slightly odd feeling.

But, I don’t think being feared is a nice thing since I’m going to live in this place for a while.

Even in the earth, someone told me to hide my eyes since my eyes are scary. Thanks to that advice my appearance became milder.

But, since it’s not like they’re from this world and are still afraid of my appearance, I need another means to hide my appearance.

Well, what should I do then?

Should I dance while saying “I’m scary~, I’m scary you kno~w”.

Modes and the other guys were showing puzzled expressions as I was thinking about such a foolish idea.

“Uhm... Lord Diehart?”

“No, I’m not thinking about something strange. Thank you for your willingness to become my guide”

“Well then, please take a look at this since we’re preparing other necessary things for your journey”

I received the explanation about the magic tool that I received from another subordinate of Rugaas.

The map of this world. Magic mantle with hood to erase my presence. Gems to make my soldiers with magic. Gems with sealed transfer magic inside. Gems that might be used to exchange with human race currency.

“Next is, just the other necessary things to add, do you want to add something?”

“No, I think it’s plenty enough with just this much”

So, I say my gratitude. Since I know almost nothing about this world, I don’t even know what I need for my journey.

“Lord Diehart, the area outside of this Nargol is the territory of the gods of Elios. If you think that the situation is getting dangerous, return immediately with that gem of metastasis”

Modes is saying so to me.

Metastasis magic is a transfer magic to move toward a pre-established position to which you want to move by using magic. The gem of metastasis is a one-time magic tool to activate that magic, even if that person can’t use that magic.

“Thank you very much”

I express my gratitude to Modes.

I have to show my manners to someone who truly cares about me. Maybe this is the common sense of this world.

And then, after the audience.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

“This place is?”

The place to which I moved with metastasis magic is a dark place devoid of people.

“This is one of the defense points in Akeron mountain range. In fact, since many of the knight who were stationed here either received grievous wound or killed in the battle against the hero, they’ve no leeway to deploy some of their forces to welcome us at this location...”

Nut, getting on my shoulder, was doing the explanation for me.

Akeron mountain range is the boundary line that divides the world of humans and Nargol.

The dark knights riding the flying dragon were the ones who were protecting this line to prevent the possibilities of an invasion from this mountain. It is seemingly one of the defense points.

After making enough preparations for a journey, we left the demon king castle at once with magic.

We'll be arriving at the world of humans once we descend this mountain.

"It's strange right, the flying dragon that will send us down to the foot of the mountain is supposed to be standing by but..."

In fact, it's faster to descend the mountain with flight magic, but it's decided that we'll be sent down by a flying dragon since my interest was piqued by it.

Something is making a sound from the side of the stone building.

When I leave the building to see it, there was a lizard-like animal with gigantic wings growing on its sides.

It was the one called Flying Dragon (Wyvern) One of the dark knights was riding on the back of the wyvern.

That dark knight is landing his wyvern close to the building and then jumped from the back of the wyvern.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Diehart-kakka[1]! ! My name is knight Gned! !"

The dark knight introduced himself while taking off his helmet.

If measured by the age of human race, his age is around the latter half of his teens till the first half of his twenties.

Rugaas had told me about the demon race.

The demon race is the highest-ranked race in this Nargol. Their appearance resembles that of human race except for the horn growing from both sides of their head. They're far more excellent than human race both in term of physical body and magic.

But if one must talk about their weakness, it's the fact that their numbers are few; their numbers had not even reached 1/20th of the orc race, the race with most population in Nargol.

Even so, Rugaas added that the chivalric order of dark knights, the best in Nargol, is composed of the soldiers of this demon race.

Maybe the face of this dark knight Gned stiffened due to his tension.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Gned. No need to be that formal"

To be honest, I feel that my back is somewhat itchy when he called me with "-Kakka" suffix. I'm not that great to be called as such. I wish that he's more carefree since, going by appearance, his age isn't that much different from myself.

But, I noticed that lord Gned's body is trembling lightly.

Is he frightened by what I said?

If that was true, I'll be shocked you know.

"I-I CAN'T DO THAT! ! Since kakka position is just next to the king of this Nargol! !"

I don't know whether he is saying the truth due to his tension or due to his fear.

But, it seems that it was impossible to make him drop his formal way of speaking.

"A-After this, I-I'll be the one who'll send kakka to the foot of the mountain range!!"

Gned is saying so as if urging us to get on the back seat on the back of the wyvern.

".....Well then, I'm looking forward to work with you, lord Gned"

"R-Roger!!"

After Gned and I are on the back of the flying wyvern.

I can feel the wind being sliced by the wings of the wyvern.

I let out an “Oops” voice to this sensation.

It was quite a nice feeling.

Right after the flying dragon soared in the sky, I can see the defensive point turning into a dot.

The sensation of flying in the sky is really nice. Now I want to have a wyvern of my own.

But, just when I thought about that, the wyvern suddenly lowered its flying altitude.

“What’s matter, lord Gned?”

It’s messing the sky with such low-altitude flying.

“W-We have to fly in low-altitude ahead of this point since the monitoring is getting stricter!!”

I wonder what this monitoring thing is.

“Diehart-sama. This region is already under the supervision of those holy knight from Elios. They’ll lock our position if we’re flying at a higher altitude”

Nut who had entered the bosom pocket of my clothes was the one doing the explanation for me.

According to Nut’s explanation, the holy knights of Elios is the elite corps composed of angel race and the hero of human race who pledged their allegiance to the king of god, Oudith. Naturally, due to hostile relationship between Nargol and Elios, the holy knights are also in a hostile relationship with the dark knights.

And it seems that these holy knights were repeatedly violating the airspace after what happened to the dark knight due to Reiji and the others doing. Thus, it seems that we have to fly in low-altitude in order for them to not discover our presence.

Gned is awkwardly manipulating the wyvern. It was a dangerous flight even just seeing it from the side.

“.....Look like it hasn't been a long time since lord Gned received his wyvern”

The chivalric order of dark knights is currently experiencing labor shortage. It seems that he lacks sufficient skills for riding the wyvern and is basically riding the wyvern as soon as he got one.

“.....But, we might be targeted by the goblin in the vicinities with such an awkward method of flying”

“Eh, why would the goblins be going against us?”

Rugaas taught me a bit about demons during our magic lesson. Goblin is an ugly creature with green skin and a height around 140 cm in average. Rugaas told me that they have a head harder than iron and have abysmal talent in music.

But, even though the goblins are also called as demons, maybe they're actually not subordinates of Modes.

That's why I asked such question.

“The goblins around this vicinities aren't the subordinates of your highness Modes”

According to Nut, it seems that Modes is also called by the name of ruler of demon. He is called so because no human lives in Nargol and large number of demons inhabit Nargol, but it doesn't mean that the demons outside of Nargol are Modes's subordinate; on the contrary, many of those demons outside Nargol seemingly not even obey Modes's authority.

And the goblins in this region don't obey orders from Modes. Rather, it seems very few demons are actually obeying Modes's orders.

There were even those pretending to be the demon king.

Though Modes has enough power to rule over the entire demon race in this world, it seems that the reason why he never went to attack the humans is due Modes's lack of greed.

But, it seems that many people think that when the demons outside of Nargol attacked the humans, it was due to Modes order while in the fact was the other way around.

In short, leaving Nargol means leaving from the subordination of Modes, so the problem that happens outside is their own problem.

I touch the cursed sword on my waist which I wore since there'll be a short delay when I summon it. I don't know whether I'll draw my sword to cut the demon who chooses to attack me along the way.

It was when I was thinking about that, an arrow suddenly shot from below.

"I-It's a goblin!!"

Nut is screaming in panic.

When I look below, beings that looked like a kid with green skin were aiming their bow toward our direction.

The wyvern became more violent on becoming the target of the arrows.

I cling to the wyvern in panic.

"CALM DOWN!! I SAID CALM DOWN!!!"

Gned attempts to calm down the wyvern came for naught.

Gned made his wyvern rise even further to avoid the arrows.

"UOOOOOOOOOO!!!"

I scream unintentionally.

We're out of the range of the arrows due to our rapid ascent.

"CALM DOWN!! CALM DOWN!!!"

For some reason, the wyvern calmed down after we escaped from the barrage of arrows.

"It seems we're safe now, isn't it..."

When I expressed my relief, Gned is screaming in panic.

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!! WE’VE BEEN DISCOVERED!!”

When I look at the direction where Gned is pointing at, people with wings on their back we’re rushing toward our direction. They numbered 10.

The winged man, wearing golden armor while holding bows in their hands, is aiming at us.

“They’re the angel race of the holy knights!! RUN, LORD GNED!!”

The angel race is a race whose appearance resembles the human race with wings growing on their back.

The angel race is the race having a pair of wings on their back and have no need for flight magic, thus they can use sword or magic while flying in the air.

Since normally, one can’t fight while using flight magic, unless they were of the race who can fly such as the angel race or wyvern race.

Even Gned, who’s more or less just getting on the back of the wyvern, might be defeated just like that since he has not received dragon rider training.

Even before Nut sent his warning, Gned already made his wyvern to turn around.

When I think that there’s no other choice, I recite the aria for flight magic.

“KAKKA!?”

“Lord Gned, please keep your focus on controlling the wyvern. Leave the aftermath to me”

I rush toward the angels while saying those words.

The angels then shot their arrows toward me.

Those arrows were too slow.

“HA!!”

So I draw my sword and knock down those arrows.

“NO WAY!!”

The angels are screaming.

“O Black Flame!!”

I release a gigantic lump of black fire while flying in the sky.

“Flame Prison (Hell Flame) !!”

The lump of black fire is spreading out toward the angels.

It's just a scare away tactic as I have no intention to hurt them.

But, I know that the effect is tremendous as soon as my opponents saw that.

“That black flame, it's Runfeld, RUN!!”

Maybe because they have some sort of misunderstanding since I wore my hood, the angels are running as they mistook me for Runfeld.

And just like that, I return to Gned's wyvern and sit on its back seat.

“Amazing...”

I can hear Gned muttering that.

“I've driven away the angels, lord Gned. Please keep flying at this altitude”

I'm smiling toward Gned.

“U-UNDERSTOOD!!”

Gned is saying his gratitude with faltering words at the back of the wyvern.

The wyvern soars high into the sky, cutting through the air.

I thought it was wonderful.

I cannot enjoy the scenery as I have to keep certain level of concentration when flying

with flight magic. When it comes to flying, flying on the back of something seems a better choice.

So I thought of asking for a wyvern of my own when I return to Nargol later.

We're arrived at the end of Akeron mountain range before long.

"Thank you very much, lord Gned"

I, who jumped from the back of the wyvern, sent my words of gratitude to Gned.

"I'm grateful for your words!!"

Gned was too tense from the beginning to the end.

But, I can feel that he's more relaxed than the time when I first meet him.

"I'll be praying for your safety during the journey till you're back to this place!!"

"Thank you very much, lord Gned"

Gned is saying so after riding on his wyvern.

Well, we'll be going by foot from this point. さ

According to Nut's story, it seems that the place where Reiji and the others are living is the country called Holy Republic, Lenaria.

Though it'll be faster to go there if I use transfer magic, since I can't transfer to an unmarked place, it naturally can't be used outside of Nargol.

Though there's some distance to reach the holy republic, Lenaria, it seems that the I, who came to this world, has transformed into a superman and can move at a faster speed than the me of earth. It won't take that much time.

"Well then, here we go, Nut"

It was my first step toward the human world.

Chapter 8

The Girl Worries

“Is oniisama yet to wake up? If so, then what is Sahoko doing right now!!!”

Midou Kyouka aka Kyouka is protesting with a loud voice.

Kyouka is one of Reiji’s two little sisters.

Though her appearance is similiar to Reiji, he personality isn’t.

Reiji was defeated by the dark knight and then we returned to the holy republic Lenaria.

The eight of us were summoned by the temple of goddess Rena in this country.

We’re currently inside one of the temple rooms.

“Kyouka-san, Reiji-kun won’t wake up even if you raise your voice like that, you know”

I said those words for who knows how many times. Reiji is sleeping in the room beside us, so she should be quiet.

“So, you’re not worrying about oniisama, Chiyuki-san? ! ! Come to think of it, oniisama’s wound is because you guys aren’t strong enough! How will you take responsibility for this matter? ! !”

Honestly, I’m too lazy to reply to her outburst of anger since it’s too troublesome.

Kyouka is not participating in the demon king subjugation.

She and Takayama Kaya, or known as Kaya, were waiting for us in this holy republic Lenaria.

As for why they’re house-sitting, it is to protect our base of operations, at least officially.

But, the real reason is because of Kyouka's incompetence.

She most likely will attack her own allies as she's unable to control her own power.

She's seemingly learning fencing but to be honest, her strength is questionable. Just like how her gender is the opposite of Reiji, her strength is also dismally low.

Frankly speaking, she's nothing but a burden even if we bring her along.

She's also on bad terms with the other girls which would make the atmosphere detrimental, if we're to take her along.

That's why she couldn't participate in the subjugation of the demon king.

Contrary to that, Kaya, using kenpo and karate, is quite capable herself, but she decided to remain here as she's unable to leave Kyouka alone.

Sahoko and Kaya are the daughters of the servants of Reiji house.

Kyouka and Kaya are going to the princess's school which is different from the school we're going to and is located in quite a distant location. Even in our world, the reason Kaya left is to assist Kyouka.

Kaya and I are currently the only ones in this room.

It's been three days since Reiji was defeated.

Though his body is safe, he had spent a vast amount of his life force, thus he has yet to wake up.

Though I know that Kyouka is worried about Reiji, I can't do anything about it. We can only wish for his safety.

Sahoko is currently on Reiji's side. Sahoko, who takes care of Reiji even in our world, has already been using her healing magic for three days straight.

I recall that time. Sahoko keep chanting the aria of healing magic almost all day long on Reiji's wound. Even Sahoko's life will be in grave danger if she continues to overdraft in this manner.

To be honest, it's thanks to her effort that she managed to save Reiji's life in spite of that fatal wound.

Why Sahoko is willing to go that far to save Reiji?

I heard that Sahoko is Reiji's childhood friend. Due to the circumstance of his house, Reiji was raised in a different house than the main house of the Midou family, and since Sahoko was the only child around his age in that house, the two became playmates. That's why I think that there are so many things that may have happened between them.

And that Sahoko has already nursed Reiji for three days straight, so she must have some rest. Naturally, Sahoko agreed to that proposal, but...

Kyouka tried as hard as Sahoko to nurse Reiji, but she fell after being unable to do anything.

But, I'm also not that much of a help compared to Sahoko.

No, no one can rival Sahoko when it comes to Reiji.

After Sahoko returned to rest, three of us, Kaya, Shirone and I took turns to nurse Reiji.

Kaya and Shirone are currently training in the training ground of the temple.

Reiji is currently unable to move, so those two will stand as vanguard in case something happens.

For this reason, Shirone has requested Kaya to accompany her with her training.

By the way, Rino is in her own allocated room in the temple while Nao is strolling outside.

After Reiji's defeat, the atmosphere between us became heavy.

It seems that it was because Reiji had been mortally wounded and was on the verge of death, but what made us shocked the most was his defeat.

Until now, save for Reiji, we're the ones who often fall into desperate situations and Reiji is the only exception.

We felt that it'll be easy for him no matter who the opponent is.

It was such a simple matter.

Dark knight Diehart.

I'm pondering about the man who defeated Reiji.

The fight from that time was too fast to be seen by my eyes.

Before I know, Reiji had already fallen on the ground with blood gushing out from his chest.

The only one who could see that fight was only Shirone and Nao.

According to Shirone, Diehart's movements seemingly resembled Japanese swordsmanship. Moreover, he's quite the master at that too.

Shirone, as the girl of a kendo dojo*, is quite knowledgeable about swordsmanship.
[TL : equivalent to sect in xianxia or school]*

Shirone told us that Diehart's ability is higher than hers.

And it's something that one cannot achieve without swordsmanship training.

“Rei-kun!! !”

Sahoko's voice is suddenly resounding from the room.

When Kyouka and I enter the room in panic, we saw an awakened Reiji there. Sahoko was currently embracing that Reiji.

Chapter 9

Conference of the Heroes

Chiyuki.

Eight of us were gathered in the room.

Though it's been three days since Reiji opened his eyes, he's still not in his peak condition. But his recovery is just a matter of time.

We could finally regain our everyday life after confirming Reiji's safety.

And now, everyone has gathered in one of the temple rooms to discuss about what we will do after this.

"I think we should just give up with the subjugation of the demon king"

So I say.

"Why Chiyuki?"

Reiji's asking me.

"Why you say... Why don't you think of the answer by looking at yourself? You almost died, you know"

So I scolded him with those words.

In the first place, I was going to stop this demon king subjugation if things became too dangerous.

Until now, we're on the side who snatched their lives.

But, our position reversed when we met Diehart.

To be honest, we should have just given up on this subjugation from the very

beginning.

“Sorry Chiyuki, I have no intention to break my promise with a woman”

Reiji’s saying that with a firm tone.

So my anger switch flipped on hearing those words.

“YOU, YOU MADE SAHOKO AND THE OTHERS WORRIED TO DEATH, YOU KNOW! ! THAT DIEHART FELLOW IS STRONG! ! YOU MIGHT DIE IF YOU FIGHT HIM AGAIN! !”

This guy won’t even care about his own life when it comes to women.

But, the foolishness of this man is also what saved me before once.

That’s why I am travelling along with him until now. There’s Shirone and Nao too. They might have been saved by this guy in the past too.

“My bad, but I’ve no intention to give up on saving Rena”

Of course I know that. This guy just won’t stop from doing such things.

“Uhm... Chiyuki-san, there are many people who are hurt because of the demons. So, can we really give up on those troubled people?”

It’s Rino who’s saying this.

In the first place, the purpose of this journey was for the sake of saving the people who were suffering because of the demons.

The demon king Modes is the king who rules over every demon in this world. And then, he comes to attack the humans by using those demons.

And then, the demon king Modes is trying to rule over this world to destroy the gods of Elios.

Though it’s not like we heard those rumors directly from Rena, such rumor were spread amongst the citizens.

Defeating this demon king Modes for the world peace. That is our goal.

Well, in fact, we only want to enjoy venturing around, but that is our official reason.

“There’s also that, but we have something we must to do right? In the first place, THAT is the problem of this world?”

I think it’s strange in the fact that we have to take care of the problem of this world.

“Well, that’s true, indeed”

Though it’s strange that Kyouka is agreeing with me, so be it.

“In the first place, we’re the only ones who are working hard, so what were those gods of Elios doing ? Did they never think of settling this problem themselves?”

Several of us, who heard Kyouka’s words, are having the expression that says, “You’re also not doing anything, right?”.

But, Kyouka’s words are reasonable.

