

Tenseishichattayo!

# 転生しちゃったよ

いや、  
ごめん

ヘッドホン侍  
Headphonesamurai

4



**I'VE BEEN REINCARNATED**  
**(WELL, SORRY)**

*– Tenseishichatta Yo (Iya, Gomen) –*

**- Volume 4 -**

**UNRELENTING STUDENT**

**AUTHOR:**

**Headphone Samurai**

**ARTIST:**

**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 85

## HORROR OF THE FIRST DAY BACK

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Well, here I was. The Academy.

My body was trembling, all jello-ish. This was what they called 'trembling with excitement'. Of course it was. Now that the hindrance called [Shadows] was gone, I could finally and without reserve, enjoy my school life. This must be the way my body was telling me how it was looking forward to it as well.

Definitely not because I skipped the Beast Summoning lessons. It was not that, definitely not that.

Yep.

Nodding strongly to deeply convince myself of that, I put on a serious expression as I passed through the school gates.



The empty school grounds due to the early timing, felt mysterious. The air was humid, yet somehow chilly to the touch, causing goosebumps to appear on my skin.

As I continued walking down, the door to the White Dorm appeared in front of me. It felt slightly weird entering through the doors as I left through the ceiling the last time. Oh well, even I felt like retorting about that fact.

I wondered if everyone was still sleeping as the dorm was silent as well. In that stillness, my stomach announced the fact that it was hungry loudly. It resounded throughout the lobby. So embarrassing, it was lucky no one was present.

Yep.

“.....Wah, I am hungry.”

It was when I reflexively mumbled my thoughts out.

“What is that ‘Wah, I am hungry?’”

To hear a response despite not expecting one made me jumped up in surprise. I, I mean, you wouldn’t think there would be any students around this early in the morning, would you? Damn it, I totally had my guard down.

Besides, his presence was quite thin.

I would notice it if anyone was standing there. I *did* take lessons from Father. I learned to notice my surroundings.

But I did not notice him.

And it was at this ungodly hour.

My heart beating wildly, I timidly turned around and.....

“Good morning, Will. Did you have fun on the trip with Zirco?”

It was Calius-senpai.

Why?

My head was filled up with that question and I did not manage to process his question.

When I felt relieved upon seeing that it was Calius-senpai, he asked that. To tell the truth, my surprised-meter was going off the scales.

“Erm, who is Zirco?”

At the very least, I plastered a smile on my face and somehow managed to squeeze out a reply. And the amused Calius-senpai was expressionless.

“Oh my, Will. You sound so distant..... I said it right? That my hobby is observation.”

Ho ho ho, Calius-senpai laughed and walked off, leaving me alone, standing there, stunned.

What happened? Or rather, who was Calius-senpai?

It seemed like the mysterious feeling I felt when I first returned was true. Looking at the direction Calius-senpai left, a chill ran down my back.

Even with [Shadow] gone, it seemed like I will not be able to get a peaceful school life.



“...Will?! Where did you go?!”

I cannot bring myself to wake Zen up so I stayed at the lobby, staring blankly before Selphy, who woke up early, noticed and rushed over.

Hmm, I had always wondered that Selphy seemed to always be at the lobby, so she actually woke up this early. I did not know that since, thanks to Zen, had always arrived at the last moment.

Ah, even if I tried to escape from reality by thinking about these kind of stuff but reality was still here.

“.....Will?”

Which was, you see, Selphy’s eyes were burning. Burning with flames of anger.

“Wh, what is it, Selphy-san?”

I asked, looking at her. But once our eyes met, she averted her eyes with a huge force.

URGH!!

The depressing sound sounded in my heart after so long. Since she averted her eyes, let’s just compromise and accept it. It might be better to not stare into the eyes of someone angry anyway. Yep.

But, my currently enhanced hearing heard something I shouldn’t have.

“Don’t look at me with that face——!!”

Selphy softly yelled to herself.

“.....Selphy-san?”

Feeling uncomfortable at how she was back-facing me, I pretended not to hear that as I asked her timidly.

“...That’s right!!”

Selphy spun around, face flushed, exclaiming loudly. I jumped.

