

Tenseishichattayo!

転生しちゃったよ

ヘッドホン侍
Headphonesamurai

いや、
ごめん

3



I'VE BEEN REINCARNATED
(WELL, SORRY)

– Tenseishichatta Yo (Iya, Gomen) –

- Volume 3 -
BUSY JOURNEY

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hyp

[Translated by: Pumlated]



Shou



New Born Will



Toddler Will



3~4 Years Old Will



8 Years Old Will



Mother



Father



John Sensei



Zen



Selphy

Sub-Characters



God



Terao



Mr Gori-Macho, Zelda Sensei



Shadow(s)

From the left : Mr Tall, Ms Delicate 'Onee-San' and Mr Average



Onee San – Chiffon



Buhual & Bibinyaru



Mi Sociunnov



Kiro



Calius



Freya



Yuria



Varino-Sensei

CHAPTER 69

CAST ASIDE SHAME WHEN TRAVELING (FIRST)

The horse carriage rattled.

Without realizing it, we had passed the streets and was traveling along the seemingly endless stretch of grassland. The warm rays of sunshine made a perfect atmosphere for a nap but unfortunately, my situation did not allow me to.

“Ouch..... ouch...!!”

That beautiful grasslands that just screamed ‘This is nature!’ were of course, not man-made. Which meant the horse carriage was swaying to its fullest on the unpaved road.

Was there a time where I had hated the smallness of my body as much as when I rode a carriage? None.

Every time the carriage shook, my small and light body jumped. It was as amusing as you thought. Buu-san, who was acting as the coachman was still all right but looking at Zirco-san, who was sitting snugly opposite of me, with his eyes closed, caused a wave of murderous intent over me.

Damn it. I don’t wish to be fat but I really want some weight right now. I want to start planning a weight-up program right now.

No, wait a minute.

Not weight, just the bouncing. What was wrong with the bouncing? Easy. My butt, my bottom, my gluteus maximus hurts from all the bouncing. Very very much so.

You see, what goes up have to come down. When I bounce, I have to land.

“.....This is stupid.”

I found myself getting depressed after I-don’t-know-how-many hours of continuous bouncing. It might be better to find a way to get rid of this pain.

This rugged, adventurer-look carriage, with its rough wooden seat that was simply

covered with a sailcloth was dealing a lot more damage than the exquisite carriage Nobles rode in.

This is going to be useful in the future. Failure is the mother to success. Need is the mother to inventions.

As I stared at the moving scenery from the opening at the back of the carriage, I floated above my seat.

Somehow, I felt a hot gaze from Zirco-san but it must be my imagination. The sigh must be my ears hearing things too.

He must be thinking ' Why did you only think of it now, you idiot? '. How rude! What are you saying to an innocent 8 years old?!

And there I was, raging by myself.

But I was sure I guessed it 80%. Yep. All within my brain. By myself. I am not lonely!

My speculation if the [Shadow]'s base would be in the [East Demon Forest] was shot down by John-sensei at Mach speed. It was overthrown easily. That gaze, the way he said it. Moreover, the way he ended it by stroking my head gently! I hated myself who had no comeback and could only looked up to him!

I am still young. 'I will grow as tall as the trees and leave John-sensei in the dust!' I vowed in my heart.

Anyway, it seemed that the history of [Shadows] was older than the founding of Elzmu. It seemed, because no one had ever seen the [Shadows] in action. It was when the details of the case was checked that people noticed that it might be the work of [Shadows].

Right now, this continent had 4 countries but Elzmu was only founded, very suddenly, around 200 years ago. The 3 older countries were Hadazerl at the West, South mercantile nation Dyuvu and North Hattuo Empire. Although they did have traces of overstepping each other but it was difficult to think that they would go out of their way to build a hiding place at such a dangerous place. Plus it was highly unlikely that they would move around [East Demon Forest] as according to their scope of activities.

'In that case, what about the [Central Demon Forest]?' you might ask but no. As you know, that forest was being used as the route for transit trade between countries. I don't know about Hadazerl and Hattuo but to attack a place this close to their own country was just a bad strategy as well as an unprofitable one.

Which was why I needed to turn this around on its head and deduce from the information I got from the incidents. Or rather, I was already doing that. Had I forgotten it? Tee-hee.

But, even if I had read uncountable mystery novels in my previous life, the knowledge and common sense I held about this world was only about 8 years' worth. In short, I am using everyone as my google.

But that was what an adviser was. There were plans for John-sensei to work under the Beryl family as our scholar / researcher after I graduate. He wishes for it as well and of course, me too. He wouldn't judge me even if I said something weird, my jokes got through and above all, it was fun talking to him. I don't know if it's friendship or only me who was feeling this way but I would like to think it went both ways.

It was as how famous politician always had a personal legal adviser in my previous world, here, Nobles would have a scholar beside them. As for Father..... hmm. I don't remember anyone besides him. Anyway, a personal adviser. They would be someone you fully trusted as they would need to handle sensitive information as well.

When it is my rule, I would love to have him beside me. I can trust him. And I am fortunate to be able to do that. I have to give my thanks to Father because he comes to discuss with me despite there are some troubles with the Veltor family.

Oh, I should give my thanks to god as well for the miracle that John-sensei was present at my debut party?

Dear god, thank you.

.....And the topic had strayed very far.

I was pulled back to reality by the loud rattling of this large horse carriage and, at the same time, a voice could be heard coming from the front.

“A magical beast came out.”

.....There was no sense of nervousness at all!

This was my first encounter with a magical beast at the grasslands you know?!

I stopped Zirco-san, who stood up immediately, and simply floated out through the back window and around over to where Buu-san was.

“.....!”

I looked over to where the magical beast was and was stunned. This must be ‘fate’ people was talking about. Beside me, Buu-san could be heard swallowing.

“A... Ajipo...!!”

Why did it appear in the grasslands? It looked so out-of-place here.

In front of us, around 100 meters, was a huge octopus with its 8 legs floating around.

“Er... 《鎌鼬》!”

[TN: Kamaitachi, whirlwind cut, or a certain weasel-like yokai. But I doubt he’s summoning one.]

It would be better not to use other attributes in front of Zirco-san. I tried attacking with the wind attribute I was currently using to keep myself afloat, Ajipo was turned into sashimi splendidly. [TN: Sashimi, raw slices of fish]

Easy. Too easy.

I really wanted a cool battle.

And thus, my very first you-can’t-even-called-it-a-battle with an encountered magical beast ended all too quick.

“...This is too relaxing.....”

Buu-san and Zirco-san might have heard my mumble as a wryly smile appeared on their stunned faces.

“.....As usual eh.”

Buu-san said.
Shu, shut up!



“Why would an Ajipo be here?”

“.....Someone (enemy) brought it here?”

Zirco-san did not answer my question. To think I directed it to him! Taking pity, Buu-san answered it instead.

As for Zirco-san, he was stuffing himself silly with an extremely delighted expression that no one could imagine he was capable of.

Yep, it's delicious, wasn't it?

Because I made that takoyaki! It was as genuine as it could be! I am not just showing off. It was hard work concocting the sauce by using the spices from this world but the frying was perfect! All the hard work that went into training my tongue and nose was finally paying off. I was thankful for all the part-time jobs that I did.

The left-over Ajipo meat was stored inside my subspace. Ah, it was really handy. I did not mind that Zirco-san's eyeballs were about to pop out when he saw how I stored it inside my clasped pendent. I can use the excuse that it's a magic tool.

Since I bribed (takoyaki) him, there was no problem.

The timing Ajipo appeared was just nice for lunch so we stopped the carriage and took a break. Ignoring Zirco-san, who was stuffing his face, I asked.

“.....Why?”

“You're asking why! It's because it's Will-sama but normally, people would have a harddd time dealing with it!!”

“A harddd time?”

Ah. I got lured into stretching the end-sound by Buu-san. Hmm. I thought Ajipo was a sea creature but someone really worked hard in bringing it here. And it was instantly turned into our food provision. Don't mind. Thanks for the feast.

“.....It might be the sea birds who did it.”

A sudden interruption. Ah, Zirco-san had finished eating. His expressionless face was somehow transmitting a feeling of satisfaction.

“Sea birds?”

“Yes. A type of magical beast that lived along the waterside. They would grab their food as they fly over the water surface.”

Zirco-san took a handkerchief out of his pocket-less black clothing and wiped his mouth.

“Ah, sea birds. That’s right, there’s should be a river around here.”

Buu-san said, agreeing.

Hm? Why were there Sea birds at a river? I don’t understand.

Or perhaps, the pronunciation was s-e-a b-i-r-d-s, without any meaning behind it. Yep, that must be it. I heard it as Japanese naturally as it was a Ninja that said it. Ha ha. To think the First Founder even left his traces here! What a fun guy.

I tried thinking once more, in John-sensei’s laboratory. The aim of the enemy was our scale and method. Which meant, the mastermind was a person using others as pieces to attack, seeing that he did not stop after that incident 3 years ago.

I had no doubt that the mastermind was the same person behind this recent incident as well as the incident 3 years ago where he used a [shadow] to stir up the flames and even resort to kidnapping. And this time, he even used a summoned beast. And thanks to Buu-san, we found out that Caralsdoni-san was used by a [Shadow] as well.

We too, confirmed that a [Shadow] was the owner of Abi, the summoned beast, who attacked Selphy. I understood that he were aiming for me. The question was, was the mastermind the [Shadow] or did he use one?

Buu-san, Bibinyaru-san and even Chiffon did not know who their boss was and not even the base. They were forced to faint by the collar and when they woke up, they were already inside a building.

The [Shadows] whom had hidden for hundreds of years. There were not even a sniff of them and now we were in a stalemate.

In that case, there might be someone who had the space and power to keep the entire [Shadow] in. And he used them many times over. He would need an enormous budget and in addition, the technology to create those [Slave Collars].

When it came to this, a vague silhouette could be seen.

Instead of waiting for them, there was value in chasing after them instead, even if it was the wrong lead.

Which was why Buu-san, Zirco-san and me were heading towards Hattuo Empire in the North. We could reach the border, the Iza river, of Hattuo if we traveled a little distance from the North of the capital. I said a little distance but it was in fact quite a long way there.

Slavery was approved in Hattuo. Beastmen and kidnapped children were smuggled into Hattuo and sold into slavery. Once they crossed the Iza river, Elzmu cannot lift a hand against them. Plus, the Emperor of Hattuo was against Beastmen and was with the idea of human supremacy.

It was a country perfect to create [Shadows].

Why did we not think of it before? Its existence was so... black.

And now, under a merchant disguise, Zirco-san, his son, me and our guard, Buhual were traveling along the road to Hattuo Empire smoothly.

“If it is really the Sea Bird who dropped it, that means we are very near the Iza river.”

My excitement rose a little at the aspect of seeing a river as I really had enough of all these grass.

CHAPTER 70

CAST ASIDE SHAME WHEN TRAVELING (LAST)

A ripple ran through the school that day.

“.....Beryl’s son is playing truant?”

The baritone voice sounded throughout the classroom. The poor White Wind Year Ones who did nothing, trembled. The title of being number 2 in the academy was not just for show. The temperature dropped lower.

“To skip the lesson, of all things, on dangerous beast summoning... As expected of his son.”

He slowly raised his right hand and ran his fingers through his comb-backed hair. ‘His son?’ Questioning looks ran through the class but at this point of time, no one dared to ask. If there was anyone, that person would be dubbed as a Hero (idiot).

In the heavy atmosphere of the classroom that one would start wondering if the windows were going to break soon, Varino, the mastermind, took no heed of it as he placed his hand on the table and declared.

“I am going to get a long and detailed explanation from him next time. I’ll be counting on all of you if you ever catch sight of him.”

Leaving those words, the chill in the classroom dispersed but the entire class shook their heads violently. The meaning behind those words were a silent threat to bring William to him and if they did not... There was no one who dared to go against this order.

Friendship? What’s that? It was true friendship to stand up to a friend who did wrong things.

Everyone came together. Their hearts were of one.

You cannot do wrong things.



“Aaachooooo!”

All of a sudden, I sneezed. If it's not my nose that was itching, that meant someone was talking behind my back. The night air was rather humid but somehow, I felt a chill. I trembled. What was wrong with me?

I tilted my head in confusion but then I felt a magical beast presence above me. I immediately knocked it down.

《鎌鼬》

[TN: Kamaitachi, Whirlwind razor. Again, not the yokai.]

It was just a magic I used to assist since Zirco-san was here but it ended up being really useful. I really found a treasure here. As expected of an old-fashioned (delusion) magic. [TN: This magic came from the yokai and yokai might not exist so...] You really cannot look down on the (black) history of chuuni-ness.

The magical beast that came falling out of the sky was a bird-like creature. Most likely, this was the rumored Sea bird.

It was covered in green feathers with orange lines running all over its body. It had a mohawk-like hairstyle(?) made out of yellow feathers on top of its head. Its name was quite rock-sounding as well. Mohawk + rock = funky~

But the colors of magical beasts sure were marvelous. Life sure is mysterious.

Although its colorful feathers were a bit of a turn-off, its meat shouldn't be a problem. Okay, you shall be our breakfast tomorrow. I then casually stored the Sea bird into my pendent.

“.....So boring.”

William Beryl, 8 years old.

Right now, he was at his first camp site. But he was bored.

A barrier was set up around the surroundings so there should be no problem there.

Plus, it was set up to detect any sign of a presence, mana or movement. If anyone could bypass this barrier, I would gladly offer my head to them. Not to mention Zirco-san and Buu-san were here. A former shadow. It would be almost impossible to sneak an attack on us.

You must be wondering what I was trying to say but in simple terms, it meant that I was too excited to sleep. I totally paid no heed to how much I resembled a child who was too excited and nervous to sleep before a trip. It was just that I was being pulled by my body's age. Ah, that's it. Yes, it was definitely it.

I lose if I were to mind it.

It is important in life to know when to give up. To not mind it when your pay just does not seem to go up, to not mind when your body is not moving as well when you are old, to not mind when you give up seeing your hero. The important thing is to not stop. To not be crushed. To face the front and move on.

No matter the result.

Once I got started, my thought just flew to another direction all together. That was dangerous. I almost got into an accident.

The first day of our travels.

We finally reached a place near to Iza river, where Sea birds flew above us. We were still 1/3 away from the border.

To begin with, the capital itself was situated at a place that values convenience more than defense. It's a straight line from the Iza river border, aiming for the ease for trading.

Naturally, being the capital, the King would be living there. You would think the security would be tough but it did not seem to be so. Oh no, please do not misunderstand. It was just that the tops of Elzmu country were ridiculously strong.

The White and Black Knights led by Gion were said to be the strongest in the world. Not only commoners living in the capital, everyone who lived in Elzmu had knowledge, thanks to the compulsory education and so, the crime rate was low. It had the best public order around.

What about tourist then? That area would be under Zirco-san's information corps and Father's secret something.

Plus, after meeting with the King, he had a good head on and his strength was about 2nd to Father. Ah, a force to be feared.

As for the officers, if they were assigned to the castle, they would have to take care of their own safety. It was just a rumor but I think I was very close to the truth. Because I had an example by my side. Like John-sensei, and John-sensei, or John-sensei!

.....Yep. Let's put a stop to this topic. That person had a special ability to read my thoughts. The aftermath is scary so let's stop it here. He had that ability.

".....Let's just sleep."

I woke up because I was somewhat excited. Looking at the starry sky, I got up from the tree stump I was sitting on. Tomorrow, we would be reaching the Iza river. And there, we would undergo an inspection. I was feeling unease as this was my first time going to another country since coming to this world. The first stage was the inspection. I clenched my fist and prepared myself.

And decided to go back to sleep.

Going back to the carriage, I took out a pillow and a quilt from my pendent and closed my eyes.



It was early in the morning but the area around the border's inspection booth was bustling with people. Hattuo soldiers were running checks in front of the huge bridge above the Iza river border.

This early in the morning, the only ones here were wholesalers, Beastmen merchants and maybe Elzmu rich travelers. One by one, names were asked, tolls were paid as the soldiers checked if there were anyone suspicious.

Then, the next moment would cause them to give their thanks to the one who assigned them morning shifts.

The next one in line who wanted to enter the country and appeared in front of the soldiers was an angel-like, beautiful young girl. Her father was a slender man with well-featured facial features. Hiding behind her father, she peeked shyly at them.

Cu, cute.

Trying their best to endure the cuteness, the soldiers repeated systematic words they said to everyone.

“Go, good morning. Her, here’s the state border so you would need to undergo an inspection... Na, name, place of birth and reason for entering please.”

Her charm was out of the world. The soldier was politer than usual as he took out a new form. During the entire process, his gaze was fixed at the silver-haired beauty.

He usually did not have a fetish but he kinda came to understand it a little. He could see flowers floating all around the little girl. The world was different. It turned dazzling, sweet and elegant. The aura surrounding the girl was divine.

