

# 盾の勇者の成り上がり<sup>③</sup>

アネコユサギ

Aneko Yusagi



MF7777

# The Results of Peddling

Treatment Master: "This is a curse, isn't it?"

After hurrying back to the village, I got Raphtalia to see the Treatment Master about her burns that I caused.

Treatment Master: "Even so, this kind is quite strong. Did the dragon corpse on the mountain have a curse that was this strong?"

Naofumi: "Ah... No... That is..."

Wondering how I was going to answer, I stammered.

Raphtalia: "Yes, I made a mistake and was accidentally cursed by the dragon."

Raphtalia smiled while looking in my direction as if to say it was a secret.

Naofumi: "Can you do anything about it? If it's money...I'll pay whatever you need."

Raphtalia is a girl after all. If she has black marks like this, she would stand out which would be troublesome.

Treatment Master: "It's not that it's impossible, but..."

During the preparation, the healers bring a bottle of transparent liquid to the room.

Treatment Master: "It's quite a powerful curse. Healing her immediately would be..."

Naofumi: "What is that?"

Treatment Master: "It's holy water. To remove a curse, it's best to use holy power..."

Naofumi: "I see."

It seems that injuries would take a long time to heal due to the effect of the curse shield. That curse is very dangerous.

There is no clear distinction made by the curse shield between friend and foe. Additionally there is not a simple counter curse healing effect for allies. I must not even think about using it. Also, after looking at the shield tree, the unsealing wasn't progressing at all. It was only for a short time, but I know I cannot unseal that shield. I somewhat remember having that sort of hunch.

Treatment Master: "Soak the holy water into the bandage..."

The healers apply the bandage soaked with holy water to Raphtalia's blackened wounds.

Treatment Master: "Sorry it's only this much healing for now. Please use the far more powerful holy water made by the church in a large town if possible."

Naofumi: "How much will it heal?"

Treatment Master: "To be honest... it's a fairly strong curse. I'm not sure whether it can be truly cured... when it comes to the curses of dragons..."

The truth is that I did it though. But to think the curse was so powerful that it

could be considered the work of a dragon...

Naofumi: "Oh right. How much more medicine will be needed?"

Treatment Master: "This is all I can do for now. Saint-sama, please help the people who are suffering from the illness."

Naofumi: "Fine."

I left Raphtalia in the room with the Treatment master and head to the building where they gather the sick.

As expected of medicine made by a professional. The sickness that could not be cured with my treatment medicine was easily cured by his.

I felt relieved looking at the sick people breathing calmly in their sleep.

..... I want strength, but not from relying on that kind of shield. Saving someone from sickness is significant, but I still curse my weakness.

There may come a time where even Firo could get hurt. Thankfully, she was fine this time.

My head blanked in an instant when I thought she died.

I've thought this many times. This world is not a game.

Nobody will revive if they die.

I gaze at the graveyard behind the isolation facility deep in thought.

I was betrayed and swindled----But I want to protect the people who believe in me no matter what.

I returned to the Treatment room and spoke to Raphtalia who is wrapped in bandages.

Naofumi: "I'm sorry."

Raphtalia: "It's alright."

Naofumi: "But....."

Raphtalia: "I was afraid. Afraid that Naofumi-sama went somewhere far away."

Naofumi: "Eh?"

Raphtalia: "That power, it's trying to drag Naofumi-sama somewhere. That's what I felt. Therefore, this is a cheap price to pay if I was able to stop Naofumi-sama."

Raphtalia's laughing expression pierces my heart.

I must absolutely protect her. With determination, I swear not to lose to that shield.

Naofumi: "Raphtalia, is your sickness cured?"

Raphtalia: "It should be alright for now....."

Naofumi: "Next time I administer medicine, stay close to me. It will serve as prevention."

Raphtalia: "Okay."

Thus, we slept in the village that night.

We worked on the extermination of the epidemic as hard as possible on the next day.

I asked the treatment master if I could help make the medicine and the work was completed earlier than scheduled.

When I wanted to learn, I felt something inside of me interfering.(!) <sup>[1]</sup>

The number of people suffering from the illness has been reduced to zero and the village became peaceful again.

Raphtalia: "Where will we peddle next? Did you ask the treatment master on how to make medicine?"

Procuring holy water for Raphtalia is top-priority now, but I do want to learn how to make High Class medicine.

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama? Won't the wave start soon?"

Eh!? That reminds me. What Raphtalia said returned me from my thoughts. I hastily open the arrival prediction window. There are only 3 and a half days left!

Naofumi: "This is bad! We only have a little over 3 days remaining!"

Preparations will be insufficient.

Naofumi: "Firo, let's hurry to the castle town!"

Firo: "Roger~"

Village Chief: "Uhhh Saint-sama...this....."

I was presented a bag full of money by the village chief.

Village Chief: "Saint-sama this is the money you asked for. Please accept it."

Come to think of it, my real identity is still hidden.

Naofumi: "Yeah....."

I receive the bag of money and count how much is inside. ....I put half into another bag and returned it to the village chief.

Village Chief: "Eh?"

Naofumi: "It wasn't my power alone. This is for the outstanding treatment master who is in this village. Hand it to him."

Village Chief: "O-okay....."

Yup, it would have been really dangerous this time if that treatment master was not here. Because just suppressing the illness is my limit. That person contributed just as much.

Naofumi: "See ya."

Village Chief: "Ah, thank you very much!"

The group of villagers saw us off together. When these guys know my real identity, will they look at me in disgust? It's a complicated feeling. I stow that thought away in the corner of my head, because there are more important things to do.

I can't worry about the condition of the carriage at a time like this! So we push the carriage to top speed and head to castle town. There was a rumour about a carriage that was roaring down the road with frightening speed after that day.

On the way.

Firo: "Master~ something is-"

Naofumi: "Hm?"

I come out of the carriage.

Wild Philorial A appears!

Wild Philorial B appears!

Wild Philorial C appears!

Wild Philorials: ""Gua!?"""

Firo looked at the Philorials with an astonished expression.

After Philorial A, B and C looked at Firo with the same expression, they ran away.

Naofumi: "What was that?"

Running away right after encountering us..... That is the behaviour pattern of rare monsters that have delicious experiences points and money. Though, I can't expect a lot of experience from Philorials in such a place. Maybe they were just surprised to see a Philorial Queen and so they ran away.

Firo: "They look delicious. Whenever a travelers pass by us, I think of that."

Naofumi: "They are from the same family as you."

I noted that Firo is licking her lips. Is there anything this fellow doesn't see as food? It's scary as it's easy to visualize her performing cannibalism.

Firo: "Master, if we chase now we can still kill them~"

Naofumi: "..... Stop it."

It's still not too late now? This fellow has no sense of tension at all. That reminds me, I did not check our levels after the fight with the zombie dragon.

Me Lvl 38 Raphtalia Lvl 40 ★ Firo Lvl 40 ★

★..... Star?

Naofumi: "Hey, do you guys know of the star next to your levels?"

I have a bad feeling. What could it be?

Raphtalia: "No....."

Firo: "Firo has no idea."

Hmm..... Let's see, Help. .... I don't understand it. I can't find anything on the ★.

At long last, we arrived at the castle town.

Naofumi: "Let's go to the Old Man and get some weapons and armour to prepare for the wave."

After a long absence, the Old Man from the weapons shop just watches us with a hand on the middle of his forehead and seems to be lost in thought.

Old Man: "Hey lad, don't just appear so suddenly."

Naofumi: "Don't you know sudden events go hand in hand with business?"

Old Man: "Well, that's true. So, what's your budget?"

Naofumi: "Let's see."

I put my month's earnings on the counter in front of the Old Man. It's about four large bags of money.

Naofumi: "I think this is all the silver coins I have."

Old Man: "Count properly lad! But more importantly, how did you make such

a killing!?"

Naofumi: "Hahaha, this is the result of peddling."

Old Man: "Seriously..... What a surprising hobby for you to have."

Naofumi: "It's not unfortunate."

Old Man: "Well, did you count how much there is?"

Naofumi: "Uhh..."

The contents of the money bags were counted by Raphtalia, the Old Man and me.

Old Man: "So, how did the missy get injured?"

The Old Man points at Raphtalia while counting money.

Raphtalia: "Uhh, earlier I received a powerful curse attack by a powerful demon."

I stop counting and looked at Raphtalia.

Old Man: "Ah yeah, curses are troublesome. Did you get any treatment?"

Naofumi: "Yeah, after this we will go buy some holy water at the church."

Old Man: "I see."

Why are you lying.....? Is it because it's a curse that I gave? I can only sigh.

Naofumi: "After buying equipment, can I request a carriage made of metal?"

Old Man: "Don't order anything from me, lad."

Naofumi: "You can't do it?"

Old Man: "Well..... I'm familiar with working with metal."

Though the amount of silver coins may look like a lot, after converting to gold coins, it looks like there's very little.

Old Man: "This is equivalent to 70 gold coins! Lad, your earnings are tremendous!"

Naofumi: "I am aware of my business talents."

Though I'm not sure if I actually possess such talents, I still feel proud of myself. I feel like I have done a few things similar to merchants of death.

Naofumi: "Oh right, there is various surplus equipment that was taken from some thieves."

I gave instructions to Firo who has been restless within the goods store to bring in the various unneeded armor from the carriage.

Naofumi: "This stuff is all for trade-in."

Old Man: "Lad, isn't spending...this is too much..."

Naofumi: "How much equipment can I get with only this much?"

Old Man: "Let's see..... The missy can get a new weapon and you can get some gauntlets."

As I thought, the Old Man is impressive.

Old Man: "I am thankful that you're favoring my shop, but go to another shop for the trade-ins."

Naofumi: "What do you mean?"

Old Man: "Recently, I have not seen the other heroes. So you should go check out the other better shops."

Naofumi: "Hmmm....."

I haven't even considered that. Because the heroes have knowledge from games, the possibility of knowing where they can get better equipment than from the Old Man shop is quite high. Let's assume that the best shop in this city is the Old Man's..... Are they somewhere in another country?

Naofumi: "Do you have any idea?"

Old Man: "There might be something in the neighboring country."

Naofumi: "Your shop is good enough, I'd rather not waste time on speculations."

Old Man: "Lad....."

Naofumi: "Even the worst weapons and armours I've seen you make are quite good. Is that a skill?"

Old Man: "What are you saying? I was a disciple of a master craftsman in the east when I was young."

Naofumi: "Exactly. I'll be in your care because it's efficient."

Old Man: "Lad. I understand. I'll live up to your expectations!"

The Old Man left the counter and started browsing the wares in his own shop.

Old Man: "Let's see..... For the missy, a High class magic sword should be adequate. Needless to say, the Blood Clean coating will be applied after it's completed."

It cost 10 gold. Of course there were some trade-ins included in the 10 gold.

Old Man: "Next is magic silver armour that has a magic defence within an appropriate range."

Naofumi: "Magic Defence?"

Old Man: "The process of absorbing the magical power of the wielder to boost defence."

Naofumi: "I see."

I want to make Raphtalia's defence as high as it can because there is a possibility I could hurt Raphtalia.

The Old Man moves 10 pieces of gold again. It's quite expensive. But.....

Naofumi: "Hey, isn't there better equipment that I can buy?"

Old Man: "The metal carriage and the missy's treatment will be quite expensive. Also, it is absurd to have equipment that doesn't balance with you."

Naofumi: "That makes sense."

Old Man: "This is also the limit for equipment around here for now."

Naofumi: "Ah, so that's why."

I'll take the Old Man's word for it if the equipment is good enough.

Old Man: "From here on out it needs to be custom-made. Come back later."

Naofumi: "Sorry for the trouble, but the wave comes in 3 days. Will it be done in time?"

Old Man: "I won't have enough time if I have to procure the materials."

.....that's what I figured.

Old Man: "I already have various materials, but it's not enough."

Naofumi: "Well..... Can you use the skin of a decaying dragon?"

Old Man: "That's not a problem, what are you going to do lad?"

Naofumi: "What am I going to do?"

Old Man: "I can lighten the heavy equipment because you prefer it, and I can make new equipment with any materials you bring."

Naofumi: "By the way, will the performance be good?"

Old Man: "It can be done easily, the durability will be good too."

Naofumi: "Hmm..... by the way, would the performance go up if you add bone to the armour? Something similar to the Barbarian Armour?"

Old Man: "Ah, I was going to recommend that. Chimera and Dragon materials are amazing! It would be perfect to protect the core of the armour with dragon skin too."

The core of the armour was that souvenir from Firo and a certain dragon. It seems it will become some good armour.

Naofumi: "Then..... can I order it?"

Old Man: "Thanks for business, there will be extra fees for processing costs and material charges."

After saying so, the Old Man moves another 5 pieces of gold and takes the materials to the inner part of the counter.

Old Man: "I'll also improve your armor at the same time."

Naofumi: "Okay."

I go to the changing room to change and put my armour on the counter.

Firo: "Master is just like a villager."

Naofumi: "Shut up."

This bird has a foul mouth.

Firo: "Hey Hey, What about Firo?"

Naofumi: "You're getting a new carriage."

I made the arrangements with the Old Man for a metal carriage. It was quite costly. It cost me 10 gold coins. Well, there were some bonuses added in.