The ones who will be troubled if the demon king Modes attacks Elios were those gods. Why are they not making their move?

This fact also made me feel uneasy.

“Yes, what Kyouka-san’s saying is reasonable”

“Fufufu”

Kyouka’s expression was filled with pride upon hearing my words.

“Now, how about we look for Rena and ask for her answer about why the gods aren’t settling their own problem?”

Why those gods were leaving the demon king to his own devices.

We absolutely have to protest if the reason is unreasonable.

“Uhm, that should be okay right, Chiyuki-sama?”

Now it is Kaya’s turn to ask me.

“What’s the matter, Kaya-san?”

In fact, I’m not very good in dealing with Kaya-san. She always has that expressionless-like noh mask on her face which makes me unable to determine what she’s thinking.

Moreover, Kaya has always put some distance whenever she talks with others. That’s the reason why she always added “-sama” suffix to everyone. She never opened her heart to anyone amongst us.

“Moreover, it’s not like we can’t return unless we beat the demon king, right?”

Several amongst us nodded after hearing Kaya words after realizing that it’s not like we can’t go back if we’re not subjugating the demon king.

“Thus, I have no choice but to negotiate about that matter in some way or another. I don’t think that the goddess will threaten us, even as a joke. I think she won’t say something like we won’t be able to go back unless we beat the demon king”

In the first place, we’re talking about Rena, the goddess of abundant affection and appearance.

“U~hm Chiyuki-san. Can I have a moment?”

Now, it is Shirone’s turn.

“What’s the matter, Shirone?”

“You see, I wonder what will happen if we return? Let’s say... What if another person got summoned to replace us”

Then that different person will face the hardest trial in their life. So Shirone says.

“U~hm, certainly, it’s almost like we’re dumping the trouble on him or her”

Nao is agreeing with Shirone.

“That’s right, Chiyuki. We should think about how to return right now rather than worrying about stopping”

Maybe, it’s as hopeless as Reiji says. But, I couldn’t be satisfied with such a result.

Someone might die. Moreover...

“But you see, everyone. Someone might think that we’re dead right now. Moreover, it’s been over six months already. Our families might be anxious too”

Yes, it’s been half a year already. It might be the right time to go back.

Everyone fell silent on hearing my words.

“Shirone-san, you want to meet your childhood friend right?”

So, I’m changing the flow of conversation to Shirone.

I can’t persuade everyone by myself. I need a like-minded fellow.

“EH!! I wonder what kind of person that childhood friend of Shirone-san?”

Sahoko bit into that topic.

“A~h, so Sahoko didn’t know about i~t. He must be a childhood friend that made a vow to be together with Shirone-san, ri~ght”

“W... W-Wait a minute Rino-san. Kuroki hasn’t done something like that, you know! !”

Shirone’s raising an objection.

“You see, I’m trying to look after him in the dojo of Shirone family since I’m kind of interested in him. He’s quite a plain person but definitely a splendid, cool, and handsome man, you know. Maybe, he’ll be popular if it wasn’t for Reiji”

Though I have only heard the matter about the childhood friend from Shirone, in fact, I have never met him.

But, Rino, who works as a model, was used to looking at handsome men. So, the “Quite handsome” for this girl might be on the level of a general good-looking guy.

But the other male students are not that conspicuous since Reiji is in the school. That might be the reason why her childhood friend isn’t conspicuous too.

“...Handsome? But is he really that good looking?”

Shirone's tilting her head. It seems she never considered him as good looking.

"He~ ..."

Reiji's letting out a voice with a deep meaning.

"Re... Reiji-kun must have misunderstand too, right. I feel nothing about Kuroki! !"

Shirone's explaining to Reiji in a confused manner.

The girls in this place, everyone have feelings toward Reiji. Maybe Shirone also doesn't want him to misunderstand something.

If it's from my perspective, Shirone is really someone that doesn't have some sort of special feeling toward her childhood friend. She might have not been with Reiji if she really possessed some special feelings for her childhood friend.

But then, maybe her childhood friend likes her.

But, Shirone says that she wants to apologize to him since she said some cruel things to him just before being summoned to this world.

"But Shirone-san, Didn't you say that you want to apologize to your childhood friend?"

So I ask Shirone.

"That's..."

Shirone is faltering.

Rino and Nao bent their body forward to hear Shirone faltering with her words. It seems that the graceful Sahoko is also listening attentively.

In case of Sahoko and Rino, they're greatly interested since there's a chance to decrease the number of their rivals.

"Well then, everyone. Should we try to talk to Rena first? It won't be too late to consider our next plan after hearing her story, right?"

Reiji interrupted the girls' stories.

“E~h”

Rino’s saying so while grumbling.

Certainly, we have so many things that we have to ask to Rena.

In the first place, we couldn’t ask about many things before embarking on our journey.

Why the gods of Elios have left the demon king to his own devices?

Is it really true that we won’t be able to go back unless we beat the demon king?

We dissolved our conference after saying a few words.

Chapter 10

The Forest of the Elves Dwellings

Traveling Merchant, Raus.

“Goddamn it, for this Raus-sama to meet something like this... And just when I’m about to arrive at Phteah kingdom”

I’m running into the forest when I encountered goblins on the highway during my journey toward Phteah kingdom for trading business.

Now, I want to add another complaint.

“What the hell are you doing, Knight of Phteah kingdom?”

Those knights were supposed to be protecting the area outside the castle such as the highway. And those demons appeared since they neglected their duties.

But, there’s no way I can get angry over such matters.

“Though I know that I have run quite a distance from the highway, where am I...”

The forest is the territory of the demons.

And I never know when I will be ambushed by another demon like those goblins.

I have to return to the highway right away. Since more demons will appear when night descends.

I must enter the castle rampart by then.

So, I keep walking.

But, I couldn’t go back to the highway.

“My throat is quite parched...”

My throat is parched since I'm running away from the goblins as fast as I can.

"Nevertheless, why did they suddenly stop chasing after me?"

Goblin are nimble thanks to their short legs. So, I didn't think that my plump self, who is already over his forties, can get away from them.

Well, I think it's fine that way too. Since my life is spared, now I'm thirsty from all that chase.

"...A song?"

I heard a song when I kept walking.

As I headed toward the direction of the song, there was a huge fountain ahead of me.

And there was a naked girl whose lower half was immersed inside the fountain.

That girl was the one who was singing that song.

She has a beautiful voice. I'm unconsciously fascinated by her voice.

I unintentionally create a noise upon stepping on a wood branch.

"Who is there?"

Maybe because that beauty noticed the crackling sound, she's looking toward my direction.

"M! ! My apologies! ! I didn't have any intention to peep on you! ! I just came since I heard your beautiful singing voice..."

I make an excuse in hurry.

"No, it's my fault for bathing in a place like this. How about you come to take a bath with me?"

That beauty is smiling at me without hiding her bare body.

I lost my ability to think anything as if a mist covered my head upon seeing her smile.

“No way, how can I take a bath with a beauty such as yourself! ! But, may I drink the water, I’m quite thirsty...”

So, I approach the fountain.

“I see. This fountain isn’t owned by anyone. Feel free to drink the water in it”

“I see. Well then, I hold back”

It feels nice since a beauty is saying “Go ahead” to me, right.

Moreover, I’m just thirsty. So, I won’t feel guilty from the bottom of my heart if I want to see her after coming even closer. So I say to myself.

She’s showing a friendly smile.

After arriving near the deep fountain, I bend over. But my eyes just won’t leave that beauty.

I’m scooping some of the fountain water with both of my hands. The water feels so nice, could it be it’s because a beauty is pickled in it?

When I’m about to scoop water again, but at that instant, I feel something strange in my body.

“My body is...”

My body is paralyzed, I can’t move my hand. At that instant, I finally look into the fountain.

“WHA...!!”

There was a face of a huge demon inside of the fountain. That face is looking at me.

The instant I see that face, the mist that was shrouding my mind is cleared up in an instant.

That’s right, why would such a beauty be present in this kind of place. The forest is filled with this kind of demon.

Maybe that's why I didn't notice such an abnormal situation.

I forcibly raise my face to look at the beauty.

The beauty is smiling as if enjoying my plight.

That demon's face is coming out from the fountain. That demon then opens its huge mouth.

"AAAh..."

I couldn't do anything.

The demon face is already coming for me.

And then, I'm swallowed by the darkness.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

"Ha~ ... we didn't make it today"

The fourth day after we left Nargol.

And I didn't even come to the city from before.

We were in the middle of journey toward Holy Republic Lenaria where Reiji and the others live.

It seems there's quite a distance from Nargol till Holy Republic Lenaria but, since the me in this world is capable of moving even faster than a horse, I've already covered two-thirds of the distance in these four days of journey.

Though I've not measured my movement speed, it might be more than 200 km/hr.

I became a superman in this world.

Since I'm doing a superhuman feat like those in the movies, I might be comparable to a superman for the people of this world.

I'm observing what kind of people live in this world during my journey.

I'm not using the humans of this world living in the surface as the standard.

There were countless cities closely resembling ancient Greece.

And then, outside the city walls where the demon were running rampant isn't the world of humans.

The humans who live on the outskirts and within the city built a rampart.

And then there are highways which connect one city with another.

Since there's a city-state resembling a village, a big city-state possessing their own satellite city also exist.

The form of governance also varied between republic and kingdom and such.

In short, the difference in the mayors of the city was in whether they were chosen by voting or by heredity.

There were countries where the nobility, whether the positions of mayor, vice-mayor, or section chief, were inherited, there were countries which only the position of mayor was inherited. Naturally, nobility also exist in republic countries.

The religion was naturally based on the gods of Elios.

According to Nut, even the people who live in the frontiers have faith in the gods of Elios, but it seems they were a savage tribe.

By the way, the population of the city-state called Phateah kingdom, which I'm stopping by for a short visit, is around 20 thousand people.

In the first place, those 20 thousand included only those who have citizenship, the population will increase even further if I have to include the ones who don't have citizenship.

The ones who have citizenship are the people of this city-state, and the ones who don't have it are considered foreigners.

That's why, it won't be that easy for someone without citizenship to enter the rampart.

Well then, it brings us to circulation of the money. Due to the treaty between the countries, those with citizenship can easily enter the countries that have signed it. The human traffic will have more freedom by making several such treaties.

Naturally, a self-sufficient country with closed economic policy and completely isolating themselves without forming any treaty at all does exist.

By the way, for the me who didn't possess any citizenship, I couldn't enter any city by official means.

In that case, if one were to ask "Then what about your food and drinks along the journey until now?"

First, food is available in abundance in the forest, I can take things like pomegranate as much as I want.

There's also a wide variety of fruits. Normal humans couldn't live in this place, even if demons don't exist here.

But as expected, I have no choice but to enter the rampart in case I want to eat something cooked with fire.

Entering quietly by flight magic and then stealing one meat skewer while apologizing to the shopkeeper.

Though I don't need to do that if I have money, Modes didn't have currency that was circulating in the world of humans.

I received gems to be exchanged for money when I leave Nargol, but since I [including Nut] didn't know what I have to do with it since I don't know the method to exchange it, it remained unused.

"Well then, what shall we do for today, Nut?"

So I asked Nut, my fellow traveler.

"How about secretly entering the city by using the shadow mantle?"

Though I can't enter the city by formal means from the front, I can enter the city as long as I use the shadow mantle I received from Modes.

The mantle [with a hood attached on it] which I called as “this shadow mantle”, can act just like when I’m using invisibility magic and will also hide my face once I wear the hood.

The invisibility magic is a magic to erase one’s presence, the one using this magic will disappear from the perception of others.

But then, the invisibility magic won’t work on someone using detection magic or possessing detection skill; furthermore. once discovered, the invisibility magic will lose its effect.

And that was the same even with shadow mantle.

“No, let’s not touch that topic for now, the information about Reiji and the others was generally same as before”

Since our purpose is to collect information about Reiji and the others, we should go for a short visit to Holy Republic Lenaria where Reiji and the others are.

It was the same for the stories about Reiji and the others.

It seems that many people have been saved by Reiji and the others since they defeated a lot of demons.

Naturally, they received the gratitude of many people, too.

But, it seems there are also the people who feared them.

A fear toward someone who can wield that kind of power unbecoming of a human.

And it seems some amongst them also received damage from Reiji and the others.

Thus, I think that the stories about Reiji and the others won’t be that different even in Phteah kingdom. Since I don’t have money, I can’t enter Phteah kingdom and rest in the inn.

“Nut, Let’s camp in this area for today”

“Well then, shall I look for food and meal?”

“That’s right”

We should get some rest since the day will turn dark soon.

Fortunately, the forest around this vicinity is rich in natural resources, so there’s no way we’ll be troubled for food.

The demons also won’t approach me as long as I use barrier magic.

I keep walking into the forest, looking for food and water.

It was a while after I walked away from the camping ground.

I can hear a song coming from the deep forest.

“.....A song”

I tilt my head in confusion.

This place is inside of the forest where the demons are running rampant, so it was considered an abnormal situation when someone was singing in this kind of place.

“It’s a nice voice, isn’t it...”

Nut is saying so with an entranced voice. He couldn’t think of anything.

“Don’t you want to go there, Diehart-sama?”

Nut is saying so while heading toward the direction of the voice.

Nut’s condition seems to be strange judging by his voice.

Somehow, he became like this after hearing this song.

“Understood, let’s go”

I wanted to see the owner of this voice too.

After walking for a while, we arrived at a vacant plot of land with a huge fountain.

There was a naked woman immersing herself in the fountain with her lower half inside the fountain; it seems this woman-like thing is the one singing this song.

“Who’s there?”

Maybe because she noticed our presence, the woman is looking at our direction.

“Ah, no... My apologies for disturbing your singing session. We were wondering who was singing with this wonderful voice”

I apologize. In fact, I am thinking, “Thank god my curiosity won over me, I got to see a rare thing.”

“It’s nothing, please don’t worry about it. How about you come to take a bath too?”

“No, we’ll refuse that offer. Well, we’ll excuse ourself then. Please continue your singing session”

When I’m about to leave.

“Diehart-sama. The water is so pretty. How about spending our night here?”

Nut, who remained on his place, is saying so.

“Nut, you can’t drink this water, you know. There’s poison mixed in the water”

“EEH, POISON!!”

Nut shouts with a surprised expression.

There’s poison, made of magic, mixed in the water of this fountain. It seems to be the type that will paralyze your body.

“Why that kind of poison is... Let’s rest for a while”

The woman’s saying so.

I could feel a bit of agitation in her words.

This woman is looking at myself like some kind of predator.

I became sensitive toward the gaze that neither had malice or hostile ever since I came to this world.

Even if, for example, we were separated by dozens metres, I can feel the malice as long as it's being directed at me. According to Ruugas, it's seems like enemy perception ability, but I don't feel good at all on being exposed to such an unpleasant gaze.

Moreover, this woman is using charm magic upon us since a while ago.

That's also the cause of such unpleasant feeling. Maybe, Nut becoming strange is also thanks to the song a while ago.

This woman might be a demon as I can't feel anything on seeing her body[naked].

She was a demon that preyed on the charmed living beings that approached her because of her female-like human body and her song.

Naturally, I have no intention to be eaten by her.

But, I couldn't get into the mood to fight this demon.

So, I'm thinking of leaving it alone. That's why I want to leave this place immediately.

For that reason, I activate my intimidation so that she won't be hostile toward us. Though we were frequently become targets for demons along with our journey, most of the demons will run away as long as I send my intimidation toward them.

But my prediction is way off, this woman shaped demon has turned even more hostile toward me.

"You bastard!!"

The woman's expression twists into anger and a gigantic head of a beast suddenly comes out from the fountain. There are six beast heads that are rushing to attack me by stretching their long necks.

My prediction is way off, that beast didn't have any intention to let me go. Moreover, its agility didn't match its appearance.

"HA!!"

I'm avoiding one of the heads that come to attack me first and then kill it while drawing my sword.

“GUUUUUUUUUUUUUU! ! HOW DARE A MERE HUMAN! ! !”

The woman is showing an anguished expression. That face already lost all of its grace from a while back.

“EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MERELY FOOD!! !”

The water of the fountain then rises in the air to form a gigantic lump of water.

“Bubble Shot (Water Splash) ! ! ! ! !”

As the demon shouted, the gigantic lump of water is descending upon me.

“Magic Shield (Magic Shield) ! !”

A circular shield of light engulfed my entire body as I shouted that name. ‘Water splash’ is thwarted by my magic shield.

As I stopped the water shot, the demon came out of the water.

The lower half of its body hidden within the fountain became exposed in bright daylight. Several tentacles and six gigantic beast heads were its lower body parts and woman-like upper body parts respectively.

That was an ugly figure.

The demon is trying to come toward me.

It's not that agile, so it might not be able to move quickly on the land. あ

“Are you safe, Nut?”

“Yesh... Somehow it become quite hectic”

It seems Nut couldn't follow such a rapid development.

“Get down, Nut”

After Nut landed on the ground, he immediately retreated behind me.

“H-HOW DARE YOU TO DO THAT TO ONE OF MY HEADS!!”

The demon is looking at me with eyes that are filled with rage. Black blood that spilled on the ground from the head that I cut is decimating the land. White smoke is rising from the path where the black blood is flowing at. The vegetation in the surroundings where the blood spilled is withering. Maybe there’s poison in this demon blood.

Though I noticed it doesn’t have quick movements, I’ll be safe as long as I run away, but the condition of the demon made it clear that it’ll chase me till the end.

That was a bit troublesome. Moreover, I might be able to win if I fight.

“A MERE HUMA~~N!!”

The demon is heading toward me. Its movements are slow.

Its beast heads and tentacles are attacking me.

I twist my body and retreat after cutting off it’s tentacles and the second beast head.

“NO WAY!!”

The demon is surprised by such a scene.

I jumped behind the demon and just like that, I killed it with a slash from my sword to it’s woman-like upper body.

“N... NO WAY.....!!”

Just like that, the demon had fallen.

The demon is bending its neck to look at me.

“I... I see... Y... You’re a divine being huh... To think that I took you as a mere human... Such... Such a disgrace...”

After saying so, the demon crumbles down.

“...I’m not a divine being though”

But I’m sure that it won’t be able to refute my remark.

The demon eventually disappeared along with the arising white smoke. It seems I just defeated it.

“Diehart-sama~. Are you alright?”

Nut is making a detour while passing the place where the demon had died and ran toward me.

“I had never seen that kind of a demon until now, quite a formidable foe huh”

I only saw goblins or ogres along our journey, thus I never saw this kind of demon.

“Yup... It’s also my first time seeing this kind of demon”

I was surprised by the fact that Nut had also never seen it before. It seems that it was quite a rare demon huh.

Well, it should be okay to ask about this demon from someone else, right.

I’m looking into the forest.