It was not clear if the father knew what the soldier was feeling but he smiled as he pushed his daughter gently in front of him.

“Good morning, I am Jill Stuart. I am here on a trip with my daughter from Elzmu... Come here, Willia, do your greetings properly.”

The soldier was dumbfounded by Jill Stuart’s words.

...So she’s called Willia.

The ever smiling soldier was miles away from his usual self. The usual punk-like him was so different that his friends wouldn’t even recognize him. By Jill Stuart’s urging, the girl came forward.

“Go... good morning. I am Willia.”

Doing a small bow, Willia looked up at the soldier..... ever so bashful, with her big upturn eyes.

“Uwahh!?”

Border soldier received critical hit!



“Uwahhhhhhhhhhhhh...”

I covered my face as I moaned. I think I was about to die.

“As expected of Will-sama, what great acting..... *snicker”

“Urgggggg.....”

The guard role(Buu-san) thought back to my disgraceful behavior as his shoulders shook. It was disgusting even if I had to say so myself.

“No, it was a perfect young lady.”

Zirco-san said, trying to console me but sorry, really not helping.

To avoid being recognized as the leader of the Black Knights Intelligence Corp Zirco and Duke Beryl’s son, we decided to get a fake name as well as a disguise. But my silver hair, green eyes and my eloquence were proving to be a trouble to hide. It seemed like I was known in the surrounding countries as well. This information came from the Intelligence Corps so it couldn’t be wrong. I had to strongly say that it was not me thinking too much about myself.

We had no idea where the enemy would look. Or if the [Shadows] were coming as well. Which was why we decided to go with cross-dressing...

My shoulders slumped just by thinking about it. The smooth silky long hair entered my vision. Using magic, I amplified the growth of my hair en route to the border. Thanks to that, my hair had grown all the way to my waist.

“Sigh..... Was there really a need to cross-dress?”

“Definitely. No one would know it was us.”

“No one would connect you to the Duke’s son. I did not even get noticed.”

At my sigh, Zirco-san and Buu-san answered in a small voice.

...True, maybe it was the grossness of me, the rumored violent and haughty soldiers of Hattuo were somewhat gentle. Even Buu-san, a beastmen race that were often being looked down upon, was given nary a glance. Their gaze were fixated on me all the

way.....

Being stared at that much made me felt sick. On the contrary, I was feeling unease about the fact if they had too strong of an impression of me.

My white one-piece dress bounced as I walked, trying to be as child-liked as I can.

“Daddy! Where are we staying today~? In the coach~?”

I tilted my head at Zirco-san as I held his hand.

“No, we will be staying at an inn today.”

“Yay!”

I am a kid. I am a kid. Desperately hypnotizing myself, I walked beside Zirco-san.

“.....!!”

Oi, Buu Buhual.

I can hear your snickering. And stop that trembling shoulders!

With the body of a child and the mind of an adult, that famous detective. I really admired him for being able to do such embarrassing things calmly.

.....Am I stuck in this until we get out of this country?

I felt myself getting depressed when I saw the road ahead of me.

CHAPTER 71

RETALIATION AGAINST GROUSIL (FIRST)

The street that had stone-paved houses lining up along it, was quiet. At this early hour, it was to be expected that no one was out and about. Although it was the same for Beryl's street and the capital, the extreme use of stone-paving here gave off a cold and inorganic feeling.

Maybe it was the low temperature, maybe it was the whiteness of the cloudy sky. The only sound that reverberated throughout the street that was connected to the checkpoint was from people who entered through it.

The national border street, Flowason.

It was a small town situated at the side of the Iza River that was the border of both Elzmu and Hattuo Empire. Why it was that, just by a bridge alone, was enough to set up a border checkpoint, despite not having walls to prevent illegal entry, was easy to understand once you think about it. In other words, there was no other way to enter / cross the river.

Along the upper stream of the Iza River lies the [Demon Forest]. And thanks to that, aquatic magical beasts had their den within the river itself. It went without saying that if you tried to swim across, you would be attacked. Apart from having your legs pulled by the huge Ajipo, Sea Birds would be circling above. To cross the river, one would need to freeze the surface of the river while fighting off the huge fishes and birds.

Those who could actually do that would not go for illegal entry in the first place.

As for Florwason, it was hard to say that it was flourishing despite all that. Those who visited were merchants who did trading and a portion of travelers (who used it as a water hole) only.

The morning air felt cool. So this was what it meant to come to the north. It sure was

cold.

“Found an inn!”

An inn was found easily a little distance away from the checkpoint. It seemed to be called ‘Matilda’. The beautiful proprietress of the inn must be called Matilda. It was built in stone, as like the surroundings, but had a huge wooden door around 2 meters in length.

“Hey Willia, don’t run!”

Zirco gave a wryly laugh as he chased after me. Wow, what an actor. Despite being a Ninja, he was perfectly acting as a gentle and stylish father. No one could find any fault with the Intelligence Corp when he could act till this extent.

Eh? Me? I threw my embarrassment to the floor. To the me who had been through the baby period, this was nothing. Haha, yes, this was nothing. Once I could throw my embarrassment away, my acting became pretty good.

“Kay!”

I pushed the door but it was too heavy for me to move it... was what I acted out. To the cheat-me, I could easily crushed the door without using much strength but for an 8 years old young girl, the door would pose a problem.

As I busied myself with the door, Zirco-san caught up with me and easily pushed the door open. How cool. Despite being a ninja, he sure was refreshing.

I looked up at him with a slightly sullen face and our eyes met. I don’t really want to see him question me ‘Hm?’ with a gentle smiling face. Damn it, you ninja. Why can’t you say degozaru or seisha and be done with it?! Ikemen all explode!

As if ignoring my inner voice, Zirco-san went ahead and entered the inn, his water-blue hair swishing, thanks to the wind. By the way, Buu-san was waiting behind me as he was the guard after all.

Controlling my mouth to stop tsk-ing, I chased after Zirco-san, only to find him already at the reception.

“Welcome to the Matilda Inn.”

“1 night, 1 room please.”

“Sure. 40 rook per person so that will be 120 rook. Are you okay with the beastmen being in the same room?”

“There is no problem.”

Matilda-san was beautiful, I think. Right now, her plump body was seen squeezed behind the reception desk and the wall. Without hiding her disdain, she snorted at Buu-san.

“Or rather, I would be troubled if we are not in the same room as he is our guard.”

Zirco-san ended the subject with a smile. Matilda-san seemed to come to an understanding. Taking a key out from somewhere inside the counter, she slid herself out of the reception area. It made me feel like making a sound effect for her. Ploop, or something like that.

But, as I heard, this country had a deep-rooted discrimination against Beastmen. I came to truly understand it after seeing it with my eyes.

Buu-san seemed not mind at all. Well, it was true that there was no need to specially pay any heed to anyone not important. But as this might be an obstacle for the road ahead, it might be best to start thinking of a way to solve it.

I then began to follow after Matilda-san, who walked ahead of us with the keys jingling.

“Food will be charged separately. 1 set would be 10 rook.....”

Matilda-san turned around suddenly. Our eyes met. Her eyes widened. With a groan, she averted her eyes. Am I really that disgusting to look at?

“...Mmm, your daughter?”

“Yes. Willia, come here.”

“I am Willia. I will be in your care.”

By Zirco-papa urging, I gave my greetings. I looked up to the stunned Matilda-san who, maybe due to my grossness, took a step back. Our eyes met. And she immediately averted her eyes again.

“The food’s free as a service.”

Matilda-san, whose eyes were wandering about unnaturally, said as she trembled. Was she so grossed out that she took pity and provided food?

Somehow, I felt dizzy at that and instinctively kept close to Zirco-san.

“Th, thank you.”

But I did not forget my manners.



“Well then, I wonder what will happen?”

Once we entered the room and shut the door, Zirco-san immediately cast a soundproofing magic. As expected of a ninja. Changing my expression back from the grinning one, I opened my mouth. [TN: Grinning because of how ninja Zirco is.]

“Cross-dressing couldn’t hide from the [Shadows] right?”

I looked at Buu-san, who nodded.

“That’s right.”

“As the Intelligence Corp, I would love to know that method.”

Zirco-san mumbled to Buu-san’s response. True, it’s amazing if I can be found out despite cross-dressing. It would make anyone be interested in knowing the method.

“I am really sorry but... the only one I know is 《影》.” [TN: Kage, shadow]

Buu-san said, looking sorry.

“And what is Kage?”

Zirco-san jumped at the chance. As an Intelligence Corp, he must have wanted the chance to learn about the [Shadows] techniques. It would make it easier for any spying.

“A kind of magic that allows one’s figure and even presence to melt into darkness.”

“Hm! Do you mind teaching me that?”

“.....Ah that is.....”

At the emotionless Zirco-san with sparkling eyes, Buu-san let his sentence trailed off, his hidden meaning loud and clear. Yep. As a gentleman, one should help here. Zirco-san was still a noble and no matter how thick-headed the merchant was, it was difficult for him to say.

“It’s impossible. 《影》 attribute’s darkness.”

“What?!”

In a rare moment, Zirco-san had the expression to match his yelling. Ah, anyone would be shocked. To think someone with the so-rare-it’s-legendary dark attribute was so close to him. Even I who could use the dark attribute was surprised. Zirco-san directed his doubting eyes at me, who was grinning at the success of the surprise.

“.....Is that the truth?”

“Yes it is.”

“Yes.”

To our matching response, Zirco-san slumped his shoulders. Buu-san and I looked at each other and nodded. Then, mana started flowing around Buu-san. When it had completely engulfed Buu-san, he opened his mouth.

“ 《影》 ”

At that moment, Buu-san’s body disappeared.

“I am surprised.....!”

Here’s a good news for Zirco-san.

I am able to use all attribute~☆

I wondered what would happen if I were to say that to him. Although I was interested, to prevent Zirco-san having a headache his heart going into overdrive, I stopped myself. For now.



After that, Zirco-san and Buu-san wanted to infiltrate the military so Buu-san wrapped themselves in 《影》 and went out through the window. I wondered if it's thanks to experience that they somehow worked well together. Although Zirco-san who used Wind to assist was amazing, what was it with the bear who went leaping from rooftop to rooftop?

Once again, [Shadow] was amazing.

Activating surveillance magic, I observed them from the window. I was surprised that 《影》 can be used even in broad daylight as I had always thought since its attribute was darkness and from the name 'shadow', it couldn't...

I was stuck with house-sitting. It was because I was the only one being aimed by the [Shadows]. In a word, I was the bait. A vase was placed at the windowsill and after staring at it quietly, something snapped inside me.

.....Don't place a vase in a place like this. It's dangerous. Absolutely not. I had no idea who in their right mind would place a vase here. It was unthinkable. It was not my rule to say things about people unreasonably but please let me say it this time.

Don't freaking kid me! Don't put a vase at the windowsill!

I came to hate Matilda-san. Let's complain. Yep. It's for future's sake.

And thus, the illusion of the both of us, Zirco-san and me, went out of the room and towards the reception on the 1st floor. By the way, the room was on the 2nd floor. It was a large room with 2 bed and a sofa. The guard (beastmen) was to sleep on the sofa it seemed. Really, even though we were paying the same amount, the discrimination really ran deep.

Thump thump thump, the sound was heard as we slowly went down the stairs. On the right of the stairs was the reception. Matilda-san must still be stuck between it, I thought as I peeked over.

“Matilda-sa.....!?”

Matilda-san was not stuck in between the reception counter but was instead in front of it, with 2 roguish tall men. They were grinning. No, not roguish but rogues.

Damn it, I get it.

“Because the guard was a beast, I was able to save time.”

Matilda-san sneered.

Well then, this is how it will be.

CHAPTER 72

RETALIATION AGAINST GROUSIL (MID)

Thinking the [Shadows] might come, I obediently got caught and was hand-cuffed immediately and tied up in rope.

Ah, I panicked for a moment when the rope bit into my ankle. Were the rogues with their rough treatment the worst of the [Shadows]? They did not seem to notice I was male. At the very least I could confirm at even if they were [Shadows], no information was given to them. Cough, like cross-dressing, cough.

I really don't wanna be found out that I am cross-dressing!!

With my eyes bound, I was thrown into the back of a carriage. I still had my visualization magic so there was no meaning to binding my eyes.

You ask if I could see through the cloth binding my eyes? He he he, it's the men's dream, wasn't it! Magic was all about the imagination!!

.....Excuse me. My excitement level got a bit weird. It must be my fear of the shaking from the carriage. As I was tied up, I got the full brunt of it. I was not in the wrong.

The carriage was heading towards the inner part of the street. The gatekeeper had said that security was bad the north side of the town so I guessed we were heading there through the side streets.

...But.

I really wondered if they were [Shadows]. Even if they were earlier than expected, I still didn't think they were [Shadows] despite doing a good job in luring us in. The [Shadows] I knew of were Chiffon, Bibinyaru-san and Buu-san only but these rogues were too rough to even compare. Or were Chiffon and them the elite ones?

No matter, the roughness.

Firstly, they let me keep my consciousness. Secondly, they did not gag me. What if I shout? Besides, their skill in tying the ropes was lousy, their actions were amateurish

and their footsteps were loud. Even if the streets were stone-paved or it was okay for footsteps outside, it was too loud. Within the stone-paved floor of the Royal Castle in Elzmu, the Intelligence Corp (ninja) managed to walk without making a sound so it went without saying that [Shadows] could do it too.

Were they just usable pieces?

Like how [Shadow] controlled people using [Slave Collar] or manipulated their memories like Caralsdoni-san. Their tail sure was difficult to catch. Thinking about the [Shadows] made my head hurt.

As I was thinking about these things, the carriage stopped. It seemed like we had reached our destination. As predicted, we entered a building inside somewhere deep into the street from the side road. This must be where the carriage house was. To the wall facing the side of the carriage, a crude wooden door could be seen.

Or rather, wouldn't it be obvious for a horse carriage to be entering a side road? Were they stupid? Were they stupid?

Or was the entire area under their control? If that was the case, I should not take them lightly. I thought they were underlings but they might be doing it on purpose. Because just by movement alone one would be able to tell an expert from a novice. They might be pretending to be one.

To change the way a body move was almost impossible. The only ones who I knew could do it were Father and me. If they could do it as well, they were quite skilled. Thinking about it, I started feeling unease about me being tied up. Hm, let's have some insurance.

《保護膜》

[TN: Hogo Maku, Protection film, something like a barrier]

Taking care not to let my mana leak out, I further strengthened myself.

《身体強化》

[TN: Karada Kyoka, Body strengthening]

It's definitely not that I was scared. I was definitely not getting the jitters!

As I was strengthening myself, the carriage had stopped and the men tied up the

horses near the wall. They then flipped up the cloth covering the carriage.

“.....Hehe, we got ourselves something good.”

“Matilda that hag. An inn was set up but she had been useless. Aren't she dragging us down?”

They were whispering together but to my strengthened hearing, I could hear everything clearly, you idiots. Ah, but was this on purpose too? In any case, let's not let my guard down.

But then, even at the checkpoint too?

It seemed that there was quite a few people with a weird fetish for ugly young girls. At the very least, it seemed like I———or rather my body——— was of some worth for them. If they were not [Shadows], then they were most likely slave dealers.

As I was analyzing the situation, one of the men carried me up. I was princess-hugged. The embarrassment that I threw previously was sneaking up ninja-like but I would ignore it.

The one who carried me ——— let's named him Rogue A. Rogue A and the other guy, Rogue B, had an argument before Rogue A carried me. When I was wondering what was going to happen, they raised their fist in the air, their eyes filled with fire.

“” With a question to Rinaa, Wood Water Fire! “”

In other words, rock paper scissors. It was the normal 'Rock Paper Scissors' in Elzmu but it had to be the influence of the First Founder, which was why the rest of the countries had not caught on.

The rules were the same. Wood is stronger than water, water is stronger than fire and fire is stronger than wood. And, after the fierce battle, Rogue A carried me up. These idiots seemed to only remember one thing as they kept on giving out water (stone). I heard from somewhere that people that had poor judgement, like kindergartners, tend to start giving out stone if the game got drawn-out for too long. But to think that they actually did it seriously. Just for additional information, Fire is paper and Wood is, quite unexpectedly, a single finger.

By the way, Matilda-hag(san) had already entered the building. It looked like Rogue AB did this quite often.

Or rather, they got so turned-off about carrying me that they had to resort to a game to decide? Rogue A only played a tiny part in my view. Really just a very tiny amount, very insignificant! Why should I get depressed because of this insignificant person! Should I degrade you from Rogue A to just Someone A? Huh? Should I?!

.....How lonely. Doing a manzai in my head only made me realize how empty I was. [TN: Manzai, comedy act] As I let my thoughts fly all over the place in order to forget the embarrassment that was trying to creep up on me, for some reason we had entered a jail cell and I was locked up inside it.