Firo: "Firo wants armour like Raphtalia Onee-san and Master~"

Naofumi: "No."

Firo: "I want it! I want it! I want it!"

I'm pretty frustrated by this bird's whining.

Old Man: "Don't be like that lad. I'll do you a favour and lend you the equipment for that little bird missy."

Naofumi: "You see....."

I told him this fellow's offensive ability already surpasses Raphtalia and that's with her bare hands. That is already sufficient.

Naofumi: "Is there anything?"

Old Man: "Hmm. Does the Bird missy usually fight in her Demon form?"

Naofumi: "Yeah."

Old Man: "Well then that's outside of my jurisdiction. But it's not impossible to acquire equipment from demon shops though."

Naofumi: "Demon trader....."

I am reminded of that nasty smile. I had just imagined that guy saying "Welcome" to me.

Old Man: "Do you need me to introduce you to somebody?"

Naofumi: "No, I know someone."

Should we go meet him?

Old Man: "Then..... Come back two days later for the equipment."

Naofumi: 'Okay. So..... Old Man."

Old Man: "What's up?"

Naofumi: "Do you know about the stars attached next to a Lvl?"

Old Man:"Oh? Did you get strong enough to Class-up?"

Naofumi: "Class up?"

Old Man: "The lad doesn't know? The Class Up is a growth limit breakthrough. When levels are raised to their limit, a Class Up can be done, after that levels can rise even higher."

What was that!? In other words, it's a rite of passage for a job change in gaming terms. Unless a Class Up is performed, they can't get stronger?

Old Man: "Originally, if you are a knight loyal to the country or a magician adventurer, you can get a class up. But will you be granted one as a Hero?"

When I think about it, it was no wonder thief groups were so weak. The highest level is 40. Using the fact that unworthy adventurers and villagers cannot class up, power is managed. The reason is that if the country does not deem you trustworthy, a Class Up will not be granted.....

Old Man: "There are worries as to what direction to take during a class up..... But if you get a star, then all the possibilities are open."

Naofumi: ".....Where can I class up?"

Old Man: "It can be done in at the Hourglass of the Dragon's era."

You can do it in such a place? No wonder the management was so strict. ....  
Then when I had met the other heroes there, was it because they were having a Class Up? I wonder what their Levels are. As expected, I feel irritated.

Naofumi: "Then I'm going to head out."

If it's possible, I should do it as quickly as I can. We left the weapon shop and get ready to hurry to the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era. Because our carriage reached its limit, we leave it parked behind the weapon shop. Firo is in human her form.

Raphtalia: "What are we going to do?"

Naofumi: "Um....."

Lately every time I've come to town and see an inn, I feel that it's construction is odd. [2] Maybe it's because recently when I came here, this bird was always in her demon form rather than her human form. That must be it.

Naofumi: "Now that I think about it, what exactly does a Class Up do?"

Raphtalia: "I want to Class Up as per Naofumi-sama's request."

Naofumi: "..... Stop that. Raphtalia, you must decide your class up path for yourself."

In old games, the class change would let you choose between a light route and a dark route. The person in question has to make the choice themselves.

Naofumi: "You have to think about what to do without me after the wave is over and when I have returned to my world"

Raphtalia: "Eh..... Naofumi-sama will go back?"

Naofumi: "Yeah."

I have no attachments to this world either. There are people that I want to repay, but I will do that by saving the world. I do not wish to remain in such an unpleasant world.

Raphtalia: "Can you take me with you?"

Naofumi: "Where?"

Where would you stay? In my world, people would look at Raphtalia with strange eyes.

Firo: "Firo wants to go too. Where are you going?"

Naofumi: "Firo it's impossible....."

Firo: "Really?"

Naofumi: "Oh well. Firo, what Class Up do you want?"

Firo: "Firo wants to be able to spit poison~!"

Naofumi: "....."

I was at a loss for words. All I can say is that, what is wrong with you! Was it because of that? Recently we've been fighting a lot of demons that had the ability to use poison, like that Bio Plant and Zombie dragon.

Naofumi: "You're mouth is already poisonous enough." By this I mean her tongue of course.

Firo: "Really!?" Firo exhales and checks her breath.

Firo: "It's not coming out?"

Naofumi: "That's not what I meant. Anyways, let's go."

Holding expectations for the Class Up in our hearts, we head to the Hourglass of the Dragon's era.

# Exit by a Kick, Again

We arrived at the Hourglass of the Dragon's Era.

As usual, the facilities give off a solemn atmosphere.

Sister: "Hero of the Shield-sama right?"

Just like before the sister stares at me with a suspicious expression.

Naofumi: "Yeah....."

Sister: "What do you want this time?"

Naofumi: "I want to Class Up."

Sister: "Then..... 15 gold per person."

15 gold!? No matter how you look at it, that's too expensive!

The sister's expression doesn't change but her eyes are smiling.

You want to make me look like a fool for not being able to pay?

Naofumi: "Just 15 gold."

I reluctantly reach for my bag of money and produce 30 gold coins.

The sister's expression changes and she produces a document.

Sister: ".....It is prohibited for the Hero of the Shield-sama."

Naofumi: "What did you say? What does that mean!"

Sister: "By the king's direct order, the party of the Hero of the Shield is prohibited from getting a Class Up."

That fucking king! I honestly want to kill him!

I especially need stats to improve.

First there's that ridiculous Class Up cost, then to top it off, I get turned down because I am prohibited by the king.

At this rate it will be impossible to Level up!

Creating a 'no level changes without permission' is just player control!

Naofumi: "Don't joke around!"

Sister: "Those are the rules. From the start, it was impossible for the Hero of the Shield-sama....."

Naofumi: "Say that first!"

I burst into a fit of rage and knights start appearing from behind the reception.

Naofumi: "Tch! Fine! I get it!"

Putting as much power as I could in my legs, I stamp on the ground to stand up and leave the place.

Seriously, everything about this is unpleasant, especially this country!

Raphtalia: "But, what now?"

Raphtalia looked troubled as she asked, this is certainly a big problem.

Firo: "Hey hey, what was that hour glass? Firo wants to see more!"

Naofumi: "Hold it."

While still feeling unpleasant, I go take a look at the help section.

..... Class Up was found.

Class Up is a ceremony that expands the path chains of members who become Hero companions.

Let's also check under The Hourglass of the Dragon's Era.

It is recommended that I do it after a ★ appears.

There is no growth limit for a Hero.

Heroes have no growth limit? .....

Does that mean I can get past the normal level 40 cap without a Class Up?

But still, this is very unpleasant!

If Raptalia cannot Class Up, there will be problems with our attack power.

Raptalia: "What should we do?....."

Naofumi: "Can't be helped, we'll do this later."

Fortunately, raising our levels was not scheduled until after this wave has passed, I'll think about it afterwards.

There is also the method of having Raptalia become an adventurer and acquire a Class Up recommendation that way.

It can probably be done with more money. But, there is no time now. Searching for that would also be especially difficult.

That reminds me, the slave trader had slaves over Level 40. Wasn't I going to go there anyway to get a weapon for Firo?

Motoyasu: "Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

What's that?

I turned around and see Motoyasu pointing at me.

Motoyasu: "You! What were you thinking!"

Naofumi: "What? Don't apply some strange connection to me."(!) Motoyasu: "Are you trying to play dumb? I know. The owner of that fat bird is you."

Fat bird..... Is he talking about Firo?

Naofumi: "Come to think of it, how's your crotch?"

Motoyasu: "It was almost crushed, Thanks to that fucking guy!"

Naofumi: "What.....!?"

It wasn't destroyed!? Don't joke around!

To be kicked by such power and still manage to not lose its function?

Naofumi: "You haven't lived up to my expectations."

Motoyasu: "You bastard-"

Naofumi: "It's not me who did it! Why would your crotch be destroyed?"

I asked Motoyasu while facing Raphtalia who look amazed.

Oh right, Raphtalia was not there to witness this guy getting blown away.

Raphtalia: "Why are you looking at me with pity?"

Naofumi: "Because you missed a really refreshing moment?"

Raphtalia: "I don't need to know such a thing!"

Motoyasu: "Fine, hand over the fat bird! I'll kill him!"

Naofumi: "Why do you even want my bird? What even happened? Besides,

you were the one who approached so carelessly at that time."

Motoyasu: "Are you feigning ignorance? I was kicked whenever that bird spotted me!"

Hm? What did he say?

Is it fate?

Naofumi: "What do you mean?"

Motoyasu: "As I said, whenever we meet your fat and ugly bird, it would chase me around just to kick that place!"

I look at Firo.

Then Firo says.

Firo: "Yup. I kick him every time I see him."

Naofumi: "I see, I see, that's great."

Firo: "he he!"

Raphtalia: "Why are you praising her!?"

I pat Firo's head.

I noticed that on Montoya's nice equipment, there is a crotch protector in the groin area.

That is hilarious! This guy has a trauma!

I burst out laughing.

Naofumi: "Ahahahaha!"

Motoyasu: "That's enough you bastard!"

Motoyasu's companion: "That's right! Motoyasu-sama, don't bother yourself

with that lowly shield!"

What are you saying, you follower.

That fucking woman's face is red while denouncing me.

This is refreshing.

Raphtalia: "What a refreshing smile, I haven't seen Naofumi-sama smile like that before."

Motoyasu: "You---"

Motoyasu clenches his fist and grabs my coat.

Firo: "Master~ Firo is hungry!"

The bird that cannot read the atmosphere asserted herself.

Motoyasu's gaze turns to her.

Pita.

Motoyasu stiffens when he makes eye contact with Firo.

..... What's the matter?

Motoyasu: "Deryaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

He takes a second look at me and throws a haymaker punch to my face, but I catch it.

Naofumi: "What was that? If you want to have a fight, use your spear."

Motoyasu: "Miss! Hurry up and run away! This guy is very dangerous!"

Motoyasu shouts in the direction of Firo, trying to look like a good person.

...That's the fat bird you wanted to kill just a moment ago.

Oh right, she's in her human form now. Is it because she's pretty? That does seem like Motoyasu.

Firo: "Eh? Master is not dangerous, right~?"

Motoyasu: "He is your Master!?"

Motoyasu's face is dyed with anger.

Motoyasu: "You bought another slave!"

Naofumi: "What's with you..... Do you have a problem because she's a woman?"

Motoyasu: "Wrong!"

I tried to boast about it.

Motoyasu: "Amazing..... This is the first time I've seen such an ideal woman....."

Naofumi: ".....Huh?"

Motoyasu: "I did not think a girl so similar to Flonne-chan would exist in the world!"

Who is that?

..... It's a game character.

That reminds me, Firo's appearance is that of a certain pure daughter angel who is from a game in my world. [\[3\]](#)

Motoyasu: "I... such a moe angel....."

Naofumi: "Shut up! I do not want to know your sexual preferences!"

Motoyasu: "Different worlds are the best!"

Motoyasu's tension reaches its climax.

The moods of his followers are the opposite.

I don't think I'm seeing the same human who flew into rage a moment ago.

However, I am now very aware of Firo's well-defined facial expression.

Motoyasu: "Miss, what is your name?"

Firo: "Uhhh, It's Firo."

Naofumi: "Don't answer obediently!"

Motoyasu takes Firo's hand affectionately.

Motoyasu: "This guy is probably working you like a coach horse. I will save you."

Firo: "Well, Firo doesn't pull the carriage like a horse."

You should just accept it. That's the kind of race she is.

Firo: "Firo pulled a heavy carriage everyday for more than a month!"

Annoying, I don't see this ending well.

Motoyasu: "You bastard-----!"

Motoyasu is being noisy.

I don't have a lot of time. I want to leave already.

Motoyasu: "Release Firo-chan!"

Naofumi: "This again!?"

It didn't work for Raphtalia, so it's Firo this time?

Do you want to take away my subordinates that much?

Motoyasu shouts with blood thirst and turns his spear to me.

At that action...

Firo: "What are you doing to master!?" Firo knits her eyebrows and asked.

Motoyasu: "Don't worry, Firo-chan. I will save you!"

You're not listening!

Completely in his own world.....

Naofumi: "Anyway, the fat bird that you were looking for... That's Firo."

Motoyasu: "Naofumi! You bastard! To say such a thing about a girl!"

Naofumi: "It's you. You're the one who has been calling Firo that. You even said you wanted to kill her."

Motoyasu: "...Huh?"

This guy looks at me like I'm stupid.

Though, I do call her a fat bird too.

Naofumi: "Anyway, stop complai..."

Firo: "Firo will protect Master~!"

With a Bofun, Firo returns to her true form.

Motoyasu: "Eh? What?"

Firo raises her foot and kicks Motoyasu in the groin while he is dumbfounded.

Motoyasu: "Ahhhhhhhhhhh-"

I was able to see it. With a perplexed expression, Motoyasu flies over 10 meters while spinning.

Furthermore, the crotch protector was shattered.

Motoyasu: "Uge!"

Were they destroyed this time?

No, they were probably okay. There was a crotch protector.

Naofumi: "Now then, let's ignore the fool and move on."

Raphtalia's face is blue as her mouth leaks an "awawawa."

Still, his entourage is not trying to help him.

Well..... a lot of unpleasant feelings were blown away.

I must give Firo a reward.