Someone was looking at us, but I can’t feel any hostility from that person’s gaze. It seems that one isn’t a goblin or an ogre. I wonder what kind of being it is.

“May I ask who’s there?”

I’m raising the question first.

When I ask that person, a girl then showed up from the shadow of the tree.

Her age might be slightly below me. She was a blue-haired beauty with white skin.

Why this kind of girl is in this place, she might be a demon of the same kind as the previous one.

But I don’t feel any hostility from her, and her gaze isn’t unpleasant like the demon

from before.

“Diehart-sama. That’s an elf”

“An elf”

Surely, upon looking at her ears, I realized that it was long like the ones in the description of elf race’s features.

I’m sure that Ruugas told me before about the elven race being composed nothing but woman and having an extremely long life span compared to a human’s. In addition, every elf is far more powerful in using spirit magic than the average human, that’s why they can live inside the forest where demons are running rampant without relying on the rampart.

And, it seems that they repeatedly kidnap the human males with whom they fall in love with.

I’m looking at her. I don’t think it’s a bad thing for a young man even if he’s kidnapped by her. Well, that has nothing to do with me.

I wonder what business this elf has with me.

“Uhm... Are you a god?”

The elf girl is asking timidly.

“Nope, just a human?”

I reply as a rhetoric.

In fact, I feel a bit anxious. Is it really okay to take the people of the human race in this world as the same with the human race in my world?

Why because, irrespective of whether it was me, Reiji, or the others, we have superhuman powers far surpassing the realm of humans in this world. The only thing that didn’t have much difference is just our outward appearance.

“No way, how can a human beat that Scylla when even us, the elf race, aren’t a match against it. Are you really not a god?”

It seems the demon from before is called Scylla.

“Nope, I’m definitely not a god...”

I’m not that much of an important character to be called as a god.

“I see”

The girl is approaching me. And after she came right in front of me, she’s taking a good look at me from head to toe.

“Hum, by the way, what kind of a person are you?... Why are you in this kind of place?”

The girl’s face keeps approaching me.

I am reflected in her eyes. I unintentionally avert my gaze. My heart is beating loudly since no girl but Shirone had ever approached me back in Japan.

“N... No, I’m just a traveler. And I’m looking for a place to rest for a while”

I reply with a flustered tone.

“Eh, you’re not going to the residence of the humans?”

“The residence of the humans” might be referring to the rampart. I’m nodding to answer the elf girl’s question.

“Yes... I am caught in a special circumstance...”

“Hu~m, then I take that you have nowhere to go. Hey, how about coming to my house?”

“EH! ?”

I’m perplexed. I hear that despite the fact of elven race falling in love with a young human, they’re not that friendly with the humans.

When looking at her, I can’t feel any hostility at all. Her gaze is neither unpleasant nor creepy.

After pondering for a while.

“Well then, please allow me to receive your good will”

I lost to my curiosity. I was curious in what one called as the dwelling place of the elves.

“Yup, it’s okay”

The elf girl starts guiding me into the forest with a light smile.

“It seems she likes you”

Nut is saying so in a joking tone.

Certainly, I can feel something like goodwill from the elf girl.

The girl keeps walking ahead.

A while later, an unusual phenomenon happened in front of our eyes.

Though it’s still like a normal forest, I can feel that something is different.

“You noticed that barrier just now, it’s amazing right?”

“Barrier?”

“Yes, it’s a magic that will make those who enter the boundary to lose their way. That’s why, you must follow me”

The girl continues to walk ahead just like that.

And then, we arrived at the base of a big tree.

That was an extremely big tree. There are several houses on a branch of the tree.

I was unintentionally dazed as I looked at that. That was a tree house which I had only seen in the TV.

In fact, I have a bit for yearning for this kind of house, since it felt more like a secret base.

“This place is my house.”

So she says.

“Tess!! !”

A voice is calling from above. When I look at that direction, a woman comes out from one of the tree houses.

The woman looks like she’s just a few years older than the elf girl. That woman is getting down from the tree.

“Ah, mama! ! I’m back! !”

I’m surprised when the elf girl called that woman “Mama”. And, here I thought that she might be the elf girl’s elder sister.

“Tess!! It’s not ‘I’m back’. Where did you run away!! Moreover...”

The mother of the girl is looking at us.

“Who is this gentleman?”

The mother of the girl is staring at us.

She was a beauty just like her daughter. I just couldn’t keep my calm when I see her.

“Mama! ! He’s an amazing person you see! ! I mean, he’s the one who defeated that Scylla! !”

The girl introduces me to her mother while clinging onto my arm.

I can feel the softness of the girl’s body sticking on my body.

“Scylla... Is it the Scylla of that fountain?”

The mother is scanning me from head to toe.

“He... Doesn’t seem to be that strong, isn’t he?”

And then says those words.

“Mama! ! You’re being rude to him! !”

The girl is rebutting her mother.

“Ah, you’re right, my apologies. It’s my pleasure to meet a human gentleman such as you. I’m Davia of Hardy forest and the mother of that Tess beside you”

Davia offers her greeting. It seems the name of the elf girl is Tess.

“Yes, My name is... Kuro. I’m in the middle of a journey”

I pause for a moment and then introduce myself with an alias. Though it would okay even if I use my real name, there’s a possibility that my name will somehow reach Shirone and co.’s ears. So, the usage of my name is extremely restricted.

“Mama, Kuro is in the middle of a journey, so can he come to our house?”

Tess is trying to allow me to enter into her house even without her mother’s permission.

“Uhm, Tess-san...”

When I’m about to say whether it’s really okay to go without the permission of her mother.

“It can’t be helped then. Welcome to our home then, Kuro-dono”

But, she easily let me into the house.

Honestly, is it really okay for her to let an unfamiliar man into her house? Or rather, is it a part of their culture?

According to Ruugas, the elven race was not that friendly to humans. There’s no way for Ruugas’ knowledge to be incorrect.

Tess’ house is located high in the giant tree. There’s no ladder or stairs to ascend to her house.

How are we going to climb it? When I'm thinking about the problem at hand, Tess gently floats upward and reaches her house. Somehow, this height isn't a problem for the elven race who are excellent in spirit magic.

"Come over here, Kuro!! You should be able to fly, right?"

Tess is showing a nonchalant smile.

Certainly, this height isn't that much of a problem to me.

Since I'm interested in this tree house and her mother has also given her permission, let's enter the house.

I arrive at the tree house while controlling my excitement.

And then, "Oops" is what I think upon seeing the tree house.

This tree house isn't built on top of a tree. The tree house is growing on the tree; the tree has swelled to form a house. It was an extremely mysterious house.

It seems to be growing properly. When I look inside, the light that was illuminating the house doesn't seem to be made of fire, but it was using light spirit. Upon looking at this, I remembered that in the world of humans, they were using a torch or an oil lamp as the source of illumination. From this, I came to a conclusion that the livelihood of the elves might be more dependent on magic.

The furnishings that I see inside the house is also splendid. It's completely different from the world of humans. It seems that they have reached the point of using magic in their daily lives.

Though the houses of the elven race seem primitive at glance, the interiors seem to be far more comfortable than the dwelling place of the humans in this world.

This world is more developed in a certain way than my own world due to the existence of magic.

Maybe my world will also develop just like this one if it's a world where one can use magic.

"Please sit down over there, Kuro-dono. I'm going to make tea right away. Come and

help me, Tess”

“O~K”

After returning to the tree house, Tess and Davia are walking toward the place that might be a kitchen.

From the sign, it seems that the two of them are the only ones who live in this house.

The two of them come back a while later. They brought tea and snacks on a wooden tray.

The two place the wooden tray on the table in front of me.

A fragrant aroma is drifting from the red colored tea. The food is one big and flat bread, soup that boiled together in cabbage-like vegetable and round, sliced carrot-like vegetable, and the last one is a cake with dried fruit in it.

“Go ahead, Kuro-dono”

I’m sipping the tea. It was the first time I tried this taste, but it’s delicious.

And then I try the vegetable soup. To be honest, it’s a bit too mild, but I am still satisfied with it since I never had a satisfactory meal recently.

“How is it?”

Davia’s asking me.

“Well, I have never had a satisfactory meal until now. Even so, this meal is delicious”

The elven style meal is more satisfying to me than the human world’s. The gatekeeper in charge of the security for entering the Phteah city from before drove me out of the city as if I’m a suspicious person. In fact, though I might look like a suspicious person in this world, I don’t want to be treated that way.

And yet, Tess and her mother were giving a warm welcome to me which almost made me cry.

“Is that so, then please enjoy your meal”

Davia's encouraging me to eat my food.

To be honest, it's been a while since I had a decent meal.

Tess was looking at me with a friendly smile on her face.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

"It's finally a bed after a while"

As the night lingers on, I'm guided to a bedroom.

"This is a bit too strange, right....."

Nut is saying so with a puzzled tone.

"Though I don't know much about the elven race, why are they going as far as this to welcome us? This is just incomprehensible"

I also shared the same doubt as Nut.

They just met us today. Everyone is extremely cold-hearted toward me when we made short stops at a few cities of the human race. Why the elves, basically not of my race, are so kind toward me?

Moreover, it seems that there's a rare case of an elf falling in love with the youth of human race, but they were fundamentally not so friendly toward humans.

"But, you see Nut, I can't feel any hostile intent from her"

I couldn't feel any unpleasant feelings from the girl called Tess, rather it was only good intentions directed toward me.

"Are they not using spirit magic?"

".....Nope, I can't feel that sign"

It's normal for Nut to ask that. Honestly, I can even say that my magical power is far superior when compared to Nut.

If they were using magic, Nut's condition might become strange like the time with that Scylla from a while ago.

It will be a completely different case if the magic is only used on me, but Tess has seen me talking to Nut. So, I can take that it's just common sense for her to notice that. Even if she's scheming something, why would the magic be used only on me?

"But, maybe we can expect something... Like something that she wishes from me"

I don't know what is that something. Even so, I should return this favor of one night's lodging and meal as much as I can.

"Maybe she has some kind of wish?"

"She has seen me defeating that Scylla. Maybe she's going to ask me to exterminate another demon"

"...I see, that's plausible"

Nut is nodding in agreement.

Then, he enters the bed after giving his agreement. I was surprised by the softness of the bed when I tried it.

"Amazing, even my world didn't have a bed as soft as this one"

It's just my imagination since I have never sleep on a high quality quilt, but this bed may be beyond that.

Tess even politely prepared a bed for Nut.

"Good night, Nut..."

"Good night"

It's a proper bed after a long time. The feeling of a bed after such a long time smells good.

To be honest, I couldn't sleep well along the journey. That's why I'm extremely drowsy even though I'm just a bit tired.

I felt that my consciousness is slowly sinking into the darkness.

Elf Girl, Tess.

“Tess, it seems Kuro-dono is already asleep”

Mother is telling me that.

“Have you reported this to dear father?”

This is the bedroom of father and mother.

I told my father about Kuro just a while ago.

My father is sleeping on the bed where I’m sitting on. My father is always sleeping ever since I was born.

I think that he’s handsome since mother has fallen in love with him. Naturally, Kuro also won’t lose in that matter.

I have never see him wake up even once.

My father is a human. In the case that a female is born from an elf mother, her race is elf, and when a male is born, his race is the same as his father.

Because majority of us don’t want to copulate with ugly races like goblin or orc, it left us with just humans.

To be honest, I heard that my older brother and little brother were sent immediately to the dwelling place of the humans to get used to their customs.

Even now, my siblings were living in the dwelling place of humans.

And, since the elf who fell in love will kidnap the male human, the quarrel with the female humans never died out.

Even mother had a serious dispute with the humans when she kidnapped father. But then, mother, who defeated a female human without even using magic, is the best proof that father is mother’s possession.

But, seeing that father is a human with a short life-span, it's just normal for him to die a short while later.

Even though the lifespan of the humans can be extended to become the same as the elves by using magic that is only usable by the queen of elves, the queen won't use that magic on the person if they have no qualifications to become the knight of elves.

Thus, prolonging their life with everlasting magic along with sleeping magic becomes the most commonly used method.

Father, who received this magic, is always sleeping, even now on the bed.

Though he's always asleep, father will be alive without dying, and since his physical body is still okay even when asleep, he can still make a child even when asleep.

In case we want to talk to him, we will enter into father's dream with Mind Dive magic. I also talked to father in his dreams about Kuro just now.

"It seems he has a good sleep when I saw his sleeping face. I peeked a bit into his heart and seems like a kind person, since you have an excellent intuition just like me"

I nod upon hearing mother's words.

"Of course he is, I mean he is the man that I chose. It felt like a fate when I saw Kuro for the first time"

I felt my heart beat when I saw Kuro for the first time. I felt the urge to make him into my spouse.

Mother said that intuition is important, since it's just normal for us. Because it was also like this when father met mother, though mother forcibly abducted him by using magic.

Mother said that she had no problem, since he was pretty and it was better than bringing back an ugly human.

She said the same thing for Kuro. That's why, I was happy since I can be together forever with Kuro in this place. Since he didn't seem to show any signs of dissatisfaction toward me.

That's just natural since I'm far more beautiful than the average human female.

"Well, mother, I'm going to Kuro's room then"

I leave the bedroom of my parents and change places with mother.

I'm thinking about the conversation inside my dream with Kuro.

He is basically defenseless inside the dream. There are so many things that I want to hear from Kuro.

Thus, I head toward my bedroom where Kuro is sleeping.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

"My deepest gratitude for your kindness"

Nut and I express our gratitudes to Davia and Tess.

Tess is looking at me with sad face.

I can't see her entire face. Last night, Tess became my sweet lover inside my dreams. That dream strangely felt real to me. I feel extremely embarrassed since it's inside my dreams.

"Be careful on the way"

Davia is also making a sad face.

"My apologies, I'm in a hurry since there's a place that I have to visit..."

Tess and Davia didn't even say their requests in the end.

It seems it was an act out of pure kindness.

But, something is worrying me in the morning. Tess was already awake when I woke up in the morning. She is acting a bit strange compared to yesterday. That's making me worry about her.

But, I still have to go.

“Thank you very much. I definitely will return my gratitude for the kindness that you displayed yesterday”

I say so before I’m about to leave the tree house.

“Kuroki!!”

Tess is calling me.

“Tess?”

“Kuroki... We will meet again... right?”

Tess’s eyes are already brimming with tears.

“Yeah, we definitely will meet again, Tess”

I’m brushing Tess’ cheeks. I definitely will die from the shame for this kind of action which didn’t suit me, but it’s still better compared to what happened inside my dream.

Then, I left Tess while turning around to wave my hand so many times to them.

And then, I noticed a fact a little while after I left her hometown.

“Come to think of it, why does Tess know my real name?”

Elf Girl, Tess.

“Are you okay, Tess?”

I’m shaking my head upon hearing mother’s question.

“...I mean, it can’t be helped you know. I never expected that he’s a man of a different world... I’m sure that Kuroki has some kind of role in this world. There’s no way I can keep him for myself...”

The night that I enjoyed inside the dream with Kuroki will become the most important memory of my life.

I came to realize Kuroki’s true identity inside his dream.

Kuroki's power was as amazing as those divine beings. I can make him mine forever with magic if he is a normal person, but my magic doesn't work on Kuroki.

I didn't even know what I have to do upon seeing that Kuroki is leaving.

I'm looking at Kuroki's back.

Kuroki turned around so many times. At least he doesn't hate me.

Maybe we can meet again.

"See you again, my kind dark knight"

Dark Knight Kuroki.

"Diehart-sama. That is the Holy Republic Lenaria"

I'm looking at a big city from on top of the hill.

This country was located on the intersecting estuaries of the river and the holy sea that originates from Elios mountain.

Two days after separating with Tess, I finally arrived at my destination.

"Well, shall we go then, Nut?"

The elves of this world have many similarities with a nymph.

Chapter 11

The Country of the Goddess

Dark Knight Kuroki.

Holy Republic Lenaria is one of the biggest states amongst the other big states in this world.

It has several satellite cities with the population of Lenaria city alone being around 200 thousands.

In the first place, that count is only when one were speaking about the people who own citizenship. That number will increase further on adding people who don't possess citizenship.

Holy republic Lenaria is a country without kingship lineage, as its name stated, and is a country that is ruled by a council elected once every four years.

The council seems to be elected, but it's different from how a general republic does. The temple of Lena chooses the council from amongst the people who have received referrals from the ones who have certain number of citizens' votes.

Even so, temple of Rena possesses the right of veto against the council and the gathering of human organizations of people with citizenship.

In short, the political power of this country is completely under the control of the temple of Rena. Naturally, this country's supreme ruler is also the temple of Rena.

The temple of Rena in this Holy Republic Lenaria is the greatest holy land of the believers of goddess Rena and the place where her believers from all around the world come to pay homage to her in the temple.

Since it's a rich country, there are many people who visit other than for the temple of goddess Rena.

And I come to this country as one of its visitors.

“What are you going to do after this, Diehart-sama?”

Nut gets on my shoulder and queries me with the aforementioned question.

“Uhm, now that you asked that... Let’s look for a base for now”

Saying so, I walk toward the city outside the rampart.

When the city is very large, there are things that you can do outside the city.

Since the outside city also has another rampart.

If it’s the outside city, I can enter it as I please without even the need to show the citizenship for the sake of entering the country.

If by normal standards, it’s dangerous to stay outside at night.

But, people who don’t possess citizenship anywhere can do nothing but stay in the outside city, since they have no other place to go.

The one who stays in the outside city is usually people of the ruined country or a criminal who’s chased by a country.

That’s why the public order is really bad.

Honestly speaking, it’s the job of the knights to protect the public order outside the rampart.

Inside of the rampart is protected by the palace guards and vigilante corps, while the knights are protecting the safety of the people who go to the highway outside the rampart.

Since wild demons frequently appear in the highway, if they don’t periodically exterminate them, the people who use that highway will die.

They must fight the demons in an area that is even bigger than the city. That’s why they’re mounting a horse, and must be someone who is skilled enough to work as a knight.

Since the country will be troubled if someone with that kind of ability rebels against

the country, a knight must have loyalty toward their country and their king.

However, in the end, a knight is just someone who protects the city to which they're tied to by treaty or birth(hometown).

The knights won't protect someone who doesn't have citizenship.

That's why the knights won't do anything at all even if humans killed each other in the outside city.

On the contrary, if someone without citizenship harmed someone with citizenship, the knights will kill the one without citizenship.

If it's from the knight perspective, people of the outer city are no different from wild demons.

But then, why are the knights not driving away people from the outer city?

That's because, according to the knights, even the people who disturbed public order were lucrative existences as cheap labor for the merchants.

The manpower, far cheaper than the normal citizen, is contributing to the development of the city.

For that reason, the knights allow people without citizenship to exist in the outer city. But, it's the story as long as they don't harm the citizens.

Someone who looks like a bad person just passed by me.