This was most likely the basement. The moist and musty air stank. To tell the truth, I can break out anytime. I could teleport and if I really wanted, I could blow this place apart without much effort.

It was not pride nor was I looking down on them. It was simply the truth. If I really wanted to, I could even destroy the world..... I think. I was not very confident in that though.

I can crush Flowason in an instant. I could just copy the way the rumors about Abi had said.

——— By letting out mana.

Just that. Most likely everyone would faint in that instant..... Zirco-san and Buu-san would most likely receive some damage as well though.

.....In that case it was better not to.

Let just leave it as it was and use this chance to do some undercover spying. But if they came back and found out that I was missing, they might do something unnecessary. It would be better to leave a note for them.

Hmm. How to do?

Was there anything that I could use outside..... ah.

Just nice, there was no one around to guard me. I wonder if they were looking down on me. Or maybe they had escaped my detection but if that was the case, I would give up. They would be too strong for me to handle.

And so, I spread my mana and whispered. It would be better to chant this magic as I was not used to it yet. Ah, I paid no heed to how the ropes binding me were releasing a terrible snapping noise.

“Please don’t be flashy, Shiro. 《召喚》 ” [TN: Shokan, summon]

“Yes, Master?”

Without any effect, Shiro simply appeared. As you all know, when I first summoned him, he did a very showy big entrance. He once said, ‘The only one who can summoned me was Chuunibyo!’.

.....Don’t mind. I won’t take it to mind.

My motto was to never be a chuunibyo. Ahh, I really want to become friend with the First Founder.

“Ah... Shiro. Can you teleport?”

“Yep. I could do it if it’s within 10 meters, Master. My attribute’s not space so it is actually quite harsh, to tell the truth.”

“There’s no problem in that case. What’s Shiro’s attribute by the way?”

“Wah~ To only ask me after so long, what a horrible employer. I feel like going on a strike.”

Shiro glared at me after spitting out a deep sigh. I am sorry. I had really forgotten about it. Your existence too.

“.....Sorry.”

Please don’t complain about my lack of refinement. I will stamp this deep into my heart so please forgive me with my deepest apology. I lowered my head. As though sensing my regret and my sincerity, Shiro spoke.

“.....Nah, it’s okay. Please raise you head, master.”

Shiro directed an innocent face full of smiles at me. Ah, this ugly girl was struck deep in the heart. Oh no, it’s not a silver (love) arrow. How scary. Yes, I am cross-dressing right now but my essence is a proper man. A full-fledged man. The thing that struck was the feelings of guilt so relax. A beautiful summoned beast (dragon) and a cross-dressing shota in a jail cell..... Noooooooooo!! Who was that?! At the very least I am rejecting it with all my strength.

And rude thoughts just ran through my mind. Shiro directed a doubting glance at me but I pretended that nothing was going on as I tilted my head at him. Then, Shiro gasped as he forcefully snapped his face towards me and spoke in a trembling voice.

“.....Ah, to think Master had this kind of fetish! But it’s okay. Master will still be my Master.”

Should I thank him? I let out a deep sigh.



“I see. So Shiro’s attribute are Water and Wind.”

“That’s right. Because I’m a White Dragon.”

Shiro said proudly as he stuck his chest out. He was a White Dragon so it’s Water and Wind. It didn’t really explain anything but as White Dragon was known as a sacred beast in this world, they might be revered as water gods or something. In my previous world, dragons were known to control the weather as well. If dragons were the incarnation of the Water god, it would make sense that their attributes were Water and Wind.

“Could it be that you would cause storms?”

“Yep.”

“Then, lighting as well?”

“Yes. Why did you know that?”

Holy thunder.

I had not tried it yet but it was really possible to create lighting via magic. Will the day where John-sensei drop it ever come? It just fits him too well. It was a day I was not looking forward to. Or rather, John-sensei’s attributes were not Water and Wind. I want to believe that it’s not Water and Wind.

Oops, I derailed the topic again. Noting it, I returned to the main subject in a hurry.

“Then the main point.”

“What a weak response..... Is lighting not cool? Is it?”

The tall Ikemen turned towards the young girl (boy in disguise) with a dejected face.

Uuuh, you won't deceive me with that kind of expression. Just because you had a dog-liked name does not mean that you have to give me a dog-like expression!

"Ah, it's cool, it's cool."

I patted his head.

"Master's horrible."

As if reading my mind, Shiro glared at me. I had no idea what you were saying. Let's get into the main topic.

"Teleport to the ground level and without being found out, head towards the inn and pass a message to Zirco-san and Buu-san."

I pretended to be calm and gave instructions but Shiro looked at me, stunned, before glaring at me.

"Master. I had never seen this place before."

".....Ah."

I averted my eyes away from Shiro's. There was nothing in the dim jail cell to look at, so my eyes were at a loss.

"U, useless fellow."

"No no no no no."

CHAPTER 73

RETALIATION AGAINST GROUSIL (LAST 01)

“Then I’ll be going!”

Leaving that, Shiro disappeared. In the end, as he couldn’t teleport, he went via other methods. Something like erasing his presence with Wind magic and making use of (water) reflection to make himself disappear.

Yep. What can I say? Shiro’s invincible.

Since if I was to praise him, he would rampage and destroy the town so I kept it to myself.

“Have a safe trip~”

And I was back to being all alone in the dark cell. Since I had nothing to do here, shall I do some spying?

《聴力強化》

[TN: Choryoku Kyoka, Strengthen Listening ability]



“And, are all the stuff gathered?”

Matilda asked the guys who came back.

“Ah, yea. Once it’s winter, it’s going to immediately diminish though.”

“The master’s wasteful as well.”

“Oi you guys! You’re too loud!”

Even as they were saying it, smiles appeared on 3 of their faces. Today’s market would start in the evening. Although their owner was said to be picky, the product this time round was of the best grade. The master was in a good mood recently so they were relieved about that.

That was because they had a horrible master. He was often in a bad mood and if anyone were to get on his bad side during it, it was certain that someone's head would definitely roll. He seemed not to even know the rule of the underground market and it had some strict rules. The only reason why they were listening to him was because of the money. If it was anyone else, they would have already cut them off.

Winter was approaching and they were panicking as it was around this time where the people who came to Hattuo decreased. During winter, this town turned out to be empty of travelers. 'The view without those beasts (men) are beautiful.' The only ones capable of making that joke were Nobles.

To them, they would lose their lifeline if there were none of those beastmen. Because then, they wouldn't have any products. Beastmen who came to Flowason to stay for a night for trading was the best prey. Even though many Beastmen merchants visited this town, discrimination from the citizens of this country still ran deep. Truth was, there were many inns in Flowason who rejected them or charged them sky high for a worn-out room. Thanks to that, Matilda's inn, despite the attitude, charged them the same amount so there were many who stayed and placed their goods with them.

The 3 then began chatting merrily about what they did with the goods and the fate of the customers who stayed with them while a metal scrapping sound was heard from the carriage house, approaching.

The door was slammed open. His fat body shook as the man entered the room, dressed in armor. He grinned as he approached the 3 who hung their heads.

"Matilda."

A raspy voice as though broken, sounded out.

"Yes!"

She lifted her head up.

"What about the products?"

"We gathered fantastic goods this time round, Master. Within those, there was a beautiful young girl who stayed at my inn as well."

".....Hoh, a beautiful young girl."

His eyes narrowed. Matilda deemed that was to urge her to continue and she did. It was the best to take this chance since he looked like he was in a good mood.

“Yes. She came along with her father and a beastman guard on their travels. Her father is a gentle man while a beast is a beast. They were nothing compared to her. The mysterious moon-like eternal beauty, flowers bloom when she smiles and that sweet, cute and precious-looking face, just like an angel.”

The man nodded, satisfied at Matilda’s words.

“Grousil-sama, other products of high quality had also been gathered. I await your presence.”

He grinned broadly at that. This man was Fet Ale Grousil, a man who listened to no one.

“Someone, bring me to the goods!”

At the back of Grousil, who was walking along happily, were his followers in armor. He was unusually in a good mood as opposed to his always bad one. It was an atmosphere where it wouldn’t be strange if he started humming.

But this had always been his personality.

If the goods were good, so was his mood. That’s it. You can say he was straight-forward in a good way or simple, in a bad way. He was a guy who could only think of omelet if you told him eggs. You can say he was not a chick, yet not a chicken either. This kind of man was managing the black market at the moment when he used to have a very high-ranking job.

“Here, I can get money and woman. This is way better than being a general!”

This man was Fet Ale Grousil. He was the former-general who was sacked by Guta the other day.



“.....What’s the meaning of this?”

The conversations I picked up using my enhanced hearing was painting a very obvious picture. So obvious that it was rather anticlimactic. As suspected, it’s a slave dealing store here. And, the man who entered just now ——— the owner maybe ——— had said general. And Matilda-san had called him Grousil-sama.

If my memory served me right, at the top of Hattuo’s military was a general named Fet Ale Grousil. Even for ‘sparta’ John-sensei, he did not go into details about inner workings of other countries so I only knew and could confirm his name. I could only blame my bad luck in meeting him here.

...Yea, his character was as taught. As expected of John-sensei.

I thought there were only Beastmen here but it seemed like there were other humans here apart from me. A beautiful young girl. A bishojo. It’s a chance in a lifetime for them to meet someone like that here in this town. And the coincidence that the people she was traveling with were a slender man with gentle manners and a beastman guard.

.....But seriously.

What was going on? From the servants to the conversations they had, wasn’t it all irrelevant to the [Shadows]? Was I just a poor girl (boy in disguise) that got dragged into this mess? I had nothing to say if they were setting up a fake conversation for me but at the moment, I could see no connections to the [Shadows].

It was just a normal slave dealer shop.

They said everything had been gathered so there might be other children here, like me. No, it might not be limited to children only. Ah, at the very least there won’t be other cross-dresser here.

.....About that, if I was stripped then the fact that I was cross-dressing will be exposed. No. Heck, definitely not! That’s right, if that ever happens, I will cast illusion on them.

Hattuo Empire was a country that still acknowledged the presence of slaves. But the legal ones were only those who were forced into slavery as a punishment for their

crimes. Which meant the one who kidnapped me was running an illegal business. Which meant if I were to crush it, I would be doing the right thing legally.

As for slavery, I was still being pulled by the values of my previous world so there was nothing I could comment on but it did make sense when it was told to be a punishment for criminals. On the contrary, even if I were to crush one here, there would still many more of these slave merchants in the underground world.

You could say it's just hypocrisy. But it was also the truth to say the lives of the people here would be saved. Since I came to know about it, there was no way I could leave it alone. The guilt would be unbearable.

I have [Cheat] but society is not something that can be changed just by a person's strength alone. The underground world wouldn't disappear if one kept on repressing it. It would swell up instead. The one way to counter that was to let the country economic state go up. But it's Hattuo Empire here. I do not possess the strength and power to interfere with the affairs of another country.

But, since this place had nothing to do with [Shadows], let's crush it, since I wanted to save the people captured here. Let's get the soldiers in here.

The border soldier had a face like a bandit but he was polite and took great care of this gross cross-dressing me. I liked to believe that even the criminals wouldn't lay a hand to foreigners.

Ah, but the opponent was the Fet Ale Grouzil. There was a possibility that such an influential person would turn the tables on me and accuse me of being the criminal. He would most likely be using his status when the time came.

The leading general VS the Duke's son. I wonder if status in other countries would be of any use here. I didn't know the details but if I were to mess this up and it ended up creating any diplomatic issue that I might need to pay with my head.

But if that happened, everyone would know that I cross-dressed. It's a poor move. I can't say that it was because I wanted to crush the [Shadows] that I came spying into Hattuo ☆ so I might be labeled with having a fetish of cross-dressing. That's the worst. I will absolutely not let it happen!!

Everything was fine as long as I am not caught. There should be no young silver-haired

girl with the name Willia so there won't be any problems. Yep, the plan was confirmed. I shall investigate his background first! If there was no connection with [Shadows], I would crush him here.

And when I made up my mind, footsteps were heard at where the door, and stairs, were located. Well well well, Grousil-san. I am going to make you regret making an enemy out of me. Guhahahahahahaha!

.....Sorry, I got carried away.

It must be my imagination that I heard grumbling.

The lock on the door opened with a loud clank. The thick wooden door was pushed open by people in amour and they kept it open. They then proceeded to line up in a row, as if waiting for someone.

Then, something huge appeared. Grousil-san appeared, his body wobbling with every step. He was a splendid and magnificent...

“ 《豚》” [TN: Buta. Pig.]

The word instinctively tumbled out of my mouth.

“Hoh, this one here?”

Ignoring my word, the pig opened its mouth and a smiled appeared. Its disgusting eyes went over my entire body as he looked at me.

A chill went down my back. Goosebumps appeared all over my body. How disgustingdisgustingdisgusting! Shall I kick this pig bastard?!

...I could not help it when that cold joke appeared in my mind! I am not xxshioka Sumiko! I won't say I will whip you but your name shall say be Pig Bastard, this pig bastard.

[TN: にしおかすみこ. A comedian whose whole shtick revolves around her being a 'SM' queen.]

Me, whose hair on my entire body were standing up, must be glaring at Pig Bastard. Of course, my killing aura was mixed in as well. Although I called him a Pig Bastard, he

was still a general so he should be able to stand it. If he gets it then he should know better than to lay a hand on me.

“Arhhh!”

A small gasp leaked out as Grousil-san fell on his back just like that. Panicking, his guards rushed over to him.

“Grousil-sama!”

They yelled, shaking him. His tummy shook as they shook but no reaction came. It seemed like he had passed out.

“Grousil-sama?!”

“Wha, what happened?!”

In the mist of the armor’s chaos, a young girl locked inside a jail cell was stunned.

“.....Really?.....”

Or rather, me.

CHAPTER 74

RETALIATION AGAINST GROUSIL (LAST 02)

It was around evening. The streets were preparing for it as the shops started closing up and people were preparing firewood for their homes. It was like clockwork for them, as the orange glow began to disappear.

From that main street, there existed a back alley, a straight line from the main street. And in there, a small run-down house could be seen. But it was actually a huge magical tool that had an elaborate magic circle drawn in it. There was a reason why it was hidden there, and concealed to such an extent.

Shadow House. The base for the [Shadows].

Around 200 years ago, it was filled with [Shadows] but their numbers declined as the years went by and the numbers of their direct descendant could be counted on one hand.

And the basement of that base was a special place that controlled the penetrating cold that was a characteristic of Hattuo. Here, magical tools were assembled. Surrounded by a ring of tools stood 1 person.

He had not looked outside for god-knows-how-long but by going by his body clock, he knew it was around evening. This person was Spinel.

Spinel had been a [Shadow] for a long time. He had killed numerous people and numerous of his comrades had been killed. His hands had ended countless lives. Although Spinel was the son of the previous head of [Shadows], he did not inherit the position. The leader needed to have leadership, assassination skills and high mana. Most of all, to have the darkness attribute.

Spinel, who suppressed others in his abilities of the above, began making full use of his talents. But, there existed a wall even to the king of the underground world.

The King of Elzmu country, and its Duke. There had been multiples requests from the Silver Knights' Leader but he rejected them all. To begin with, the way to establish a contract with the [Shadows] was them contacting the other party who desired to use them, and not the other way. They would never entertain those who came to them.

No, once. Just once did he entertain the other party.

And was beaten at his own game.

He never expected it. To Spinel, who was the leader at that moment, it was his first loss. It was a crushing defeat. No matter how skilled one was at martial arts, the art of assassination was another thing altogether. Firstly, 《影》 was cast and with his figure and with his presence hidden, he would sneak up to his opponent. Just that, and his opponent would die without knowing what had happened.

[TN: Kage, Shadow]

Even without that method, there were still hidden weapons and poison. It would be unimaginable to lose as the [Shadows] swordsmanship was totally different from the Knight's.

Even so, he was noticed. And above all, nothing worked.

For the first time in his life, he wavered. Be it the fact that he was discovered despite being a [Shadow] or he already knew the result in his heart. And after that, he headed over to Hattuo to hide without turning back.

The enemy was too strong. What could he do against an enemy whose [Shadows] technique, that had been passed down for generations, did not work against? In the old times, [Shadows] lived in Hattuo. It wasn't sure if they were in this business in that time but [Shadows] had deep roots in Hattuo's history.

He came to know that the Emperor was aiming for the land of Elzmu and was viewing them as an obstacle. In that case...

He had first approached the Emperor, thinking of using him but now, he wondered if that had been the correct decision. He couldn't be sure but at least, he was not regretting having made that choice. The one he approached, whom he had wanted to use as a pawn, was a real ruler.

He had finally realized. [Shadows] were beings meant to follow orders. Him included.

As he was a [Shadow]. That person, his front appearance and his hidden side, was someone he wanted to serve. At that time, he swore his loyalty to him. He was willing to be used by this person. Was it due to his training as a [Shadow], but he finally felt at home.

He could hardly bother about the Leader of the Knights (Gion) anymore.