Naofumi: "Alright, shall we go to the slave trader now?"

Firo returns to her human form with a frightened expression.

Firo: "Firo is going to be sold?"

Naofumi: "Don't worry, I'm not going to sell you, I'm going to buy you a reward."

It seems she has been faithfully following orders and whenever she came across Motoyasu, he was kicked, not to mention that blow just now.

This good behaviour must be rewarded.

Naofumi: "I shall buy the equipment you wanted."

Firo: "Yay! Firo also wants food too!"

Naofumi: "Yeah, definitely."

Firo: "Then, Firo wants food cooked by Master~"

Naofumi: "Very well. This will be special."

Firo: "Yaay~!"

Firo begins skipping happily.

# Welcome

Slave Trader: "My my, if it isn't Hero-sama. Welcome."

Naofumi: "I certainly was not expecting this."

We show up at the Slave Trader's after the run-in with Motoyasu.

Slave Trader: "What business do you have today?"

Naofumi: "Putting that aside....."

I am quite concerned with how the Slave Trader is dressed.

Even his subordinates..... They are all wearing luxurious accessories that are shaped like wings.

Naofumi: "That wing design looks good."

Slave Trader: "Thanks to Hero-sama. Yup."

Naofumi: "Huh?"

Slave Trader: "Because of Hero-sama's peddling, we have made a lot of profit from it."

Naofumi: "What do you mean?"

I can think of several reasons, but none of them are very significant.

Slave Trader: "First of all is the infamous Philorial Queen. Many nobles with demon collections are trying to obtain one. Yup."

Ah, so the reason his reputation rose is because Firo was pulling the carriage. Well, she is certainly a rare demon. If someone wanted one, they would of course come to the Slave Trader and check.

And whenever a noble comes, he just points them to my direction while knowing that I will not sell Firo because she would behave very violently if I do.

Slave Trader: "So when they give up, they purchase various other demons. Yup."

Naofumi: "That's just like you."

At the moment, the conditions to become a Philorial Queen are uncertain. Otherwise, there would be a lot more sold.

Will it become a queen if it's raised by a hero?

Well one Firo is more than enough, I wouldn't even want to imagine if I had two of her.

Slave Trader: "Next, because Hero-sama's slaves are seen, there is a rumour that my shop's slaves are high quality, so I get some extra profits. Yup."

It's Raphtalia this time huh.....

Raphtalia is certainly a beauty with a great figure.

Once people know where she came from, they would give them credit.

Will everything I do raise the Slave Trader's reputation?

Slave Trader: "So, what do you need this time? Another slave? Or maybe your co-operation on Philorial experiments?"

The Slave Trader rubs his hands together happily.

Naofumi: "This time, I came to you to talk about demon-related business."

Slave Trader: "Then Philorial experiments it is."

Naofumi: "That's not it."

Are there only 2 options in this guy's head?

Slave Trader: "So, what do you need?"

Naofumi: "Ah, I was wondering whether or not I could purchase equipment for Firo here."

Slave Trader: "Equipment?..... That can be done."

The Slave Trader turned to observe Firo.

The Slave Trader hummed cheerfully as Firo ran and hid behind my back.

As expected, she is bad with him.

Slave Trader: "Would a horseshoe shaped weapon suffice? There is also armour made for Philorials....."

Taking into consideration Firo's body size, armour is probably impossible. Although something tailor-made is not impossible, it would be a burden when she transforms.

Naofumi: "Do you have anything for transforming?"

Slave Trader: "You could equip a helmet. To use when tackling."

Naofumi: "Hmm....."

The horseshoes should be able to attach to her legs.

Slave Trader: "What about the claws?"

Naofumi: "Firo, what do you want?"

Firo: "Eh?"

Were you too scared of the Slave Trader to listen?

Naofumi: "You can get a helmet or have shoes attached to your feet."

Firo: "Umm..... When Firo transforms it will dig into my skin..... No~"

Ah, is the threat from the dressmaker's still working?

It would be no problem in her demon form, but it would be very heavy for her in human form.

The horseshoe would dig into the foot too and the size of the armour might not be correct.

We head to the magic shop and heard that it is possible to add the magic threads to metal plates, but it would be very expensive.

The defence would not increase that much either.

Slave Trader: "How about detachable claws, yup."

Naofumi: "Firo, is that fine?"

Firo: "Yes."

Slave Trader: "We need to measure her size so please let her transform into a demon now. Yup."

Naofumi: "Oh right."

Firo: "Okay~"

- Bofun\* Firo returns to her demon form and sticks her foot out.

A subordinate of the Slave Trader measures the size of Firo's feet.

Slave Trader: "Hmm..... She is considerably larger than an average Philorial."

Naofumi: "Is there any you can prepare immediately?"

Slave Trader: "I think we have one just barely her size. Are you all right with iron?"

I wonder what kind of offensive power I can expect.

Should I be looking for hardness? If it's sharp.....

Naofumi: "That's fine, I can afford to get this fellow something good."

Slave Trader: "I understand. Iron with magical properties is the best I can prepare for now."

Naofumi: "By the way, how much is it?"

Slave Trader: "Because of the help from Hero-sama, I will sell it to you for half the market price, which will be 5 gold coins."

Naofumi: "May I haggle further?"

Slave Trader: "Hero-sama's greed is giving me the shivers. Fine, I'll compromise for 4 gold."

Naofumi: "Done. Also, throw in a good bridle."

Slave Trader: "Sold!"

The Slave Trader's tension is high. Though he feels easy to deal with, I feel like I'm being used.

What a scary business sense this guy has.

A big claw is brought out from the back of the tent.

The size of the metal claw seems to fit Firo's foot just right. That's good.

Naofumi: "This thing is huge."

Slave Trader: "It's a claw meant for Wyverns. There is a bigger size too."

You're not even a Philorial anymore?

Firo: "Firo will wear this?"

Naofumi: "Yeah, it is your weapon."

Firo picks up the claw and equips it.

Firo: "It fits perfectly!"

Naofumi: "Seems like it."

All that's left is to connect the claw to the foot with a cord.

Firo raises her foot to confirm if the claw is actually attached.

Firo: "Feels strange~"

Naofumi: "This will make your offensive power even stronger than before, you'll get used to it."

Firo's attack power with her leg is still ridiculous. Having it increase even more.....

The scene where Firo kicked Motoyasu is replayed in my mind.

Next time, it seems Firo's kick will rip it apart.

Naofumi: "Firo, next time you kick that spear guy, do not use the claw."

Firo: "Why not~?"

Naofumi: "Because even if it's his balls, it will be completely crushed and his

body will be in a sorry state."

After all, he is a Hero. I do not know what consequences there will be if I murder him. Though it's a bit late to start thinking like this now. That guy's reason to live is to become popular with woman. For Motoyasu, being kicked in the groin by my subordinate would be very mortifying. If that happened, who would be the one to inform that trash king?

Firo: "Hmm."

Firo concentrates really hard on the claw that we just bought. Is she listening properly? Oh well..... Whatever happens to Motoyasu doesn't concern me. I give the Slave Trader 4 gold coins.

Firo: "Firo doesn't need the armour after all~"

Do the nails not fit? Firo seems to think that the armour is unnecessary. Well, if you don't want it then that's fine.

Naofumi: "Now then, next....."

Hmm, I'm sure there was other business. I can't remember after watching Motoyasu get blown off. Certainly Raphtalia and Firo..... Ah I remember.

Naofumi: "Hey, Slave Trader. Is it possible for you to provide Class Up here?"

Slave Trader: "Class Up you say?"

Naofumi: "Yeah, because the trash king won't let my subordinates who reached level 40 Class Up, I am having a little trouble. I remember seeing some slaves here above level 40."

I tell the Slave Trader my request and he puts his hand on his chin to think.

Slave Trader: "Hero-sama, I regret to inform you that I cannot help with that. I do not have a letter of introduction."

Naofumi: "I see....."

So those slaves did not Class Up from the power of the Slave Trader.

Slave Trader: "If you obtain enough trust with neighbouring countries, you can use their Hourglass of the Dragon's Era to perform Class Up."

Naofumi: "What?"

Wait a minute, this isn't the only country with a Hourglass of the Dragon's Era?

Naofumi: "They are also in other countries?"

Slave Trader: "Yes, though it might take you time to gain their trust....."

Time is very precious right now and I can't afford to waste it. Will the neighboring countries opinions be affected by the bad reputation of the Hero of the Shield? If so, this might be difficult.

Slave Trader: "You can do it at the mercenary's country Zeruto Buru, the Demi-human country Silt Welt, and Shirudo Furiden is also available. Yup."

Naofumi: "There's that many?"

Slave Trader: "Yes, for Hero-sama, I would recommend Silt Welt or Shirudo Furiden. You have a free pass there."

Naofumi: "Hmm..... How long would it take me to get there?"

Slave Trader: "Let's see, by carriage it would be one month, and two weeks by boat."

The Slave Trader brought out a map and taught me how to get there. Certainly, it is quite far from Melromarc. It would take Firo a little over two weeks to arrive. But with a large margin of error in mind, 3 weeks would be more than enough to go there. Two weeks on a ship sounds good, but I would not be able to do anything during that.

Slave Trader: "If there was a wyvern around here, Hero-sama would be able to get there very quickly."

Naofumi: "It is far....."

However, it would be important to Class Up because of our situation. It shouldn't be that bad if I get new materials and monsters for my shield to absorb. There is no meaning to stay here any longer as Raphtalia and Firo cannot improve. Should we just go to the country of Demi-humans?

Naofumi: "I guess we'll go there once this wave is over."

Seriously, that trash king is putting in so much effort to annoy me.

Naofumi: "I am indebted to you."

Slave Trader: "If that's what you think then by all means-"

Naofumi: "I refuse. Oh right. Do you sell humans here?"

I was wondering if it would be better to sell thieves here instead of killing them.

Slave Trader: "Selling humans in this country is impossible. Though if you go deeper, there certainly are people who would buy. But you have to look out for their character and take note of the risks involved."

Indeed, so selling Demi-humans is fine in this country. I guess this is a country

of human supremacy.

Naofumi: "Well then, see you."

And so, we left the Slave Trader's tent. Firo returns to her human form and ties her new claws with a cord to carry. However, Raphtalia was quiet all the while during the conversation with the Slave Trader. Well, it is admirable that she didn't intervene in a business talk and make it awkward.

Naofumi: "It's your turn, Raphtalia."

Raphtalia: "For?"

Naofumi: "Holy water. I'm sure it's sold at a church."

Raphtalia: "Ah, yeah."

Naofumi: "You're a girl, Raphtalia, so leaving these black bruises would be bad."

Raphtalia: "Well..... If Naofumi-sama is that worried."

Raphtalia says bashfully.

Naofumi: "No, I'm worrying about them normally. It's because I caused them."

Raphtalia: "So that's what you mean..... It's nothing."

I don't understand Raphtalia sometimes.

Well, either way it's decided where we are going

# Foiling another False Accusation

We arrived at the church that is very conspicuously built in town.

Sister: "He...Hero of the Shield!?"

I was greeted by an extremely bitter face.

Just how much do you hate me to show me such a face?

Though I've already anticipated this to some extent, but would I be refused entry to the church due to the rape allegations?

Priest: "Do not be alarmed."

The priest from the church comes out and scolds the sister who scowled at us.

..... Something feels off, but never mind.

Priest: "What do you need from our church?"

Naofumi: "Ah, my companion received a strong curse, so I would like to purchase strong holy water."

This guy is not openly hostile to me, so I'll stay neutral.

A price list is hanging from the wall.

Priest: "Then, please give an offering."

Are you asking for an offering because I am supposed to know the price from the price tag?

Naofumi: "How much is it?"

Priest: "The effect from the cheapest to strongest holy water is 5 silver, 10 silver, 50 silver, and 1 gold coin."

Hmm...it seems that they are not overcharging.

I was expecting them to apply sanctions on me, but...

Naofumi: "It doesn't seem like a good idea to negotiate for discounts in front of God, so I'll take the strongest holy water you have for 1 gold."

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama, you shouldn't get such an expensive thing just for me."

Naofumi: "It's fine. I already said so before. I cherish you. Compared to Raphtalia, one gold coin is nothing."

Raphtalia: "Th...thank you very much!"

I give the gold coin to the priest while Raphtalia is thanking him.

Priest: "Understood."

The priest instructs the sister to bring a bottle of holy water.

...I check the quality of it with the Judge Skill.

Low grade holy water

Quality: Bad

I glare at the priest who makes a confused face.

The priest then checks the holy water and his expression changes.

Priest: "Why did you bring something of so low quality?"

Sister: "But he is..."

Priest: "God is merciful. Repent for your barbaric act of satisfying your own sense of justice right now."

Sister: "I...I am sorry!"

Priest: "I apologize. Our church has been rude."

Naofumi: "I won't complain if you give me my money's worth."

Priest: "I appreciate your benevolence."

The priest personally went to get the holy water.

I check the holy water again.

Holy Water of Curse Removal. Quality: High Quality

Naofumi: "Well, this is what we came for."

I receive the bottle of holy water.

Firo: "Is that water delicious? Give Firo some too!"

Naofumi: "This is not for drinking. This is Raphtalia's medicine. Is there something wrong with you that require it too?"