"Where are we right now?" Nut, who moved to my bosom pocket, is asking me.

"I'm going to search for an inn if possible, but... It seems that even a decent inn is quite rare in the outer city"

If going by location and security, the inn inside the rampart may be the best one right.

But, I can't lodge in the inn when I am already having a hard time entering the rampart without citizenship.

I can enter the rampart in secret, but I might be suspected by the people in the inn.

It will be for the best if I possessed the ability to use magic to manipulate one's will, but I don't have such ability.

That's why, I'm looking for a place at which I can stay sometime in the outer city.

I'm walking around the outer city.

The puddles of water due to yesterday's rain made my shoes dirty everytime I took a step.

"...It seems better than the outer city of the one from which we came before"

I mutter to myself while looking at my surrounding.

Of the cities that I came upon, this is the third outer city.

The public order of the two before this one was really bad.

At any rate, the corpses of humans scattering around everywhere, is just everyday occurrence.

It was the first time for me to see the body of a murdered human.

But, I felt it is slightly unpleasant due to that sight and nothing more.

I think it would have caused an uproar if it were in my world.

Maybe it was a side effect applied to my mindset when I got summoned to this world.

I didn't get scared even when I was surrounded by the demons during my summoning.

Rather, Reiji and Shirone's side is even scarier than them.

Maybe it's the same case for Shirone's.

Since it seems that Reiji and Shirone have defeated many demons.

Don't they feel scared?

I discover a place that looks like an inn as I saunter around while pondering about

such things.

But, I just passed by it.

The reason is because I'm penniless.

So, the first thing I should do is to look for a place to endure wind and rain.

My feet ended up bringing me to a slightly separated place from outer city.

Wannabe Male Soldier, Dozumi.

"God damn it... What... should I do now..."

I couldn't get any better ideas no matter how much I look for it.

It won't pop up even when I drink some liquor.

I feel a bit unwell.

So, I enter a place with lesser people to vomit for a while.

"Oi Dozumi!!"

A voice calls me from behind, while I'm vomiting.

Dozumi, that is my name.

Not my real name. Since my face look like a rat[Dobunezumi], they just abbreviated it into "Dozumi" to call me.

When I turn around, there are five people standing behind me with a towering high bald man at their center.

I was familiar with their faces.

They are my fellow comrades of a band of freedom fighters to which I used to belong.

Seeing the people that I didn't want to see awakened me from intoxication.

I belong to the soldier battalion which exists in the outer city of Holy Republic Lenaria.

Even if I say that it's a troop, it's nothing but just a gathering of hoodlums.

Different from the knights, it was an organization solely existing to exterminate wild demons which aren't under the control of the city.

But, we never did something like exterminating the wild demons.

Our opponents are the same humans as us.

We're a gathering of ignoble guys who get our daily meal by snatching it from the weak ones. That is the organization to which I belong.

I joined it because one can't live without being a part of any organization to stay alive in this outer city.

That's why I never complain even if the organization to which I belong is like shit.

But, I am crying because the soldier troop to which I am supposed to belong to is trying to kill me.

"Isn't this my leader... What can I do for you today?"

I'm looking at the leader while sneering at him.

He was the big man with a scar on his face and bald head.

Though his stomach is slightly bulging out, his arms are thick and really strong.

"Where are you going to run now, Dozumi? Aren't you in deep trouble? Everything is because you pricked hero-sama, you know?"

Leader is laughing.

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, I'VE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE HERO....."

I'm shouting while crying.

"HA~h! ! That's because you murdered the hero's lover's father! !"

“IT’S NOT ME! ! I’M NOT THE CULPRIT! ! THE ONE WHO KILLED THAT MAN SHOULD BE YOU! ! YOU’RE THE ONE THAT GIRL IS AIMING FOR AFTER BECOMING THE HERO’S WOMAN! !”

“Oi, don’t shout with such a loud voice!!”

Leader is approaching me.

I’m retreating back.

“THE HERO WAS ALMOST KILLED BY ME, SO YOU’RE TRYNG TO MAKE ME INTO YOUR SCAPEGOAT SO THAT YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM HIS RETALIATION AFTER HE RECOVERS FROM HIS INJURY!! !”

“SHUT UP!! !”

The leader’s drawing his sword.

I might be killed at this rate.

But, even if I run away, my legs can’t move very well because of the liquor that I drank.

Am I going to die just like this?

NO.

I DON’T WANT TO DIE.

“Uhm, excuse me?”

Suddenly, I hear a voice.

From the tone, it seems to be the voice of a young man.

The leader is turning around.

I’m unable to see his silhouette because of the gigantic body of the leader.

But, the owner of that voice is coming toward me during the momentary blank out of leader.

The body of the person in front of me is wrapped entirely in a black robe and hood.

“Excuse me... Can I hear the story you said just now?”

The person who was wearing a black hood is asking me.

I can't see his face since it's covered by hood.

What he's asking about?

It doesn't matter, everything is okay right now. I'm happy as long as there's someone who is willing to hear my story.

“Yeah, it's as you heard... Or rather, please hear my story...”

I'm trying to tell him everything that happened to me so far.

“Oi lad, wait a minute. We'll be in trouble if you hear that guy's story! !”

The leader was thrusting his sword to the throat of the hooded person from behind.

“Uhm... Since you dare to point your sword at someone, you shouldn't complain if he fights back!”

After saying so, the person wearing black hood seizes the leader sword. Thereupon, the sword of the leader vanished after being engulfed by a black flame.

“WHA! ! WHAT THE! ! MAGICIAN? ! !”

Leader is letting out an astonished voice.

“Sorry, but I won't let you talk for a while”

When the person wearing the hood turns around, the leader fell on his knees.

I don't even know what just happened.

The leader is holding his hands on his mouth.

At a closer look, it seems his jaw is disconnected.

“FU ga... Fu Ga...”

Leader is looking at the hooded person to say something.

His eyes are dyed with fear.

“It’ll be the best for you if you don’t tell anyone about what happened in this place”

After the person wearing hood said so, leader and the others escape from this place.

“Well then... Will you tell me the detailed story about that event? The hero... Reiji is still alive, right?”

I nod upon hearing his question.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

Nut and I move toward the usual nesting place of the man who calls himself Dozumi.

Dozumi’s nesting place is a wooden shack whose location is slightly away from the outer city.

There are holes in various places as if it’s going to break anytime soon.

So that was what happened huh...”

“Hehe, that’s right, master...”

According to Dozumi’s story, the girl, on whom the leader of the soldier troop which he belong to had taken a liking upon, was snatched by the hero.

Even if I say “taken a liking”, it doesn’t mean that she got along with the leader, the leader just forcibly approached her against her will.

The leader then threatened the girl that he’ll kill her father if she does not do as he said.

The girl didn’t receive the protection of law since she didn’t have the citizenship of Holy Republic Lenaria, so she couldn’t do anything but perform as the leader said.

And then, the hero Reiji appeared.

The girl asked Reiji to save her. Reiji saved her since the girl was a beauty.

The leader couldn't do anything but to withdraw since there's no way he could win against the hero certified by Rena temple.

But, the rumor about Reiji dying in the hands of a dark knight then spread around.

The girl lost the protection she had with Reiji's death and her father was killed by the leader.

But, Reiji was still alive.

As expected, even if it's in the outer city, he won't forgive the killer.

It seems that the girl also doesn't know the culprit who killed her father. But then, there's no way that he won't get his retribution after doing that.

That is why the leader tried to present a person as a scapegoat, fearing Reiji's retribution.

And that scapegoat was this Dozumi in front of me.

Though I don't think that Reiji's eyes can be deceived by such third rate tactics, I just hear in silence, since I don't know what this leader is thinking about.

"Thank you, I got to hear important information"

I take out several gems from the back of my waist and give it to Dozumi.

Dozumi is looking at the gems with a dumbfounded look.

"This is... The real deal?"

Dozumi is looking at the gems from different angles and then tries to bite into it.

"Is that... Too little?"

Dozumi is shaking his head on hearing me ask that question.

“If this is the real thing, I can escape from this kind of place toward a different outer city... Even so, master! ! Are you really not going to regret the fact that you gave such valuable things to me? ! !”

Dozumi’s teeth clatters as he mutters those words.

“It’s okay, I got the information that I need after all... Moreover, you let me to rest in this nesting place”

When he heard me saying that, this time, Dozumi is nodding to my words.

“Naturally! ! I’ll even give this nesting place to you, master! ! I’m going to leave this city! ! So please use this place as you like! !”

“Then... Will you teach me about some things after this?”

“As long as I can answer it, feel free to ask anything!! I’m prepared to answer it even if master is a devil!!”

Dozumi is nodding his head while laughing. Thus, I acquired a base of operations.

The next task is to investigate about the current condition of Reiji.

Chapter 12

An Encounter With a Pervert

Dark Knight Kuroki.

Guests are chatting inside the bar located in the outer city of Holy Republic Lenaria.

Judging by their appearances, they maybe people who belong to soldier battalion.

Or rather, they look like ruffians.

I'm listening attentively.

"Oi, did you hear, it seems the hero Reiji failed in demon king's subjugation!"

"I heard about that, too. From what I know, isn't he currently on the verge of dying from several grievous wounds"

"That strength. I never imagined that hero-sama will be defeated. As I thought, the extermination of the demon king is too much for a mere human, right?"

"See, even the strongest hero isn't a match against the demon king..."

"No, I heard that the one who beat the hero isn't the demon king"

"WHAT!! REALLY!!"

"Yeah, I heard that he was defeated by the dark king, the demon king's underling"

"He~, this is the first time I heard that the demon king has such a powerful underling"

"Yeah, but that has caused a problem"

"Problem?"

"The demon king, for some reason, has never come out from Nargol until now.

However, this person seems to be different”

“WHAT! ! Are you saying that the dark knight will come to attack us?”

“I’m not sure for the time being. But, it seems that the demons became even more active after the hero was injured. There are some rumors saying that the dark knight has attacked various place by leading flocks of demons”

“It’s the dark knight after the hero... What an awful world...”

I’m not drinking liquor but just sitting on the nearby chair, listening to their conversation.

The rumor that have been mentioned are far from the truths.

I have no intention to attack at all. In the first place, Modes also has no intention of destroying the human race. Or so at least from what I heard from him.

I’m looking at the guests who are drinking their liquor.

The liquor present in their wooden mugs is liquor made from fermented wheat and is called ale.

It’s something like the beer in my world.

Though I have never drank beer or ale, I feel that ale may not be as delicious as beer.

Anyway, that’s because this world has no refrigerator.

For the ale to be not cold is just normal.

Nevertheless, I managed to hear a rumor about Reiji.

As expected, Reiji and co. have made their base in this city.

“Diehart-dono...”

I hear a voice from below the chair. There’s a rat below my chair.

Nut was collecting information in the Rena temple located right in the middle of Holy

Republic Lenaria.

“Welcome back, Nut. Shall we go back to our base then?”

Dark Knight Kuroki.

I’m going back toward Dozumi’s hut along with Nut.

Dozumi isn’t in this place anymore.

He already left this country.

No, it’s not just Dozumi.

It seems that the members of the soldier troop to which he belonged to is gone too.

It might be because they are afraid of Reiji’s retaliation.

“Diehart-sama. That’s the situation of the temple”

I’m hearing about the temple from Nut.

According to Nut, the temple had been built by the dwarves.

It seems the dwarves are quite formidable in construction.

Naturally, the knights who monitor the temple are rigorously selected from the elites, so the security is also strict.

But, the problem is the magic alarms that are installed in various places in this temple which number more than the knight’s headcount.

This alarm device, made by the dwarves, is capable of seeing through half-hearted invisibility magic or other such methods at once.

That’s why I believe there’s a high possibility that Reiji and the rest are in this temple.

It’s hard to infiltrate into Rena temple due to how strengthened the line of defense is, so I was waiting for Nut to come back.

“I can easily enter the temple by myself, though...”

Nut is saying so with an apologetic tone.

Maybe the alarm won't resound for an animal below certain size whenever a small animal goes in there. That's why, Nut, who has a small body, can easily enter the temple without being spotted.

It'll be fine if I could use transformation magic, but unfortunately, I can't use it.

“It's nothing, thank you for telling me that. That really saved me from a lot of trouble, you know...”

Nut can't use magic, but his knowledge is amazing. I'm told that his direct supervisor was the former god of knowledge himself.

But, Nut's unique selling point is his ability for gathering information and infiltration. I heard that he had even infiltrated Elios to send a message to friends of Modes.

Without Nut accompanying me along my journey, I might not have been able to go this far peacefully.

I must send my gratitude toward Modes for sending an amazing subordinate like Nut as my guide.

And he really brought back the information about the temple in this manner.

“Infiltration seems to be quite difficult, isn't it?”

I'm sighing.

“U~hm, Diehart-sama. So it's not possible with the information that I heard during my infiltration?”

Nut is querying me.

“Certainly, I've figured out a lot from your information, but...”

But, it won't do since I've arrived at this point.

In the first place, the reason I came here isn't for gathering information as their enemy.

Nor to determine whether the gathered information will be of use to me.

I should be collecting other information such as the type of equipment used or their military force if I'm gathering information as their foe.

Maybe, Nut has mistaken that my goal for coming to this place is to deliver a finishing blow to the hero.

The information gathered by Nut is definitely vital for that kind of action.

Since Nut doesn't know my intentions, the information that he brought back isn't necessarily the information that I want.

"I'm sorry. I want to see them with my own eyes"

I turn down Nut's offer.

"I see..."

Nut's voice sounds gloomy, maybe he presumes that I'm not trusting him.

"More important stuff. Let's have a meal"

We leave the hut, Dozumi's former house.

As we leave the hut, we placed our feet firmly on the barren earth.

It's different compared to inside the rampart. There are no stone pavements at the outer city.

It was the second day after I came to this Lenaria city.

Maybe because I'm walking out in the afternoon, the fragrance of dishes is drifting out from the stalls. Having some cereal porridge might be nice.

There are many people who are heading toward the stalls.

But, eating the food of outer city is dangerous due to sanitary problems.

Anyway, since there's no equality in law, even if it's not an instant death, there might be some poisonous plants added inside it.

That's why I didn't eat anything in the bar.

If you are to ask what I'm doing in the bar then, it's simply for gathering information.

Nut and I decided to have a meal inside the rampart.

We entered the city via the main gate while I'm wearing the shadow mantle.

I invoked invisibility magic which hides even my face. The invoked invisibility magic was one that distorted people's consciousness. After invoking this magic, even the people beside the caster won't notice the presence of the caster.

But, it seems that the people with a certain level of detection ability can easily notice it.

The interior of the rampart is clean and pretty, completely different from the outer city where trash seems to be littered everywhere.

I'm heading toward the bakery which I discovered yesterday.

There are two kinds of bread: One made with inferior rye [black bread] and other with fine quality wheat[white bread].

The bread made with fine quality wheat didn't even lose to the ones made in Japan.

Though the city was different, there's this extremely delicious honey-filled bread.

Is the bread made in this city?

After walking for a while, our destination is a boisterous place.

When I'm trying to peek at the gap between the human fences, two pairs of full armored knights are walking, while keeping a close watch.

"That's the temple knight. What is that knight doing in there?"

In Holy republic Lenaria, the only one who can give orders to the knights is the head

of the temple.

Thus, the knight's job were maintaining the safety in the highway and protecting the temple in general.

Nut never said that they would be walking in the middle of the city in full armor like that.

Two girls are walking behind those knights.

Both of them were beauties.

The woman walking in the front is the very definition of a well-bred princess. Her bright colored hair is as impressive as her strong willed look.

The woman walking behind is a bit short with her hair tied like a bun on top of her head*. It's just that her face is as if she's wearing a noh mask. As the two of them are having conversation, the woman in the front displays a variety of emotions and yet, the one in the back doesn't even reply anything other than the bare minimum. *[TL*: Her hairstyle should be similar to Saber from FSN]*

Even from far away, I can figure out that the two of them are wearing first-class clothes. It seems they're quite rich.

And then, it seems that the knights walking in front and on their back are their bodyguards.

I wonder who they are?

"Diehart-sama. She's the exploding princess"

Nut is pointing at the woman walking in front.

"Exploding princess! ?"

Exploding princess, what a strange nickname. Nut proceeds to give an explanation after thinking about that matter for a second.

"Once upon a time, that princess hit the man who tried to make a pass on her with magic. At that time, the power of her magic indiscriminately ripped apart innumerable

buildings regardless of their value, and thus, she got the nickname “Exploding Princess”.”

“Haaah...”

I let out a stupid looking voice upon hearing Nut’s explanation.

And now, these knights were given a duty by the temple to not let anyone approach that exploding princess.

‘You aren’t bodyguards?’ It makes me want to retort.

The four knights were like a chaperone who surrounded the two beauties from a slight distance.

“In addition, that exploding princess is the hero’s little sister”

I’m astonished by Nut words.

The hero’s little sister! ? To put it in another way, she’s Reiji’s little sister.

I’m surprised by the fact that she was Reiji little sister, but I am also surprised that the number of summoned people is just one in demon king castle.

What the hell are they trying to do by summoning that many people?

When I inquired about that matter.

When I was summoned, I was alone.

Though I’m a bit dissatisfied by it, it’s just a matter of chance.

Shall I go closer to hear their conversation?

I’m straining my ears to eavesdrop.

I can’t hear anything.

I, who become a superman in this world, can’t hear their conversation. If I strain my ears, I can even hear the sound coming from far away.

But, I absolutely cannot hear their conversation.

Let's tail them then. So, I decided my next plan of action.

"Sorry Nut, will you wait for a while here?"

"Understood"

Nut drops down from my shoulder.

Though it should be okay even if I address them from the front, I want to avoid being discovered by Shirone due to their description as much as I can.

I invoke the invisibility magic present in the shadow mantle.

The two of them are walking toward the bakery where I'm going to go.

I'm tailing them at a reasonable distance.

When I'm a bit closer to them.

I noticed that I can hear their voice.

When I'm thinking of getting even closer to them.

I start hearing their voices normally after I got quite close to them.

"Hear me Kaya, the bread they sell in this bakery tastes so good, you know~"

It's the voice of Reiji's little sister.

"Please wait a minute!! Ojousama! !"

"What's the matter, Kaya?"

She rarely calls to stop her.

It was at that time.

I bend my body to the back at once.

At that time, something with extreme speed passed at the place where my head was, a moment ago.

It's a roundhouse kick.

The woman behind Reiji's little sister jumped toward me and released a roundhouse kick.

Moreover, in spite of her back facing me, her kick aimed at my chin with terrifying precision.

I might be done for if I had reacted just a bit late.

And, I might have fainted if I got hit on my jaw.

Using the momentum of her roundhouse kick, she twisted her body and attacked me with a heel drop.