And now.

His lips curled up self-deprecating. Hattuo Empire did have the power and the technique that had been cultivated throughout history was the real deal. People were working as instructed by his master, in this secret base, making the magic tools. The tools could be used by wasting mana stones but it were more than enough against their opponents. But there were limits on it and repercussions were huge.

And yet, it was useless against that person's son. Till now, the Duke was still standing in Spinel's way. Tools that a monster made were no match to a real monster after all.

Spinel released his mana slowly. He was trying to activate the magic tools. As his mana spread throughout the tools, he lifted his head up. What was left was only to activate the tools.

“《魔力擬似増加》” [TN: Maryoku Giji Zouka, Simulating mana increase.]

How many had died in creating this spell? Spinel did not have the answer but it was a nice farewell gift. At the same timing as he finished his chant, the tools exploded with mana, releasing it out around him. His body temperature dropped. Mana was released from the mana stones. And he absorbed it all.

This might cause his body to break. He would die for his master. It was the long-cherished ambition of a [Shadow]. He had confirmed the presence of William Beryl in this country by his hornet summoned beast that had its sense of smell enhanced.

A hornet sense of smell was said to be a few times of a Dogg. And that sense of smell was enhanced. It could smell anything from even a few kilometers away. He did not expect that the other side would visit but it was a nice opportunity. He did not care if it's a trap but he had to succeed.

“《召喚》!” [TN: Shokan, Summon]

Spinel moaned his chant. Dense mana filled the room as an overwhelming presence was felt.

“《契約》” [TN: Keiyaku, contract]

Trembling, Spinel finally got his voice out as the appeared beast nodded happily.

“Well well well. It seems like there are some amusing humans as well. I permit, I will admit you as my master.”

The magical beast said fluidly and a smile appeared as it nodded.

Spinel’s consciousness became distant. His instinct was screaming at him to run the hell away. His body shook. He was hit by a burst of overwhelming mana. Did he understand what he just summoned?

The one who appeared in front of Spinel was a [Demon]. It was a legendary monster, a disaster. No, calamity. Was it not sealed in the deepest part of the [Demon Forest]? Many famous folk tales spoke of it. If Abi was said to be a legendary monster, what about [Demon]?

Spinel looked up, stunned, as he stared at the disaster in front of him. The muscular body that was about 3 meters tall was bound in ropes. It had dark-red skin and its purple hair was tied up behind as it stroked its huge black sword, laughing.

“My master. How many fun battles would I have? Does the one who released me have any enemies?”

This disaster must have slept for all this while just to save up energy to fight that monster, Spinel thought, laughing wryly.



“Master’s smell, Master’s smell~”

He was using the theory of water reflection to erase his figure and wind to erase any sound he may make to avoid being found out. It was a secret mission. Teleporting outside the jail cell, Shiro headed out of the house nimbly.

He had no idea where Will was staying but it would be fine as long as he followed the lingering scent of Will's mana. Which was why Shiro was sniffing the air, although the action served no purpose. Even though it was said to be the lingering scent, strictly speaking, it was not something that could be picked up by the nose. It was just an expression to make things easier to understand.

Shiro was a White Dragon living deep in the [Demon Forest]. He was summoned 200 years ago by the First Founder and after raging, formed a contract with him. No one would have thought that a Divine Beast would become a familiar to a human.

But really, summoning magic is awesome.

It was a magic that paired up the summoner with the magical beasts that had the best compatibility. For the beasts' side, Shiro's point-of-view, a magic circle as if shouting 'come here, come here' appeared and he entered it, curious.

Although he entered the circle out of curiosity during the First Founder's time, it was the right choice. It had been really fun throughout the period with the First Founder. Many stuff happened and they even made a country.

A fun master who was always surrounded by troublesome situations. But the lifespan of Humans and Divine Beasts are different. The fun period came to an end in a blink of an eye and only memories were left. The First Founder was a monster who looked 40 at the age of 100 but still, he passed away all of a sudden one day.

He was a curious man. His speech, values, mana, even his aura. He was so out of the norm from everyone else, such a curious man. But that had to be so. It was revealed one day that he was not of this world.

And when the circle appeared in front of him again, he wondered why there was the same smell (of mana) after 200 years. It was a funny coincidence that that smell belonged to the son of the First Founder's grandson's best friend.

That special scent. Somehow, it was calming and had a warmth like the sun.

"Master's smell is~ here!"

Shiro flew. As no one can feel or see him, there was no need to specially use his legs to run.

His master this time had the same trouble-inviting constitution..... Besides, when he asked for a name... He was given the same name. Could it be that he came from another world as well? The small hope flickered inside Shiro. He would ask once their bond deepened further.

Increasing his speed, he flew up into the air. He could see the opened window. The room it was attached to was filled with Will's mana.

"It's here!"

Landing in the room through the window, Shiro proudly puffed his chest out. There was no one in the room. What a narcissist. It went without saying that since he was using his wind magic, no one could hear him. He was totally talking to himself but this Chuunibyō fellow didn't realize it.

"Well then, I was supposed to pass a message... Ah, no one can see me."

Shiro narrowed his eyes and cancelled his magic. At that moment, a dagger and countless needles came at him. Jumping easily in the air, he avoided the attacks and walked to the middle of the room and jabbed his finger out.

"I know you are there! Wahahahahaha! Now, come out obediently!"

It was totally a villain-like line. There was not even a speck of a dignity of a Divine Beast. The 2 people who appeared went at Shiro immediately. One of them was clad in wind while the other one was using his own strength but was channeling mana into the dagger he was holding. The darkness-clad dagger ominously drew near.

"Ooh, a ninja and a shadow!"

Shiro said calmly but the 2 were moving at a speed most people couldn't catch. The 2 had a slightly shocked expression at Shiro's words. The 2 daggers that came at Shiro were caught bare-handed by him with an innocent look on his face.

"Ah well, calm down, calm down. It is rude to attack a visitor all of a sudden."

".....There is no visitor who enters via the window."

“Who did that?”

The air-headedness answer from Shiro caused Zirco’s head to start hurting. It was already mid-day. The 2 had returned after infiltrating the military. But Will was nowhere to be seen.

They believed Will was not in danger but [Shadows] might have visited. In order to avoid fighting in the streets and dragged everyone in, Will might have gone somewhere. Which was why Buu activated 《影》 and waited in the room. It was an opponent that could hold up against Will. They were confident in their skills but just to be safe.

[TN: Kage, shadow]

If their guard weren’t so high, they might not notice Shiro. That was the reason why they noticed the soundless and invisible Shiro. They had unintentionally spread their mana throughout the room and sensed something moving through it. This was the so-called ‘instinct’ those experienced people talked about.

Seeing their dagger caught, cold sweat started running down their backs. There were no injuries despite catching a metal blade bare-handed. He was strong. And that movement. There was no opening in his stance. They could not even see how he caught their daggers. And he could see through them even when 《影》 was activated.

He was stronger than them.

The fact that Shiro was here only because he sensed Will’s mana was unimaginable to them as it was not an amount humans could sense. And it just added to the fear.

The expressions of the 1 person facing the other 2 were the total opposite.

“Okay, enough fooling around. Let’s keep the daggers.”

Shiro, who had been smiling silently, said that before flipping his hand. The 2 immediately went on guard. Seeing the 2, Shiro grinned and shrugged.

“You don’t have to be that scared. For I am Will’s summoned beast!”

The prank was a huge success!

At the Shiro who announced it happily, the 2 gave out long sighs. Aahh, somehow their heads were hurting.

“Will-samaaaaaaa!!”

“What is that person thinking...!!”

CHAPTER 75

THE STRUGGLE OF A RETIRED SOLDIER

“Eh, what’s up with that?”

In the dimly lit jail cell, in the background of the pile of armors and pig stood a young girl, who folded her arms. Or rather, me.

When the pig was knocked out by my killing intent, the attack started. Those guys, just because they were wearing armors, came at me full of confidence. But due to the weight of said armors, their movements were slow and without making use of its defense capability, they were all put to sleep by me.

Ah, how weak. Even if I was not a magician, you guys would still be beaten to the ground, you know?

Though I was using strengthening magic. Let’s keep it a secret that I did think of not casting it. Carelessness is the biggest enemy one would ever have. A vase might just fall from the sky if you were not careful. But still, how weak. Too weak. Yes, my body was strengthened but they were weak to the extent that I think I could defeat them without even using magic. They were so weak that it being a trap was not possible.

I was using my enhanced hearing to check their heartbeat and breathing so I knew they were all knocked out. I don’t think anyone could fake their heartbeat. Well, they could use magic to fool me but if that did happen..... checkmate.

I don’t think that will happen though. I cannot see any reason for them to go that far. If they possessed that high of an ability, it would be faster, and much more fun to simply come at me from the start, head on.

Which means.

Occam razor. These guys were illegal slave merchants and their rogues. That would make the most sense. Yep. I wasted a lot of my time on them.

“.....Sigh.....”

A deep sigh escaped from my lips. During this entire time, Matilda-san must be preparing for the 'auction'. Let's clean this up quickly.

But this was kind of embarrassing. To think I was thinking seriously and even nodding to myself... how very embarrassing. Oh well, it's no use thinking further.

"...Let's not bother about the small details-"

Let's stop.

A young girl along in the jail cell spouting some old gag will not look good to anyone. Hm? It's too late? And that it's not a young 'girl'?

Mm. It must be my imagination that I heard something just now. Yep, my imagination. I will make it so.

It's fine, it's fine. I am a man who does not bother about these petty things, full stop. 'For goodness sake, just get this [shadow] business over and done with so I can stop this cross-dressing!' was not what I was thinking!..... Ah, no, no.

Let's stop. My shoulders slumped in dejection.

"...Yep, let's get it over with."

Anyway, it's total annihilation time.



Even today, in the barracks, it's noisy. In exchanged for staying quiet on the streets all evening, the soldiers squeezed into the barracks were going as loud as they could.

Flowason was not a big town. The soldiers here were almost all in-charge of the checkpoint. They do patrol the town but as night approaches, they don't do it as much, nor as detailed ————— Those who go out in the night are responsible for their own action.

It was common sense in Hattuo. Without streetlights, it would not be as bright as the daytime. Hattuo, Hadazerl, and even Dyuvu, a mercantile nation, were as so. The only place which had street lights was Elzmu.

Which means, it is indoor once the night comes. The only open stores were high class restaurants or bars. They were the kind of places where Nobles, that had bodyguards, or people who could protect themselves went to.

No one came out much at night. No one would leave. That's why once it's night time, the soldiers' job ended. And when these rogue-like soldiers gathered, of course it would be noisy.

And in that chaos, someone came running through the pack.

“Ex... excuse me!!”

Within the barrack, a slender man stood panting. A beastman stood behind him. His guard? And another white-haired man then joined them. At the 3 who disturbed them, the soldiers glared at them. Who was this man who could afford to hire a guard, that beastman, and why was he here? It went without saying but jealousy was mixed into the glares as well.

Die, ikemen!

Was what the alcohol-fueled eyes seemed to say. But the slender man desperately continued on, seemingly unobvious to the glares or just don't care about it. No, in this case, he seemed just too desperate.

“My daughter! Willia was kidnapped!!”

A rustle went through the soldiers and within the noise, 1 soldier stood up.

“What?! Willia-chan is? This is serious, we have to go now!!”

It was the soldier that they met at the checkpoint. The rest of the soldiers were startled at him, whose behavior was so different from how he used to be. And the soldier himself had a frantic face on, like he would start running anytime.

“What's wrong with you, Ivan?”

“Oi oi, why are you serious all of a sudden?”

Word after word of teasing were thrown at him, but he ignored them as he prepared

to leave. He put on his uniform in a hurry, and hung his sword by his waist. Everyone else was dumbfounded at how fast his movements were. At them, Ivan roared angrily.

“Oi, what are you blokes waiting for?! We have to rescue Willia right now!”

And to the him.

“Forget it, it’s useless.”

Someone said, interrupting him. A man then walked out from the back, a shady smile playing on his face.

“But why, captain?!”

The man whom Ivan called Captain looked surprised at Ivan’s panic before shifting his gaze to the slender man.

“This is not an office for lost kids, Mr.Father. Firstly, why do you know your child was kidnapped and not lost?”

The Captain hid his despising expression as he looked at the slender man.

“I left her in the Inn for a while and when I came back, she was gone! It must be the inn’s master who scoffed at my guard!”

“Scoffed? That beastman? It’s her inn so of course she can look down on it. Beastman is a thing that you can’t trust. Without proof, I won’t move my soldiers just to look for a lost kid. In the first place, it is your responsibility for looking away from your daughter, isn’t it?”

What unreasonable argument. Discrimination against beastmen was common but why would he use it here? [TN: I assume he meant Willia was not one] Ivan thought to himself.

The slender man, Ivan remembered that he called himself Jill Stuart, looked down, vexed. That’s right. Ivan just couldn’t accept his captain’s argument. Staring at his captain, he raised his voice.

“The hell! Just 1 kid?! Willia-chan is not just a ‘kid’! She is an angel that came down to earth! The treasure of all Humans! Won’t move your soldiers?! In that case, I quit! I’ll

help her of my own record!"

Ivan's threatening attitude shocked his captain and before he could say anything, Ivan ran off.

"Oi, Ivan!?"

To the far away Ivan, the captain's roar was fruitless. His hand, which was stretched out, swipe at the air. It was when he slowly lowered his outstretched hand as he had a self-mocking smile on his face. The one waiting for him was not his soldiers who laughed at Ivan along with him but instead, hell.

The slender man grinned.

"I see. To think it would be the top of Hattuo's Military, Former General Fet Ale Grousil, who did the kidnapping."

It was then the Captain finally noticed. All the soldiers there were already on the floor. There were some who moaned, some who shook and even some who were sleeping soundly. Everyone was best friends with the floor.

"No worries, I leave them all alive. I won't hurt people who know nothing."

That grinning face appeared in an instant in front of the Captain.

"!!"

He backed off reflexively and the slender man laughed.

"Well then, how much did you receive? Spit it out."



Ivan panted as he ran. Kicking the drunks aside, he dashed down the street. It had been a long time since he had given his all running.

Rogues, seeing Ivan running past, were surprised as they grumbled. It was rare to see the soldiers of this town as desperate as he was. Never had soldiers in-charge of this street been threatened before. So what does this mean?

Was the street under attack from demon beasts or did Elzmu come attacking? Either way, it was a serious situation. The rumors spread in an instant and the usual rowdy street that was lined with pubs and the back alley went dead. Everyone were shutting themselves in their house to not be involved with whatever was coming.

But Ivan, who was desperately running, ignored the eerie silence as he ran, with full speed, passed the main street and into the back alley. If it was kidnapping, there were only a few places possible. It was most likely illegal slave trafficking. No matter, he was certain about the suspicious back alley.

Right now, Ivan was regretting hard. He wanted to go faster but his body, which had been skipping training, could not seem to catch up. And right now, his body felt like it was being whipped all over.

I have to rescue my Angel (Willia-chan) as soon as possible!

His mission burned within him as his irritation grew. He had to be faster. Had to be quicker. As if answering himself, Ivan subconsciously gathered mana around his feet as he sped up. His calf screamed in pain because of the additional workload but Ivan pushed it to the back of his mind as he continued running. His breath was getting shorter. His heart was beating faster.

“Where is it?!”

Ivan screamed. He could imagine Willia crying in the distant. Now he felt like crying, as he got even more impatient. And when Ivan was preparing to run.

“Here.”

Hearing a calm voice behind him, Ivan jumped reflexively. Looking back, he saw a slender man, emotionless, standing there. His eyes got big.

“Ji, Jill Stuart-san? Why are you here...”

“No time to explain. Follow me.”

Saying that, Jill Stuart then ran at a speed, without even panting, where Ivan had to use all he had just to even follow.

“Wa, wait!!”

Ivan, who was desperately trying to follow.

-----After that, rumors about a soldier desperately chasing down a criminal spread and the soldiers were being looked upon in a new light.

CHAPTER 76

ANNIHILATION & SHAME

His throat was dry. His consciousness was getting hazy. His heart was beating so fast that it hurt. His breathing was ragged and his legs were shaking. Even so, Ivan ran.

All for the sake of his Angel (Willia-chan)!

And when even that strong thought started fading, it happened. When he was somehow chasing after Jill Stuart, who turned around a corner, the sight that Ivan saw was, Willia-chan walking out of a horse carriage-like place with a smile.

“...pant... pant... That’s... great...”

The moment he knew Willia-chan was safe, Ivan collapsed. It was his limit. But on his face, a blissful-like smile appeared. He was happy.

But Ivan had no idea that he was about to face despair.



“Yosh..... According to the readout, there are 16 people in here. Hmm... 4 lookouts and 12 captured...”

As I walked along the dimly lit basement, I used mana detection to get a feel of the place. I was currently putting Zirco-san’s magic of erasing his footsteps that I stole into practical use. As for Grousil and his goons, they were tied up by ropes I conjured from my mana so no problem there.