Firo: "Yes. Firo is always energetic!"

Naofumi: "Then it is not necessary."

Firo: "Huh~?"

I turned to the priest while Firo has a question mark floating above her head.

Naofumi: "I am grateful. Later, please say the same to that sister at The Hourglass of the Dragon's Era. That person tried to make a fool of me."

Priest: "I understand. They are shameful displays unworthy of a person of faith."

Naofumi: "...I see. Well, good-bye"

Priest: "Thank the guidance of God."

I feel that the priest is a pretty good person.

This country would be a better place if there are more people like him.

I left the church with that kind of impression.

Itsuki: "Ah! There you are!"

For some reason, Itsuki, Ren, and their followers run up to us after we left the church.

What do these guys want?

Everyone is gathering in the castle town. What kind of situation is this?

This time, Itsuki isn't wearing low quality equipment. Everything he is wearing is high quality equipment.

Itsuki is looking at me with displeasure and speaks first.

Itsuki: "You thief! You stole the achievements and rewards of my work!"

Naofumi: "What!?"

Why would I steal Itsuki's reward?

Ren: "Me too. The request that was meant for me was taken by you."

Ren is also denouncing me.

I don't know what they are talking about. Then I remember that plagued village that I helped may have requested help from them.

Naofumi: "I may have taken Ren's job, but I don't know about Itsuki."

Itsuki: "Are you playing dumb?"

Naofumi: "I just said I don't know."

Ren: "Wait wait. Even if Naofumi does not confess, I want to talk first."

Naofumi: "Don't talk as if I am a criminal."

Firo: "Did Master do something?"

Naofumi: "I did not do anything! At least nothing that I remember!"

While soothing Raphtalia and Firo, I glare at Itsuki and Ren.

Naofumi: "Anyway, explain the situation."

Itsuki: "Then I'll start."

Itsuki started explaining his circumstances to me.

It seems Itsuki received a request to investigate and if necessary, exterminate the feudal lords causing problems in the northern area. The fellow dressed in armour that stood out was his companion and he went to receive the reward from the guild that requested his help.

However, it was said that the reward for the request had already been paid and Itsuki concluded that the only person who would do something like that was me.

Naofumi: "You know, Shogun-sama...if you are hiding in the shadows and defeating evil, while never revealing your true nature, people won't know who

did what. I know revealing your hero status is your hobby, but there are many rumours going around."

Itsuki: "Sho-Shogun!? Wh...what are you talking about!?"

Naofumi: "Placing a sword on your waist and pretending to be an adventurer. Shogun-sama."

Itsuki seems to remember and starts shouting at me. Yup, that's the attitude toward requests that is giving Itsuki a problem in the first place. No one will identify you as the Hero of the Bow with that kind of appearance. Because of that, your recognition by the country has become mixed up with either the Hero of the Sword's or Hero of the Spear's.

Why the hell am I actually evaluating something like this? It's meaningless.

Being a secretive hero judging evil is cool, but it is not recognized by the world. While I am still a university student, I understand that appearances are necessary for society to acknowledge you.

If somebody wants to take Itsuki's recognition for his job, all he has to do is announce he is the one who did it.

I mean, that kind of hero will exterminate evil because he wants to, not for money or fame. ...It's a painful topic. In the sense of being a Saint.

Naofumi: "Did you resolve the request as the Hero of the Bow? It is only in the town where the tax is high that I heard it was you. And at that time it was because I was there."

Itsuki: "Because I was keeping it a secret."

Naofumi: "Then, to confirm. Is the Adventurer with the bow in the Resistance of the North Country you?"

Itsuki: "Yes that was me! I subjugated the tyrant king with the Resistance."

Naofumi: "...Do you know what happened to the country after that?"

Itsuki: "The bad king was overthrown, it should be prospering."

Naofumi: "No it's not! They have become so starved that they have to smuggle food by bartering!"

Itsuki: "No way! Why!?"

Naofumi: "You know, the king may have been bad, but the whole country was originally going through a famine. As for the country, all that changed was its head."

Itsuki: "That has nothing to do with me. Please do not shift the problem!"

Sigh...irresponsible...worry about it a little.

Naofumi: "Then lets go back to the story. Your subordinate did go to get the reward right? Can he explain the situation?"

Itsuki: "Yes, yees! He can explain it! Of course he can explain it."

Naofumi: "The guild huh? To receive the reward, is there anything he needs to present to show that he is your subordinate?"

Itsuki: "That...there's a deed. He needs to show a deed with the king's personal seal stamped on it."

Itsuki declares with a face full of conviction.

What are you saying?

Itsuki: "It is a deed made with special techniques! It is impossible to counterfeit easily."

Naofumi: "Then there is no way for me to get it."

Itsuki: "!"

It seems something clicked in Itsuki's head.

Itsuki: "Th...then the weapon!"

Are you that desperate for an excuse?..... It seems you want to pin it on me no matter what.

Itsuki: "It is a Hero's only privilege to be able to change the form of a weapon. You changed your shield to look similar to a bow, and somehow forged another deed."

Naofumi: "Is that so? Well that seems like it's possible in this world."

Itsuki: "Yes that's it, do you have any evidence to prove otherwise?"

Naofumi: "Firo."

Firo: "What's up?"

Naofumi: "Return to your true form."

Firo: "Ok."

Firo changed to her true form.

At that time, Firo's one piece disappears and what's left of it becomes the collar. I point at the collar.

Itsuki: "What!?"

Naofumi: "Do you understand? This is a world where something like that can be made. There may be a tool which changes shape into a bow. And it is possible for other heroes besides me."

Itsuki: "B-But-"

Ren: "Give it up Itsuki, with the present conditions and lack of evidence, we cannot conclude that Naofumi is the criminal."

Ren stepped in-front of Itsuki before he tried to accuse me again.

Ren: "In the first place, did you ask about the appearance of the fellow who

took your achievement?"

Itsuki: "Umm...that..."

Itsuki ambiguously tried to answer Ren's question.

Ren: "Then give it up. Make yourself known as a hero more. Next is me."

Naofumi: "Is this the matter of the epidemic in the east?"

Ren: "If you understand then this will be quick. Why did you steal my request?"

Naofumi: "Because I was in the area. Did you know? The corpse of the dragon you defeated was causing the plague."

Ren: "What!?"

Ren was at a loss for words and just stood there.

He didn't know? I thought he was just a cold-hearted person.

Naofumi: "A lot of people were dying. There was a brand-new graveyard behind the storage facility. There would have been even more if I wasn't there."

Ren: "No way..."

With tottering steps, Ren tries to head east.

Naofumi: "Wait, you don't have time to go now. The wave is due soon."

Ren: "But, this is my responsibility..."

Naofumi: "I already removed the corpse of the dragon. The locals and the Treatment Master took care of the plague. I did steal your request though."

Ren: "Is that so.....Well, it can't be helped."

Ren's complexion is pale.

Itsuki: "You believe that!?"

Itsuki calls out to Ren with a perplexed expression.

Ren: "He has no reason to lie. Besides, the request was cancelled because it was solved. That means it is not wrong."

Naofumi: "I was surprised when the corpse became a Zombie Dragon. Raphtalia received the curse at that time when fighting it."

I did not lie. But, it was my fault.

Ren: "Oh, is that why you came out of the church?"

Ren looked at Raphtalia and saw the bandages as his answer.

Ren: "I hope it heals quickly."

.....This is unexpected. I thought Ren was a cold-blooded guy, but he seems to be weak to problems he caused himself.

They say that weakness is evil though.

Naofumi: "Why did you leave the dragon's corpse there?"

Ren: "Because...my companion wanted to give the materials to the other adventurers."

Come to think of it, the village did say they were raking it in.

Ren: "I left it to the adventurers and the village. But..."

Naofumi: "Next time, make sure to dispose of the corpse neatly. Corpses will rot. There is danger of causing sickness when rotting. Disposing of entrails and meat are the highest priority."

Ren: "Yeah..."

This is somewhat anti-climactic.

Still, I said nothing about the village.

To think that it was their own fault...well, this was the consequence of their own deeds.

Itsuki: "I do not believe it."

Itsuki is more persistent than Ren.

Itsuki: "I will absolutely bring evidence."

Naofumi: "Sure, bring it. However, do not fabricate it. Because when you find the criminal, he might just say that it was done under orders from the Hero of the Shield if you interrogate him too harshly. Well, partly that is also due to my bad reputation."

Itsuki: "..... What do you mean?"

Naofumi: "There was once where after a thief attacked me and I retaliated, he went to a town and declared that I had robbed him."

Itsuki: "Th...that....."

Naofumi: "It's the same for you. Shogun-sama, I hope you think about it carefully."

Itsuki seems to feel pity for me from that rumour, his glance makes me feel sick. Why are you looking at me with such eyes?

Itsuki: "For now, let's put this matter on hold."

Naofumi: "I am fine with that, I am not a criminal."

Seriously, I hate false accusations!

Don't just attribute anything bad to me!

Itsuki left while displaying an attitude and Ren seemed to be unsettled as he left.

Naofumi: "Oh well, should we go?"

Today was an unlucky day. There were various experiences.

After all, this castle town is under the jurisdiction of that trash king, so there is no way they won't be biased.

Let's quickly return to the hotel.

# Volunteers

The sun had already set and we were in our hotel room. I decided to devote the rest of the day to treating Raphtalia.

We re-dressed Raphtalia's wounds by soaking the bandages in the holy water I bought.

After the bandages had been applied, black smoke started rising from the wounds.

Raphtalia: "U.....Ku....."

Naofumi: "Are you okay?"

Raphtalia: "Y-yes. There's a feeling of stiffness leaving my body and it's also quite itchy."

Naofumi: "I see....."

I want to heal her as fast as possible, because I injured her.

The black bruise seems to have gotten lighter.

Raphtalia: "The place Naofumi-sama wounded is healing quickly."

Naofumi: "That's good."

I want you to recover as soon as possible.

Firo: "Ah, Raphtalia Onee-chan is so sly! Taking advantage of the situation to flirt with Master!"

Although Firo says that, she was clinging to me throughout the treatment.

Raphtalia: "We're not flirting!"

Naofumi: "That's right, all I'm doing is treating Raphtalia's wounds."

Raphtalia and I are flirting..... what's with that? Raphtalia and I aren't in that kind of relationship. Rather than that, where did you learn something like that?

Firo: "Raphtalia Onee-chan is Kuroi-mon!" [4]

Raphtalia: "Please don't say it like that as though my belly is black."

These two get along quite well.

Naofumi: "Well until the wave comes, try and take it slow."

Firo: "Okay~!"

Raphtalia: "That's right. We have been quite busy recently, so relaxing occasionally is not bad."

Naofumi: "Yeah."

Firo: "Master, when are you going to make food?"

Naofumi: "Let's see..... How about tomorrow?"

Firo: "Yaay~!"

In this way, while giving Raphtalia treatment, we slept at the inn.

The next day.

The equipment I asked the old man to make hasn't been finished yet.

There's nothing particularly important to do, though it may be a good idea to

show up at the magic shop or the pharmacy.

Or should I go to the Dressmaker's shop and take a look?

Naofumi: "Now then, what should we do today?"

Raphtalia: "Let's see....."

Firo: "Food!"

Naofumi: "Yes, Yes. I know."

As for recovery medicine, I have already prepared a lot in between the waves.....

Since Raphtalia and Firo have already hit their Level limit, I was the only one who could level up. It might be a waste, but it would be fine to take a rest for a while. Besides, Raphtalia's wounds aren't completely healed either.

Naofumi: "Should I go get more holy water?"

Raphtalia: "Eh? There's still some left."

Naofumi: "Is this enough for a complete recovery?"

Compared to yesterday, the blackness has faded quite a bit but it's still far from a complete recovery. The amount remaining is still making me feel uneasy.

Also, The effect won't be as potent if holy water is not changed every day.

On a more positive note, at this rate, the blackness left would be almost gone when the wave comes.

Naofumi: "I sincerely apologize."

Raphtalia: "It is a wound I got myself. Don't worry about it."

Naofumi: "Okay."

Naofumi: "Then, let's go to the pharmacy shop first. We can get food after."

Firo: "Yeah!"

Raphtalia and Firo nodded, so we left our baggage at the inn and headed out.

When we got to the pharmacy, the storekeeper's attitude is as usual as he welcomed us.

Pharmacy SK: "It's been a while."

I replied to his comment.

Naofumi: "Ah, the intermediate recipe book was received and put to good use."

Pharmacy SK: "I see....."

Looking at how he handled the medicine made me realize that I am still not up to par.

Pharmacy SK: "That reminds me, my old friend the Accessory Merchant seems to be your acquaintance."

Naofumi: "Huh?"

I was surprised that the storekeeper knew him.

Pharmacy SK: "How did you get so friendly with that miser? He praised you highly."

Naofumi: "Are the both of you acquainted?"

Pharmacy SK: "We knew each other since the old days. That guy, he had an aptitude for guessing the medicine that I made just from the smell alone."

Back then, that guy used only the smell of my medicine to guess that I was making Intermediate Class medicine from the recipe received this pharmacy!?

[5]

Accessory Merchant, what kind of person are you? I cannot fathom what else he might be hiding.....