I can't see the inside of her skirt.

I avoid that heel drop by rolling to the side.

The stone pavement where her heel dropped on got smashed and created fissures with the dropping point as the center.

She's pursuing me right away.

The attacks are sharp, but maybe because she's in a hurry, her center of gravity's a bit off.

I instantly catch her and fling her.

Crap. So I thought.

At this rate, she'll fall on the ground, head first.

So, I follow her momentum to make her fall on her bottom by circling my arms around her back.

"UH!!"

The woman is moaning.

It still hurts even if you fall on your bottom.

“I-I’m sorry!!”

I unintentionally apologize to her.

“KAYA!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO KAYA!!”

Reiji’s little sister is facing me.

But, she slipped. And that brought her to her fall.

If she continues to fall in that manner, she might fall on the pavement, face first.

“WATCH OUT!!”

I spontaneously catch her body.

FUNYU.

There’s a soft sensation transmitted on to my palm.

“WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!!”

It seems I accidentally grabbed her breast when on catching her.

“THIS PERVERT!!”

A powerful slap comes toward my face.

Since my hand didn’t separate from her chest. I can only receive it head on.

At that time, my hood slipped.

“OH SHIT!!”

I leave that place immediately while trying to hide my face.

The knights who noticed what just happened are rushing at me immediately.

I entered the shadow of the road after taking down one of the knights.

I believe I have escaped far enough. On noticing my surroundings, I seem to be already in the hut of the outer city.

There, I'm catching my breath.

I'm recalling her movements. Those movements of her seem to belong to some sort of kenpo.

And then, it might be the kenpo that came from the earth.

She was a summoned person, too. Moreover, her movements are the movements of a trained person.

But, more than that.

"I failed..."

I'm muttering so.

It might become even more difficult to gather information anymore.

What should I do from now?

"Diehart-sama~. Are you alright~?"

Nut is running toward me.

Then, I remember preceding events upon seeing Nut.

Should I tell him the truth?

If it's Nut, he can easily gather the necessary information.

We more or less became the hero's enemies.

How would his thoughts change if he knows that I don't want to be in dispute against

the heroes?

But, at this rate, I'll be left with no other choice.

I'm considering about several matters.

And then, I'm looking at my left palm.

"It was soft..."

Chapter 13

In the Temple's Training Location

Comrade of The Hero, Chiyuki.

Reiji and Shirone are sparring in Rena temple's knights' training ground.

They are using light wooden swords for training their swordsmanship.

“Uhm, Chiyuki-san...”

Sahoko, who is beside me, is calling me with a worried voice.

“I understand. I'll stop them before things become too dangerous”

I reply as such to calm Sahoko down.

Reiji wanted to learn swordsmanship from Shirone for the sake of a rematch with Diehart.

Reiji had just woken up and wanted to practice immediately.

However, it might be because lying down for so long doesn't sit well with him.

So, he wanted to learn swordsmanship from Shirone.

When I heard that, I was astonished.

Never did I think that this man will say that he would train in his martial arts.

Reiji is a greenhorn in martial arts.

Though Reiji's father tried to make his son learn some martial arts, it seems no one could teach martial arts to Reiji due to his personality since childhood.

However, from what I heard from an insider of Reiji's family, it seems that he's a cheeky

brat from an adult's point of view, and no one will teach martial arts since no one wants to get beaten by the employer.

Nevertheless, Reiji's physical ability is extraordinary even without the practice of any kind of martial arts.

That's also the reason why Reiji didn't try his hands on any martial arts.

Rather, I'm really surprised that he is this strong even without learning anything.

And that Reiji told us that he wants to learn martial arts. I suspect it has something to do with his fight against Diehart.

This is actually an extremely positive development for him.

Reiji's talent has only brought him so far, but now, he can go even further by learning.

His childhood aside, Reiji never lost even once after he grew up.

I read in some book that "A defeat will make people grow".

I think it won't be easy to gain victory against Reiji after he learns martial arts, even for Diehart.

Since no one can win against a genius who puts in great effort.

But, since his body isn't in proper condition, Sahoko naturally opposed that.

I'm looking from the side to stop them when things are getting dangerous. So, it's a training with such a condition attached.

If one were to ask why me, it seems I'm the most cool headed amongst our party.

Well, apart from Sahoko who is against the training, it's impossible to appoint this role to the other members.

Even Shirone thinks that Reiji is a hero, so she didn't consider the fact that Reiji might be too rash.

That's why I became the stopper.

Shirone is teaching Reiji the way to grip his sword. She teaches him to grip it moderately and only strengthen his grip when he swings his sword.

Even by just looking from the side, I am able to gain new knowledge from them.

But I can see that Shirone isn't a good teacher.

Though the person herself says it, it really seems that Shirone doesn't have much talent in kendo.

Her teaching methodology is also clumsy.

Moreover, there's a peculiar negative effect for special training in this world.

It is the fact that we are superhumans in this world.

For example, consider we're doing weight training.

Even 100 kg dumbbell of this world becomes extremely light in our hand.

Even the weakest of us, Sahoko can lift 100 kg with one hand.

Our 100 kg is vastly different from 100 kg of the people from this world.

That's why weight training is useless.

But, by saying so, the special training will end up in us learning the skills.

That might be the same for Shirone who possesses high physical ability, though not as much as Reiji. It seems her skill wasn't that developed.

Moreover, there's a blank period of almost two years since she left her family dojo. That's why the contents of her lesson are also probably limited.

I heave a sigh. I feel bad for Shirone even though Reiji finally showed interest in learning martial arts. He might need a better master.

Shirone's coaching class continues in spite of its poor quality.

Even Reiji is obediently receiving Shirone's teaching.

Reiji's face is showing an unusually serious expression.

Reiji has a charming face, thereupon I got unintentionally charmed by that face.

“Thank you, Shirone”

Shirone's face flushes a little when Reiji said those words with a refreshing smile on his face.

Even though Sahoko is looking, aren't you a bit too close to Shirone?

Sahoko, seeing them from the side, is having a slightly grim face.

Or rather, that's just natural for her to be worried since Reiji and Shirone are so close to each other.

But, it seems that Sahoko isn't the only one anxious about it. We are not the only ones in this training field. There are almost 20 civilian women or girls who work for the temple and came to visit Reiji.

They had gathered on hearing Reiji's recovery.

Since this training field is separated from the main building of the temple, it's relatively easier for them to enter.

That's why many women have gathered today to see him.

To be honest, it's better to chase them off since they're just a hindrance of Reiji's training.

But, I will look like a girlfriend driving away the insects swarming her boyfriend.

It seems I've gained a reputation of being an arrogant woman in the eyes of the girls in this Lenaria city.

We, on Reiji's side, aren't that popular amongst the girls of Lenaria city. The reason is because we are always beside the popular Reiji.

Well, the one who receives most of the hate is Kyouka, though.

Kyouka is hated by women and feared by men.

Previously, she devastated the downtown when she used her magic against a pervert. She ended up wounding so many people who got dragged into her mess. The men kept their distance from her due to this reason.

The one who's fairly popular in the female population amongst our group was Shirone. The brave Shirone is particularly popular amongst the younger woman.

Currently, there are even kids who come to this training field to see Shirone.

On the contrary, the most popular amongst the men was Rino. Well, she's popular due to her cute and charming figure.

Though Sahoko is also popular, in her case, it's closer to respect and affection rather than popularity. She heals the sick and injured and is hailed as the saint.

From watching Reiji's training, Reiji's sluggish movements are clearly visible.

With such a deep gash on his chest, that's natural. Currently, Reiji's life has been forcibly maintained with Sahoko's magic.

That's why he can't force himself for now.

This is it for today's training I guess.

When I think so, the training field becomes noisy.

"Please step aside for a moment"

When I am thinking about it, pair of women push their way through the throngs of women and come to see Reiji.

They are Kaya and Kyouka.

These two should have been on their way to a certain bakery that they found delicious.

They made a rude entrance and are heading toward us.

"What's the matter, Kyouka-san?"

Sahoko is asking Kyouka.

“A BIG INCIDENT JUST HAPPENED TO US, YOU KNOW!!”

Kyouka replies to her as such.

But Kyouka has a habit to exaggerate things, so it shouldn't be that serious.

I'm looking at Kaya.

“It really was a serious incident”

It seems it really was a big incident.

So I stopped Reiji's and Shirone's training and drove away the unrelated spectators.

“What happened, Kyouka?”

While walking toward us, Reiji asks Kyouka.

“Onii-sama~. I met a pervert. Kyouka is scared”

The pervert was definitely a dangerous one.

“Is that so. That is dangerous for sure, Kyouka. Leave it to me, I'll shred this pervert to pieces later”

If it's this world, Reiji might really shred that pervert to pieces. But that is not the only problem.

“What does that mean, Kyouka-san?”

So I ask Kyouka to tell the entire story.

“That pervert groped my breasts”

Did it mean the pervert went as far as groping Kyouka's breast? What were those escort knights doing then?

“And then, what happened?”

So I ask her to continue her narration.

“After groping my breast, he ran away”

That wasn't the thing I want to hear the most.

“And then, what about your magic? Is the city alright?”

Since Kyouka destroyed the city with magic in the previous incident, it was my primary concern.

“Chiyuki-sama. Ojousama did not use her magic”

Kaya is the one who replied instead.

I feel relieved on hearing that.

It seems the city is safe.

“And then. What happened to that pervert? Did you catch him and hand him over to the knights?”

“No, he fled”

“Is that so? From you? That's strange”

If Kaya were serious, escaping from her grasp isn't that simple. She might have let him flee on purpose.

“Yes. I couldn't catch him since I was thrown away by that person”

“Eh.....?”

My eyes opened wide in astonishment after hearing her words.

Kaya got tossed?

Kaya is Kyouka's attendant, and also acts as her escort. She has learned barehanded martial arts such as Kenpo and Karate.

She's quite skilled, and that's why even an average adult won't be able to defeat a martial arts expert like her back in our world.

Much less to say in this world, Kaya can even beat several hundred adults.

And that Kyouka was tossed by that pervert. Isn't that dangerous?

When I tried to ponder her story a bit, there are several strange parts in Kyouka's story, too.

If Kyouka slapped that pervert with her full power, if it's an adult of this world, his head should have blown away.

But, that didn't happen. That pervert isn't your average joe.

"GATHER EVERYONE!! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY MEETING!!"

Chapter 14

Identity of the Pervert

Comrade of The Hero, Chiyuki.

“Now, what kind of a man is that pervert?”

Nao is asking Kaya.

There were the words [Emergency Meeting: Miss Kyouka’s Breast Fondling Incident] written bright and clear on the blackboard.

Naturally, the culprit is Nao. It seems the person herself is going to take up the role of a detective just like in those dramas.

“His height is around Reiji, he hides his appearance with a black mantle attached with a hood”

Kaya replies with an expressionless face.

“It’s decided then, the culprit is REIJI”

Rnio is saying so while clapping her hands.

“Rino. That is impossible”

Reiji is playing along with her.

Yup, in the first place, Reiji is not the culprit. Everyone here knows about that.

“N-No way, onii-sama was the culprit... I’ll let you to fondle it as long as you want if you asked for it, you know”

“I’m taking back what I said before”

“I object, Rino-chan. Rei-kun was with us all along. He has a perfect alibi, you know”

Sahoko is putting forth her objection. Well, it's not like Rino's really thinking that Reiji is the culprit.

"Be quiet everyone, we have yet to gather the testimonies from all the witnesses"

Nao is telling everyone to be quiet.

"Well then, Kaya-san, will you explain the situation during that incident?"

"Yes, we were passing by the central plaza on the way to buy bread with ojou-sama. There, I noticed that someone was tailing us from behind"

There's one point that makes me worried from Kaya's testimony.

"Kaya-san, did the knights fail to notice him?"

"Yes, it seems that the person used invisibility magic"

Invisibility magic is a magic to hinder perception. Someone without certain level of perception skill won't be able to notice it.

Once recognized, the magic will be solved.

"So, that's means the culprit is a magician. Then we can start working from this"

There's only a small number of magicians, usually at least one per city state.

Though there are several magicians in case of this city, it might be easier to investigate them.

"This person approached us from behind with invisibility magic. When he came right behind me, I sent a roundhouse kick toward him"

"Your roundhouse kick you say. Isn't that person already dead..."

Kaya is shaking her head in denial in response to Shirone's words.

"That person dodged my kick"

"Na~~..."

Some people were holding their breath.

Kaya's martial arts prowess will even give Reiji a good run for his money. Since he can avoid that kick, he isn't an ordinary person.

"When I reached him for the third attack, he seized my arm and flung me away"

"....."

Everyone is speechless and surprised after hearing her words.

Including me.

Kaya's martial arts skill were famous even back in our world.

Say nothing of him avoiding her attack, he even managed to fling her away.

It's impossible for even Reiji to fling her away.

And someone from this world actually managed to do that. It really makes me wonder what kind of person he is.

"After doing that, he groped ojou-sama's breasts. Finally, he fled from that place"

"....."

Everyone is dumbstruck. But, for a different reason from a while ago.

"Let's try to make a timeline for the situation"

Nao starts writing on the blackboard.

1. *His height is similar to Reiji.*
2. *He used invisibility magic.*
3. *He can toss Kaya-san.*
4. *He likes Kyouka-san's breasts.*

“These might be the points”

Nao is saying so as she turned around.

“An abnormally skilled pervert, huh...”

Rino is speechless.

To be honest, I am too.

“No way, my breasts... has been targeted by that kind of pervert”

Kyouka is saying so while hiding her breasts.

Kyouka’s breasts are the biggest after Sahoko’s. It’s natural for men to aim for it.

“I envy those who have smaller breasts”

Kyouka is saying so while looking at Nao and Rino.

“B-BIGGER IS ALWAYS BETTER YOU KNOW!!”

“M-MINE IS STILL GROWING!!”

Rino and Nao are pouting.

“It’s okay, Rino, Nao. I’ll do something about it”

I don’t know what he meant by “Do something about it”, but, I really want to hit his hands that are making some unpleasant gestures.

“Even so, I wonder what kind of a person the culprit is?”

Shirone is saying so.

I’m also worried about that matter.

We can find people who fulfilled the first and second points written by Nao.

But, the problem is the third point. Could it be that there's someone else who can toss Kaya in this city, apart from Reiji?

And then, it becomes even more confusing with the fourth point.

Well, I don't even want to know what was going on inside that pervert's head.

"Anyway, shall we go to the magician's association tomorrow? Maybe they could possibly someone who fulfills these four points"

So, I make a suggestion. I'm planning to search for someone who can fulfill the first and second requirements.

"That's right. I'll make sure to teach that bastard who dared to reach his hand to someone's little sister"

Reiji's face is scary.

"Yeah, I can't let that person roam around freely"

Rino gives her agreement, too.

Everyone is giving their resolution.

"Please wait a minute!!"

Everyone is looking at Kaya. It's very rare for Kaya to start the conversation.

"What's the matter, Kaya-san?"

"Something has been worrying me"

Everyone is tilting their head.

"Something is worrying you?"

Kaya is nodding.

"I noticed that the technique used by that person to toss me is similar to the one used by Shirone-sama during our match sometime ago"

Shirone's family dojo teaches a grappling technique that closely resembled Judo.

And Kaya said that pervert used the exact same technique.

Shirone-san. Have you taught that technique to someone?"

Shirone is shaking her head in denial.

"Uhn. I just showed it to Kaya-san right after we came to this world"

Thereupon, it's Kaya's turn to shake her head.

"My deepest apologies. That person's ability is far more stronger than mine"

Kaya is saying so with a grim expression.

"Is he even stronger than me?"

Shirone is asking.

"My deepest apologies..."

Kaya is saying so in an apologetic manner.

"Uhm, I don't mind, Ju-jitsu isn't my strong point after all"

Shirone is saying so while laughing.

"But, even if you say that he used the same technique, what does it have to do with Shirone?"

Rino says so.

"It just maybe a similar technique of this world"

I also agree with Nao words.

That possibility is much higher. Maybe there's a similar technique in this world.

"There could certainly be similarities between different tossing technique. Maybe that

person just happened to have a similar technique as Shirone-sama. In fact, it's a technique that's similar to the ones from Ju-jitsu"

Kaya also agreed with Nao.

And then, she continues after brief pause.

"But, I think it might be a technique that came from our world"

Everyone is looking at each other's face after listening to Kaya's words.

She just dropped a bombshell.

"So you mean another person came to this world aside from us?"

Kaya is nodding in affirmation to Reiji words.

"Everything will come together as long as you think about it"

I'm pondering again about the meaning of her words.

"If that is true, then everything will be clear"

If he is a human from the same world as us, he might be not a small fry seeing that he can avoid Kaya's attack and even toss her.

Naturally, it's not strange for him to be able to use magic similar to us.

"But, Rena didn't tell us anything"

Some of us are nodding on hearing Reiji's words.

Certainly, Rena didn't say anything about someone else being summoned beside us. In conclusion, she forgot to tell us about such an important matter.

"Maybe, there's someone else who can use the summoning mechanism..."

There's also that possibility.

"So, let's try to ask Rena about it, since there are several other things that I want to ask

her about, too”

Chapter 15

Conversation With the Goddess

Chiyuki's conversation with Rena.

"It's been a while, goddess Rena"

"It's been a while, Chiyuki"

A considerable amount of time has passed since I met Rena previously.

The last time we met was around three weeks ago.

Rena and I are the only individuals in this room inside the temple.

Because Reiji will try to achieve what Rena wishes for if he were here.

Though reluctant, we somehow managed to persuade him.

Now, since we can't leave Reiji alone, everyone else also left with him.

"What brings you here today, Chiyuki?"

I'm looking at Rena.

Beautiful face with hair glistening like a star; abundant chest that is even bigger than Sahoko. Reiji aside, this beauty is definitely capable of charming many men to do her bidding.

"Yes, I called you here since there is something that I wish to confirm"

The truth is I wanted to solve my quandary by directly going to this goddess's dwelling in Elios.

But, it seems we can't go there unless we get permission from the king of gods, Oudith. Thus, I did not have any choice but to summon Rena to this place whenever I have

something to ask.

Though Reiji has tried to enter Elios without caring about those things, Reiji eventually gave up when this goddess asked him to do so by slouching and highlighting her breasts.

“First, why have the gods of Elios left the demon king to his own devices?”

I ask the first question.

“It’s not like they have left him to his own devices, but... The gods have their own circumstances, you know”

Rena replies as such with an apologetic expression.

“May I hear what these circumstances are?”

“My apologies, Chiyuki. I... can’t divulge that”

From her attitude and response, it seems that she won’t tell me about it.

“So, that’s it...”

“Is that the only thing that you wanted to ask?”

Of course not.

“No, there is an even more pressing matter that I wanted to ask”

“An important matter? I wonder what it could be...”