As these thoughts ran through my mind as I walked, I heard noises ahead.

“ 《影》 ”

I mumbled and the magic activated. My figure then melted into the shadows... I think. I heard some mumbling about how I kept stealing other’s spells but I shall ignore it. This was not stealing, it’s learning.

As I moved on, I saw a worn-out wooden door in front. Yellow lights were shining from the crevices. As I had sent my detection mana ahead of time, it should be where the captured were imprisoned at. And, someone was standing right in front of the door. Yep.

“Here we go!!”

I jumped and did a flying-kick at the door. Hey, you there, it’s not a pun. Please don’t say it’s cold. A cracking noise rang out but I paid no heed to it. I was not doing anything wrong.

Eh? I aimed for this? How can it be? There was no way a young boy of 8 years old, filled with a burning sense of justice, did such a cunning deed, right? I was really not thinking of killing two birds with one stone.

Going along with the flow, I punched, punched, punched the man who was the lookout. As he plopped on the floor, the fight was over. Eh? It was too short? How am I to describe a fight that ended with a punch then?

I tied the moaning man up in ropes and smacked it tight for extra measures. The sound resounded within the dimly-lit jail... not. Why were the people inside the cells trembling...?

“Ah.”

I slapped my hands together as a light bulb lit up above my head. I see! I had forgotten all about it. The me right now was shrouded in shadows and soundproof. Anyone would be afraid if the lookout was punched and flown off by nothing. They must be confused. And maybe developed a fear of the shadows. They must have thought an invisible monster had come.

《解除》

Well, that was a pretty half-arsed magic.

As I chanted it mentally, I became visible... I think. And when I looked over at them, all of their mouths were open wide.

“I came to help.”

I smiled and tried to use the gentlest voice I could but they were still jumping left, right and center from surprise. I know how you guys feel but still, this hurts. Yes it does.

All those captured were around my age and were mostly beastmen. Seeing this made my chest hurt. As this country had a serious discrimination against beastmen, they had a good deal kidnapping as no one would seriously search for beastmen. They were really not being seen as people.

Che, it's your loss for not understanding the importance of those flurry ears.

Looking at the cell, it was a magic tool that was strengthened and could obstruct magic from activating. It was an intricate and complicated piece of tool. General Grousil sure was using the military technology as he liked. Although it had a massive amount of mana stones embedded in order to amplify the effectiveness, it was no use! Hahahahahah!!

“《切断》!” [Setsudan, sever]

As the chyuunibyō-like painful laughter rang inside my mind, I chanted it out loud. I need to distract myself with something with all these eyes watching. And also to let them know that I am using magic. As they were surprised by the chant, the severed metal poles fell onto the floor, clanking loudly.

“Come on, let's get out of this damp and humid place as soon as possible.”

As I called out to them through the squarish hole I made, everyone jumped and back away.

.....It hurts. It hurts but I am not giving up! I will crush them with my smile!

After taking a while to digest all that had happened, tiny cheers started raising up. Oh, thank goodness. My persistence won. As I nodded with a smile, I led everyone out.

“Over here~”

I said, as I spread my mana detection magic out. I could feel a presence. Hm. The only one skillful enough to hide the flow of mana till this extent could only be Zirco-san. There was another one behind him but... judging from his movement, Zirco-san could

easily defeat him with one shot.

I turned around suddenly. I heard that a human beautiful young girl was captured as well..... hmm..... there was no human race among them. Only beastmen. But everyone was still very cute.

...Someone must have mistaken a beastman for a human I guess.

We reached the first floor. The huge wooden door that I saw when I was blind-folded appeared in front of us. Right ahead must be where the carriage house was. It was too late to be acting like a kid so I just pushed the door open without any difficulty.

The kids passed through it in succession. Somehow, I felt like I saw this in DragXX QuXXt before. Grinning at that thought, Mr.Emotionless was standing there, waiting.

The mana I felt following behind was... ah, he fell. Ah, he fainted. That person fainted with a smile on his face. What happened to him? Noticing my surprised gaze, Zirco-san glanced at the fainted man and smiled slightly.

Ooh! How rare! The smile of the Noh Mask Ninja! Dear fans, a secret collection shot right here! In my excitement, I even pretended to hold a camera as I pressed down on the shutter button continuously. Zirco-san looked at me, stunned.

“Will-dono, what are you doing?”

“Ah, no, yes, it’s nothing.”

This was the type of situation where smiling can tide it over. Tehe~ I smiled and averted my eyes. Zirco-san tilted his head a little before returning back to the topic.

“He is a Hattuo soldier... *former* soldier. He was the one at the checkpoint this morning.”

“OOH!”

I had thought he looked familiar! To run all the way here so desperately just for me... so different from the rumors! I was touched! I knelt down to in the heat of that moment looked at him, before realizing something.

“.....But the mastermind behind the illegal kidnappings is General Fet Ale Grousil, isn’t it?”

“.....Will-dono should be grateful to him. Because when the Captain he had always been following stopped him, he quit his job just to find you.”

.....Really?

To run that desperately till he dropped, what a strong sense of justice! He must have been really worried. Well, anyone would be worried when they heard that an 8 years old girl had been kidnapped and was about to sold.

.....Somehow, I had a feeling I did a bad thing. No, it was not me! The one who's wrong was Grousil!

As if waiting for me to finish my inner show, Zirco-san continued the conversation at the perfect timing.

“In addition, here's the report regarding the infiltration into the military base. It looked like Fet Ale Grousil was fired at the previous meeting with the Emperor.”

Our eyes met. Yeah, I wouldn't tsukkomi that he did his job way too fast. I wanted to believe that this was the standard of Elzmu. Just like Zirco, just like Father.

But fired. Which means...

“I see. He was fired because he became useless.”

I had a small smile while Zirco-san smiled wryly. A flightless bird is useless. I was dragged into the useless general's scheme of making easy money.

“Hahaha...”

I must keep my smile. This was a disaster. I was screaming in my heart as the wind blew and the earth shook in my heart.

Embarrassing! How super duper embarrassing!!

Wah... I want to dig a hole and jump right in...

Shiro was... doing his work properly. Really, if I knew the report beforehand I would have finished this quickly. It was already too late but I kinda stood out now. I should have know the longer a thing was dragged, the more troublesome it would be.

Even if I were to escape, I couldn't possibly leave those captured kids alone. And with that, I would have contact with General Grousil, which would then, of course, had some link with the military. If the [Shadows] were in this country, they would know it sooner or later.

...Although I still had no idea about the methods they used to find their targets.

Hm.

A plan that kills two birds with one stone. A very rational plan. As expected of Zirco-san to come up with this fantastic plan.

.....And what should I do with this embarrassment of mine? This was really troubling.

Before I knew it, Buu-san and Shiro were back. I need to thank the fainted guy for not making it too hard for Buu-san too. Or rather, was that guy going to be all right? Half of the reason for him losing his job was because of me.

Shiro drew close to me.

“The way Master jumps to conclusions...”

He quietly snickered.

I can punch him, can't I? He was telling me to punch him, wasn't he? I was pretty sure that was the hidden meaning. And I could somehow hear laughter from the '... '..... I wonder if that was my inferior complex acting up.

Anyway.

“I KNOWWW!!”

I jumped and started hitting Shiro's head with a paper fan. I will be forgiven if it's just that, right?

Eh? Where did the paper fan come from? Ah, it's from my locket pendant.

It must be my imagination that someone said that I was abusing my magic tool.

CHAPTER 77

GOD'S TEST

Oh god. What a test you had given me.

I wonder if all my grieving and moaning would reach your ears that seemed to be blocked by that long beard of yours.

Having taken my life with that long beard of yours, would you not even hear some of my tiny wishes out?

“Ooh... god!”

“What is Will-dono doing?”

“Oh, don't worry about it. He does that sometimes.”

To the me who was clasping my hands and grieving and moaning, the other 2 were being indifferent. Too indifferent. Yep, everyone's cruel. How awful! Anyway, there was no one who could understand my anguish!

“There is no one who understands me...”

My shoulders fell and I got even more depressed. Then, a hand reached out from behind and patted my shoulders gently.

“As expected of my master, a perfect chuunibyō!”

...You were the last person I wanted to hear that from.

Wasn't it fine? Leave me alone to grieve.

Because you see, usually when you save people from being enslaved, wouldn't you get a cute girl's love or admiration?

But no!

Why did I get an address-unknown-jobless man instead?! I don't need it, I don't need him the most! But I couldn't say it into his face because he did become jobless thanks to me. I was not a kid who could just wave ‘Goodbye!’ and left him alone. Ah, although

I did look like one.

Or rather, I am older than him! He was only 23!

Plus, he declared ‘ Children shouldn’t worry about this, it is my own decision after all. ‘ and timidly stroked my head. Him, with his fierce-looking face while smiling awkwardly, like he was not used to it, said that to me!

I do not blame him. I *can’t* blame him.

But! Then! But then!

I knew I had an average face. But when this kind of incident (event) happened, I can’t be blamed for expecting an encounter with the opposite sex! And I got an address-unknown-jobless-fierce-looking Onii-san instead! No flag was raised at all!

Eh? He was an ikemen former soldier?

...That’s not it! That’s totally not it!

Listen, I am straight. I was very reluctant and was pushed into cross-dressing by Zirco-san. I would be troubled if you misunderstand. I do not like men. I like girls. I lust for girls!..... That last part came out a bit wrong.

Anyway, in any case.

I was totally justified in grieving!!!!

Without thinking, my eyes were squeezed shut and my hands were clenched tight. Forgive me, I went a little over. I am a gentleman and a Duke’s son. I shouldn’t be blaming this poor man who lose his job because of me in front of Shiro, and it would do me no good to continue lamenting like this.

Eh? Don’t even lament in the first place? Shut up! There were times where I just can’t help it!

I glanced at the fierce-looking-address-unknown-jobless Onii-san who passed out and was carried by Shiro, and the sigh that came out of my mouth was my respect to him. Definitely.

Those beastmen children that I rescued had either a family or was a part of a merchant’s caravan so they would have a place to return to. That was one case closed.

That was not too bad.

The reason they were all so scared was due to this place's discrimination. They had thought I was from Hattuo. I was taught that by an Uncle who grasped and shook my hand as he cried tears of joy. Tears from an Uncle...

But still, he seemed to be the chairman of a pretty big firm in Dyuvu so he had to fund to offer as a reward. His eyes were shining and sparkling as he gave his thanks and offered the reward but I turned him down.

.....His energy was scary.

But don't they check the inn they were about to stay beforehand? It was weird for a big firm not to do so. But the kid might be kidnapped when they were engrossed in their conversation. You should be more careful.

The soldier's captain was working with former general Grousil for money it seemed. Originally a country without any rights for Beastmen, this kidnapping incident in Flowason turned into something big.

By the way, the Captain was grilled by Zirco-san. It was for the best. And when I said that, that expressionless face somehow grew even scarier.

Former general was after all, a former general. And it seemed like his court rank was taken down as well. Poor thing.

Which means, that Pig bastard and his happy band of kidnapers were just normal criminals. He did not even have a noble rank to help him. And right now, he was locked up in the military prison.

Because for some reason (...), he was beaten by all the soldiers in the barracks.

If that were the case, what about our cover... was what worried me but I was an idiot. The best Intelligence Corp Leader, was a ninja. He performed an [Oblivion Technique] on the soldiers. As expected of a ninja! He moved exactly like one!

I must be imagining things when I thought I heard Shiro saying ' Did he not just hit the back of their heads? ' behind me.

I was surprised at how easily the soldiers were allowed to quit easily. Was that really okay, Hattuo's military?

"...Letting them quit so easily... Are they not worried about the country's classified information?"

At my mumbling, Zirco-san turned back and looked at me.

".....Ah, they are only normal soldiers who know nothing, the lowest in rank. The rules are rather lax since they are not in war right now. A lowly soldier stuffed in the barracks of the border of the country. This is the extent of a rogue who wanted a job as a soldier. Which is why, if the person himself wanted to quit, they let him. The military is not lacking in manpower... In short, they are simply discardable pieces."
"The lowest... discardable..."

Zirco-san might be right. Hattuo does not have an education system so there are many who do not even know how to use magic. These soldiers were all commoners. So to stay or to leave was all up to them. That's all there is to it. Zirco-san, you were really saying some mean stuff with that emotionless face.

Things like the lowest...!

Things like discardable pieces...!

It's too frank.

"Besides, frankly saying, the soldiers in the checkpoint are already crooked. Hattuo doesn't really understand the concept of a 'border' in the first place plus the values of their population are skewed with the discrimination against Beastmen. Elzmu is the only country truly managing their border and the people who enter. To the rest of the country, the checkpoint is a remote region so being sent there is seen as a demotion. That's why, the soldiers here are all rogues or the worst."

He was going franker by the minute!!

Lower than rogues...! No wait, in that case, why was there a soldier with such overflowing sense of justice like Onii-san here? Question of the century.

"...Shiro, why did he faint?"

I asked, trying to change the topic. Shiro, who was walking beside me, turned and looked at me slowly. He was stooping a little, as if making sure Onii-san would not fall off. His face was serious and had a frown on it.

“That is because.....”

Our eyes met.

“Because...?”

I swallowed my saliva.

“.....he exhausted his mana as well as his stamina.”

Shiro said smugly.

You don't have to draw it out!

Damn it! I knew it would be this kind of punch line!

“Ooh...”

What should I do with the paper fan I took out reflexively? I can't really hit Shiro as he was carrying a man on his back.

“Urgh... Did you plan this, Shiro?”

“Ho ho ho! Master is still so young!”

Let's ignore the grinning Shiro. I don't mind it at all. I am not a kid after all. I am a wonderful 25 years old gentleman.

“Kuu..... don't push your luck! Remember this!”

“Fu fu fu... Keep barking, keep barking. Empty pipes makes the most noise!”

“This long-haired bastard!!”

Since we solved this incident, fooling around like this was not too bad.

“What, cross-dresser boy (hentai/pervert)?”

I take it back.

“Urgh!”

The paper fan hit Shiro’s face hard. This guy, right at my sore spot~!! Remembering my outfit, I stormed ahead, face flushed red.

“Wai... Master, wait, it was quite painful!”

“Will-dono’s way of speech...”

“Ah, don’t mind it. He does that quite often.”

Those behind, what were you guys talking about? Their view of me...

I will lose if I mind it.

Yep,

I’ll lose if I mind it.

I raised my head up.

Aah, the sky was red. The cloudless sky looked cold and empty, as if hinting of the coldness of Flowason’s street.

My heart was cold as well. Come to think of it, we were comrades. My friend.

“Aah, I want to go home.”

And I pray that I would be released from the cross-dressing. Let’s just forget about the fact that I did not tell Father about this trip, only the King, and that I missed the summoned beast class this week.

My friend. Please don’t shine your reddish glow onto my face. I’ll look like I am still blushing.

I walked in the cold weather with my friend, as evening approached while I tried to cool down my burning cheeks.

CHAPTER 78

ENDLESS ENVY

When I looked up the sky, the stars were shining dazzlingly. This world was yet polluted, from the fresh air and the clear sky which the stars glittered brightly. The feeling of travelling after crossing the Iza river, as well as the drop in temperature might play a part in me feeling this way as well.

“.....Why?”

The inns looked suspicious. And in spite of this being a city / town for the country's border, there were hardly any inns around. And when evening came, none of the existing inns had any space.

So we ended up setting up camp.

“.....Why?”

Sharp-sighted Shiro noticed me slumping my shoulders and muttering to myself.

“Hm? What's that, Master?”

“.....Even though it's my first trip overseas... Even though it is going to be my first time staying at an inn...”

Something was definitely messing with me. Like how I got an address-unknown-jobless Onii-san as a reward for me crushing an illegal slave merchant, or how I was camping in the streets despite being my first overseas trip.

“It's because you have a disaster constitution.”

As I was raking my brains for an answer, Shiro dropped a bomb on me. The sudden attack made me jumped around in surprise.

So... so that's how it was...

I, who had an average face and was not popular like those main-characters.

Ah, but I had a feeling these days, the Light Bell... I was so shaken that my language ability took a hit... Light Novel, or LN for short, featured ordinary MC. Ordinary yet surrounded by high-leveled oddballs and caused trouble for them.

“...Ha ha ha...”

I see, so that was it.

My god. This was nothing to laugh at. There was no way I can laugh at this.

I mean, disaster constitution, disaster constitution...

Oi oi, really, what *did* the First Founder teach this Sacred Beast(Shiro)? Why was he taught all these ridiculous nouns and verbs?!

I can't. It's exhausting to talk to him every time.

And when this exchange was taking place...

“Gwah...”

A groan sounded somewhere down from where we were. By reflex, the both of us turned towards the origin of the noise. The man made a noise like he wanted to get up.