“Wah!”

Ah, so my voice could go that high.

This was the worst. I just came back and had already made a fool of myself. Although Selphy’s head was hanging down, her shoulders were trembling. She was definitely laughing. My cheeks went hot from the embarrassment. Damn it...

“Why, why did you go off without saying anything? Everyone is worried!”

It was nice of her, to ignore my yell. Trembling, I lifted my head up to her and opened my mouth.

Eh...?

My sight was filled with her as I looked at her.

“Wh, what is it?”

Even if Selphy was drawing back a bit, my emotions continued to gush forth, bit by bit.

“Thank you, Selphy.”

I was moved.

Most surely, my expression was one of the most embarrassing things to be seen at this moment.

This happiness I felt, from which she did not suspect that I was simply playing truant,

was immeasurable. It must be thanks to my usual conduct that made her worried for me instead.

What was this, what was this?

If it was like this, the 'trembling from excitement' thing this morning would be meaningless, wouldn't it?

As I nodded, filled with emotion, my world came crumbling around me.

"Oh, isn't this the rumored Will~! I heard all about it, you know. That Varino is going to give Beryl 'something' for missing his class."

Yuria-senpai said (mocked), laughing happily.

..... OMG.....

After that, I went into the cafeteria to grab breakfast and Zen walked in, with extremely bad bed-hair. Then, as expected, I was asked about what happened but I brushed it off with a vague explanation.

The operation this time was..... ah, it might not even be worthy to be called an 'operation'... But it was a secret mission given by the king. Even if Zen was my best friend, I could not possibly tell him.

And during this entire talk, I was not paying attention.

Because, because.

Varino-sensei is super scary.....!!!!

# CHAPTER 86

## CONFUSION & WANDERING

---

Zirco was bewildered.

After catching the chief of [Shadow], Zirco immediately headed towards Kesamu with Will to report everything that had happened the moment they were back in Elzmu. Spinel was brought along at that time and after Will went back, he wanted to discussing a few more things with Gion but... Spinel, who remained bound, had died without anyone knowing.

There shouldn't be anyone who entered this room. Was it possible for anyone to kill Spinel, who came rolling behind Zirco and Will, right in front both of them plus Kesamu?

Or did Spinel go and die on his own?

In that case, how did he do it.....

As confusion and questions swirled inside of him, the reality that Spinel had died right under his nose was not going anywhere. That's why, instead of bewilderment, he felt fatigue instead.

Even if he had wanted to lament about his stupid mistake, he still had no idea what caused it. There was no way to solve this thing without even knowing what the cause was. With that being left hanging, Zirco, despite still being emotionless, hastened his pace as he walked in the castle.

Although there was a chance that Will did something but that possibility was rather low, not to mention irrational. When Will left, Spinel was still alive. Even if he did something to kill Spinel after he left... It was not that he can't do it, but that there was no need for him to do it.

Which meant, if Will had been meaning to kill Spinel, he would not be alive in the first place. Spinel was the chief of [Shadow] and even summoned, using magical tools, a

Demon.

To have defeated and even come out victorious with that, there would only be praises and no one would be condemning him for wanting to kill Spinel. So if Will had been truly wanted to kill, he would have made use of the confusion and done it already.

In that case, the other possibilities would be...

There was no way it would be Kesamu. Absolutely not. Not towards Zirco's amazing master slash Wise King, with his well-known and perfect intellect and huge strength. He was not even being considered. The possibility of Zirco having killed Spinel unconsciously would had been higher.

Having thought till here, Zirco began to wonder about who having the advantages if Spinel was dead. Who? The most obvious one would be the shadows. To be caught alive by the enemy only meant interrogations. They knew they would be troubled if they were to reveal any information during interrogations, especially Spinel.

So he might choose to commit suicide instead. But it did not seem like he had regained consciousness... so how did he do it?

Argh, his thoughts just kept looping. Zirco was at his wit's end.

In this case, he could only wait for the results. Spinel's body was with the royal physician. Right now, various emotions were mixed inside him, causing a complex mood as Zirco waited for the autopsy report.