Pharmacy SK: "Hmm...did you guys know each other when you were peddling?"

The storekeeper seems to have heard about me peddling from an acquaintance in Forest village.

Naofumi: "While we were peddling in a place where there was a turf war, we were attacked by thieves aiming for the Accessory Merchant. Of course we retaliated against their attempt."

Pharmacy SK: "I don't think that guy would have been very happy about being attacked."

I don't understand. Accessory Merchant, are you some kind of celebrity?

Naofumi: "Ah, where was I? Oh right, after we captured the thief, I stripped him of all his possessions and confiscated everything from his hideout."

The storekeeper was silent, put his hand on his forehead, and nodded.

Pharmacy SK: "That certainly does seem like you. I see, no wonder that fellow would be very interested in you. It's because you did something like that."

Naofumi: "Afterwards, he taught me a lot of things."

Pharmacy SK: "Oh, he was praising you as a quick learner and said you were his successor in commercial spirit."

Naofumi: "Please leave me alone."

I was peddling because of my equipment costs and not because I was greedy for money.

Pharmacy SK: "So, what do you need today?"

Naofumi: "Ah, do you have any High Class Recipes to sell?"

The storekeeper stops mixing.

Pharmacy SK: "..... That's fast. But I do not think that you are ready yet."

Naofumi: "Yeah, there is also medicine that is not on a recipe that I can make too."

Strong Acid water, Magical power water and Soul Medicine water can't be made yet. There has been no need for these yet, but it is possible to acquire the rare materials through a distribution route learned from the Accessory Merchant.

Naofumi: "But...I was not able to save people with the medicine I made. Fortunately, the Treatment Master there was able to make High Class medicine. Because of this, I felt inadequate in terms of ability."

The store keeper is convinced with my reply and nods.

Pharmacy SK: "I see..... Still, I think that it is still too early for a High Class recipe."

Naofumi: "Is it that difficult.....?"

Pharmacy SK: "There are a lot of applications to medicine in Intermediate Class recipes. Besides, there are other things you can make without a recipe."

Is it the materials necessary for compounding? Certainly, it can't be that bad.....

Pharmacy SK: "I can still sell a High Recipe book though, but it will be expensive."

Naofumi: "How much is it?"

Pharmacy SK: "It's 500 silver coins. It cannot be lowered any further."

I understand that I am getting a good deal.

I can easily imagine the guilds here behaving like organizations and companies in my world that would want to have a monopoly over the number of people knowing about High Class medicine. [6]

And he is willing to endure that kind of pressure and sell the recipe to me.

Naofumi: "I'll take it."

I obediently hand over 500 silver.

Pharmacy SK: "Hmm..... Next is this."

I receive a book with the title, 'Poisonous Plants and Poison Recipes'. I am slow but I am able to read the letters of this world, to some extent.

Naofumi: "Recipes for poison?"

Pharmacy: "It is impossible to avoid this topic if you want to learn about medicine. They are, so to speak, the latter part of the Intermediate Class medicine."

Naofumi: "Hmm....."

I skim through it. It contains a simple anesthesia and other such drugs. This

looks difficult, but it won't hurt to learn it. Beside, learning the High Class recipes are out of my reach at the moment.

Naofumi: "Thanks. Do you have Beginner Class recipes such as the heal pill and regular medicine?"

The storekeeper of the pharmacy almost did a splendid fall.

Pharmacy SK: "..... You were making Intermediate Class medicine without even knowing the fundamentals?"

Naofumi: "I saw how you did it and remembered."

Pharmacy SK: "Are you a boy from a temple who can't read.....?"

Those words are a proverb from Japan. The shield is probably translating the corresponding phrase from this world. The Shop Keeper sighs and fluently writes something onto parchment.

Pharmacy SK: "I wrote the basics of the Beginner's Class on this. Remember it."

Naofumi: "Yeah."

When we left, Firo was already outside because she dislikes the smell from the medicine and Raphtalia was looking at medical herbs.

Soldiers: "Hero of the Shield-sama!"

I hear an unfamiliar voice after leaving the pharmacy.

There were two 14 or 15 year old kids dressed as soldiers standing there who were out of breath.

I start escaping at once. Raphtalia and Firo also start running. I could think of many things why this would occur.

Solder A: "Please wait! We are not here to capture you! Please Wait!"

Naofumi: "Then what do you want?"

Soldier A: "I only want to talk for a little!"

..... Suspicious..... For now, we stopped.

If it is a lie, I guess it would be fine to let Firo rampage.

Soldier A: "Haa.....Haa..... At last, I can finally meet you."

The boy's shoulders are heaving as he gasps for air.

Naofumi: "What do you want with me?"

Soldier A: "Umm. Can you please let us go with you during the waves.....?"

Naofumi: "Come again?"

What are you saying? I look at the boy with a puzzled expression.

Soldier A: "We are junior soldiers who were impressed with the fighting method of the Hero of the Shield-sama during the earlier wave."

The boy's story is like this.

During the previous wave, the low rank soldiers were impressed by the appearance of Raphtalia and I, who were the only ones to stay behind and protect the Forest Village.

It seems the Knight's Order was complimenting me after the wave, seems like there were new rumours spreading about me while I was away.

Soldier A: "During our town patrol, I heard that the Hero of the Shield was in

town so I came over to have this conversation."

Naofumi: "Really....."

Soldier A: "Our duty is to fight against the wave, but our top priority is to prevent damage done to the people."

That's a noble thought. Though you should be telling the other heroes that.

Soldier A: "Therefore, please let us participate together with Hero-sama during the wave."

Naofumi: "I do not particularly want to fight against the wave, so can't we just fight separately?" (!)

There is an underside to this proposal. By fighting in the waves, the chances of soldiers and knights attaining promotion will be higher. Fighting with the heroes would increase this chance further.

With all that is said, the Hero would still have to fight in the wave. I know I'm being sarcastic but I hope they understand that. (!) There is status magic that requires companions that form a party. Perhaps, I can test this status upgrade during one of the waves. (!) It would probably be a good idea to use this and establish a party to fight the wave. If anything, it may be something like offensive and defensive battles with guilds in a net game.

The enemies are not human, but mistakes can be made. It would be extremely rash to fight alone against such a large amount of demons.

A Hero is probably carrying the duty of defeating the boss class demons because they are the aces...but the inhabitants of this world should be able to deal with the small fries.

The last wave proves it. Because the wave spawned near the Forest village which was close to the castle town, the knights were able to get there quickly, but what about this time?

This country is big. It would be catastrophic if the wave appeared somewhere far-off. Should that happen, the damage could not be suppressed with such a small group of people.

Well, a standard strategy in fighting against the wave is the proposal I gave the boy; I want to hear his answer.

Did he come to me because there would be little competition compared to the other heroes?

Soldier A: "We want to protect the nation along with Hero of the Shield-sama."

On the surface he can say anything.

Naofumi: "Are you aiming for promotions?"

Soldier A: "No, this is different."

The boy shakes his head and answers immediately. Then, he beckons another boy dressed like a magician who was standing behind him to come over to me.

The robe he was wearing wasn't purple like the magic shop, but a cheap yellow colour.

They lined up in-front of me and bowed.

Soldier B: "I..... am a native from the Forest Village. My family was helped by Hero of the Shield-sama before..... Therefore I want to help, even if only a little."

Naofumi: "Ah, I see."

This fellow wants to repay the kindness of helping his family?

Soldier A: "As Hero-sama says, there are certainly people who want promotions. But, I want to help Hero of the Shield-sama."

Naofumi: "I see, well I was just curious..... Hm?"

Soldier B: "Umm..... Hero-sama."

The boy in the yellow wizard clothes looks up, pulls up his robe, and gives me a

quill pen.

Soldier B: "..... Please sign this."

There might be a catch. Should I write Motoyasu in Japanese?

Hm?

When I look closely, I see that this child is a Demi-human.

Even in this country of human supremacy, when it comes to soldiers, they allow Demi-humans.

Comparing his age and the cheap costume with the wizards and knights from the previous wave, he should be low ranking.(!) I silently write my signature on his robe according to the wish of the boy while preparing for any magic. There are no strange feelings or magic effects after I signed.

Well, it does not mean that nothing will happen later. I'll deal with it later if something does happen.

The boy with the wizard clothes smiles happily with a slightly red face.

What is this? It is itchy.

Soldier A: "This fellow is a fan of Hero of the Shield-sama. Growing up, he heard stories of heroes from different countries and has always wanted to meet the Hero of the Shield."

Naofumi: "Heeeeh....."

This party seems to extremely trust us and want to help. This boy is not talking, but people from the village who were saved during peddling gathered with the same thought.

Well, I guess I'll try it.

I turn to the boy captain in front and muttered the party formation magic.

As for the conditions of the party, the party leader is me followed by

Raphtalia and then Firo.

Under that, the captain of the squad was given authority.

As for this party, my authority takes precedence. In other words, it is possible for me to take all the experience points.

Soldier A: "This is....."

Naofumi: "You don't know?"

Soldier A: "Nope."

Naofumi: "If you are not the representative of your party, pass the authority that I have given you to that guy. Also, go gather any other people who want to participate. However, do not misunderstand. If you try to use me or do something unforgivable, I'll dismiss you all immediately."

Soldier A: "Yes! Thank you very much!"

The two saluted me and left together.

I think I can start believing in this country for just a little. It was only a moment where I felt that. Naturally, as I said, if anything happens, I will not be lenient.

# Before the Storm

Old Man: "Lad, your armour is not ready yet. If you are here to use the kitchen, I would like to ask you to refrain."

Naofumi: "Why? I thought you gave me permission a while ago."

Old Man: "Well if you want me to lend you my kitchen, you have to pay before you use it."

After parting from the young soldiers, we stopped by the market to purchase large quantities of food.

Then we proceed to impose on our handy equipment store acquaintance and start cooking up a storm.

Is this food not my sincerity and gratitude to the equipment store for providing me cheap weapons and armour?

Firo: "Food! Food!"

For a while now, Firo has been consuming the roast meat and skewers that I have been making.

Old Man: "The smell of your food is great! Everyone who entered the shop was tempted by the smell and left promptly. When I checked where they went, I found out that they actually went to the market to buy food."

Raphtalia brings the old man some food while he is making my armour at the counter.

Old Man: "Furthermore, some idiot stole some food from the dish the missy brought me. How did you produce such a taste?! There's been a crazy commotion about that since then."

Naofumi: "Just kick the guy who stole food out."

Old Man: "The guy who stole food was generous and bought a weapon. Lad, with you here my sales record for the month is going through the roof."

Naofumi: "That's good. Take it as my thanks to you."

Old Man: "Alright... Not! This isn't some restaurant, it's an equipment store!"

For an equipment shop, you sure have a lot of additional pots and quite a big pan.

Thanks to that, I am borrowed a large cauldron to make this world's unique curry.

Strangers: "....."

An aunt from the neighbourhood peeks through the ventilation window, along with several other adventurer-like guys.

I close the ventilation window with a bang.

The smell drifts to the front of the equipment shop.

Old Man: "Lad!"

I heard the old man's shout.

Seriously.....

After the curry was completed, we were evicted from the old man's kitchen and thus ended our cooking session for Firo.

Firo still seems dissatisfied and wants to eat more. There is only half of the

contents in the pot left.

Due to the pot left behind, the equipment shop later had a rumour about it having absurdly delicious food, but that is a story for later.

Firo: "Master, Firo wants to eat more food~"

I bought some skewers for Firo who inflated her cheeks with a dissatisfied expression while wandering the town for cheap food.

Naofumi: "Hmm, should we just go make something by the riverside?"

Firo: "Meat again?"

Naofumi: "Yeah, you're getting tired of it?"

Firo: "I will not get tired of anything Master makes~"

Naofumi: "Sure, sure."

We head back to the equipment shop to borrow an iron plate, which Firo carried. Well, we will probably become familiar with this place since we will barbecue here in the future too.

I buy the proper materials and start barbecuing by the riverbank.

Firo is concerned about insufficient meat so she went to the forest to load up on Usapirus. [\[7\]](#)

We had to barbecue for a while until Firo was satisfied and then we started discussing about what to do next.

Raphtalia: "This is the first time we've taken it easy."

Naofumi: "Now that you bring it up, yeah it is."

Every day in this abnormal world has been a battle, but at this moment looking up to the blue sky gives off a very peaceful feeling. Makes one forget about the

wave of disaster that is only a few days away. Unexpectedly, Raphtalia plays with the ball that I purchased for her a while ago.

Naofumi: "Isn't that..... the ball that I bought for you?"

Raphtalia smiles when I point at the ball.

Raphtalia: "So you remember."

I thought she lost it a while ago. To think she still had it...

Raphtalia: "This is the first thing that Naofumi-sama gave me."

Naofumi: "You were looking at it so wistfully that anyone would have bought it."

Raphtalia: "I don't think so."

Firo: "Na?"

After Firo cleaned up the rest of the barbecue, she turned around.

Firo: "Onee-chan, what are you talking about?"

Raphtalia: "It's just something that happened before Firo was born."

Firo: "Hmm....."

I watch the ball bouncing around. It looks worn out and some parts are torn. Perhaps Raphtalia was playing with the ball while I wasn't looking.

Naofumi: "Do you want me to buy you a new one?"