I take a deep breath, and then open my mouth.

“Goddess Rena, there’s someone else that was summoned aside from us, right?”

Upon hearing that question, Rena’s face becomes gloomy.

“So Chiyuki noticed it, huh... It’s as you imagined”

I’m more surprised after hearing Rena’s words.

“As I thought, so it’s true...”

“Yeah, Chiyuki. Even I came to know about this matter only five days ago”

5 days ago? Knew?

Could it be that the person wasn’t summoned by Rena?

“Goddess Rena, could it be that you are not the one who summoned that person?”

“Eh, me? For what reason?”

I’m convinced upon seeing Rena’s reaction. The one who summoned that person is not Rena.

There’s another person who summoned an otherworlder aside from Rena.

Though I didn’t hear the particular details about the summon from Rena, it’s not strange for another person to be capable of performing a summon.

In that case, there’s no need to dig deeper into this.

“My apologies, goddess Rena. It seems that I doubted you”

“?”

Rena’s expression changed into curiosity.

Could it be that she never considered being doubted?

Well then, let’s move to a different topic.

“Let’s switch the topic, but there’s something that I wish to ask in the next topic”

“A... wish is it?”

“Please send me and Shirone back to our own world”

After hearing my request, Rena is showing a troubled face.

In fact, it should have been “All of us”. However, Reiji absolutely won’t give up on his promise to Rena.

Even so, it’s been half a year already. We can’t continue to remain irresponsible, and should be back immediately.

Thus, as a result, Shirone and I decided to go back.

And then, we will be the ones reporting our safety to everyone’s family.

“So you won’t cooperate in defeating the demon king anymore?”

Rena is saying so with moistened eyes.

“It’s already half a year. We can’t stay in this world any longer than this”

“Why is that?”

Rena is pleading toward me. If I’m Reiji, I might be hearing her plea.

But, that kind of eyes won’t work on me.

And then, I suddenly stumbled upon a certain idea.

“Understood”

“So you will grant my wish”

Rena is smiling. It’s as if her smile is capable of making a flower blossom completely.

“On thinking upon it again, there’s another person who used the summoning magic, right?”

When I say about what I thought.

Rena’s expression became more severe than a while ago.

“Chiyuki, what is the meaning of your words?”

“If you’re not going to fulfill our wish, I just need to go to that person’s place”

When I'm saying so, Rena's expression became even more scarier.

That was the face that Rena never showed me until now.

My back is drenched in cold sweat.

"Chiyuki! Is that what all of you are planning to do?"

I'm being pressured by Rena's vigor.

Could it be that she doesn't want us to return so much?

"N-No. At the very least, I'm the only one..."

Practically, I'm the only who's saying that I want to go back to our world. Next is Shirone who wants to go back for a while.

When I'm saying so, Rena's face returned to normal. I'm relieved after seeing that Rena's vigor vanished.

"Understood, Chiyuki. So it's okay if I just send you back, isn't it?"

Rena smiles toward me.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

It's already been two days since that event.

When I think carefully, it still seems impossible.

It was impossible to know the situation about the hero party without letting them understand about me with my abilities.

And yet, I can't be careless at the same time.

From Nut's information, the hero party didn't make any special movements.

But, just to be sure, I'm staying in this hut without even entering the rampart.

I'm leaving the entire process of infiltration and information acquisition to Nut.

So, I'm wondering for what reason I came so far.

In the end, I decided to tell everything to Nut.

When I did so.

“WHAT, THE HERO IS ACTUALLY DIEHART-SAMA'S RIVAL IN LOVE!!!”

Was what he said.

It seems he's misunderstanding about something. In the first place, I'm not even his foe and yet...

I still couldn't break his misunderstanding.

“Certainly, that's why you were summoned to his majesty demon king's side”

He told an incomprehensible thing to me.

And then, he continued with this subsequent reply.

“Please leave everything to this Nut”

He assured me as such.

I don't even know what's happening.

But, with this, maybe he will bring the information that I want to know.

Thus, Nut is monitoring the situation in the temple.

From the conversation of the temple's priest, he informed me that the goddess has descended in the temple.

She was the culprit who summoned Reiji. Maybe something serious just happened.

“I'm ba~ck, Diehart-sama~”

Nut has returned.

“Did you get the information about why goddess Rena has descended?”

Nut is shaking his head to show his lack of knowledge.

“It seems she’s having some kind of discussion with the one called Chiyuki, but I can’t hear the content of their conversation due to the strict defenses”

As expected, it seems the goddess is heavily guarded. It is to the point that even Nut can’t infiltrate to gather the information.

“I see, well it can’t be helped then... Thank you, Nut”

“But... There’s something that’s worrying me”

“Something that’s worrying you?”

“Yesh, it seems that Shirone-san, the sweetheart of Diehart-sama wants to go back to her original world”

“.....EH?”

Unconsciously, I let out a dumbfounded voice.

“But... it seems that the ones who wish to return are just Shirone and the one called Chiyuki”

That’s definitely a worrying information.

“If I’m not wrong, Elios didn’t have the method to perform reverse summoning too, right?”

“Of course, they don’t...”

Since there’s a method to perform reverse summoning in Elios, could it be that Modes is the only one who didn’t have it?

“Is that true... that they have the method to perform reverse summoning?”

“Diehart-sama! HEIBOS-SAMA WON’T DO THAT KIND OF TRICKERY TO MODES-SAMA!!”

Nut replies as such with full confidence.

Heibos, the god of craftsmanship. I heard that he is a friend of Modes.

And Nut is saying that Heibos isn't the kind of guy who will withhold such information.

But, the method for reverse summons is not available yet, at least for now. In the worst case, they'll end up drifting in between the dimensional boundary.

Shirone says that she wants to go back.

But, Nut is telling me that there's no method to return.

There's a contradiction in this information.

Maybe Rena isn't aware that she can't send them back with the current summoning magic.

But, what if she sent Shirone back despite knowing about such information?

Either way, Shirone is in a dangerous situation.

"Could it be that Rena will really perform the summoning ceremony?"

"Yesh"

"And she is currently in the temple right?"

"Yesh"

I should just confirm these facts right from the goddess herself.

"Nut, let's raid the temple"

Chapter 16

Intruder

Dark Knight Kuroki.

I'm standing on the central plaza in the rampart.

The dark park where only moonlight shines upon.

I'm wearing the complete set of armor which I made with special magic using magic tools.

This is the second time I am wearing this dark knight armor.

It might turn into a serious battle.

There's an extremely thick line of defense in the temple, and Reiji's also in there.

That's why I wore the strongest equipments amongst the ones I received from Modes. I'll appear in front of them in a similar dress like that time during our first encounter.

I shall go, then. I've decided.

My goal is to talk directly with Rena.

But, I have to confine her and prevent her from escaping, while I'm breaking through from the frontline.

That's why I'll use this.

Currently there are thirty small white gems inside the pouch that I held in my hand.

It was a magic item made with dragon fangs as the raw material.

Modes gave these to me when I left Nargol to use in case I needed them.

He said that not anyone can easily use these gems, but I might be able to use it.

I'm scattering these white gems at certain intervals.

And then I start reciting the aria.

“O SOLDIER MADE FROM THE FANG OF A DRAGON, ARISE FROM THY SLUMBER! !”

After reciting the aria, fully armed soldiers, wearing armors on their bodies, ocher helmets on their heads, round shield on their left arm, and sword in their right hand, crawling out from the ground. They numbered thirty.

They were the soldiers born from the magic called Dragon Fang Soldier, (Spartoi) .

One can't feel any life in them from their eyes shining red from the little crevice of their helmets.

Spartois line up and stand in an arrangement in front of me.

Gazing at these spartois made me think that magic is truly wonderful since these soldiers were just born from those tiny gems.

I was half-convinced whether these soldiers would really arise when I received the explanation about the magic gems from Modes.

Now, I can feel the magical power-like link with the spartois that were born from the magic gems.

If that's the case, it seems I can manipulate them with ease.

“Nut, Please wait outside of the temple”

I request Nut who is sitting on my shoulder. He'll be in danger if it turns into a combat zone.

“Aye”

Nut quickly descends from my shoulder.

“And then, maybe I won't be able to return. That's why...”

I took a gem from my bosom pocket and gave it to Nut.

“NO WAY, DIEHART-SAMA! ! !”

It’s a Metastasis gem. It was a magic item which can be used once even by someone who can’t use metastasis magic.

“I am just talking about the “worst” case. You must go back by using that gem in case I don’t return tomorrow morning”

“Diehart-sama...”

“Nut, it’s not like I’m going to die, you know. I will definitely retreat if things became too dangerous”

On hearing those words, Nut’s tension comes down.

“If that’s what you mean... Understood, may the fortunes of war be with you...”

Nut reluctantly agreed to my request.

“SPARTOI, MOVE! !”

The spartois are starting to move. Their nimble movements makes it feel like they are not wearing heavy armor.

These spartois jump on the rooftop of houses like me, while moving nimbly without any discomfort.

Our target is Rena temple.

The spartois would invade from all the sides as a distraction while I break in. My own raid is delayed by one beat.

According to Nut’s story, Rena is currently in the altar room located at the center of the temple, since she’s making preparations to send Shirone back to our world.

It seems they are going to do the reverse summoning tomorrow. So, this is the only chance left for me to make my move.

We start advancing toward the temple of Rena.

Comrade of The Hero, Chiyuki.

“WAIT A MINUTE, REIJI-KUN, ISN'T THIS LIQUOR! !”

I'm protesting in regards to the beverage served before us.

“Well, it's alright, Chiyuki. I mean, this might be the last night you'll be here”

Reiji is saying so with a jesting tone.

“That's right, Chiyuki-san, don't-don't say such serious words”

“She's right, Chiyuki-senpai. Please do not mention such words”

Rino and Nao also chime in with a merry tone.

I'll be returning with Shirone to our original world tomorrow.

That's why Reiji and the rest held a simple farewell party.

Reiji asked the people from of the temple to prepare a light meal and beverages.

This prepared beverage is was a liquor.

The one in my hand right now is was a liquor that was made by mixing honey, sea water, and liquor made from a grape-like fruit.

This liquor has a low alcohol content, and it isn't supposed to not make you drunk. Except for Kyouka who got knocked out with only one sip of it.

That Kyouka is lying down on the nearby sofa while being nursed by Kaya.

But, no matter how low the alcohol content is, ALL OF US ARE BASICALLY MISEINEN[MINOR], WE'RE BANNED FROM DRINKING LIQUOR. *[TL : I'll left minor as it is in japanese, miseinen for the sake of act 2]*

I might have failed to notice those facts if it's not for the drunk Kyouka.

“But, this might be the last time you’ll be here Chiyuki, and we won’t be able to meet again for a while. So, let’s just enjoy your last moment in this world”

Reiji is saidying so.

“I won’t meet anyone for a while, isn’t it...”

Shirone is saidying so with a lonely tone.

Everyone become slightly gloomy due to her words.

“See that, Chiyuki. The mood became gloomy. So, you should enjoy this along with everyone else”

Rino and Nao approved his words.

“Geez, it can’t be helped then...”

I reluctantly agreed to drink the liquor.

I mean, I also hate the fact that the mood turned gloomy.

I remember the old times when I was always saved by Reiji.

I was raised with strict education by my parents.

Reiji was the one who took that kind of me to see the outside world.

I’m recalling the time when I skipped the school for the first time with just the two of us. We were playing in the city while everyone was studying. Though I kneow that I musn’tcan’t do that, I still enjoyed such a refreshing experience that I never felt until that time.

Even our adventure in this world, though I was angry at Reiji, I have no doubt that I’m actually enjoying it deep within, too.

Fighting against dragon, went to caves, seas, mountains, meeting with elves. These were things that were supposed to be part of fantasy.

Naturally, there was danger and some painful experiences, but everyone enjoyed it

because Reiji was there. It might have been very painful if I were to come to this world by myself alone.

That's why everyone doesn't want to go back.

But, this adventure of mine will end tomorrow.

I'll be back to my normal everyday life. To be honest, I'm also reluctant to do so.

But we can't act recklessly be like that without no one returning to our world.

I won't let the mood turn even gloomier.

As a result, I drink the liquor. This slightly sweet liquor is delicious.

Normally, we can't drink such liquor with so many impurities inside without a straw made from a plant with hollow stem.

But, this liquor that we took from the temple has all of its impurities carefully removed, so it's easier to drink.

We're chatting happily with each other while drinking the liquor.

"Sorry, Reiji-kun. Our training stopped halfway through"

"Well, it can't be helped. It was a sudden decision, after all"

Shirone is apologizing to Reiji too.

Since Shirone suddenly decided to return back, it can't be helped that the training to develop countermeasures against Diehart would be stopped. Moreover, Shirone had also said that coaching Reiji is impossible. Therefore, we need different measures.

"Everyone, please take care of Reiji. You must not let him fight without a guarantee of victory, especially against Diehart! !"

Everyone is nodding calmly.

Diehart is strong. But, he is not the kind of opponent that we should fight by betting

our own life on the line.

I'll ask Kaya to search for that pervert. Depending on the situation, we might have to find the other person who can do the summoning ritual aside from Rena.

We might have no choice but to ask for that person, since it seems we won't be able to beat the demon king without defeating Diehart first.

After that, we continued to enjoying the liquor.

Suddenly And then, when I was wondering whether we should end the party to prepare for tomorrow.

KANKANKAN.

Several bell tolls are resounding throughout the entire temple.

"What sound is that!?"

Everyone is looking at each other's face with curious expressions.

"INTRUDE—R!!"

"THEY ARE COMING FROM THE WEST ENTRANCE! !!"

"WE HAVE ALSO CAUGHT THE SIGHT OF STRANGE INTRUDESGUYS AT THE EAST ENTRANCE! !"

It was the panicked voice of the knights.

"Intruder!?"

The bell that resounded a while ago was a warning equipment.

"Intruder huh, do we need to welcome them?"

Reiji is pondering about it now.

The first thing that I want to know is about the identity of the intruder.

“Nao-san, Can I leave this to you?”

“Understood”

Nao is closing her eyes and then enters a meditative state.

Nao has superior perception skills. It is one of the abilities that she learned after coming to this world.

Whether what or where, it's the kind of ability that will let her know the enemy even if that guy can't be seen with eyes.

Reiji, Shirone, and Kaya can also use this ability. But, other than Reiji, the two have their perception limited to the radius of 8-9 metres, while considering Nao whose perception almost reached a radius of 2 kilometres.

In the first place, generally, they would know nothing but the fact that something is there. When she focuses her mind, her perception will rise to another level, to the point that she can figure out the form of the enemy.

Naturally, even her perception ability has its own weak point. There are's many things that she can't feel, such as formless magical power, and she can't sense the other party in case she is sealed inside a barrier.

Though there's a barrier made of magic erected around this temple, she can sense the enemies since they're also inside the barrier.

“It seems the number of the intruders surrounding the temple are just thirty”

I'm tilting my head after hearing Nao's report. The goddess had also descended into this temple, so the defense is even tighter than usual.

There should be around 300 knights on the duty for today. So they might be able to arrest those thirty intruders immediately.

“...We meet these guys sometime ago. They are the ones called spartoi”

Everyone is surprised after hearing Nao's report.

Spartoi was a demon that we met when we fought in Nargol.

If I'm not wrong, their strength depends on the capacity of the magical power of the one who summoned them.

"Does that mean the demon king is coming to attack us?"

Rino is saying so with an anxious tone.

"Nao-san, if it's spartoi, the one who summoned them should be around"

If it's really spartoi, the summoner should be around.

The spartoi should vanish as long as that guy is defeated.

"Understood! !"

Nao is concentrating even further.

"...I found someone who has a different appearance from the others"

Nao identified another intruder who is not a spartoi.

Maybe this guy is the one who summoned the spartois.

In that case, it'll end as long as this guy is defeated.

"This figure is kni~... NO WAY, THE DARK KNIGHT?"

Everyone is thinking the same thing upon hearing Nao words.

"Could it be that Diehart is coming for us?"

Nao stops her meditation upon hearing Reiji's word.

"Maybe... I think it's possible"

"Could it be that his target is... Rei-kun?"

Reiji hasn't recovered yet. He'll be defeated miserably if he fight in his current condition.

“No, he’s going for another person”

Reiji is stoodanding up with his weapon afterwhile saying so.

“WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING! !”

“Maybe Rena is in danger!”

Reiji is saidying so while he’s preparingtrying to leave the room.

Certainly, Diehart came after receiving the news of Rena’s descent.

The probability of him aiming for Rena is higher than for Reiji.

He must have heard that Rena made the preparations to send us back tomorrow.

“NO, YOU WON’TCAN’T WIN AGAINST HIM! !”

Sahoko is embraceding Reiji while trying to stop him.

“Yeah, you can’t go!! You’ll only get yourself killed by going there! !”

There’s no need to put his life on the line for Rena’s sake. He should just abandon her.

But, Reiji is shakesing his head in denial.

“My bad, I’ll go. If Rena is in danger, I’ll go to help her, and if everyone of you is in danger, I’ll come to save you guys too”

Reiji is about to leave. He’ll put his life on the line if it’s for the sake of a beautiful girl.

That’s why everyone is here by Reiji’s side.

“NO, YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN’T GO THERE! !”

Sahoko’s putting more strength into her arms.

“Sorry, Sahoko. Please, aAllow me to go there...”

But, Reiji won’t even heed to her pleas. He couldn’t shake off Sahoko who is embracing

on him.

“You should know yourself about your current condition, right!”

Sahoko was the weakest in term of powers amongst us. But the current Reiji can't even shake her off.

Reiji isn't ready for combat, yet. Going there is futile.

That's why she absolutely has to stop Reiji.

“I'll go! !”

Everyone is looking toward Shirone.

“I'll protect Rena-san! ! That's why, please calm yourself and stay right here with everyone, Reiji-kun! !”

“Shirone-san! ! !”

Shirone left the room after saying those words before I could even stop her.

A Temple Knight.

“WHAT THE HELL IS THIS! ! WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THESE GUYS! !”

In spite of swinging my sword, my opponent stopped the blow with it's round shield.

And just like that, the intruder in front of my eyes pushed me back with it's shield.

Being pushed like that, I bumped against the guy behind me.

“KUHAA! !”

“GUHE~! !”

Two idiotic voices overlapped from behind.

“SUCH POWER!”

I'm looking at the intruder who's wearing armor in front of me.

It's eyes are shining with scarlet light from the gap of the helmet.

"They are not humans..."

Maybe they're demons.

The goddess-sama has descended, so I, who was supposed to be off-duty, was summoned back to guard the temple.

When I was cracking some jokes with my fellow knights about whether we can see the figure of goddess or not during our stand-by, intruder alarm reverberated.