Shiro moved towards the man who was stirring by rolling a little on the ground. Please don't scold him for rolling. There was no space in the horse carriage available for an injured man to sleep, Watson. No place.

No no no, I did not hear anything like it's cold outside.

“Are you, awake?”

I squatted beside Onii-san and looked at him. He groaned.

“...Ah... er... Where's... here?”

He frowned in agony as he pushed himself up.

“We're outdoors~”

I said, directing an innocent smile at him. Having to act innocently after a while was quite painful.

“.....eh.”

Please don't stare at me like that, my mouth was cramping.

“...Onii-san?”

After continuously calling him, he turned towards me suddenly. He must still be half-asleep just now. He then started to look around, turning his face left and right. Slapping his own cheeks with his hands, he nodded to himself, finally calmed.

“.....Willia-chan, do you know why are we outside?”

“I will be explaining that instead.”

When I was about casually giving some answer in a child-like way, Zirco-san came out of the carriage at the perfect time. As ever, his Jill Stuart-mode was perfect. Be it the speed he can change his clothes, be it his acting, be it his appearance, if it was Earth, he could become the best illusionist there.

Surprised, Onii-san turned towards Zirco-san and nodded frantically. Well, to see the sky dark when you woke up, was rather surprising. Anyone would want to know what happened. Sorry, currently, I was an innocent-child character. Though I did want to explain it to you as soon as possible.

“Firstly, here is a little away from the north gate's streets.”

I nodded self-importantly at Zirco-san's words. As there were no available inns, we went out of the streets as we had decided to camp. We were planning to head towards the center of Hattuo so it did not matter which direction we headed out, so we randomly chose a place to camp.

By the way, the checkpoint was at the south gate.

“So it's Foir Centeru Street... right?”

“Yes. After catching the illegal slave merchants, we wanted to look for other inns. But they turned us down as they didn't allow Beastmen and before we knew it, it was

evening and every place had been filled. So we ended up setting up camp instead. It doesn't matter as we are aiming to go to the center of Hattuo anyway."

How rare it was to see the ever-smiling Zirco-san. How rare it was to see Zirco-san talk for so long.

"Why was I.....?"

The obvious question. Why was he even carried along? Because we had discussed and decided to carry him along. Zirco-san smiled, a fatherly, gentle yet slightly troubled smile that makes people feel like destroying it.

Damn it, stick that smile up your nose!

"You quit your job as a soldier right?"

"...yea."

"About that, your captain was in cahoots with the slave dealer, which was why he stopped you. It is partly my fault for you losing your job and I cannot just leave you alone at the street as it is dangerous, so I take you along without asking."

"...The captain is? Damn it, I finally get his attitude. Rather, how did you guys know?"

Looking regretful while spewing abusive language, Onii-san asked, as expected, the reason.

"Ah, I just *politely ask* him to talk."

I was assaulted by Zirco-san's smile. His eyes were not smiling. Somehow, he felt like someone I knew...

Onii-san gulped.

I get it! Zirco-san referenced his friend(John-sensei) for his character! I finally got that weird deja vu feeling off my chest. That was why that smile had such power behind it.

Onii-san turned slightly pale. I get you, my friend, I get you. Ignoring the pale Onii-san, Zirco-san continued.

"And so, what are you planning to do from now?"

"Wh, what, you say... Finding another job, I guess. I don't have any freakin... I mean, I don't have any money anyway."

"Since you quit the military, I supposed you can't continue to stay in Flowason. Do you

have a destination in mind?"

"...Ah,no..."

Onii-san only seemed to realize that after being told by Zirco-san.

"In that case."

Zirco-san paused, before continuing.

"There is something I would like to discuss with you. If you don't mind, I would like to hire you. It is my fault that you ended up like this and I do have connections. If you prefer to enter into other occupation, I can introduce you."

After digesting what Zirco-san said, the stunned Onii-san stood up.

"Do you mean you want me to be Willia-chan's guard?! Wahh..."

Ah ah.

He stood up in rush but instantly fell flat back onto the ground. He seemed to have forgotten the pain he felt earlier. His muscle ached. That was the payment for forcing mana, which he hardly used, into his muscle to get them to move beyond their capacity.

"Argh... oww..."

Looking at the sprawled Onii-san, Zirco-san and I looked at each other and nodded.



"Masterzzz, it seems like there is a soldier near Williamzz."

The huge demon, sitting on the sofa, twisted its body, holding a big bee-like demon beast. A bee that was almost like a hornet, its weapon jutting from its butt looked even more atrocious. Although it was dancing around the demon's hand obediently but raging around was most likely its default state.

It would attack anything that moved. To add on, the poison from its sting was lethal. Anyone who saw the hornet-like creature would frantically force down their screams as they slowly backed up.

“What?... How convenient. So Hornet could speak.”

In contrast, Spinel was moving towards the sofa agitatedly. As a matter of course. Hornet, and even the Demon were his summoned beasts. He shouldn't be afraid of his own summoned beasts. But Spinel's face was paler than usual. Even so, his self-mocking smile was still playing on his face.

“What are you saying, my beast. There is no way you can't understand each other.”

Demon answered as he stroked the hornet.

“That is true. Where are they now?”

“The road near Foir Centeru Streetzz.”

After getting that information, they turned and faced Spinel, who smirked wryly as he started walking.

“Well then. Let us invite them to our house, shall we?”

Laughing inside, Spinel's job was ending soon. It won't be perfect, but it shouldn't be difficult to get it done. He was going to give it his all.

As he felt his body being eaten up little by little from the inside, he looked out the window. The stars were glittering and sparkling brightly. But now, Spinel could feel a closeness to a falling 'star' instead.

CHAPTER 79

IVAN'S AGONY

Ivan was now trembling with joy.

Ahh, the wonders of fate. The encounter with an Angel that changed his outlook on life and even to be able to serve as a knight! How lucky he was.

This was the day he finally felt the presence of god. And with that, regret over his past actions.

Yes, Ivan changed.

He was totally different from the rogue-like him from yesterday. It could be seen from the way he regretted over his past actions.

And when he looked at Willia's innocent smile, he was so deeply moved that he trembled. He would have you know the trembling was not from pain.

By the way, his muscles ached, especially from his calf, so he could not even stand and remained lying on the floor.

"Well."

"-----!!?"

All of a sudden, Willia-chan lost her innocence. She seemed to be saying something but Ivan was not listening any longer.

Seeing the sudden serious and mature look on Willia, Ivan, unable to believe his own eyes, rubbed them hard. The sudden movement caused pain to shoot up his calf again but now was not the time to be bothered by that.

What happened?

What happened to the gentle, beautiful, shining, pure, Angel-like, innocent, cute little Willia-chan? She looked like a totally different person with that expression.

.....Was she possessed by something?!?!

It was definitely possible. Because they were outside right now, and alone. And Willia was still a child, she would not have the mental strength to guard against it. Ivan had heard of a magical beast called 'Ghost' that possessed people every now and then. If that was the case, he needed to do something.

The way to force it out was to give the possessed body a shock that forced it out. A shock... which meant a hit.

He would have to hit Willia-chan?!

"I can't do it!"

Willia-chan who lost her innocent was still cute! She had a mysterious aura around her now. There was no way Ivan could hit his treasure, Willia. But that was the only way to save her.

What should he do?

And when he was in conflict about it, a troubled smile appeared on Willia-chan's face suddenly. And it had enough destructive power to pull Ivan back to reality.

"Ivan-san."

Ivan, whose name had been called by Willia, flushed like the color of boiled Ajipo.

Ahh... He didn't care anymore...

And when he was about to say that out loud...

".....There won't be turning back after this, Ivan-san. Is this your [Final Answer]?"

Willia-chan said.

That was dangerous. If he were to say that out right now, the reborn him would die on this day too. Seeing Willia-chan waiting for his answer, he frantically coughed and cleared his throat before realizing he had no idea what the question meant.

Ivan was only a rogue-ish soldier of Hattuo. Of course, he had never gone to school

before. He had no choice but to start learning now. Swallowing his embarrassment, he asked.

“Erm... *cough*... What... what do you mean?”

“Ah, sorry about that. I am asking if it is really okay to be my guard. There would be no turning back.”

Was it really okay?

To Ivan, that was a stupid question. Turning his serious gaze towards Willia, Ivan nodded.

“Yea. I am jobless anyway and I wanna protect Willia-chan. Plus, I have a feeling it's fate!”

Surprisingly, Ivan was quite a romantic at heart. To think he had a girlish thinking that it was fate after that shocking encounter, as if lighting strike, with Willia. If Ivan's thoughts could be heard, Will should be able to hear him puking rainbows and sugar right now.

But, to the unknown Willia, or rather, Will, he was moved by the [Way of Knight] that was in Ivan's heart and Ivan's value rose in his eyes. And thanks to that, Will had a bright and beautiful smile on his face. That smile was really bad for Ivan's heart.

With their eyes meeting, Willia's mouth curled into a smile and Ivan's heart caught fire despite his age.

“Then, I would need to explain. And Ivan-san would have to give up your Hattuo citizenship.”

To Ivan, who was filled with expectation, the following conversation was the start of his despair.



“To start with, I am sorry for deceiving you but I am a Noble.”

And when I said that, Ivan-san was so shocked he was about to jump up. But he can't. Because his muscle ache was preventing him from moving.

“Noble-sama...!!? I, I, had been impolite!”

To Ivan who looked like he would kneel down if he could move, there were still many things to be said so I am sorry, but I shall ignore it and moved on. Yep.

“It’s all right, don’t mind it. And again, sorry for deceiving you but I am male.”

“Eh? What was that just now?”

“I am a male.”

“M, m, male... what is ‘male’? I, is that a Noble’s rank?”

Yep, he was totally confused right now.

What was that ‘noble’s rank’ thing? He seemed to not even know what gender was now. There was no choice, I can only wait till he calmed down. We can’t continue if he can’t understand.

“.....Male, male is... eh... You can’t be talking about gender right...”

I latched onto the words he mumbled in a tiny voice.

“Of course. My gender is male. It is certainly attached. If not, would you like to take a look?”

“N, no! No, thank you!”

I was rejected splendidly.

Luckily too. If he really said ‘Yes please’, I would be the one troubled. I withdrew the hand that was holding on to my skirt. Joking, of course.

“You got to be kidding...”

On the other hand, Ivan, while groaning, had huge drops of tears falling down his cheeks. Was he really that shocked at being deceived? Reflecting upon my actions, I stopped the cheeky expression on my face and stared at him.

“Ivan-san, I am really sorry for deceiving you. I could only do this as my name seemed to have been widely spread within this country.

I was forced to do this. I would like to shout that my eyes had not been opened to a

whole new world of cross-dressing.

“Uwahh...”

But it seemed like my apology was not reaching Ivan-san at all and his tears did not look like it would stop anytime soon. No, maybe he just didn't hear that. He was just concentrating on crying. I would like to believe he was not ignoring me on purpose.

In that case, I spread my hands in front of Ivan's face.

Clap

A loud clap rang across the area.

“Ivan-san!”

“—————!?!?”

Greatly surprised, Ivan-san's mouth was opening and closing with a stunned expression on his face. Let's keep it a secret that I thought he looked like a Koi fish.

Yosh, now I got his attention, let's continue.

“Taking this chance, I will introduce myself. I am William Beryl, Elzmu Country's Duke's heir.”

Tee hee. ☆☆

I added in my heart and when I looked over at Ivan...

“Be, be, be, be, be, beryl?! Duke?! ———I've heard the name somewhere but what... This is... Ha ha ha ha...”

Someone, he started a comedy act on his own.

He started laughing. Really, don't force yourself since you can't move. What gag was that, turning a dogeza into a full flat prostrating pose? And the first part, that rapid talking was amazing.

While I was retorting inside my mind, Ivan-san had already lay flat and was kissing

the ground.

“That’s why I told you not to mind it! Just be your normal self!”

Anymore and I will not be able to stand it. [TN: From laughing] I slowly helped Ivan-san sit back up.

“Ah, that’s why I would need to bring Ivan-san over to Elzmu. Would that... really be okay?”

At my question, Ivan-san, who had been looking at the stars, turned towards me and our eyes met.

“.....Of course. Don’t underestimate me, I will plow down any obstacle in front of me.”

.....Really, Ivan-san was a man straight from Knighthood. So brave and faithful. Ivan-san’s strong gaze pressured down on me over and over again.

CHAPTER 80

IN THE END, IVAN IS AN IDIOT

“Hmm. How frank, are you turning homosexual?”

Zirco said, alighting from the horse carriage.

“...Eh?”

Willia... no, Will was in the carriage with Mr.Bear, discussing something. This came when Ivan was blankly staring at the starry sky. The soft and gentle smile of Jill Stuart was nowhere to be seen on the emotionless face. For a moment, unable to process, Ivan stared at him.

“Is Ivan-dono turning homo-”

“No! Wait a minute! What are you mistaken about?!”

Ivan cut into the sentence Jill Stuart was repeating to him, thinking he hadn't heard it. He can't overlook this. He had somehow heard something outrageous. Ho... Homosexual...? How rude.

“I think I still love woman very much.”

“Please face reality.”

Harsh words were given back to Ivan. He knew that in reality, there was no one who could accept him loving a young child. But still, he can't ignore his feelings. What he loves was what he loves.

“Even if the inner was an adult (ghost), I still can't give up.”

Right now, Ivan did not have the determination to hit Willia but one day, he would do it. Until then, he was not going to give up.

“What about you, Jill Stuart-san?”

Zirco gave a puzzled face to the smiling Ivan.

“What are you talking about, Ivan-dono? What ghost?”

“Ah, that. Willia-chan is possessed by a ghost.”

“.....Hah?”

For a brief period, the 2 of them stared at each other, stunned.

“As I said, the spirit of the noble called Will...”

“No, Will-dono has always been Will-dono. He cross-dressed as Willia in order to conceal his identity.”

“Stop lying. I understand how you feel as a father but no matter how I look, Willia-chan is only 5, 6 years old.”

“...That is true...”

It was actually 8 years old. Zirco conceded on this fact. If Will heard this, he could definitely cry. It was lucky he was not around to hear this conversation.

“Can a 6 year old act and speak like that? There’s no way! I don’t even use honorific speech.”

“...Urgh.”

There was nothing Zirco could argue against. It was true that commonly, a child can’t do it. He knew Will personally, and knew that he acted like this originally but if not, he would not have believed it either. In truth, he had doubts when the respected Kesamu-sama told him about it.

Somehow, this had turned really troublesome.

Can he convince the guy, who had fallen in love, in front of him? They would be together since he was hired. Whether if he liked it or not, Ivan could most likely come to realize it. Zirco gave up quickly on this matter.

“I will save Willia-chan. I can’t stand to hit her now but one day...”

Glancing at Ivan, who was speaking enthusiastically, Zirco let out a deep sigh. The emotionless eyes were tinged with tiredness.

“.....Going to the Adventure Guild will prove helpful for the possessed.”

“In that case, let’s go!”

Looking at Ivan, whose eyes were sparkling, Zirco nodded emotionlessly. He knew the [Shadows] would come attacking and Ivan would prove to be a help so there were no loss.

“.....Sigh...”

But at least he was allowed to sigh, he thought as he turned it towards Elzmu, his hometown, that was far far away.



The horses went ‘clop clop’ as they walked down the road, pulling the carriage along, I was, as usual, floating above my seat. It was early morning, when the sun had just risen. The refreshing air was calming.

With a ‘wow’ name like Foir Centeru Street, its streets cannot be even called as one, as it was simply hardened soil. Since the carriage had gone over it, the ‘animal trail’ should be renamed as ‘horse carriage trail’.

.....That was wrong?
Ah, whatever.

Instead of that, yesterday, when I was discussing the employment terms of Ivan-san with Buu-san, Zirco-san and Ivan-san was getting along quite well and were currently whispering behind me.

“.....I knew it is a ghost! She is floating!”
“.....I know, since you had been repeating it. Once we reach the Center, we will head towards the guild, is that fine?”

I had no idea what they were talking about but it seemed like they had business with the guild after reaching the Center. But there were many kinds of guilds.

The standard of the Otherworld, starting with the Adventure Guild, Merchant Guild, Craft Guild, etc etc. And, even though it was only a rumor, in our country, Elzmu, there seemed to be a fan club which was called ‘Guild’.

I heard it from Selphy... but it seemed that to the same even for this Otherworld. Fan

clubs exist everywhere, can be made by anyone, even in Phillis Academy. I was not in the wrong to want to retort that it can be called a 'Fan Club Guild'.

“What guild?”

It was the fault of the 2 whispering but since I had heard it, there was no other way. Since it was not nice to eavesdrop, it would be the best to come out in the open and asked about it.

As I thought, Ivan-san jumped in surprised as Zirco-san had an expressionless face, as usual, as he replied. By the way, Ivan-san. You were *that* tortured by muscle pain yesterday but today, it was already healed, seeing you moved so lively. Youth sure was great.