It's not an expensive item. If playing with balls is Raphtalia's hobby, then for the sake of her relaxation, I would buy more. [8]

Raphtalia: "No, that is not necessary because this is my memento."

Naofumi: "I don't get it, but....."

If she wants to treat it as a cherished memory then I will not question it.

Naofumi: "Do you want to play together?"

Raphtalia: "Eh!?"

Raphtalia look at me in shock.

Naofumi: "What's wrong?"

Raphtalia: "No..... I just didn't think Naofumi-sama was someone who would want to play with balls."

Naofumi: "Well...it is unavoidable that I would be seen as someone who thinks like that. But, today is a good day to take it easy and play."

Can we play volleyball with only the two of us? Well, there is always passing the ball back and forth without dropping it.

The ball is thrown at me and I raise my hands to return it to Raphtalia. This is unexpectedly difficult...back then, I barely ever played beach volleyball.

Firo: "Master and Raphtalia Onee-chan are playing! Firo wants to play too!"

The bird finished her meal and started making a commotion while we were tossing the ball back and forth.

Naofumi: "If you want to play make sure to control your power and not destroy the ball."

Firo: "Okay~!"

Raphtalia: "Fufufu."

Raphtalia tosses the ball very happily.

Even though her body is grown up, she is still a child.

Naofumi: "When the wave is over, I'm thinking of going to another country to Class up."

Raphtalia: "Okay. I will follow you everywhere."

Firo: "Firo too~"

The ball flies from Raphtalia to Firo and then finally me.

Naofumi: "Ah."

The ball flew behind Raphtalia and is about to fall to the ground.

Raphtalia: "Ei!"

Naofumi: "What!"

The ball was skilfully hit towards Firo with her tail. [\[9\]](#)

Firo: "Wa..... Firo too."

Firo hits the ball with the wings on her back.

You guys..... Don't use parts that common human beings don't have.

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama."

I wonder why this game is becoming one with strange conditions.

It can't be helped.

Naofumi: "Air Strike Shield!"

The ball is bounced back by a shield that appears in the air.

Raphtalia: "Ah, that's dirty!"

Naofumi: "It's not!"

Seriously..... This is child's play.

As a result of the cool down time, I lost. Afterwards we just played volleyball normally.

Raphtalia: "Well, what should we do now?"

It will be essential for Raphtalia to become stronger from a Class Up.

Additionally, whenever a wave appears, I am summoned. In the meantime, I should work on leveling up and earning money in a different country.

Naofumi: "We still have time. Raphtalia, Firo. Are there any accessories that you want?"

Raphtalia: "Accessory?"

Naofumi: "Ah, I can craft some so I was wondering if you two wanted any."

From a while ago, I had already decided to reward Raphtalia and Firo for their hard work.

Naofumi: "Raphtalia, you're at the age where you want something like that right?"

Raphtalia: "Y-yes....."

Firo: "Firo too!"

Naofumi: "I understand. Now tell me what you two want."

Raphtalia seems to be dumbfounded.

Is this such a rare occurrence?

Firo: "Uhhh, Firo wants a hairpin."

Firo wants a hairpin huh..... that's surprising since I expected her to want a saddle or some reins.

Naofumi: "Hairpin? Why?"

Firo: "Because it won't dig into my skin after I transform."

You still mind that? Well, perhaps something to stick on her head would be good. I guess it is appropriate considering how old Firo looks.

Naofumi: "Raphtalia what do you want?"

Raphtalia: "Me? Let's see....."

Raphtalia thinks for a while before answering.

Raphtalia: "I want a bracelet. Granting an effect is important. It will be useless if there is no meaning."

Naofumi: "Huh?"

Raphtalia: "Naofumi-sama, an item that can raise my abilities would be preferable."

I wonder what. My mind seems to have trouble understanding Raphtalia's

answer.

A bracelet that gives an effect. I thought she would have wanted rings, earrings, or a necklace.

Is my brain just bad?

Naofumi: "O-okay. I'll make it properly."

Firo: "Firo too~"

Naofumi: "Yeah, yeah."

We played at the grassy plain till the end of the day, then returned to the hotel to prepare for the wave.

# The Third Disaster

Today is the day that the Old Man finishes creating the equipment I ordered. We arrived when the shop had just opened.

"Oh, it's the lad. You sure are early."

"I guess. So how is it? Were you able to finish it?"

"Of course. By the way, your pot of food has become an enormous topic for some reason. But why are people saying that I'm the one who made it?"

"How would I know? Ask the guy who is spreading the rumor."

"That's impossible....."

The Old Man brings out my armour from the back of the shop.

The chimera and dragon bones that I passed him earlier were grounded to powder form to make a bone mail... Not. The armour looks like those rider suit - punk fashion style-with bones just sewn onto it. Probably.

It's like Hokuto no Ken clothing Mark II. [\[10\]](#)

By the way, is this called a racing suit or a rider suit?

"Old Man, do you want to make me the King of Thieves that badly?"

It may be because originally the materials were meant to make Barbarian Armour that's why it looks like that.

"Huh? What're you saying lad?"

As for wearing this..... Even though this is a fantasy world, all I can think of right now is how this equipment has the Showa Era feel.

For now I might as well test its performance.

"By the way, how good is this armour?"

"Because I've improved this order-made armour quite a bit, I don't exactly know how good it is. But I guess it would be as good as Barbarian Armour +1."

"Well, I think that this '+1' armour looks like it has undergone some disgusting remodeling. The dragon skin on the armour reminds me of another clothing."(!)  
Even the original design was changed.

The front is the Mark II that feels like denim, but looks rubber because of the black luster from the dragon's skin.

And the area around the chest has a pathetic amount of metal protecting it.

What can I say? It's the perfect clothing to put on when riding a motorcycle.

Since there are no motorcycles in this world, I feel like I should astride Firo and let her run without a care in the world... Stop thinking like this!

"Barbarian Armour +1"

Defence Up Shock Resistance (Intermediate) Flame Resistance (High)  
Darkness Resistance (High) Hp recovery (Weak) Magic Up (Intermediate)  
Enchantment: Automatic Restoration

There are various resistances.

Automatic restoration..... I don't know it works just from the name alone. I wonder if it will repair itself even if it is half-destroyed.....

Just based on these bonuses alone, the performance should be great.

Still, in the end it looks like I have to continue wearing armour that cannot be called decent clothes.

"What's up lad? Have you seen this armour before?"

"You do know I'm not from this world right? In my world..... People who ride things that are faster than horses or Filorials wear this kind of clothing."

"In that case, Master, please wear it and get on Firo!"

Firo stares at me with sparkling eyes.

"Lad. What this little bird Missy just said sounds incredibly obscene."

The Old Man mutters with a bit of a disgusted look in his eyes.

"Shut up!"

Old Man, did you make this armour with thoughts of harassing me?

"What's wrong lad?"

..... It should be different. How should I put it? There is totally no malice.

"W-well. I'll take it."

Wearing this outfit around town..... Makes me feel out of place.

Raphtalia also commented that I looked cool dressed like that.

..... She's not considering this as armour anymore. It's more like clothes to her. Very sad.

Well, the preparations for the wave have finished without a problem.

Raphtalia's black bruises have recovered completely thanks to the strong holy

water used every day. To that, I heaved a sigh of relief.

However, there may also be an after-effect. I hope I can heal that completely as soon as possible.

Accessories for Raphtalia and Firo were also completed today.

"Here are the accessories you asked for."

"Yay~!"

"Okay."

"First off, Raphtalia."

I pass Raphtalia a bracelet made of jade.

"Thank you very much."

"The enchantment on that is Magic Up (Small). It will also act as a lightning rod for magic cast on you that lowers your Magic Defence."

"I'll treasure it."

"Is that really all you want? I can seriously make you some nice looking jewellery if you want."

"What are you saying? We don't have time to waste on looks"

That's right.

It can't be helped if the person herself doesn't want it.

"Next, Firo."

I pass Firo a hairpin made of amber.

I put emphasis on the shape to make it look like a wing, to match Firo's demon form.

"It has an enchantment for Dexterity Up (small)"

"Thank you master~"

"I was a little limited by the materials on hand. So if you want any changes, endure it for now."

"There are no problems with it. I will use this accessory to its maximum potential."

"Yup! Firo will work hard!"

"I have high hopes."

We take the rest of the time to prepare. I made some arrangements with the kids who volunteered earlier.

Firo has already been briefed about fighting against the wave. At first Firo had a question mark above her head asking about what the wave was, but after a while she understood.

Medicine has been prepared. The carriage..... Is broken, and since the new one isn't completed yet, Firo pulled a cart instead.

Anyway, it seems to have become my duty to protect any villages in the vicinity since the other heroes just run off.

Though I am not actually needed to participate, it would be despicable to just abandon people.

00:05

5 minutes left.

It seems I can sense where we will appear, so I let the volunteer soldiers know beforehand.

Change shield to the Chimeric Viper Shield.

00:00

It's time!

A loud sound similar to glass shattering echoes.

The scenery changes instantly.

We scan the neighborhood calmly.

"This is....."

Yup, near the village with that man who was bringing medicine to his mother who was suffering from an illness.

No matter how much they rush, the earliest anyone would make it here from the castle town would be a day and a half.

There are red cracks spreading through the sky.

"Hero of the Shield-sama!"

The volunteers who were also summoned run up to me.

As for the other three heroes----.

"Firo! If you're going to kick that spear bastard do it so that he flies towards the cracks. It'll help him get there faster."

"Okay~!"

Firo listens to my order and runs off.

Because of her speed, she caught with the correct party.

"Eh----?"

As soon as the spear bastard looks back, he is kicked by Firo.

""""Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!""""

His whole party was kicked away. It feels good to see that fucking woman also getting blown away.

Though there wasn't much damage since Firo held back.

"Wh-What did you do that for!"

It seems the spear is trying to say something to us.

I ignore the spear and glare at the bow and sword. [\[11\]](#)

"Stop being a fool and wasting time!"

"What is up with you right now!?"

"Yeah! We must defeat the enemies spawned from the wave!"

I am amazed at how angry these foolish heroes are.

"Listen to me first, you can hunt the enemy afterwards."

I direct the volunteers towards the neighboring village. They nodded and ran off towards the village according to my orders.

"Now..... Stop interfering with our work!"

"It's different!"

Itsuki is surprised by my roar and looked at me with bulging eyes.

"Calm down and think about it. Since I'm not getting any aid money, I will not fight against the main body of the wave. As far as I am concerned I will be trying to defend the towns and villages within the neighbourhood. Do you guys understand?"

"Yeah."

"You are disqualified as a hero."

"That's right!"

All their followers are taunting me.

"Now you guys. Defeating the enemies who spawn from the waves is your job. I do not know whether or not the wave is stopped if you defeat the boss."(!) "It is connected to the boss!"

Itsuki seems to have gotten excited and answers.

Such a thing doesn't matter.

"However, besides that we have a more important job..... Do you guys understand?"

"What would that be?"

Ren even you don't understand? I mean you should know since this world resembles a game.

Why don't you understand?

Asking that would sound very sarcastic so I'll held back.

"Do you guys know about the Knights?"

When I said that, the heroes close their eyes.

"They will come later."

I bring out a magic flare and show them.

"The distance from here to the castle town is one and a half days on horse or Filorial. That's too far!"

"Then, what should we do!"

"How did you get this information!?"

I point at the volunteers running towards the village.

"Now that I think about it..... How did you transfer with those people?"

"Seriously? You guys don't even know the Party function.....?"

"For companions? I thought we couldn't have that many."

"This is different..... A party leader is nominated and everyone who is within the party is a subordinate, that also makes them all part of the transfer."

Perhaps..... These guys. They don't know anything about the wave?

"First of all that was confirmation. Now it is confirmed that we can bring help during the waves."

..... Nobody says anything.

"Well, we know everything that is necessary from the Help and Tutorial already."

"Yeah, we know this world well enough."

"Anyway, our top priority is to suppress the wave..... So, see ya!"

"Then fighting against the wave for you guys..... Is a game?"

"What?"

"What about it?"

"Let's hurry and go!"

My question was disregarded by Itsuki who ran off.

"Motoyasu, do you know the meaning of my question?"

"Well..... Instant dungeon?"

No.....

"This is different. Is it a time attack wave?"

Ren..... That is also wrong.

"Is it like a guild war? Or a game with large scale battles?"

In my original world, I played a game that had a big event in which the players had only a week to participate.

As expected, it seems that the only ones who can use the party system are the heroes.

In fact, if the knights were late last wave and if I retreated, the damage would be tremendous.

"..... Even though you guys have ran a large guild before, you still don't understand right?"(!)

Since their co-operation is top priority I have to say it like this.

Even though there is the assumption that the Heroes, who are the Ace Players, have to lead the charge.

To minimize the amount of damage, us Heroes must co-operate with the residents of this world.

The fact that they don't understand this is amusing.

"I had managed a team before."

Is Motoyasu's answer.

He glances at Firo's demon form. Well he probably doesn't want to be kicked.

"Then why can't you understand?"

"I don't need to."

"Huh!?"

"It will all work out one way or another."

Sigh..... Am I a secretary making sure you do your work?

"I'm not interested in this."

Ren..... Certainly, he is not the type who is very talkative just before a guild war.