The bells were ringing around the entire temple, thus we know that the intruders are raiding the temple from multiple directions.

And then, these guys appeared at our assigned post.

When I look around, six of my fellow knight lay sprawled on the ground.

Some were cut on their arms or legs. Some were hit by the shields of our enemies. But, strangely no one died.

I felt that our enemy isn't even interested in taking our lives.

Even though I think that they are going to take my life when I fell on the floor, nothing happened.

"W-What the... Are they playing around with our lives...?"

I support myself and then stabilized my stance.

There's three of my fellow comrades left at this place. Moreover, we are facing just a single enemy.

We outnumbered our opponent. But, none of us could even land an attack.

The nine of us are facing a single opponent and yet, six of us were beaten in the blink of an eye.

So, it can't be helped but become extremely careful.

"Un?"

One of my comrades is suddenly shrieking.

When I follow the line of sight of my comrade, there was one shadow looming behind the intruders.

Looking at the shadow, the first thing that came to me was a reinforcement. The one who wore jet black armor was coming toward our direction.

A shiver runs along my spine when I'm looking at that shadow.

The pressure released by this person is incomparable than the one released by that other intruder.

"Ah, The dark knight..."

My other fellows started shrieking.

"Dark knight, don't tell me he is the dark knight Diehart!! So, the rumor was true!!"

Dark knight Diehart. Currently his name is echoing throughout the entire world. The man who defeated that invincible hero.

And then, it's rumored that the dark knight Diehart would lead the army of demons to destroy human race in the entire world.

Could it be that he was aiming for goddess Rena from the very beginning?

"G-Goddess-sama is in danger..."

I can't stop the trembling of my hand as I set my stance. Just standing in this place made me almost suffocate to death.

The dark knight came right before me and stretched his hand.

"Sleep..."

As I heard those words, I was assailed by an intense drowsiness. When I'm tried to looking at my surroundings, it seems that my comrades are also suffering from a similar fate.

"Sleeping... magic"

When I noticed the origin of my drowsiness, it was too late.

"I'm sure that the altar room is just behind this door..."

Was the last thing I heard as i lost my consciousness departed.

Chapter 17

Confrontation With Childhood Friend

Dark Knight Kuroki.

“It was surprisingly easy”

No one was able to resist my sleeping magic till I arrived here. I made everyone who I met so far to sleep.

If I knew that it'll be this easy, I wouldn't have worn my dark knight armor. I considered the possibility of things turning out into a fierce battle, but...

I just shake my head, as carelessness will bring your fall, after all. Better be safe than sorry.

As long as I open this door to the altar room, I expect to meet Rena there.

I send a telepathic order to the spartois to stop anyone from entering this room.

After I open the door and entering it, I find the altar room to be extremely wide. The room is being illuminated by several light magic tools.

A huge magic formation is drawn at the center of the room.

And there was a stone lantern which is just a bit higher than me standing at the 4 corners of the magic formation.

The stone lantern is somewhat similar to the one that I saw when I was summoned by Modes. Undoubtedly, these are tools for summoning assistance made by god of craftsmanship, Heibos.

And then, a woman was standing at the center of the magic formation with her back facing me.

“Have you captured the intruder, chief priest?”

Rena asked that question without even turning around.

“My apologies, I’m not the chief priest”

Rena turns around after hearing my words.

“Dark knight... No way, DIEHART! !”

Rena stammered with a panicked face.

“Transfer, (TELEPORT) ! !”

But the magic formation couldn’t be invoked.

“My apologies, I sealed transfer magic the moment I started this temple raid. No one in this area can utilize transfer magic for now”

Renashowed a surprised expression.

I remember hearing that the magic to seal your opponent magic cannot be used if there’s a big difference in magical power level with your opponent. So, I guess the amount of Rena’s magical power and mine isn’t that much different.

If this method didn’t work, then it can’t be helped. I’m relieved that everything went so smoothly.

When I approach Rena, she took a step back while scanning her surroundings.

Perhaps, she is looking for a weapon.

But, it seems nothing in this room can be turned into a weapon.

“Your target is... me”

I shake my head in denial and then take off my helmet.

I can hear Rena catching her breath.

“Nice to meet you, Goddess Rena. My deepest apologies for intruding your temple in this manner”

Thus, I displayed my manner while holding my helmet on my side.

I became anxious as to whether I'm following the proper manners to her.

I learned from Modes regarding the manner toward the gods of this world. I thought that I needed to learn the manner after guessing that I will end up travelling this entire world.

The manner of this world wasn't that much different with the one from my world. Since it seems that there's no point of contact nor similarity of the cultures of the countries with my world, maybe it just happened to be similar.

The matter of me showing my manner is because it's not yet decided that Rena is a bad person.

Though she may not be a bad person, I can't just display an impolite gesture in front of her.

When I raise my head and look at her, I saw a figure that was even more beautiful than her image.

Rena is gazing intently at my face.

I was waiting to hear Rena's words.

But, she just kept looking at my face without saying anything.

"Goddess... Rena?"

I timidly call her name.

"Yesh... EH..."

It seems she finally came back to her senses. Rena is slightly confused.

"I-It seems that your target is not me. What are you coming here for then, dark knight?"

Rena smiled gently. Unintentionally, I was charmed by her smile.

Maybe she's relieved since I'm not aiming for her life.

"Goddess Rena, may I confirm something from you?"

"A... confirmation?"

"Yes. Are you... going to summon the people of spirit world like me again?"

There, I told a lie. I was thinking of getting as much information as possible from Rena, since I've come all the way to this place.

"Ah, so it's about that huh... You've misunderstood, dark knight Diehart"

It seems that Rena was thinking that I had come here to prevent the summoning.

"Then... what?"

"It's to send the comrade of the heroes back. Wouldn't that be more convenient for you?"

Rena's still thinking that there's antagonism between the hero and me. Maybe she thought that it'll be more convenient for me if the comrade of the hero became non-existent.

"It'll only decrease my war potential since the summoning of the people from spirit world has already been banned by the god world. So, there's absolutely no summoning"

"Is that true? That's strange, as far as I know, returning the summoned people to their original world with this arts is... supposed to be impossible, right?"

"Ah, it seems you already know about that from Modes... But, you have no choice but to trust him. No more summoning is the truth, you know"

"Understood, let us assume that I trust your story. But then, your actions will put the comrades of hero in great danger, right?"

"That's certainly is true. But, it has nothing to do with you, right?"

When I heard Rena saying those words, I wear my helmet again.

I've confirmed everything.

"Dark... knight?"

Since my state changed so suddenly, Rena is calling out to me with a bewildered voice.

Further questioning is useless.

I draw my sword while jumping high and then sliced one of the summoning assistance devices.

"W-WHAT..."

It's Rena's surprised voice.

The top part of the assistance device crumbled down and crashed to the floor with a bang.

Following that, I sliced the second, and the third device.

After slicing the fourth one, I point my sword toward Rena.

"What are the heroes to you?"

I'm saying so while suppressing my rage.

Rena is confused upon hearing my question. There's a little fear mixed in her expression.

"...That's right... It's natural since you're a summoned person, too"

Rena's mumbling with slightly misunderstood guess.

"Why are you going as far as to trick the heroes..."

I say so while pointing my sword toward Rena.

"It was an extremely big problem, you know... I worked on the summoning art to..."

Rena said with a bitter face.

Somehow she lost her composure to the point of going as far as making the summoning art.

“While it might be true...”

“It can’t be helped you know; it was such a disgusting thing. That ugly Modes went as far as creating my clone...”

Rena said while averting her gaze.

“He finally got expelled from Elios after such hardship, and yet... WHY DID HE DO SUCH THINGS!!!”

I can’t reply anything after hearing her words.

The origin of her dispute with Modes was due to his ugly face. And then, we were summoned to settle this dispute.

To be honest, I lost my strength after hearing that.

But, when I try to think about it again, maybe the cause of any dispute, in general, is because of such emotional circumstances like this case.

Nevertheless, I’m starting to get a headache on thinking that nothing would have happened if Modes was the type of man that would be loved by women.

The demon king in the story has kidnapped the princess. Maybe the story used to gather the heroes to travel and beat the demon king is in order to not cause headaches after hearing the truth?

In the first place, if the demon king was a hunk, he wouldn’t need to kidnap woman if he was liked by all of them, and thus there won’t be a conflict. Rather, why the hell do they even need to fight?

The silent princess who has no chance to say a line during the course of the story might even curse, “DIE, YOU DISGUSTING UGLY PIG!” to the demon king. Since I have never heard the story where the kind-hearted princess spares the life of the defeated demon king.

But, that is not the reason for her to trick Shirone.

She has to at least tell them the real reason. That might be the best outcome for Rena and the other summoned beings.

“Goddess Rena, please tell the truth to the heroes”

I direct my sword toward Rena.

A tense air drifts between me and Rena.

“...Hey, will you become my knight?”

But, Rena said the most unexpected words.

“HAAH! ?”

I let out an extremely surprised voice.

“It’s strange for someone like you to serve under Modes. That’s why, you should just become my knight”

What the hell is this goddess talking about?.

Then, what will become of the hero?It was when I listened to such a strange request.

A shadow leapt out from the opened door.

“ZEYAAAAH! !”

The shadow approaches and slashes towards me just like that.

I retreat to dodge that slash.

“Thank god you’re alright, Rena! !”

That shadow was none other than Shirone.

“Sorry for being late. There were those spartois guarding along the way...”

Shirone is pointing her sword at me while protecting Rena behind her.

“You coward. HOW DARE YOU POINT YOUR SWORD TOWARD AN UNARMED WOMAN! !”

Shirone is looking at me with an angry face.

To be honest, I rather not to have her looking at me with those kind of eyes.

“Run, Rena! ! Leave the rest to me! !”

“Ah, yes... I understand, Shirone... I’ll leave the rest to you”

Rena, who was being pressured by Shirone’s spirit, rushed toward the door.

“WAIT...!!”

When I try to chase after her, Shirone blocks my path.

“You won’t pass beyond this point! ! Your opponent is me! !”

Kuroki Childhood Friend, Swordsman Shirone.

I can’t let Reiji fight this battle.

I’m watching Sahoko frantically trying to stop Reiji.

She couldn’t let Reiji-kun go since anymore than this will hurt him.

That’s why it was my turn.

Reiji-kun is our hero.

I knew about Reiji-kun when I was in middle school. At that time, I just recognized him as a hunk.

Till an event that occurred on a certain day.

At that time, I wanted to save my junior female friend from getting herself involved with delinquents.

I was quite confident with my own skills that I trained in my home. I really wanted to save my junior.

That's why, that day, I went to save my junior while bringing along my wooden sword.

There, I met five men surrounding three girls. Maybe because the men were highschool students, they were releasing violent-looking aura from their body.

I never lost to a boy of my age until this point. I was sure that I can beat them as long as I have my wooden sword.

But, I was wrong on that day.

A man who become enraged when I pointed my wooden sword at them attacked me with an iron pipe.

I received his attack with my wooden sword. It was a terrifying attack. That time, my hand became numb, and I dropped my wooden sword.

They were sneering at me as I got frightened after losing my weapon.

Reiji-kun made his appearance during such a time. Not just me, my juniors also called for Reiji-kun to save them.

I can very well remember Reiji-kun's maneuvers at that time. Reiji-kun is using his bare hands despite facing armed opponent, and yet he easily took out five of them.

Though he had no weapon when facing against opponents taller than himself, he easily beat them all. His figure was like that of a legendary hero.

That Reiji-kun was smiling gently at me who was trembling due to fear. I started crying upon seeing that smile.

Reiji-kun received a wound on his right hand due to the brawl. So, my junior and I decided to taking care of Reiji till his wound healed. Naturally, I planned to protect Reiji-kun if something were to happen to him.

I met Sahoko-san and Chiyuki-san during that time.

There were all kinds of teasing when we became Reiji-kun's followers.

I was annoyed by such things. Even though I don't care if they're ridiculing me, I definitely won't forgive anyone who ridicules Reiji-kun.

Even though Reiji-kun didn't do something bad against them.

I even quarrelled with my childhood friend, Kuroki, due to that matter. Though Kuroki didn't say it frankly, he obviously complained about Reiji. It made me extremely irritated.

No, maybe this is the reason why Kuroki became so angry.

This time, I noticed that I might have said too many bad things to Kuroki. I think Kuroki might have been dismayed when I said such cruel things to him.

I thought that I might have overdone it this time. Even so, Reiji-kun is a hero, and I wanted Kuroki to recognize that.

And that Reiji-kun is the hero of this world.

Now, I recall the anime that I watched a long time ago. It was the story about a hero who came from another world to defeat the demon king. The current situation is exactly like in that story.

Long time ago, Kuroki and I role played as the hero of that anime. The hero is I, while Kuroki was role playing as the villain and his subordinates. By the way, I forgot the name of the villain.

I know that Kuroki always wanted to play the role of the hero too. But, I wouldn't yield, thus I always became the hero.

But, maybe the true hero is Reiji-kun. And not me.

When Reiji-kun almost died in the previous battle, I received a shock.

Before I noticed that, I considered Reiji-kun as the legendary hero who won't lose to anyone.

But, I noticed that I was wrong when I saw Reiji-kun wounded till he was on the verge of his death.

I noticed of that fact when he lost to Diehart.

Sahoko-san became desperate at that time. She was desperately trying to heal Reiji-kun.

For Sahoko-san, Reiji-kun was a special existence.

Just like Kuroki for me.

Kuroki is definitely worried about me.

That's why I have to go back.

I'm going back to our world with Chiyuki-san so that Kuroki will be at ease.

You'll be worried if someone important to you is injured.

I can't stop worrying about that when looking at Sahoko-san.

Thus, I rushed out.

It's my duty to fight when Reiji-kun is injured.

I went to the altar room and defeated two spartoi.

When I entered the room, Diehart was pointing his sword toward Rena.

Seeing that, I lost my cool.

Reiji-kun will never turn his sword toward unarmed woman.

And this guy actually did that.

“DEYAAAAH!!!”

I draw my sword as I faced against Diehart.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

“PREPARE YOURSELF, DIEHART! ! !”

I parry Shirone who’s attacking while saying those words.

Why did things turn out like this.

Moreover, speaking of Diehart, isn’t this just like the continuation of my and Shirone’s role playing hero long time ago?

I must tell the truth of the matter to Shirone. But, I can’t reveal my identity. That’s why things had turned into this.

I think about that while crossing swords with Shirone.

Shirone is swinging her sword with killing intent.

I am glad that Shirone’s pattern is easy to read. That’s why it’s easy to defend against her.

I noticed this during my match with Shirone.

The reason I was able to notice it is because I was defeated by Reiji at that time. So, I had questioned myself why Reiji had won against me.

The first time I fought him, I couldn’t read his pattern at all.

Thus I lost, and it was a devastating lost. I wouldn’t have been defeated just because I wore a heavier protector than my opponent.

And then, I couldn’t find the reason for my defeat. Anyhow, I couldn’t see my opponent’s sword. Thus, I was confused and couldn’t shake off my fear.

When I fought against him for the second time, somehow I could see his movement pattern. Thus, I won.

And then, I noticed it again when I’m fighting against Shirone.

Shirone’s pattern is based on the foundational basics of swordsmanship. That’s why I can understand the logic behind it.

Opposite of that, Reiji's pattern isn't a pattern of someone who had properly learned swordsmanship – it was a complete mess. That's why I feared him, since I couldn't understand the logic behind Reiji's movement when I fought him a long time ago.

If I have to speaking frankly, it's not a bad pattern to use in a brawl, but it wasn't a movement pattern of someone who learns martial arts.

But, Reiji has extraordinary physical abilities. The way he fought was that of a beast which relies on its brute strength.

That might be the reason why the people who learnt martial arts in the school couldn't win against him.

Because martial arts are originally skills to fight against humans. That's why those guys were puzzled with the beast-like movement patterns of Reiji.

Naturally, the same applied to me in our first match. Since one couldn't do such haphazard movements in kendo.

But when we fought for the second time, Reiji's movement pattern didn't change at all. That's why I could read his movement pattern, and win against him.

And then, when facing against Shirone, I noticed that Reiji's movement pattern is similar to that of a beast.

I can win against Reiji as long as I think that the one I'm facing against is not a human but a savage beast.

I definitely would've missed this fact if I had rejected Modes's request at that time.

Even now, Reiji is a beast-like man.

A savage beast who is faithful to his own desires. Normally, you can't live as freely as him by his way of living. That's why the women are yearning for him, and the men are jealous of him.

I can't live as freely as him. Could it be that Shirone was also charmed by his way of living?

Maybe I can't win against Reiji in this aspect even if I can defeat him with my sword,

or so I thought.

Shirone is brandishing her sword against me.

It's been a long time since I had a sword match against Shirone. Could it be that Shirone has got weaker due to that?

I feel that the former her was stronger. Or else did I become so strong?

I must finish this lukewarm match.

I have to tell Shirone about the truth. For that reason, I have to make her listen to my story.

Maybe she won't listen to me as Diehart.

But before doing that, I must disarm Shirone.

In fact, I can't win against Shirone. It doesn't mean that I'm going easy on her, it's just that for some reason, I can't hit her. That's why I still lost in the end.

And then, currently in my hand was a real sword, not a wooden sword. That's more reason for why I can't hit her. Since I know that I'm bound to injure Shirone when I attack her.

And I can't end this fight without injuring her.

Well, what should I do then?

Kuroki's Childhood Friend, Shirone.

Strong. My sword can't reach him.

I think so while looking at the enemy in front of me, Diehart.

He's easily parrying against all my attacks.

My movements have been completely seen through.

My opponent is dodging my attack with paper thin margins.

As far as I know, there's only one person who can do that gliding movements on the ground.

And that person is the uncle who came for training to my home's dojo.

The uncle who came to train frequently was an acquaintance of my father.

My father once said that the uncle was a sword genius.

Sometimes, I saw the match between my father and that uncle. That strong father of mine was defeated without even touching that uncle.

Diehart's movements are similar to that uncle's movement. I'm sure that Diehart might be as strong as that uncle.

But, even that strong uncle didn't have the eyes to judge people.

I mean he said that Kuroki had talent. Even though Kuroki never won even once against me.

That uncle taught so many things to Kuroki.

I would have been happy as long as I could learn some swordsmanship from that uncle.

As for why I couldn't learn from him, it was because the guidance of that uncle was strict and made me giving up right away.

Now, I'm starting to regret my decision.

If I had learned from him for a bit longer, I might have been able to fight against Diehart.

I'm almost crying. Properly speaking, the match has been decided a long time ago.

The reason why my battle against Diehart's dragging out for a long time is because my opponent is not attacking.

He's toying with me, or so I thought.

I'm vexed. My opponent is a coward who's turning his sword toward unarmed woman. I'm annoyed since I can't win against this kind of opponent.