Surprisingly, a pavilion was erected boldly as Zirco's mansion located in the capital.

Ah no, it might not be that surprising. Other mansions in the capital had imitated it as well. White plaster was plastered over the assembled stones, giving it a very fashionable looking appearance. Looking a little like a building of a commoner who had gotten a wee bit rich.

Ah, but this mansion has a place for you to sneak into the main room through some of the roof tiles, or showing a hidden room if a certain handlebar was pulled, or exist a mysterious space in between the 1st and 2nd floor, looking like a typical Ninja

mansion. That being said, this mansion was the product of the previous head's hobbies.

The changes Zirco made was creating holes through the eyes of portraits to enable peeping.

Although Zirco had wanted to see how his son had been doing lately, unfortunately, these few days he was so busy that he was hardly at home. He had no idea what his house was like right now but it had only been a few weeks, nothing should have changed. No, he would be troubled if anything was changed.

Let's believe in his son. His son was still young and had a tendency to lose himself in the heat of the moment..... cold sweat started dripping down his back.

No, it was going to be okay. Even if it was that guy, Zirco believed he wouldn't go that far. Plus his son was living in the Academy dormitories. It's all okay.

If Will ever heard what Zirco was thinking, he would have shouted 'A flag had risen!!'.

Zirco continued walking down in big strides.

Let's returned to the topic. Despite being in the Ninja family, Zirco's family cannot use the last name of 'Ninja' and had been living like a commoner. It had been this case since Zirco had been enrolled into the Academy.

He had been very excited since the moment he was enrolled. It tickled his ninja heart and senses and began to truly take on the name given by the First Founder. The academy was a building that simulated the Ninja's family senses. He had often played around by diving under the ceilings. It was thanks to this that he could head right over to Will's room without losing his way.

After a long time, Zirco was walking towards his house. As he could not wear his ninja outfit out in the open, he was dressed in a normal navy blue robe that commoners wore.

It can't be helped that his steps were a bit heavy.

Spinel's case was pulling at him. After waiting for half a day, he still knew nothing. The report for Spinel's death, pinned up in the Intelligence department room in the castle, had written that Spinel had died because his body was too weak. In the end, nothing was known. Zirco regretted not having some knowledge in medical.

.....Should he start his studies again?

Zirco shook his head. A wide range of skills were needed to work as the leader of the Intelligence Corp. Him, who was far above in that aspect from others, knew where his line was. It would be hard to increase it, even for him. He would also like to refrain from bothering John, whom he knew since academy days, to teach him too. Having on only just return, Zirco was already exhausted.

Not physically, but mentally.

Yes, that trip was the reason for this state Zirco was in.



“Proceed to the Empire of Hattuo. This is an imperial order.”

Will, John and Buhual. After a discussion with the members gathered for the sake of bringing down the [Shadows], Alcumedes appeared in front of the room and requested for Zirco, who then headed towards the Throne Room with questions filling his head and having that sentence thrown at him all of a sudden.

“.....As you command, Your Majesty.”

But Zirco answered without hesitation. This response was paired with a special pose of the Ninja Family, kneeling with one knee up, with the head hanging down.

It was the usual.

Zirco felt like sighing. Despite him not having made his report, Kesamu, his majesty, had given a response like he had already heard about it all. Kesamu could seem to hear everything that was spoken in the castle.

He had no idea how it was done. Even for such a sensitive person like Zirco, nothing

could be felt. Recently, Zirco started wondering if the castle was a huge magic tool on its own. Or there must have been a magic tool like wire tap.

In any case, First Founder Elzmu that built this castle was a man full of mystery.

The magic tool that was the door to the King's private chambers, the one hidden behind the throne. Anything that caught the eye was all brought by the First Founder. One theory was that all the magic tools in Elzmu, like the mana measuring crystal ball that everyone would encounter once in their life, was (almost)all brought by the First Founder.

The magic level in Elzmu that had risen instantly was all thanks to him. Before that, magic was being referred as a miracle that only a portion of Nobles and privileged people could use.