I guess he wants to maintain his cool image.

If he was the master of a large scale guild or something, I want to know how he managed it.

"Anyway, this time we need to do our best, and make sure to bring knights next time."

I need to lay a foundation to combat the waves.

Both Ren and Motoyasu run off without hiding their unpleasantness towards me.

Hey! Don't spit on the road!

"Anyway. Let's go the village in the neighbourhood too."

"Okay~!"

We got in the cart, and Raphtalia hurried to the village with me.

"Ouch-!"

We arrived at the village just as the wave got there. Everything is covered in shadows, wolves, lizardmen, condors, and some goblins.

These guys remind me of Demi-humans, but all dark and covered with shadows.

Respectively they are called: Dark Condor, Black Wolf, Assault Shadow Goblin, and Shadow Lizardmen. [\[12\]](#)

And "Dimensional" is added before each of their names.

They are just like ghosts that disappear into shadows when defeated. It's downright creepy. These demons are totally different from the previous wave; is this going to be the case from now on?

At any rate, I'll leave all the troublesome things to those guys.

That is.

"Acha-!"[\[13\]](#)

I hear a strange battle cry from the Old Woman whom I fed medicine to. She is faring well with a hoe in one hand.

The volunteers are perplexed by this Old Woman as well.

"Ah, the Saint! Thanks for the medicine! Acha-!"

The Old Woman bows to me after delivering blow after blow with the hoe to the demons that are rushing forward.

This Old Woman is quite strong. There were many demon corpse lying around her.

"Hey, you come over here and say thanks."

"Uhm right, Thank you very much."

The son of the Old Woman bows to me too.

"Anyway, for the time being please evacuate and take shelter, these enemies are spawning from the wave."

The volunteers are instructing the villagers to take refuge.

The intervals between more enemies arriving and the elimination of the current demons is quite small.

We also join the suppression of the enemy.

"Acha-!"

The Old Woman casually slaughters the enemies. Are these really the movements of a person who was about to die a month ago?

"My old strength has returned thanks to the divine blessings of the Saint. Hahaha!"

The Old Woman glares at her son and he also starts fighting to his fullest, but he seems quite shy.

However, he is not as good as his parent. The volunteers are barely able to put up a fight.

No one can compare to the Old Woman.

"Even though I look like this, back in my prime I was quite a famous adventurer. My level is the same as my age! Acha-!"

"Old Hag, don't be so reckless!"<sup>[14]</sup>

I don't think even a thousand would be a match for her.

While I hold back the enemy, they are massacred by power that is comparable to Firo.

I'm scared that when the battle is over she will run out of battery and drop.

"What did I give that Old Hag to drink?"

"Who knows....."

Raphtalia watches the Old Hag with utter amazement.

I will have to question her son closely later.

Anyway, now is time to treat any injured people.

"It is top priority for those who are injured fall back from the defence line towards the cart."

I perform treatment on injured people while giving instructions.

"Acha! Saint-sama, it seems there's a suspicious one among the invaders."

It seems there is a fairly big Dimensional Shadow Lizardman mixed in. He is about twice the size of the others.

"Raphtalia, Firo, we'll kill that fellow together."

The volunteers will be a burden.

"Okay!"

"Okay~!"

I run towards the big game.

The Dimensional Shadow Lizardman is brandishing a huge black sword.

I run in front of it and hold up my shield. A loud screeching sound can be heard as sparks scatter.

Snake's Poison Fang (Intermediate) activates and poisons the enemy.

But there is barely any effect. This kind of enemy is a reptile after all. However, poisoning it is not what I was aiming for.

"Eryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

A fearless Raphtalia pierces her sword right in to the abdomen of the Dimensional Shadow Lizardman.

"Deryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

The face of the Dimensional Shadow Lizardman is blown away by a single blow from Firo.

The Dimensional Shadow Lizardman falls over and collapses on its back.

"Amazing....."

One of the volunteers unconsciously lets his thoughts out.

"Good! You guys go around the village and do damage control."

If the Old Hag, six volunteers , and some adventurers who live here protect the village, a lot of the damage can be avoided.

There should still be other villages in this neighborhood. It will be dangerous if we do not go help as soon as possible.

"Use what medicine you need, the ride won't be comfortable. Let's get going."

Some volunteers get into the cart per my instructions.

"Let's go!"

"Roger~!"

Firo pulls the cart that has become heavier, and starts running with her explosive power.

When we arrived at the next village, some volunteers looked to be in pain, but it wasn't particularly bad so I ignored it.

This village seems to have taken a lot more damage than the previous one. Houses were burnt, and some villagers are injured.

"Hurry, go rescue anyone you can!"

"O-Okay!"

While slaughtering demons, we were waiting for the wave to end.

"..... So slow!"

3 hours have passed since then.

We were barely able to defend the villages in the neighborhood, and now we have started pushing back against the seemingly infinite number of demons coming from the wave.

The evacuation of villagers was done properly, and the casualties amongst villagers were minimal.

The refugees were not attacked when spotted because we were here. So our offences and defences continue as is.

It would be too late regardless.

How long are those heroes going to take?

"Hero-sama, leave this place to us. Shouldn't you go support the other Hero-samas?"

The child soldier who greeted me first gave the proposal.

"There is no meaning if I go....."

If I go to help them defeat the boss, they will just complain that I went to steal glory.

"But....."

The volunteers look exhausted. Fighting for 3 hours against waves of seemingly never-ending enemies will do that to your stamina.

Raphtalia and Firo are also considerably tired. I am no different.

"Ahahahaha-!"

Firo kicks a Dimensional Assault Shadow Goblin while laughing.

Yup. Firo is still all right. That bird is a massive lump of stamina.

"Will you be fine?"

"Please leave it to me!"

Looks like he still have some energy.

"Then I'll take you up on your offer. I'm counting on you."

"Okay!"

"Raphtalia, Firo, let's go!"

"Understood."

"Okay~!"

We left the village to the volunteers and adventurers, while we rode towards the boss of the wave on Firo.

# Grow Up

"It should be around here..... I think."

"I think so too."

"Yup."

A large wine-red crack spreads through the ground, acting as though it is the starting point of the wave. One after another, demons crawl out from there.

"Hm?"

I see a fish-like ghost that is as white as a cloth. It has red eyes and an extremely mean look with fangs extending from its huge mouth.

It's very ghost-like..... There is a feeling that physical attacks will not work on this demon.

However, it's lying down.

Are all the boss-class monsters from the wave already dead?

"A fish?"

"What is this....."

"Hmm..... They don't seem like enemies that we would have trouble beating."

"Is that so?"

"Normal attacks won't be effective. They seem like enemies that only magic has an effect."

This is an area where only those with experience with net games would know which weapon or magic is impossible against a monster.

"Then Firo can fight!"

"Huh? Kicking it won't work you know?"

"Yup. But Firo can also use attack magic!"

"Then use that from the beginning!"

"Noo. Kicking is faster than magic."

- Sigh\*..... Firo does not understand how useful magic can be.

Asking the person in question for answers is like trying to grasp clouds.

"Did those guys beat the boss?"

Where are they?

As I look around restlessly, there are sounds of clashing metal.

"Over there?"

"You're right. Let's go over there."

Firo also hears it, so we run towards the direction of the sound.

"Rinbu Rei no Kata ▪ Gyaku Shiki Setsugekka!"<sup>[15]</sup>

The sky that is stained with red starts to shine. When I look up, there is a red moon that looks like it was cast by an antagonist. Then, something in the form of a person drew a circle through it and then there was a red flash.

""Guaaaaaaaaa!""

We arrived as simultaneous screams erupted. Motoyasu, Ren, and Itsuki are trapped within a tornado, while their companions are collapsed all over the place.

"Guha!"

What on earth happened here? From what I can tell, the enemy fired off a huge magic attack at this place. No, no, these guys should be considerably high leveled. They shouldn't have been defeated so easily.

But, what is going on? Motoyasu was tossed near us.

"Meteor Spear should have hit....." Ren mutters in response to Motoyasu.

"Metoeer Sword should have worked....." And Itsuki.

"Meteor Bow should have done something....." [16]

What?

"..... Is that trending?"

The Heroes have all fainted... Yes, fainted. At least I don't think they are dead. Meteor..... Is that popular?

"Are you their reinforcements?"

After the tornado stops, a person appears from the center of it. She is wearing a

jet black kimono with silver embroidery. Her clothes feel like those attire that are worn by relatives of the deceased during a funeral back in my world.

She stands as a beautiful girl. Her face in no way inferior to Raphtalia. Her personality seems serious, and her hair is long.

But, something is off. Sometimes, she looks slightly translucent, just like a ghost. Her weapon seems to be an iron fan, which is being held by both of her hands, that looks like it is for dancing purposes. This human-shaped woman seems to be the victor here.

"The Heroes of this world seem to be all bark and no bite, quite a disappointment."

That..... Human-shaped woman declares as she turns around.

"Master~, that person is probably very strong."

Firo informs me while all the feathers on her body stand on end.

"Yes, I could feel a very strong pressure coming from her just by being near. Her strength is a few notches above the normal demons." Raphtalia also warns me while her tail is standing up.

"So you defeated these fools?"

I step on the fucking woman's unconscious face while asking.

"Hmm..... Is that how you treat your companions?"

It seems the woman in the kimono does not like my attitude.

"I apologize, but you can't be any more incorrect about her being my companion."

After trampling her face about 3 more times my anger is a little appeased.

"Doesn't matter, what you are doing is unjust."

"Speaking of unjust, this bitch has done far crueller acts. I have quite a grudge."

"Master is like a villain~"

"Shut up."

"I can't rebut the enemy with sound argument....." Raphtalia seems a little amazed as she speaks.

The gallery is being annoying.

"Can Firo do that too?"

Firo raises her foot and aims it at Motoyasu.

"Stop it, if you do it he will die."

"Okay~"

The enemy seems a little amazed at our attitude.

"..... Although they are not your companions, your actions are definitely way different from a normal human being."

"Say whatever you like."

"Whatever, it may just be the customs of this world. Moving on, I have a reason to not lose."

After posing with the iron fan, she charges in my direction.

Fast!

I raise my shield at once.

- Gagin!\*

Damn..... That's very heavy. Even the zombie dragon did not have this much weight behind its attacks. Such a heavy attack from an iron fan, it would seriously be dangerous if Raphtalia or Firo took one of these.

"Raphtalia, Firo! Be careful..... She's strong."

"Okay!"

"Sure!"

"I am the Hero of the Shield who deciphers and calls forth the power of nature to defend!"

"Fast Guard!"

After I cast support magic on all three of us, the fight begins. She seems to have grasped my intention so she changed locations. We chased after her. Yes, this is so that the Heroes and their companions will not interfere with our fight.

She's probably the one who took down the boss of the wave too.

I receive painful wounds from the iron fan whenever I receive an attack anywhere besides my shield. Whenever I had room, I recite Fast Heal to heal my wounds. This fight is quite intense. Her attacks are not only quick, they are also extremely strong. When she understands that her attacks won't work on me, she changed her aim to Raphtalia and Firo.

"As if I'd let you! So I capture her leg to obstruct her.

"Ugh..... Release me immediately!"

However, you cannot remove my restraints with something like that.

"Are you the same battle type? ..... Compared to the people before, you are more troublesome."

The enemy remains nonchalant even after being subjected to Snake's Poison Fang (Intermediate).

As for her defence, I had to put that under serious reconsideration after she blocked an attack from Raphtalia and Firo. In any case, she's strong. In everything.

The fact that the other Heroes got defeated is proof enough.

"Master, Watch Firo's magic~"

Firo crosses her left hand over her right, and rushes towards the enemy.

"Here I come~"

For a moment, yes only a moment, Firo turned into a blur.

- GeshiGeshiGeshiGeshiGeshi!\*

A shock that vibrates from impact is felt through the enemy.

"Damn.....!"

The enemy has a face full of agony.

"Seriously..... This person is so stubborn. To receive Firo's attack and not fly away."

"Such a heavy attack..... Its strength rivals that of the Hero of the Sword. To kick me that heavily eight times in an instant....."

Eh? You can see Firo's attacks?

"Firo, do it again!"

"Eh..... Impossible, My magic power is exhausted and it takes time to prepare."

Was that Firo's sure kill attack?

"Eat this!"

At that opening, Raphtalia pierced her.

"Naive!"

The iron fan intercepts the sword at the last moment.

- Bakin!\*

"Wh-"

Raphtalia's sword broke?

Just how much strength does she have? Originally iron fans can break swords, but that requires complete mastery. Even though I applied Fast Guard, I am barely able to block with my shield. And Firo has already used her trump card.

"Damn....."

Raphtalia backs off and pulls out a spare. Is there any way to win.....

"Huff..... Huff..... That's quite enough."

No, we may have a chance if this becomes a battle of attrition. This women fought against all three other Heroes and their companions. No matter who you are, there should still be fatigue.

"I'll end it with this."

The enemy's whole body starts glowing. That's bad! This is the same attack that took out those three.

"Raphtalia, Firo!"

The enemy starts to rotate at high speed like a dance. Raphtalia and Firo hide behind me, although just barely they were able to make it.

"Shield Prison!"

A cage made out of shields and magic surrounds us.