But, I couldn't do anything but swinging my sword.

And then, after who knows how many times.

My hands feel lighter along with a "kin" sound.

I'm looking at my own hands. The sword that should be in hands is no more.

My sword had fallen to the side.

I'm dumbfounded when I noticed what my opponent did to me.

I was attacked during my weak moment.

Normally, I loosen the grip on my sword and only put strength to my hand when swinging my sword.

The empty moment is when I loosen the grip on my sword.

The full moment is when I grip strongly on my sword.

Diehart attacked right before I strengthen the grip on my sword to brandish my sword.

My sword was struck down by Diehart's when it was still loose and flew away from my hands.

I can't believe what I see. To think that there's someone who can do such god-like feat.

He is a monster, was what I thought as I look at Diehart.

I'm dumbfounded. But, Diehart didn't do anything.

Maybe I wasn't even a threat to him.

"I couldn't become a hero..."

Before I noticed, tears were coming out from my eyes.

“DON’T THINK THAT YOU WIN WITH JUST THIS!!”

I’m glaring at Diehart while crying like that.

Dark Knight Kuroki.

It went well, or so I thought.

I managed to land an attack when she was unguarded.

This skill isn’t a skill that can be used on a rookie who always put more strength on their sword.

The reason why I can use this skill on Shirone is because she had learned swordsmanship and my experience of our past matches.

Shirone lost her sword and can’t fight anymore. Next is just how to make her listen to me.

I approach Shirone.

“I couldn’t become a hero...”

Shirone is muttering those words with her head hanging down.

My feet stopped up on hearing her words.

“DON’T THINK THAT YOU HAVE WON WITH JUST THIS!!”

Shirone is shouting those words while glaring at me.

She was crying.

I can’t say anything when I’m looking at her tear-stained face.

“SOONER OR LATER, REIJI-KUN WILL BEAT YOU!!!”

And then, she catches her breath and says these words with a louder voice.

“BECAUSE REJI-KUN IS MORE HANDSOME THAN HUNDREDS OF YOU!!!”

Those words pierced deeply into my heart.

Honestly, it's too painful.

Then I remember her saying the same thing in the past.

It's just like when I quarreled with Shirone about Reiji.

That time was an extremely painful moment, too.

The thorn that pierced my heart at that time is still painful even now.

Yeah, I couldn't win. Even if I win in swordsmanship, I can't win against Reiji.

After shouting loudly, Shirone sat down on the ground and started weeping loudly.

I'm at a loss in what to do when I look at the crying Shirone.

I made her cry. Aren't I the real bad guy in this case?

I can feel my mood sinking even further.

Though I have to tell the truth to her, I'm at a loss as to how to tell her.

The summoning tools are destroyed, so at least Shirone won't be in any danger for now.

Even though Rena said that she won't do anything but still.

“Are you alright, SHIRONE!!!”

“SHIRONE-SAN!!!”

Reiji's voice came when I'm still pondering about such things.

“R-REIJI-KUN...?”

Shirone is sobering a little and smiling as she saw Reiji.

Seeing that, now I'm the one who wants to cry.

“YOU—!! STAY AWAY FROM SHIRONE!!!”

Reiji is preparing to draw his sword.

His figure completely resembles a hero coming to save a princess.

If that was the case, the evil me had no choice but to disappear.

I sheathe my sword and then walk toward the opposite direction of Reiji and Shirone.

I don't care about Reiji's bewildered voice behind me.

As I walk, a black flame appeared on my hand.

It's as if this black flame is something that's gushing out from the bottom of my heart.

I fire that black flame toward the ceiling of the temple. It melts the ceiling and creates a hole without even leaving a speck of dust.

And just like that, my figure leaped from the top of the temple with flight magic and returned toward Nargol.

That dark land might be suitable for me.

I don't care even if the gods from Elios find me while I am using flight magic.

My lonely figure was flying alone under the moonlight.

Chapter 18

Their Impressions

“That was a close call, Rena”

Someone called me when I’m about to reach my house in Elios.

When I look at the direction of that voice, a man is standing on that place.

“What’s your business, older brother?” *[TL : she is calling him “Aniue” which can only directly translated as “older brother” without any cute meaning behind it]*

I asked god Alφος, my twin older brother’s business in his coming to see me.

I’m in a bad mood. I really hate this god-brother of mine. Though our appearance resembling each other, the character is extremely different.

“I heard that dark knight is aiming for your life, Rena”

“Rather than that, how did you hear such things?”

I said with a slightly displeased mood.

“Yeah, I just knew about such things, you see. That dark knight is just a small problem”

“I’m aware that he is a problem”

Alφος is shaking his head.

“Just a moment ago, he single-handedly destroyed the chivalric order of holy knight”

“EH?”

The chivalric order of holy knights is comprised of individuals handpicked from the elites of angel race and the heroes of human to serve under the godking, Oudith.

It's the elite force of Elios, and the strongest chivalric order in this world.

The one who could be their match might be just the chivalric order of dark knights serving under Modes.

So one can imagine just what kind of a person is one who can single-handedly destroy the chivalric order of holy knight, right?

"It's because the skies around Elios is under their jurisdiction, right?. Naturally, the skies of Holy Republic Lenaria also fall under their jurisdiction. He used flight in these skies"

The sky is the jurisdiction of the gods. Basically, no one, except for birds, can fly in these skies without permission. And I, at the least, managed to make those heroes to not fly in the skies.

Needless to say about the angel race, the heroes of the human race also guard the skies by riding on a pegasus. Trespassers will definitely be caught by them as long as they are flying carelessly.

"And then, he annihilated them in a battle when they tried to arrest him. Well, I'm not surprised by the person who defeated the hero who annihilated the chivalric order of dark knights to be able to do at least that much"

Alphos said detachedly.

I recall about the dark knight Diehart. His appearance made me unable to connect him with a subordinate of Modes.

His masculine face with a slight shadow on it along with his dark hair, almond shaped eyes accentuated by his dark pupils. Why's someone so handsome like him serving under the ugly Modes?

"You seem so happy hearing about him, Rena"

Alphos is saying so.

"EH! ?Is that so?"

I'm touching my lips.

“And then, what will Oudith do then?”

I tried to distract the conversation.

“Ah, he reconciled with Modes, you know”

“RECONCILED!?”

That was an unexpected word.

“Did he make such a decision without assembling the gods?”

The decision of the gods, normally called as the summon and decision of Oudith, is the way to restrict the gods belonging to Elios.

The summon and decision of Oudith doesn't mean that Oudith could make any decision that he liked. Oudith will make the final decision based on the most votes that came out during the congregation. Oudith would then have to act in accordance to that decision. Since no one would abide to Oudith if he doesn't do so.

“I don't remember participating in any meeting where they made such decision”

Though I have no obligation to participate in such a meeting, there's a chance that they would have made an unfavourable decision without my knowledge.

Thus, I was never absent from such meetings.

And then, there should be a message sent to each gods when the meeting happened. Without that message, the decision made in the meeting would be invalidated.

“You're wrong, Rena, Oudith is the only one who reconciled with modes. Therefore, there's no need for the other gods to abide by this”

“What does that mean?”

Certainly, it might be a good thing if such a meeting didn't happen.

“Maybe the condition for the treaty is for Oudith to oppose you”

“Certainly, maybe you're right”

“That’s why Oudith might be offering an exchange for him to not invade Nargol with the destruction of summoning tools owned by Modes”

“WHAT DID YOU SAY!!”

From the viewpoint of the agreement, only Oudith won’t invade Nargol, but Oudith is the king of gods. If Oudith doesn’t make his move, no one in Elios will.

In essence, Modes is tied by a non-aggression pact with Elios in exchange for his summoning tools.

“For Oudith, that dark knight and hero are even more troublesome than Modes, since the dark knight’s a monster who single-handedly annihilated the entire chivalric order of holy knights, after all. That’s why he considered the disposal of the summoning tools owned by Modes so that there’s no more summoning beyond this”

“Then, what about the heroes and the dark knight who have already been summoned? They should be a problem, right?”

“Ah, I’m here to pass you the message that you’ll be the one taking care of them. Since you’re the one who summoned them anyway”

They poked at the right place.

At first, this matter was supposed to be done easily, and I was supposed to send them back to the spirit world as soon as they defeated Modes. But, the dark knight appeared right at the last moment.

Moreover, we lost all of the summoning tools.

It’s been decided a few days ago that summoning is banned along with the further manufacture of magic tools.

Mobilizing the heroes beyond this point might become a difficult matter.

“Wait a minute, I’m not the one who summoned Diehart!!”

The one who summoned him is Modes, so I have nothing to do with him.

“Yeah, that is true, but Modes mentioned that the action of the dark knight depends

on your hero. That's why it still ended up on your head"

Even if Oudith won't invade, it'll be the end if Modes was attacked by the hero first. It's natural for Modes to demand such a condition.

"Thus, I came to tell you about that, Rena. We wish that you won't make the hero to move in a way that will deter Elios"

I couldn't reply to that.

Seeing that I am capable of defeating Modes, I have to control the action of the hero. Any wrong action by them will cause me to lose my position in Elios.

"Understood, older brother, let me to do something about the hero. And then, if that's all you want to say, will you get off my sight now?!!"

I replied toward him with an angry voice.

"Sorry but, there's another matter, you see"

"And what could it be! ?"

I'm glaring at Alphos. But my older brother won't flinch with only that much.

"When will you get married, Rena?"

"Huh?"

What the hell is he talking about?

"Is that a message from Oudith, too?"

"Nope, just an older brother worrying about his still yet-to-wed little sister"

I think it's none of your business.

"The male gods of Elios, everyone of them is a dishonest jerk. I have no intention to marry such jerks"

The male gods of Elios, ALL OF THEM have mistresses. How can I tolerate them, who

keep adding mistresses while proposing to me.

And then, amongst them, the one I hate the most is this OLDER BROTHER of mine. He is a bachelor and yet has more than 2000 mistresses. And I hate those woman swarming upon my older brother, too.

“Oya, there’s those honest-to-the-bone male gods too, you see”

“I hate the ugly ones even more”

Sincere or not aside, the only ones who are left aside from those dishonest male gods are the ugly male gods.

That’s why, I’m still single.

“If it’s not a god, is it the hero?”

“That’s impossible, he is just like you”

In some way, Reiji is similiar to Alphos. That’s why, I can’t bring myself to like him.

“That’s harsh. If that was the case, who can become your husband then?”

I’m silent for a while before replying to him.

“.....NONE!!”

My older brother then showed an exasperated gesture with a light smile on his face.

“In that case, I have no other choice then. Let this older brother that you hate to take his leave then. See ya, Rena”

When my older brother turned away. I’m glaring at his back.

And then, I shake my head while pondering about his question.

Why did Diehart’s face suddenly appear in my mind out of nowhere?

The Female Comrade of The Hero, Chiyuki.

We lost the means to go back.

Never did I think that the summoning tools would be destroyed.

After that, we chased after Shirone who left us behind to face Diehart.

In the first place, for me, Shirone's life is even more important than Rena. Shirone, who rushed to protect Rena, might have become a fool who came to sacrifice her own life.

We lost her so many times while chasing after her due to the spartoi that we encountered along the way.

Reiji wasn't in his normal condition, so Kaya could do nothing but stick closely to Kyouka who was already crushed by the might of liquor. We, who lost almost all of our vanguard, were forced to a close match. Moreover, Rino and I, who have high firepower, can't use our magic since we were inside a building. Thus, we were having a hard time against the spartoi.

And then, what we saw when we finally arrived inside the room was Diehart standing still in front of the crying Shirone.

Diehart sheathed his sword and then left when he saw us.



We heard from Rena later, but it seems Diehart misunderstood the fact that Rena is going to summon a new person. Thus, he came to destroy the summoning tools.

But the truth completely betrayed our expectations.

The information must have been leaked out from somewhere, right? But, that question was resolved by Nao. It seems that a small animal was frequently sneaking into the temple nowadays.

There's no doubt that this small animal might be our enemy's familiar. And then, it turned into a misunderstanding when he saw Rena who made the preparation to send us back.

Nao apologized to everyone since she had only noticed about that later. But, it was too late and no one care about her carelessness anyway.

It seems Diehart's goal was just to destroy the summoning tool, and no one died during that raid.

That's why Shirone was also saved by that fact.

After reuniting with Shirone, I scolded her. That's just how much we were worried about her.

Shirone was apologizing while crying.

Though Shirone trained in martial arts, she was, in fact, a frail girl. Moreover, though she could manage it somehow or another while holding her sword, that frail part becomes even more prominent once she loses her sword.

From Shirone's story, we understood that she was completely defeated by Diehart. We noticed again about how powerful Diehart was.

Even if Reiji's injury is healed, the subjugation of demon king must be postponed for a while.

By the way, though Reiji also wanted to scold her, he had no qualifications to do so since he would be facing Diehart later.

Nevertheless, we have way too little information about Diehart. Though he is similar to Reiji in the matter of disliking useless killing, everyone who point their sword toward Reiji will definitely die while in the case of Diehart, he doesn't even kill the one who direct their swords toward him. Isn't that completely un-heinous-subordinate-of-demon-king-like?

Or else, could it be that he's similar to Reiji and won't kill woman? Even if that is the truth, it won't explain why he put the temple knights to sleep without killing them.

As I thought, he's truly an enigmatic subordinate of the demon king. That demon king Modes is just shutting himself inside Nargol without doing anything while his subordinates are the one doing the conquest. The damage caused by the subordinates of that demon king is horrible. We saw how horrible the situation in a country that got attacked by his subordinates. In fact, what's with that Diehart anyway?

But, I, who was unintentionally thinking about that couldn't help but wonder that there might be more to it.

Even more important than that, we have to think about what we have to do after this.

We can't repair the tools for summoning nor can we get one.

That's why we were currently left with no choice but to look for someone who can use summoning magic to send us back. In addition, we already confirmed with Rena that there's another person who can use it.

When we asked Rena about the information about that person, she only said that she had no idea about that person except for the fact that he's capable of using the summoning magic. Though her strange expression at that time worried me, well, so be it.

The fastest method is to look for the pervert who assaulted Kyouka to find that person. Though, I'm personally against it, it can't be helped.

I heaved a sigh.

◆**Demon King Modes.**

"I see, so lord Diehart has that kind of relationship with a woman around the hero, huh... I put you in quite a trouble, Nut"

"It's my duty"

Nut gives his gratitude to my praise.

I received this information from Nut standing on the shoulder of Rugaas, who was standing in front of me just a moment ago.

"Then, what about the current situation of lord Diehart?"

"Yes, it seems that nothing much has changed on the surface. But..."

"But?"

"I think he's similar to your highness when you just came to this land"

“I see...”

Though I don't know what happened in the temple from Nut's report, I'm sure that it might be something unpleasant regarding that woman.

I was crying at that time. Due to how much I was hated.

I could get back on my own feet since I was driven by my desire to make Mona.

For the sake of creating Mona, I needed several other media, Rena's hair for the secret arts of life creation(Pygmalion) and one's nature of magical power, and then mix it together with the tool made by my friend, the god Heibos.

I could persist on myself to make my own goddess who won't lose to the goddess of Elios who drove me out.

And the result is Mona.

When I think about Mona.

“Deyufufufu”

“Uhm... What's the matter, your highness?”

Rugaas called my name with a worried face.

I was thinking about my night with Mona, and then unintentionally let out such a voice.

Forget it for now, forget it for now.

“Oh, sorry, it was about lord Diehart, huh”

“Ah, yes”

“Let's give a goddess to cheer on lord Diehart, then”

“Someone like Mona-sama?”

I nod to Rugaas's words.

I want lord Diehart to be in this Nargol, if possible.

And then, I want him to protect this Modes and Mona.

In that case, what should I do?

The best thing I can offer him is a woman, right?

Moreover, the gods of Elios should have banned the creation of fake goddess.

In that case, he'll turn into the enemy of gods, too. And then, he will settle in Nargol whether he wants it or not.

Someone as strong as him, who can annihilate the chivalric order of holy knight on his way back to Nargol, isn't a scary person as long as I can enlist him as my ally.

My lips naturally form a smile.

“Gufufufuffufufu”

“Uhm, you majesty...”

Rugaas is calling me with a worried voice while I kept laughing.

◆ **Dark Knight Kuroki.**

The room given to me in Modes's demon king castle is extremely spacious.

But then, the only furnitures inside such a spacious room is only a desk, a carpet spreading below, and a bed.

I don't know what should I say to the demon with bear-like face, my exclusive attendant. It seems I just need to mention it as long as I need something.

It seems I am already receiving VVIP treatment in Nargol.

Though it doesn't mean that Nargol is poor, it isn't a beautiful land. The scenery outside the windows is dreary with gloomy air drifting around.

And then, it seems Nargol is unsuitable for procuring the ingredients for food. Even the bed is special when compared to the bed of the elves who took care of me in the middle of my journey.

But, it seems that this bed is also of the finest quality in Nargol.

I felt that it seems my living condition isn't that much better than when I was in Japan.

What should I do from now on then. I lie down on my bed.

I knew the situation of Shirone. Shirone and the rest didn't know that they can't go back with that summon arts.

They were deceived by that goddess Rena. Maybe they'll be in danger as long as they are under Rena's care.

Should I help them?

No, there's no need for me to help them. The art of manufacturing summoning tools was banned by Elios a few days ago. At least they won't send them back to the spirit world.

Moreover, it's too roundabout. I have no intention to harm the heroes blatantly. And then, when I heard that Rena won't send them back, I didn't have to worry about threatening them anymore.

That's why, I think it's okay to ignore Shirone and the rest for the time being.

I shake my head while denying my idea just now.

To be honest, I don't want myself getting too involved in it. This is the truth.

Moreover, what do you think I should do to save the sad Reiji?

Since they should have been banned from attacking Nargol, I should stop worrying about them. Yup, let's do that.

Anyhow, they should have tried to do something to our side, but I'm alone while they have an advantage in numbers. It's the truth; it's not like I'm jealous of them or something.

...No good, let's change the topic now.

Let's think about what should I do from now on.

First is to look for a way to return, too. Though Modes said that he'll look for it, maybe it won't be found immediately.

For now, I'll have to live in this world.

Then, I noticed that there's a possibility that I'll live in this world for a long time.

It was an unpleasant premonition because I have no comrade in this place.

I thought that I would need a comrade since I have to live in this world for a long time.

Though Modes is there as my comrade, it's slightly different from what I want.

As expected, I'm jealous of Reiji. He has a lot of comrades.

Moreover, all of them are beauties.

And then, I remember about Modes's promise.

A clone of the goddess.

Maybe it's time for me to get my reward from Modes.

Moreover, a cute girl if possible for me to get over many things.

Yosh, let's ask him.

I definitely want to get a cute girl, or so I thought.



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