All the events, the culture of education and the governing system. It was only 200 years ago that everyone could go to school, even commoners, good public order, patriotic feeling and praise for the country as well as the abilities to defend against magic beasts using magic and knowledge. The expenses must have been great at the starting.

There were too many to count what Elzmu had established.

The secret history book that was handed down within the Ninja family had written about countless magnificent things that Elzmu had done. But, it was also written that the person himself, was from an unknown origin and was wrapped in mysteries.

The first head of Ninja Family had written that 'that person' had appeared in the middle of the [Demon Forest] all of a sudden. Even for the fiercely loyal Zirco, it was hard for him to believe that.

That kind of person. It wouldn't be weird for him to have wiretap the entire castle.

The King's private chambers was a mysterious area where even the Intelligence Corp was not allowed in. In there must be many magical tools that even Zirco had not seen before. Anyway, even if that was true, it would not mean a thing.

Zirco had nothing to hide towards the respected Kesamu. Just that, it would greatly help the Intelligence Corp if they were to own such a tool as well.

“.....And thus, Will-dono, former [Shadow] Buhual-dono, I ask for your participation for this highly secret mission.”

Zirco conveyed the order to the 3, who were waiting in John’s research lab.

“Understood. Then I’ll return to the dorm to prepare.”

No sooner had Will said that, he disappeared into the ceiling. Zirco, who was surprised by the skills Will showed in everything, wanted to chide himself to stop being so surprised every time, otherwise, his body would not hold out. He would have to resign himself to it. Now, another victim who had his common sense smashed to pieces increased.

『There’s no choice since it’s Will』

A chant that breaks and destroys everything.

The last time, he was shocked into silence by how adult-like Will’s tone of speaking as well as his intellect. Then how he managed to use the Intelligence Corp special magic. Then by how he could casually use huge mana-taxing magic like it was nothing.

It was because his parent was Gion, the leader of the Knights.

Chantless was nothing unusual.

That mana pool was there even before Zirco knew Will from the Abi’s incident.

And there was nothing he could say when he heard that Will smashed the mana measurement tool into pieces.

“” ..... ””

What was left was 3 people who had a face that couldn’t say anything, looking at the ceiling. Just forgive them for having that expression because it really can’t be helped.

“.....I’ll be heading towards the merchant guild to inform Bibinyaru. But that guy is also a former shadow so please give me a break if he realizes something... Don’t tell me he would be dragged in because he is a former shadow as well...”

Buhual's tone dropped in the middle of his sentence, sounding slightly depressed. Looking at this, Zirco smiled wryly.

“No. It was known that the B-grade gourmet food is so popular that White Knights are needed to control the long snaking queues. If the shop is to close, besides all the chaos, people would begin to suspect something is wrong. The King would like that Bibinyaru-dono, as tiring as it is, would stay here and continue your business.”

At the same time, Zirco felt like praising ‘As expected of Kesamu-sama!’, as his chest grew with pride, being a part of Ninja Family who adores the King.

“.....Zirco is the same as usual, I see.”

Looking at the proud Zirco, John could only smiled wryly.

# CHAPTER 87

## ORDINARY DAYS

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Falling into the worst mood I would ever have, my breakfast time was over miserably and lesson time drew near.

I knew there was no meaning in resisting at this point of time but my body was just somehow trying to resist it. It seemed like my face was ghastly pale. According to Zen, who was poking fun at me.

.....Argh, don't play around with your senior!

Ah, it's alright. I am an adult and a gentleman. I shall forgive this trifling matter.

“.....sigh...”

A limp smile played on my face as I was dragged along by Zen and Selphy. I wondered what made them this desperate to get me to class. Was my presence that thin in their hearts? Were they going to offer me up as a sacrifice? Onii-san was going to cry.

.....Haiz. Let's just accept it. I was scared. The lesson of the 2nd period, no, to be more precise, I am shaking in terror that was very unbecoming of my age when facing Varino-Sensei. I don't care if you scold me 'uncool'.

I was not going to deny.

During the moment I was thinking about these stuff, the classroom was slowly drawing closer.