"Rinbu Rei no Kata ▪ Gyaku Shiki Setsugekka!"

A great storm descends from the iron-fan and starts cutting down my shields.

"Dammit....."

What an incredible attack. No wonder the other Heroes got swept up in it, even I am barely able to hold.

"You two, are you okay?"

"Barely."

"It hurts....."

When I look back, both of them looked like they'd taken considerable damage. I applied heal ointment onto the wounds. Because of the ranged cure skill, their wounds were gradually cured.

"Really?..... To receive my trump and stand..... Your defence is quite something."

The tornado stops, and the enemy appears again.

"I am honoured by your praise."

Though I am quite beat up, we haven't lost yet. But we have nothing to get us out of this pinch.

"Ei~!"

Firo moves at high speeds and damages the enemy little by little. This will be a long battle. Whether or not we can win this battle of attrition is doubtful. What to do.....

There is only one move in this circumstance that can reverse the situation.

"Raphtalia."

I catch Raphtalia who falls down.

"What's wrong?"

"Lend me your power....."

It seems Raphtalia guessed what I was going to do.

"Okay. I am Naofumi-sama's sword. Even if you go through hell, I will follow."

"..... I know."

I believe it. There is no fear at all that my trust will be betrayed. But if I lose here, then Raphtalia and Firo will die..... Though I dislike to, I wish with all my heart that I want to protect by all means. I will absolutely not get consumed by anger. I swear so..... I place my hand on my shield and think.

Shield of Anger!

Growth Up due to stone of the Zombie Dragon. Ability improvement of the Curse Series, Shield of Anger! Shield of Anger 2 Ability Unsealed..... Equipment Bonus: Skill "Change Shield (Attack)" "Iron Maiden"

Special Effects: Self-Burning Curse Physical Strength Up Rage of the Dragon Roar Frenzy of Companions

Then-----

Is this the last memory of the dragon that I absorbed into my shield? A scene is projected. A part of the chest and the middle of the forehead is pierced by the Hero of the Sword. The anger felt is far beyond imagination. Losing to a

human. I'm able to understand how much of a humiliation it was for the dragon.

Growth Up..... You say!?

The shape of the shield changed from one surrounded by flame to one that resembles a dragon. Furthermore, in conjunction with the shield, Barbarian Armour +1 also changed.

Is the cause from..... The decaying dragon core?

The Rider Suit changes to look like a Jet-Black Dragon. As a reprisal, a black shadow clouds my view.....

# Iron Maiden

Red Dragon Flame..... The shield evolved into Shield of Anger 2 that turned towards the black shadow.

"Uooooooooooooo!"

When I shout, the air vibrates as if the world resonated with me.

"What....." The enemy stops fighting Firo and looks at me with a loss for words.

Just like the first time, it is extremely dangerous to hold the Shield of Anger. It is trying to consume my heart. The shield's anger has increased..... Is this the result of my upgrades? Damn..... My view is warped.

"Naofumi-sama."

Suddenly, I feel a gentle touch. It is probably Raphtalia. I..... I will not lose here. I shake the black shadow off and restore my vision. And I look the enemy straight in the eye.

"U..... Uuaaa..."

What!? When I look at Firo, I feel a strange resonance with her..... The flame from my shield enshrouds Firo without burning her.

"Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Firo sharpens her eyes like a bird of prey and kicks the enemy. Is this due to the Dragon Core that was absorbed by the shield?

"W-What is going on? This is even heavier than before....." The enemy is in dismay due to Firo's attacks.

But, I can't tell if Firo is self-aware or not. All I can see in her eyes is rage and violence for the enemy.

"What happened?" The enemy approaches and asks.

"Oh, It's my trump card." I still have my ego.

It's going to be alright. I did not yield to anger because there was someone who will believe in me. I provoke the enemy despite all the cold sweat. I also instruct Raphtalia with my eyes to stay away.

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah, I can still restrain it." I approached the enemy.

"Uaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!" Special Effect, Roar.

It is probably something that increases the vibrations in the air.

"Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" In response to my roar, Firo recklessly charges the enemy with me.

"Damn....."

"Don't dodge please!"

"As if I'd do that!"

While the enemy is dealing with Firo using her iron fan. I also enter the fray.

Gagin!

Alright, the attack is lighter compared to when I had the Chimeric Viper Shield.

In this case, it is not necessary to hunker down.

The fire from the Curse revolves around me. According to my anger, the heat increases or decreases.

If I don't keep my anger in check, the fire power would be extraordinary.

But, within the flames, the power of the curse still remains.

"What!?"

When Firo dived recklessly through my flames, she dove to the ground instantly.

Good!

The black flame will take down the enemy.

"But..... It's not an attack that I cannot endure."

..... Though she took my flames head on, it wasn't fatal.

"Rinbu Yabu No Kata ▪ Kikkō Wari!" [\[17\]](#)

The Iron Fan was retracted and came piercing towards me. It resembles an arrow. Dangerous!

I ready my shield with that in mind.

- Gatsun\* a heavy impact landed and pain can be felt throughout my body.

My body was damaged through the shield

"Damn....."

"Hey, was I supposed to fall from that attack? ....."

It is hard to stay calm from the pain. But if I lose my cool, we all die here.

"It was quite a good attack."

That attack was probably meant to penetrate my shield, or at least that's what it would do in games.

No matter how high one's defence is, there's no meaning if it's simply ignored.

There is also the possibility that it will do more damage the higher defence their opponent has.

Is this the weakness of the Hero of the Shield?

This is an old rule of thumb from net games, there are numerous ways to deal with any problem.

I do not know if my knowledge from those games apply to this world, but there are some things that will always be true.

The enemy's offensive ability is simply too high while the shield is weak.

Next, avoid attacks. It is a common sense against enemies that use instant death attacks.

Finally, need some fire power. The way to overcome absolute offensive ability without dying is the role of a tank.

Until now, I have thought of many reasons why the shield is weak, but none of them really apply to me.

..... I don't understand.

Anyway, I need to concentrate now.

Using Fast Heal, I cure myself. I don't know whether or not the other party can heal, but I won't take any chances.

"I know the weakness of your attacks."

The enemy declares grandly.

"Your only attack is the black flame which is close range. It cannot attack me from a distance. And that also makes your roar useless."

Damn..... It hurts to be analysed.

She is quite suitable as a warrior because she has remarkable insights. She's the kind of person who would not easily lose to anyone.

Still, just what is the wave? Is this not just a simple disaster? Why are there people like her?

"So that's the limit of what you can do. Once I take out your companions, you have no chance of winning from a distance!"

The enemy changes her aim to Firo.

"Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

"You think I'd let you!?"

Damn, it takes too long to catch up since Firo and her are so fast.

Anything..... Isn't there anything on hand I can use?

Then it hits me.

Change Shield (Attack) Iron Maiden [18]

It is the skill that comes with the Shield of Anger.

Doing a all-or-nothing attack isn't too bad.

I think it was..... Shield Prison -> Change Shield (Attack) -> Iron Maiden.

This is probably a skill that can only be used by consecutively using different skills. It might be a combination skill.

"Shield Prison."

I use the skill that surrounds the enemy within shields.

"Please don't think I'll be stopped so easily."

However, it is extremely difficult to catch an enemy that moves with this skill.

Damn, this is also dangerous for Firo since they are moving so recklessly.

I don't know if you will receive a fatal injury.

The cage disappears doing nothing and only the cooldown time remains.

"Naofumi-sama, did you think of something?"

"Yeah, is there any way you can stop her from moving?"

It would be very dangerous, but it would give me the best chance of catching her within the cage.

"I understand. I'll do my best."

"W-Will you be alright?"

"I'll be fine. I can fight today thanks to Naofumi-sama."

Raphtalia takes a stance with her sword and concentrates.

Her tail is also standing up..... Is she going to use magic?

"Match my timing because I'll stop her."

"Yeah!"

After some light appeared from her tail, Raphtalia ran towards the enemy.

"Deryaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

"To come from the front is truly foolish!"

An arrow of light that is the iron fan is fired towards Raphtalia.

But, Raphtalia dodges it by lowering her posture.

"Deei!"

The enemy was slashed at with the sword.

"You're full of openings!"

Raphtalia resumes her posture but is slashed by the enemy.

Su..... Raphtalia's appearance fades out and disappears into thin air.

"What!?"

There is a fizzing sound.

Then, Raphtalia appears from behind the enemy and knocks her down.

"Now!"

"Got it!"

I respond to Raphtalia's instructions. Firo has already moved away since she can tell I am about to use a skill.

It seems she can be manipulated by the Shield of Anger.

"Shield Prison!"

"What--"

The enemy is caged by shields.

The cage seems about to break at any moment due to her attacks.

Not happening. I will not let the chance that Raphtalia made go to waste.

"Change Shield (Attack)"

I shout the name of the skill.

The shields that are available for changing to appear.

The shield that I choose is the Bee Needle Shield!

"--!"

As the shield changes, an attack was unleashed on the inside.

An impact spreads throughout the cage.

Iron Maiden!

When I was about to shout the name of the skill, a sentence appears in my head.

"The foolish criminal will feel with their whole body the embrace of virgin iron in a single blow. Release a cry full of painful agony that will not be heard!!"

"Iron Maiden!"

A huge iron torture device known as the iron maiden appears as I chant and wraps around the cage.

"-----!"

The cage of shields breaks, its insides confined by the iron maiden and pieced, not letting even a single cry escape.

At the same time, my Sp hits 0.

Th-this skill, does it use all of its caster's SP as the sacrifice?

And the effect time of the Iron Maiden disappears.

"Gufu--"

With her whole body penetrated, the enemy glares at me while breathing heavily.

"I am very dissatisfied..... But I have no choice but to withdraw for today....."

You can still stand after receiving such a skill?

"You think I'll let you escape!?"

"Ha!"

The enemy starts running towards the crack in the sky. When I look at Firo, she

doesn't seem to want to chase.

It seems Roar is necessary to order Firo to charge recklessly, but I cannot use it because I have no more SP.

We almost beat her.

"My name is Glass..... You, what is your name?"

Before she entered the crack she turned around and pointed at me.

"Is it necessary for me to respond?"

"No it is not. But I want to remember the person who cornered me like this. That's it."

"As expected of a warrior, though there are a lot of things I want to know."

"Then, let me give the person who has the shield one piece of information."

What? Why are you telling me this?

"It is a big mistake to think of us as a mere disaster. The one who will get the last laugh will not be you but the one beyond the boundary."

Hm..... This information is surely important.

I know nothing about what kind of thing a wave is.

Glass..... It is necessary to know the meaning of her words, but also about the meaning of the waves.

At least the enemy is an intellectual living entity.

I have been too obsessed with that Bitch Princess and Trash King.

The true enemy that we Heroes fight are these fellows from the wave.

Hm..... It seems I have enemies behind and in front of me.....

"Understood. Thanks for the information. My name is Iwatani Naofumi."

"Naofumi..... I'll remember it!"

When Glass declares that and enters the crack, it starts to disappear.

Shortly after, it vanishes.

I immediately change Shield of Anger 2 to another shield.

Although that shield gives me a temporary Power Up, I cannot use it for too long.

"Haah....."

"We did it."

"I guess."

"Funyaa..... Did something happen?"

Raphtalia had just caught up to me as I turn around, while Firo falls to the ground in exhaustion.

"Was the wave settled somehow?"

"I think so."

"Firo is tired....."

"Is that so. Let's ignore the other heroes and go clean up."

Thus, the third wave in this world ended.

# Translator note

1. ↑ TL note: I'm a little confused with this 教わろうかと思ったが今の俺ではかえって邪魔になる気がした。
2. ↑ TL Note: Not sure what this means 毎日、宿屋で見ているはずなのに、何か珍しい構図になってしまっているような気がする。)
3. ↑ TL note: Flonne from Disgaea
4. ↑ Editor note: I'm guessing it's something like Pokemon. Original: 「ラフタリアお姉ちゃん黒いもんね
5. ↑ Chapter 36 if you are interested
6. ↑ Editor's note: made some things up to try and make it logical
7. ↑ TL Note: Rip poor Usapiru population
8. ↑ TL note:PFT anyone got a better translation? because this is too lewd. ボールで遊ぶのが趣味ならラフタリアの息抜きの為にも買って良いとは思う。)
9. ↑ ED Note: Fluffy tail, must touch!
10. ↑ TL Note: Fist of the north star reference
11. ↑ TL Note: He's not saying any of the hero's names, just calling them by their weapons.
12. ↑ TL Note: ゴブリンアサルトシャドウ That is the best name for a goblin ever.
13. ↑ Editor's note: Them female Bruce Lees.
14. ↑ Editor's Note: The author changed his style of calling the Old Woman here.
15. ↑ TL Note: I am not translating the name of attacks, unless you want something like Circular Dance Model Zero ▪ Reverse of Sub Zero Flowers.
16. ↑ TL Note: 流星弓,流星剣,流星槍 10/10 naming sense.
17. ↑ TL Note: 「輪舞破ノ型・亀甲割！」 If anyone's got anything better I'm all ears.
18. ↑ TL Note: Author typo'd here,it's supposed to be チェンジシールド but he wrote チェンジールド <http://ncode.syosetu.com/n3009bk/53/> for confirmation if you want.