“The Adventure Guild. Since Ivan-dono has not registered, we are thinking of doing it as a proof of his identification.”

Saying that, he exchanged looks with Ivan-san. Hm. Somehow there was an aura of tiredness from his face even though he was as expressionless as usual... Must be my imagination. Anyway it was most probably something to do with Ivan-san.

“I see. I haven't been to one before too, is it alright not to register as well?”

“We have identification papers from Elzmu as Jill Stuart so there is no problem.”

Ah, that legal fake passport.

I, who was a little lost at what to reply, gave a 'That's good' before flying out of the window at the back and onto the roof of the carriage.

It was cloudless as usual with the never ending road. Hm, how otherworldly.

One of the standard plots for Otherworld was to encounter bandits and I wondered if I would too as I looked at the sky while I floated.

“.....!?”

Something seemed to be flying.

“Ehhhhhhhh!?!?”

A tako was flying in the sky. [TN: Tako = octopus]

Wiggling its tentacles, it was flying in the sky. I heard that Ajipo was often caught by Sea Birds.....

The generally peaceful trip continued.



“We are here! Center!”

I yelled as I spread my hands wide, causing people around me to laugh. The gatekeeper was laughing as well. His fleeting glance caught my eyes and our gaze met. Since that was embarrassing, I hid behind Zirco-san’s back.

“Identification please.”

“Sure.”

Zirco-san took the identification papers out from his pocket.

“Jill Stuart from Elzmu Country and... eh, the one behind you is?”

“That’s my daughter, Willia and the other person and the Beastmen are our guards. We are on a trip this time.”

“I see. I’ll collect the entrance fee then. 4 person would be 40 rook.”

“Okay.”

As he had prepared it beforehand, Zirco-san immediately passed 4 pieces of silver to the soldier. Little info, in Hattuo, 1 rook was a copper coin, 10 rook was a silver coin while 100 rook was a gold coin. I heard that 1 rook was about ¥100. I hadn’t said it but Elzmu’s money unit was in Yan. Just 1 word difference from Yen. Very easy to understand. As expected of the First Founder.

“Welcome to Center~”

Somehow the gatekeeper seemed frivolous. He was messing around and laughing as he gave a sidelong glance at Zirco-san as we walked into the streets.

“.....Hm.”

Zirco-san mumbled as we crossed over the gate and into the streets.

Central streets felt a lot more urban than Flowason. The stone paving was as beautiful as ever, however, it did not feel like it was flourishing.

It was the afternoon of the 2nd day since we set off from Flowason.

It only took 3 days from Elzmu to Hattuo and yet it needed 2 days from city to city here. Once again, I came to realize how big Hattuo was.

“For the time being, let us find an inn first, shall we?”

We nodded at Zirco-san’s words and we cut through the central street.

CHAPTER 81

INVITATION

This was the first.

I had been dragged into various troubles but never had I been embroiled in a religious one. Each and everyone would have their own sense of values and notion and I knew that it differs with everyone and I was not to judge. I also thought I should not impose my own values on others. But that was not the problem.

Which meant, religion existed in this world.

Unlike my previous world, there was no 'free-thinker' nor the acceptance of other religions.

Why was that?

Easy. The god was real in this world.

No really, you can actually see them.

At one end, there was the Adventurer Guild. Following the usual tropes of an orthodox Adventurer Guild, it did give an adventurer card. And this card was created by god.

Another troupe, one was to touch the crystal ball and the card would materialize above it. This crystal would appear once a guild was built.

Good grief. That grandpa... the spells were all Japanese and even the Adventurer Guild was as orthodox as they came. It all reminded me of him. I was really doubting if he was doing it on purpose.

Anyway, that was the reason for the absence of religious problems. This was a world where you can feel God working his 'magic'.

"Hmm~ I am looking forward to it."

I lay on the creaking bed, muttering to myself. The inn itself was rather worn out but

the Innkeeper looked like a good person. He did not reveal any disgust at Buu-san too. I believed that I would not be dragged into another kidnapping situation this time round. Please no.

We rented 2 rooms. Ivan-san had stubbornly opposed to sharing a room with me.

How sad. Onii-san, you made me really sad.

He said nothing could stop him but it seemed that cross-dressing was way too disgusting for him.

...Ahhh..... He misunderstood. He totally misunderstood!!

I had to lay it down that this was really not my hobby! We would spend a lot of time together since I hired him so what was this uneasy situation? Ahh, whatever. I was not going to bother about that. Nope. Uh-uh. Not bothering.

Zirco-san looked like he was going to persuade Ivan-san as he left for the other room. Buu-san followed him. Since I was the one being targeted by [Shadows], it would make it easier to lure them too, being the only one left.

Tomorrow, we are going to get a guild card in replacement of identity papers for Ivan-san.

While we are on it, I would love to get mine created as well but... ah, sadly, this was an undercover mission. Since I can't really deceive God's Eyes, I can't get my guild card made.

That's too bad. That's too bad.

But, then, even so!!

It is going to be my first time in an Adventurer Guild! Was there anything more exciting than this? No, there wasn't! I did not enter one in my past life too. No, something would be wrong if I did.

I was so excited!

Guild!!

It was when I was laying on my bed, thinking about these stuff.

“.....!?”

A chill ran through my entire body. What was this...!? Someone in the room next door was asserting his/her strong mana. Goosebumps appeared all over my body.

The moment I came to my senses, I threw open the door and rushed over to the room next door.

[Shadow].

[Shadow] came.

I thought they would come for me! Damn it!

As I smashed open the door to the room next door, everyone there was enclosed in a large amount of mana and disappeared.

“A... ah...”

Standing in the doorway, I could see a piece of paper fluttering in the middle of the room.

『 3 people were received. They would be placed under William Beryl. Please head over to my hall this evening.

Chief of Shadows Spinel 』

[TN: 3 people had been saved. 3 people had been saved. No survivors. 3 people had been saved.]

I swallowed after reading the letter before crushing it in my hand.

Damn it...

What kind of invitation was this?



《影》

《飛行》

《透過》

[TN: Kage, Hikou, Touka. Shadow, Flight, Pass (through)]

I didn't even have the time to open the window. I activated the magic with an image of passing through buildings like a ghost. Flying straight up into the sky at once, I set up a barrier around me. Following that, I enhanced my senses and sped up my thinking and then started searching for the presence of Zirco-san and the others.

".....Nothing."

I increased my enhancement.

"———Nothing?!"

I further increased..... but stopped. The information flooding my head was making me dizzy but forget about that.

Nothing. I got nothing.

"Why....."

The word echoed around me. Upon the enhancements, the area I could search was bigger than the continent itself.

".....a....."

Even so, why?

The huge loss and that feeling that was slowly boiling over inside of me was unmistakably anger. Towards the [Shadows].

No. Me. Towards the useless me.

In the end, I hadn't changed.

“Damn!”

The tiny curse that I muttered did not get out but instead, whirled inside of me.

It was always like this.

Always. Always. Every time I wanted to try my best I ended up kicking the air. In my previous world and in this world, in the end, nothing changed. No matter how many [Cheat] I got from god, I am still me.

—————In a good sense as well as the bad one.

Every time I moved to protect the ones I love and every time I exposed them to danger instead. I can't stop my frustration. Buu-san's identity might be discovered. I felt very uneasy.

Mother, Father, Chiffon, Zen and Selphy.

Even Zirco-san, Buu-san and Ivan-san.

Why?

I was reincarnated into this environment where I was surrounded by all these people whom I love and loved me back. Why did you have to get in the way?

————— Ah.

“Zirco Ninja 《位置情報検索》!”

“Buhual 《位置情報検索》!”

“Ivan 《位置情報検索》!”

[TN: Pumpkin 《位置情報検索》! Ichi Jyouhou Kensaku. Retrieved position information]

That's right.

There was no point panicking.

In that case.

I did not only possess [Cheats]. I had the advantage in spells chanting too. I shall use everything I can use.

*Ping

At the same moment an electronic noise sounded, a map with 3 red dots on it, floated up in front of me.

Stupid. I was really stupid.

Anyway, let's breathe in and calm down first. Why did I panic so hard when it was only their presence I failed to detect?

"Let's go."

At the same time I said the 2 words, I shot through the sky. As I flew through the sky as if I was gliding, the corners of my mouth curved. The deadening silence of the upper sky was paired with the biting coldness.

3 dots represented the positions of where the 3 of them were.
It was at a town outside of Center.

CHAPTER 82

THE HOUSE OF SHADOWS AND THE BATTLE MANIA

I broke through the darkness of the night.

It was regrettable that even with my enhanced vision, I could hardly see more than a short distance ahead.

I had enough.

I had enough of losing people without doing anything.

I had enough of losing even if I did anything.

“.....I will crush them.”

The wind around prevented my voice from leaking out but at least my desire was conveyed.

I finally arrived right on top of where the 3 dots on the map were shining. But only thing I saw there was an unlivable broken-down house. There were countless holes in the roof and it was in a condition where only the bare bones of the house was left standing. No one could be seen.

Why?

No matter how I doubted my eyes, what I cannot see would still remain unseen. It was just an empty whirl of nothingness there. It had completely turned dark. On the other side of the blue blue sky, the reddish glow at the edge of the horizon flickered gloomily as it died down.

Was my magic wrong?

No, it cannot be. Nothing could be done if that's the case. I had a solid image in my mind as I chanted the spell perfectly. It would be to the degree of denying the laws of this world itself if the magic was wrong despite it activating.

In that case, why was there nothing here?

No, it was not that there was no one here... but that I *can't* see anyone. Yes, [Shadows] were known to control the darkness. When I first met Chiffon and Buu-san, Buu-san was using 《影》. Like me right now.

It was written 'my hall' on the paper left behind. There was no way it would be this broken-down house.

Which meant.

The hall was hidden. There was nothing else I could do even if I was wrong about this.

“《魔法効果透視》”

[TN: Mahou Kouka Tousei, See-through all magic effects]

I chanted and it unexpectedly appeared instantly. It was quite... anticlimactic.

In a word, it was a masterpiece.

The [Shadow's Hall] looked very shadowish. It was made out of grey stone with simple, yet dignified engraving around the windows. Beyond the window was shrouded in darkness so unfortunately, the interior cannot be seen. The roof was painted in a dim dark green color and somehow, at the edge, gargoyles were placed there, looking like a western horror house that was rather out-of-place.

And at the top, instead of an arc, a stupidly huge onion-like gate could be seen. 3 lines were engraved along the shape and at the very top, at the opening, Japanese were minutely craved.

A magic circle.

It seemed to be written in a clerical script-style font. It shouldn't match with a Gothic-style house but somehow, it strangely fit. An ominous yet grandeur kind of feeling?

Plus, dimwitted phrase like 'Hide this Hall of Shadows', 'Look like a broken-down house' and 'Just a framework for the roof' was written on it.

Above everything else, right in the middle of the damn huge ass door, 《Say Open Sesame! to open this door》 was written.

How surreal was this? But I don't have the time to laugh and enjoy. I do not have the time to hold back.

Taking a deep breath, I stood in front of the door with hands on my hip and shouted.

“《開けゴマ》!”

Yep. I said that straight out.

I did feel a little foolish.

I mean, think about it. You are about to face a villainous assassination group of [Shadows] while shouting 《Open Sesame》 at the top of your lungs!

Don't you think that was the meaning of foolish?

When I was thinking about all that, the door opened smoothly, surprising silent as the mouth I used to eat dropped open.

Hm.

In that case, aren't I Issun-Boshi? So be it. I touched the wall and created a thin sword before spreading my mana into it, strengthening it.

[TN: One-inch boy folk tale]

Going along with the flow, I swung the sword and yelled.

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION! I HAD COME AS YOU REQUESTED, YOU BASTARD!!”

Then, a gigantic stairway appeared in front of me and, standing at the doorway, a large man that was playing with a wasp was standing there.

“Wah! That was fast!”

...And he looked extremely shocked.

“To think you would come before the preparations are complete! Hm, you are stronger than I thought. I am truly happy about this!”

'In an instant, he drew close with a smiling face————!?' was what I was thinking when he suddenly slashed at me.

"uWah."

Right away, I jumped away from that man and slid around to his back.

"Yes, it has to be like this!"

The man laughed with ferocity as though satisfied as he turned around. His grin got wider on his reddish-dark skin as he declared to me.

"You, the one I had been waiting for, the one with strength!"

With a look of ecstasy, the large man looked at me with conviction.

.....I see, this guy was a battle mania.

"Is it you bastard who send me the invitation?"

As a grin surfaced on my face, I enhanced my thinking speed, my strength, and my speed and hardened my defenses. At the same time as I was staring at Mr.Large, my brain was sectioning the place and creating a map.

"It's showtime! For my lord!"

"Sh... Showtime..."

I should not be bothered about that crazy pace of his.

...I see.

I slashed at the floor with all my strength.

Crash, a huge noise rang out as a hole was created and the falling rubble showed that there was a space underneath.

And, when I realized it, Mr.Large lifted his hand and moved it to his back, drawing something out.

Slow-motion time. As the floor fragments fell, piece by piece, Mr.Large moved fluidly toward me, drawing near.

“Try this!”

His swordsmanship was as if it was enchanting me.

No, that was not a Katana... The thing Mr.Large pulled out in an instant was a large broadsword. Although I did strengthen myself, I cannot over-stress my body. And it was when I wanted to face his attack, I was attacked with a vicious chill down my back. Immediately, I did a huge jump back.

“Your lord. Ah, your lord. You are a summoned beast.”

I just barely managed to respond slowly. I cannot show my anxiety.

The floor I was standing on was beautifully and splendidly cut. There was no noise, as though he was slicing through the floor like tofu.

It would be dangerous to not avoid that sharp-freaky slash.

Unknown to Mr.Large, a huge amount of sweat was dripping down my back.

What was this? Really, what was thiiiiiss?!

“Hm. You avoided it.”

Please don't say it as if you were saying 'Ah, good morning.' And don't brandish your sword about in a gleeful manner! The body of Mr.Large who was swinging that large broadsword around was impressive. In addition, the floor was being cut like a swiss cheese.

“What if I did not avoid that sharp sword? Don't you think that's unfair?”

I tried saying that with a casually smiling face but that was really dangerous.

I really think that was a foul.

As Mr.Large chased after me while attacking, one part of my multi-tasking brain caught a figure jumping out from underneath the cracked floor.

“《二段ジャンプ》!”

[TN: Nidan Jump, 2 step jump]

As I jumped to avoid the broadsword attack, I furthermore kicked the *sky* to propel myself higher as so to also avoid that shadow. I then stood at that height as I turned and faced the 2 of them.

“It might be a foul. Why? Because he is the legendary disaster, high-ranking magical beast, Demon.”

The person who flew out, said, as he grinned at me. As though he was sneering and ridiculing me.

“Welcome to my Hall of Shadows, William Beryl. Tonight, you shall have all the hospitality I can give. Since I had been in your *care*.”

And with that, 3 more shadows jumped out.

“I would like you not to underestimate us [Shadows].”

It was Zirco-san, Buu-san and Ivan-san, who lost the shine in their eyes.

———I do know how to deal with it though!

“《ジルコさんの隷属の首輪解除》 《プースさんとイワンさんのも解除》 !で、
《3人に結界をかけたげて》!”

[TN: 《Zirco-san no Reizoku no kubiwa kaijo》 , Release Zirco’s collar of slavery. 《Buu-san to Ivan-san no mo kaijo》 , Release Buu and Ivan’s too. De, and. 《Sannin ni kekkai wo kaketagete》 Expand a barrier around the 3 of them. Phew.]

Therefore, I activated my magic with a long chant that I hadn't been using for so long. If I were to explain in terms of temperature, it was like the warmth of the sun as mana spread and wrapped around the 3.

At the very same time as I activated my magic, the 3, whom leaped up towards me, lost their strength and started losing speed. They then fell towards the floor but no worries, my barrier was there to protect~ them!

“Wh, what?!”

I ignored the [Shadow] standing in front of me as he muttered a line that those 3rd-rated villain part usually says. Rather, Mr.Large, the Demon, who sneaked up on me behind without a sound, was far scarier.

Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

As I screamed in my heart while I flew forward in a bid to escape. Then did a somersault.

No time to joke around.

This time, the attack came from the Shadow-Guy, who was aiming for his opportunity all these while. Furthermore, I could see that his sword was smeared with poison. Unscrupulous! How unscrupulous! Poison on top of a pincer attack?!! What was this, how scary! Really scary!

《鎌鼬》

[TN: Kamaitachi, Razor wind, not the yokai. This time.]

I activated it chantlessly towards the one I was facing. I released the invisible blades of wind towards the ‘Dangerous Target’, ah no, I mean the Demon.

But.

“Break!”

You got to be kidd~ing.

The wind was slashed apart from the Demon's swing of his broadsword. Don't you find that weird? Stuff like air and wind was like the representative for stuff that can't be cut!