.....Really, I felt that it's weird. What had I done to Varino-sensei? Nothing! The reason I was hated by him was all because of Father. What exactly did Father do to be hated *that* much by the gentle Varino-sensei?

Hm, yep. I need to get an answer out of Father.

I can't accept being push to the edge without knowing what the reason was.

And thus, we reached. The classroom.

.....hm?

Was I imagining that everyone's gaze looking over was awfully frightening?

"...Will, you *will* be attending lessons today, right?"

Turning around, Zen was glaring fiercely at me as he said that.

.....Un.

I can't say it but..... that gaze hurt.



Well well everyone, I had kept you waiting..... no one was waiting! Not even a little!

It was the time for the smart and gentle Varino-sensei's fun fun lesson(blizzard)!

.....Un, let's stop. It was futile to put all of my energy into flattering Varino-sensei within my heart.

As my mind was continuing rambling, the door to the classroom opened. And from the other side, long and slender legs could be seen...

".....William..... Beryl!"

".....Uwah?!?"

Letting out a foolish cry, I stood up by reflex. Because I can't help it! For some reason, the temperature right now was freezing cold, as if we were all plunged into a frozen wonderland. I had a feeling that if my butt continued to stay on my seat, it would be stuck frozen there.

"...tsk."

Ehhhhhhh—Did Varino-sensei just click his tongue?! It's my imagination right?! It was my imagination!!

"I wanted to ask time and time again why did you skip my lesson..."

See, he started preaching like nothing happened.

“To not attend my summoning lesson seriously in the first place is not just about the question of what the rules are, do you not understand? Firstly, your safety. Even if you did summon the beast, it is still a magical beast. There is no way that is not dangerous. Second, the influence on your surroundings. If the summoned beast did not obey your commands, you are not the only one being troubled by that. Do you not understand? The people around you are being dragged into your problems as well. You already had a history of destroying the classroom, have you not.....”



Yes, I was totally wring dry.

When Varino-sensei reluctantly started his lessons, the bell rang.

Was that okay, I wonder. As an educator.

And finally, after great pains, the long day was over as we made our way back towards our dormitory.

“.....Really Will! Never ever miss a lesson again!..... What is that, really? To go traveling on a whim.”

The one with that sharp tone was Selphy-san.

I had no choice, did I? I cannot explain because it was a top secret mission given by the King himself so I made up an excuse on the spot towards the freezing Varino-sensei! Tee hee.

Of course, that made things worst... no, at this stage, it was like injecting salt into ice to further freeze it... Maybe that might be the reason why the lecture time was dragged out. Even so, I did not do it! No, although I did skip the lesson! This, I did commit! But it was not like I did it cause I wanted to... ah, who was I kidding, I stuck my neck into that matter.

“Hahhh..... Sorry... I won't anymore...”

My shoulders drooped as I hung my head down.

“It's good you understand. The days you are not around are really dreadful for the rest of us, you know. If you even skip lessons again, you would be facing the entire class!”

“I am sorry, really. I won’t do it again.”

Yep. There was no way I can lift a hand against them.

And when I decided on that.

“...un... ir...”

I think I heard someone mumbling something behind so I turned back.

“Hm? Zen, did you say anything?”

Zen, who was walking with his head down, lifted his head at my voice and shook his head, smiling.

“Eh? I said nothing.”

“Hm..... I see. Is it just me?”

I tilted my head as I continued walking.

I was pretty sure I heard something... ah! Could it be... ghosts?! Or was it that? That ‘legendary’ huge snake that kills whenever your eyes meet its? I wonder it was slithering around in the pipes right now.

.....Yep, let’s stop this reference.

How scary, various stuff.

Or rather, in this world, Basilisk very normally exists. Its existence might be closer to that of Shiro’s. Not only that, magical beast’s ghost as well as spirits were normally around the forest or at the grave sites.

To hide the tiny trembles my body was doing, I started skipping.

“By, by the way, what was the lessons like when I am gone?”

“You mean Varino-sensei’s?”

I changed the subject in a haste and Selphy responded.

“Yep. If the next lesson is another lecture, I don’t think I would be able to stand it. That’s why I’m asking.”

“...Ah, it’s just normal lessons that Will most probably already knew.”

Selphy said enviously, a bitter smile playing on her lips.

“The last lesson was about determining the intention of sorts of the summoned beasts”

“You meant the will of the summoned beasts? Ah, I see. Hmm... So it means talking and coming in contact with your summoned beasts?”

I said as I made fun of Selphy with her unclear speech. If that was the case, I should be alright. During my *travels*, I summoned Shiro numerous times so there should be no problem regarding our communication!

“Yep, yep, that. Lilith-chan and I became quite close during that lesson. It was really fun.”

Realizing it, Selphy was glaring at me again.

...Right now, everything that was related to Varino-sensei seemed to be a taboo subject. As I sighed inwardly, I tried to change the subject again.

“.....Come to think of it, I had not met Selphy’s summoned beast..... Lilith-chan? What species is she?”

“A bird called Aska.”

“I see, Aska.....”

Let me explain. Aska is a bird-type magical beast, the size of a small Pterodactyl of which it could grow from. Knights would ride on it and it was used in scouting mission and was very popular with both adventurers and knights! A gradation of aquamarine to a greenish-brown spreads from its head till its tail so it had the perfect camouflage color to fly above a forest! It is also well-versed in wind magic, being not only able to record sounds, but even creating its own sound insulation.

But that’s not all!

The following point is the important part.

Aska loved the wind so much that it just glided in the air, like how fishes swam in the ocean. That was why, its other name is Tobutori. [TN: Flying Bird]

.....Wasn’t it just Hichou?! [TN: Flying Bird. Don’t ask me but I think birds are supposed to fly.]

Was what I retorted when I first came to know about Aska.

As I recalled that in my mind, I hold onto the topic that I managed to change at great length.

“.....Aska’s color is aquamarine and a greenish-brown, just like Selphy, who has a beautiful head of yellow-green hair. The both of you are quite a perfect match.”

I forced a wide smile as I said that but Selphy immediately turned her head away. Was I really that hard to look at?

Thank to that, Selphy stayed silent and I had no idea what to do. Even the ever-reliable Zen was silent.

In the end, the rest of the journey was spent in silence.

## CHAPTER 88

### I DON'T UNDERSTAND

---

After parting with Selphy at the stairs, Zen and I headed towards our room. However, an awkward silence hung around the room as Zen remained silent.

...Really awkward.

“Erm..... Zen?”

I timidly tried talking to Zen who, upon entering the room, took a seat in front of his table and stayed there. Could it be that I angered him without even knowing by saying something wrong?

Unease filled my heart.

I was not boasting, but I really was quite scared right now. During these few years, how many times had I scolded Chiffon thickheaded? I was not a sensitive person, so I had no idea why Zen was angry right now...

“.....”

Zen said nothing.

Glancing at Zen, I swallowed my sigh back in. His face was sullen as he kept his mouth shut. I couldn't see what expression Zen was making as he sat at his table, head hanging down, but I was sure it must be an angry one.

“.....Zen, did I do something wrong?”

Unable to stand the silence any longer, I opened my mouth, attempting to talk again. Zen's shoulders jumped in surprised, then he lifted his head up.

“.....Sorry, I was daydreaming... did not hear you.”

Zen said. I was really astonished at that.

“Ah no, it's okay.”

I did not anger him right...? It would be unbearable if I were to fight with a friend and lose him without even knowing the reason. No matter what, Zen was my first friend of the same generation.

.....It was a bit sad that I only made a friend at 8 years old but this had nothing to do with it. Anyway, it's the best if Zen was not angry with me.

.....Even so, I wondered if I missed something.

I stole a glance at Zen, who had a frown on his face and sighing, and I decided to leave the room for now.

"I have something to do so I will be going out for a bit."

"Ah, sure..... Take care."



"Ah, Will. What's wrong?"

With something hanging over me, I approached the lobby and Selphy was there. Behind her was the Holy Mother, Maria-san.

"Hm, just something."

I replied Selphy as I gave a greeting towards Maria-san. Since my previous life, I always had trouble with 2 girls and above. Groups were scary. Those true feelings that were rarely seen would easily rear its head within the comfort of a group. Mass psychology was indeed scary.