I had enough.

But I will try my best and shoot another one in desperation.

《虚無の刃》

[TN: Kyomu no Yaiba. The blade of void]

I hated this magic because it was bathed in Chyuunibyō. The attribute-less crescent-shaped pitch-black blade that did not produce any light but instead simply, very eerily absorbed, strike at Demon.

Attribute-less.

This was a blade that totally ignored the laws of physics. A blade that doesn't exist cannot be cut!

“Break!”

Yep, it happened.

This person cut it easily just liked that. Plus he did that by simply thrusting his sword at it.

Trying to escape from the large broadsword, I sidestepped to the left, only for the sword, that was swung down half-way, to change its direction towards me.

Thanks to that, I got stuck at doing a weird loopy-somersault-like jump in order to avoid it. Furthermore, in the midst of jumping, the Shadow-guy flicked his wrist at me and a dozen of small daggers flew towards me. I wondered if I should call those flying weapons or hidden weapons? It's kind of those where assassins in fantasy often used. I was very sure those were all smeared with poison.

Desperate, I deflected all the daggers with my sword. You know, the me right now was enhanced with accelerated thinking speed. What was with these people? Unbelievable.

“Zirco-san! Really, that! What's?! That?!”

I slashed and deflected the fluid attacks at me by the broadsword before managing to barely avoid the slash by Shadow-guy after noticing his attack through a gap. I knew the attack would come sooner or later but to really see it happening was a little surreal.

Then, Zirco-san, who was laying flat on the ground, raised his voice.

“High ranking magical beast – Demon. It was known to be the origin of disaster and its existence was said to be sealed a long time ago, even before Hattuo was founded and all details are unknown!”

《水の刃》 [TN: Mizu no Yaiba, Blade of Water]

《火矢》 [TN: Kasen, Fire Arrow]

《ぬーりーかーべー》 [TN: Nurikabe, Invisible wall, another yokai, google it]

Che, it was useless.

I shot magic after magic but as expected, it was all cut down.

“But that sword though. A sword that could cut through anything, even god. It likens as a [God Slaying Sword]. There was a legend about how it was really used to slay a god.”

The Shadow-guy then interrupted Zirco-san,

“Destruction Devil, was what it is called.”

He shrugged with a face that found it all amusing before pointing to my back.

“Demon, cut ‘that’ down.”

The finger was pointed at, it went without saying, the 3 of them.

.....What a really freaking unscrupulous bastard.

CHAPTER 83

I WILL NOT RECOGNIZE IT AS THE DESTRUCTION DEVIL

The direction Shadow-guy was pointing at was, of course, the place where the 3 of them were laying flat on the ground, covered by my barrier.

If Zirco-san's words were true, that [God Slaying Sword] Demon was using could cut through anything. This was going to be really problematic.

The barrier I set up would most likely be cut down easily. All the attributes, Fire, Water, Earth, Wind, and even Void, which didn't even exist got cut/destroyed with that broadsword.

I can escape, but what about the 3 of them?

It went without saying for Ivan-san but I had experience with the aftermath of being bound by the [Collar Of Slavery]. They won't be able to move for a while.

If that Shadow-guy knew about it and that I would release the collars and planned all this in advance, I would admit that he was clever. As one would expect from an underworld specialist. His cunningness was unparalleled.

"Stop fooling around, you bastard!"

"I am not fooling around. Sorry for this late introduction. My name is not 'bastard' but Spinel, the chief of [Shadows]. Please to meet you."

《無》

[TN: Mu. Nothing or Void I guess.]

I cannot do nothing. Everything will end if I do! As he seemed like he was about to launch into a villainous laughter, I had enough time to set up a huge ball of nothingness behind Spinel's back.

Even the so-called Destruction Devil knew that if his summoner died, he would disappear as well so he dashed towards the ball of nothingness excitedly.

Making use of that gap, I rushed over to the 3.

[God Slaying Sword].

A name that was overflowing with chunibyō-ness. As it was the extremely foul aspect of being able to cut anything. And that sword was fast approaching me. The slow-motion world became even slower. I thought I heard screams coming from behind me.

Able to cut anything. I felt like I heard that somewhere before.

[TN: Duh. Every LN ever made?]

I couldn't help but laughed even at this timing. Well, I do not think I can avoid this. In that case.

“《こんにやく召喚》!”

[TN: Konnyaku Shokan. Summon Konnyaku, a food that has 0 calories.]

I summoned a huge Konnyaku to appear in front of me. I apologize to the otherworld factory or supermarket or any family that I stole this from.

As I stared hard, so hard that I could burn a hole, at the slowly swinging sword, something shocking happened.

[TN: The slowness was the slow-motion thingy.]

The edge of the blade touched the Konnyaku. It sank in a little and then..... Boing went the weird elasticity of the Konnyaku and the sword was bounced clean off.

“Viva Konnyaku...!”

It seemed like Konnyaku can't be cut in this world as well.

It was my win.

“Destruction Devil? Stop joking. Destruction in front of creation doesn't mean a thing!

I will never recognize some chap who can only cut things to be the ‘Destruction Devil’. You are at most a ‘battle mania’.”

I sneered at Demon, who had a bewildered expression on his face, still holding onto his ‘bounced’ broadsword.

“《花瓶召喚》!”

[TN: Kabin Shokan. Summon Vase. Ooooh, someone gonna die.]

I summoned Matilda-san’s vase and dropped it above Demon’s head.

Directly at the crown.

“Besides, the ‘god’ you speak of is an unreasonable being. For example, making a vase drop out of the sky.”

Demon collapsed. Then he dissolved into black smog that dispersed into the air.

“Please do not talk about god. That topic irritates me.”

Behind me with my smiling face, I am sure you can see an aura in the shape of John-sensei. That was how angry I actually was. I then turned to Spinel directly and let out my mana.

...Ah, how stupid I was. Won’t that end instantly?

“Spinel-san. This is the face of me being merciful.”

Spinel fainted just like that, with a stunned expressions stuck on his face. Well, I was rather evil in the end.



First you tie Spinel up with magic~♪

Just a little, and a little more, increase the gravity and extract the mana~♪

And ta-dah, Spinel-scroll is done~♪

I tied Spinel up in an easy-to-understand way those children programs often used. I had extracted all of his mana and bound him up with my magic so even if he woke up, there was nothing he could do. Plus I increased the gravity hold on him too. There was no way he could move. Not even I could move.

Buu-san, who as lying right beside, was making a face as if he stepped on a bug..... no, as if he bit on that bug. Was it just my imagination? I want it to be.

“That... was rather unbearable.”

It was my imagination that he said that with a miserable face. Yep.

Anyway, I was happy that this trip, to chase after [Shadow], was over.

To tell the truth, I was shocked at how fast this case was settled. At this speed, it was like I devised this whole thing before bringing the case to the ‘detective agency’. I couldn’t help but had these kind of doubts.

Having said that, I can’t stay in Hattuo for a vacation either. Because we were here to do a job. We can’t delay the report.

I wanted to go for a bit of sight-seeing but... there was no choice. Let’s come back for a vacation the next time.

Well, for now, I transported the 3 at once, who can’t move because of the backlash from the [Collar of Slavery]. Of course, Spinel too. And when the scene changed to the bed in room of the inn I was staying.

“Wi... Willlll-dono?! This place is?!”

“Wi-Willia-chan?!”

Although I was neither Willlll or Wi-Willia, I resigned myself to it. It was normal for them to be confused. I was sure if I was in their shoes, I would be so shocked that my hiccups wouldn’t stop. Although I was not hiccuping right now.

But, then.

“Aaaaaahhhhhhaaaaaaeeeeeeeeiiiiiiiiiooooooooouuuuuuuu!”

Stop shaking me!

I can't explain like this even if I want to!

“Stop it!”

I shook off their hands and jumped. In the air, I then pulled out my paper fan from my pendent.

“Gwah!”

“Uwah!”

Yosh, they calmed down. I waved my hand in front of their eyes and their line of vision followed it.

Hm, they looked fine... I think... maybe? Yep.

“Do you need an explanation?”

“” Isn't it obvious?! “”

I shrank back from the perfect harmony from the both of them... not. I stared in mute amazement as I regained my composure.

“Erm..... You should know that I am the eldest son of the Duke of Elzmu Country, Gion Beryl, right?”

“Wait a minute. That was real?”

I didn't expect I would pause at this stage.

Ivan-san asked, his eyes wondering about desperately.

“Yes.”

“I thought it was a gh... ghost.”

At Ivan-san's words, my eyes turns into dots.

This was really a bolt out of the blue.

“.....Ghost?”

I can't help but parrot his words.

"Yea. I thought it was a Noble ghost called Will that was possessing Willia-chan."

".....That's not it. Both inner and outer are all Will, you know? 100% man. If you want I can strip, no, please let me strip."

Zirco-san put a stop to the me who was desperately trying to prove myself and erased the shame.

Whoa, whoa.

"I am sorry, I went a little out of control there."

"No... no problem."

"The proof that I am not a ghost... Oh right. 《悪霊退散》!"

[TN: Akurei Taisan, Banish, Oh Evil spirits!]

White flames raised up at my chant and licked my body. The bed remained unburned. Although this spell was from the Fire attribute, it was a flame that deal with spirits, like ghosts, zombies and undead. The laws of nature?

No no. This is a magical world that is full of fantasy, you know?

Ah, correction.

This is a fantasy world full of magic. Don't be bothered about it too much. In laymen terms, it was something like the Holy Fire. [TN: Fox Fire in japanese]

I felt a little sorry for surprising Ivan-san but this was the only way I could prove that I was not possessed by a ghost.

"Is this okay?"

"Wh, what is this?"

"Magic. A fire magic that banishes ghosts. It's the magic you want the guild to cast on Will-dono."

I nodded and it looked like Ivan-san finally understood.

"Eh. Then then then Willia... Will-sama is really a noble?"

To grind it into him, whose eyes were pleading me to say it wasn't true, I nodded sternly.



“And, by the way, I can use magic of all attribute!”

Perfect timing, yay!

I announced with a wink.

“Is... that..... true...”

“.....Tee hee♪”

Zirco-san simply fell back and fainted.

Hm.

It was lucky we were on my bed.

CHAPTER 84

AWARENESS & DETERMINATION

Looking at the fainted Zirco-san, Buu-san and I smiled wryly at each other. As for Ivan-san, he was crouching down and, for some reason, sobbing.....

What was this chaos?

In the end, everything ended without me explaining anything even if I wanted to when I first teleported them into my room.

Did I mess up the order of what I was to explain?

No, or can I say it can't be helped?

There was nothing much I could do. It was not my fault.

Since there was no other choice, I summarized everything with Buu-san, the only one still sane. Since we had to report this chain of accidents to the King, there was no harm in making sure we were on the same page.

“The root of [Shadows] were, as expected, in Hattuo.”

I said as Buu-san nodded.

“I am convinced since this is a human supremacy country as well.”

That's right.

We should have suspected Hattuo from the start when we realized the 3 [Shadows] sent to kidnap me were Beastmen that were wearing [Collars of Slavery]. Or at least included them in the list of suspected masterminds.

Plus.....

“.....Are they fighting against themselves?”

“Might be. Since they attack Ivan-san in his uniform too.”

“.....No, it might be the [Shadows] trick.”

I said, changing my mind. If it was them, they wouldn't blink an eye at being sacrifice to jumble up the investigation of them being friend or foe. This was the conclusion I came to after seeing their methods of doing things.

Yeah, the mastermind was completely black.

".....Even so, the summoned beast. A mystery. It is obvious that Demon was way stronger than Spinel."

That's right.

According to the mana I felt, Demon's mana chill was a lot stronger than Spinel, who might have mana slightly higher than the norm. Plus, Spinel's attacks were a lot weaker than Demon's.

I had thought that since Demon was a battle mania, he might have followed Spinel if he was stronger than him but.....

Even if Spinel was concealing his mana inside him, something seemed wrong. Like, somehow...

"Like he was tired..."

That one sentence that accidentally got leaked out shocked Buu-san.

"Huh? What tired?"

"Ah, no. I thought Spinel's movement looked like he was very tired."

"Was it?"

"Eh, isn't it so? You did see how he moved right?"

Was I wrong in thinking he was conscious just now? Looking at my expressions, Buu-san's stunned expression changed.

"No no no no, he was moving at a speed that I already find it hard to follow!"

There was nothing I could say at that. Buu-san quickly changed the conversation after he saw how speechless I became.

"But, in that basement where the [Collar Of Slavery] is attached to me... There are a

lot of magical tools lining around. I wonder if there is any connection..."

"Is that true?!"

I said, hooking onto his words.

Damn it, damn it!

To have missed such important evidence... Why was I so impatient, idiot!

Panicking, I teleported back to the hall.



By morning, Zirco-san regained consciousness and even Ivan-san had enough time to recover from his shock and we began to head back to Elzmu with an additional member.

The floating me.

The nervous Ivan-san.

The staring Zirco-san.

Buu-san was assigned as the driver and it was a nice and relaxing trip back as long as one ignored a few things.



When we reached the royal palace, Father was waiting at the gates.

"----- Will."

That face, which always had a shining beautiful smile on it, was scarily emotionless and it stopped me in my tracks. I was a little relieved he was not shouting.

The sharp eyes, hiding all emotions, pierced through me. It let out an aura as if commanding me to 'Come here' but my cowardly legs refused to budge. As opposed to me panicking at my legs, which felt like they were glued onto the floor, Father was slowly making his way towards me.

"Do you know *why* I am angry?"

The flat voice came out low.

Even though we were outside, it seemed like a space that only contained the 2 of us.

“...Because I... went out... on my own.”

Even I was shocked at how much my voice trembled. Being stared straight on, I can't even avert my eyes. What am I, a frog?

It was really scary, seeing Father being angry for the 1st time.

Really scary.

It was like I was all alone. The face that I had become familiar with began to warp right in front of me. Like how I felt cold despite the warm and cheerful sun bearing down on me.

This was not like me. Even I knew that.

“That's not it..... Will.”

My face paled as I stared upwards at Father and all of a sudden, he hugged me. I had no resistance to the action which I usually struggled against, due to embarrassment. Rather, relief spread throughout my body and my eyes became hot.

.....How uncool.

“Father...”

“Why did you go?”

Happy at finally hearing some form of emotion from Father's vice, warmth spread throughout my cheeks.

“I... don't wish..... for anyone... to be... injured...”

“Right?... I was worried. This is not like you, what happened? You should know this. You are strong, even stronger than me.”

Father's voice sounded loud right beside my ear.

“.....But even so. I am really worried.”

A soft and gentle voice. Ahh, that’s right. I knew that. Father removed his arms and stood up. He sighed. He was my usual father.

“.....Hah, but you did great. As expected of my son.”

And when I wanted to say something, I found myself trembling like a newborn fawn as big drops of liquid starting tumbling out of my eyes. Father, who had averted his eyes like he was embarrassed, shifted it back at me.

“.....! Will?! What’s wrong?!”

Noisy.

There was nothing to be flustered about, Father.
I had vowed not to ever cry.

“Will, really, eh, are, are you hurt? Are you in pain?”

I am fine, idiot.

I strongly rubbed my ‘cold sweat’ away and rushed into Father’s arms.

“..... 《ありがとう》 .”

[TN: Arigatou. Come here too, you.]

Ah, there was no helping that what I was thinking had leaked out.
Leaving my stunned father aside, I ran into the gates at full speed.



It was the year when I turned 8.

It was when I was 8 that it seemed like I had a trauma without knowing it. Without knowing it, I had amused myself with other things, trying to hide it but... I had been afraid.

Something was snatched away from me when I was 8. Even if she did not care for me, she was still the most important thing to me. My mother. When I thought I had already

forgotten all about it, it dragged itself back up on its own.

That's right, this was not like me.

I forgot to look around me.

I had gone too far in not informing my family and getting permission from the King on my own to chase and destroy the fortress of the underworld, the group of [Shadows]. The pain I brought to my family was like I punched them flying while calling them stupid.

I had run off and raged on my own. Firstly, Hattuo was only a speculation, as well as the speculation that they were aiming for me. It was lucky I got it right this time but something bad might happen if it was wrong.

“Hahhh...”

I sighed reflexively.

In the end, it was all about my ego.

Thinking about not wanting to lose them too, thinking about wanting to protect them too. Thinking about how important they were to me too, how much I loved them too.

But all of them felt the same way as I did. Not only did I not realize that, I even went and created trouble/worries for them.

Damn it. How embarrassing.

.....To had drool from my eyes at the age of 25!

In the end, I still didn't know what was right or wrong but I had decided to, at least, pay attention to what was around me. I shall pay attention to those whom I hurt as well as those who hurt me.

If something similar ever happened once more, I wondered if I would make the same mistake again. At that time, let's discuss it with everyone.

At the very least, I had decided.

Although there were still some things I don't know, for now, I want to meet up with everyone.



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