Ah, in my case, I get easily flustered just by talking to girls.

.....Hm, since I am a gentleman and not a pervert who get flustered by talking to girls, it should be alright. I am not turning into those kind of guys who stay silent because they are nervous either. This was called Dandy-ism. Not staying silent nor taciturn. Dandy-ism sounded like that but it was totally another thing altogether. Which was why, I was on the cool side of that 'silent' part.

I was not boasting, but my experience with girls was amount to nothing. It was to the point that it could be called as having a phobia of women. Once, I questioned my

sexuality that I wanted to..... Hm, how futile. This was all in my past (life), and besides, I was only 8 years old. But at the way I behaved towards girls right now, it must mean how deep this had been carved into my soul.

...How empty.

“I am thinking of going out for a bit.”

I shook my head to clear all the useless thoughts, informed Selphy and Maria before leaving the place quickly.



“And, how have you been? What can I do for you?”

I murmured after leaving the gate. No one could be seen around me... no no no, I was not a pitiful person who left my friend alone to speak to a make-believe one.

“Hm, Will-dono is as sharp as ever.”

Zirco-san appeared behind me. Even though he was dressed as a commoner, it couldn't hide the charm he was giving off. Damn it, Ikemen just explode! I had more than enough mana (Maryoku) but I was seriously lacking in a man's charm (miriyoku). It was just 1 word difference but it was enough to sink a man into depression. Words could be violent, I finally understood that now.

Zirco-san shrugged, as expressionless as ever but somehow, he was giving off an aura of uneasiness. The wind magic that hides a presence, as expected of Elzmu's number one Ninja... no, Intelligence Corp leader, was somehow not working today as his mana leaked out from the ceiling, as if telling me something was wrong... Or rather, leaking it on purpose in order to lure me out.

“Are we going to talk here?”

Not rejecting my question by instead, showed an affirmation aura as Zirco-san turned his gaze towards me. He nodded lightly and stood in front of me.

“It is just a ratty old place but would you mind coming over to my house? I have tea.”

I see, so this would be a long talk.

“.....Sigh...”

A small sigh slipped out of my mouth. This sounded like that. That pattern where I would miss my curfew.

...It would be nice if they could set up a system. In case I broke any school rules for undergoing missions from the country. Students caught in between a rock (Elzmu) and a hard place (school) would be really troubled.

Well, I was the only student in that situation though.

Oh well, I put my neck into this incident of my own accord so I could only blame myself. If my neck was out, I had to make sure my butt was there as well. This was what they meant by responsibility. Regarding this case, I would just have to accept all the punishment that came with it.



Zirco-san's house, which meant a Ninja house! My heart jumped at that. My anticipation rose as we walked towards his house in the Capital. But it was an unrealistic dream.

“.....This is kind of..... normal.”

My shoulders drooped as Zirco-san gave a wryly smile.

“What is Will-dono expecting? I did say that the house was built in the capital.”

“A house that is concealed in the woods or something... No, I knew that. It's just this is...”

I forced myself to stop. I knew that reality was going to be different from my expectation, I knew that. But I mean, a Ninja house, A NINJA HOUSE. Didn't that just make you think there was something more to it? The Hall of Shadows was quite impressive.

“Well, there is nothing much here but...”

Zirco-san opened the door before stepping to the left to allow me in. I nodded and

stepped forward.

“I will be intruding.”

But at least make the doors a sliding one. I thought as I passed through the door. This must be that, the inside must be filled with all kinds of mechanism. Like hidden doors, pitfalls, revolving doors, falling ceilings and stuff like that.

...Eh, I would be dead by then.

I smiled wryly to myself as the streets of Elzmu were bathed in the warm evening lights.



“Well, where should I start...”

For Zirco-san, a rare frown was seen on his face as he mumbled. That emotionless face must have an effect of anti-aging. People who laughed often developed crow’s lines that, together with laugh lines, create a smiling face. Those emotionless expression must be Zirco-san thinking ‘I would be troubled if wrinkles starts to appear~’. Ikemen too, had their share of trouble about maintaining their looks.

Zirco-san took out red tea, which again, caused a strong out-of-place feeling, as I sipped on it.

“...Firstly, it is about the tools we recovered but we are having trouble with the examination. It might be because the only one working on them is John so it can’t be helped that it would be slow.”

I had expected that to some extent.

On that night, I did rush back in a panic to collect all the magical tools left in the Hall of Shadows but to tell the truth, I had forgotten all about them. It once again reminded me of how I was not paying attention to my surroundings. Or did I lessen my vigilance because the fight with Spinel was over? No matter, I was regretting and reflecting on this. How could I only remember the existence of those tools when I reached the capital?

Stupid. Really dumb.

But, thanks to being able to read magic circles due to it being Kanji, I handed the tools over directly to the research lab, bypassing any question the King or Zirco had. I did not want to reveal that I could read and understand the magic language to them. No, I am not planning to reveal it in the future too. No matter how chummy I was with them, they would always put their position before them. They would want me to work for the country if they knew.

Which was why I simply passed it to John-sensei instead. There was a sense of security if it was him.

Then, Zirco-san let out a bomb.

“And, unfortunately, I have something bad to report.”

I gulped.

“.....Spinel is dead.”

# CHAPTER 89

## MAGIC TOOLS & MAGIC CIRCLES, CHANTS TOO

### (JOHN'S POV)

---

Magic is a profound and deeply interesting subject.

It can protect people, it can hurt people. It can increase our numbers, yet it can also decrease it.

Right now, magic is overflowing in our everyday life and even a snotty-nosed brat can produce a fire from his fingers. Just 200 years ago, magic was only deemed usable by certain chosen individuals and all magicians were held in high regards. What would they think if they could see us now?

Such convenience was magic. Once people knew of the convenience magic brought to them, they began to want more. And the research for those convenient magic, chants as well as magic circle, started.

And I was one of them.

There were numerous researchers who spent months and years on research but there were hardly any development.

The reason for that was firstly, the chants and the circles. Both had not been completely understood. Or rather, we had more questions than answers. Like the symbols, the shapes.

Although we had somewhat a breakthrough for the symbols, I still did not fully understand what meaning those lines carry, or the placement of where the points were placed. Even for the same magic, the way of reading the chants and the circles were different.

And from there, various theories were formed.

One of the theory was that 'magic' is natural, like how humans are humans, how the world is just like that. There are no reason behind it, it just exists, it just works like that.

Another theory was, chants were speech and circles were words. Magic is the result of a set of instructions from the world.

I was a scholar studying and focusing on the latter. It had not been proven, but a certain degree of regularity had been confirmed in the chants, and although the grammar was slightly different, it would be easier to think of it as a language. In addition, chantless casting existed in this world. Which meant, it would be more logical to think chants and circles as an indication of support, or a command to magic.

And as such, there were many royal scholars who were researching according to this 'Magic Language' theory.

It was a bit too fast to say that the 'Nature' theory was obsolete but speaking of researchers, it couldn't be helped that they would follow the one that they could actually research on.

Ah, let's just put aside the theories about chants and circles.

There was a serious reason for the lack of development of the research.

-----The problem of mana capacity.

It was when a new magic was being tried out. There was no way to avoid spending huge amount of mana when the image and the chant of the caster were not in sync. Under normal circumstances, a high amount of mana would be required. There were many times where magic could not even be invoked.

The caster would lose conscious as their mana was drained out before the magic even invoked. If the magic was forced to invoke, the caster would end up totally drained.

Which was why, apart from the researchers, technicians who created magical tools were all putting their life on the line as they worked. That was why it was naturally understood that high mana and education were needed for the jobs.

And that's the reason the research on magic hardly advanced.

“.....And what are you doing?”

I sighed and looked at Will, who was here for some reason. He jumped in surprise, as I thought, and looked at me. That was his reaction every time he came here recently. I do hope he forgives me. As he was so similar to me, I found myself teasing him before I knew it.

But it looked like the reason for visiting this time was different. He always had on a timid expression every time he came but today, he had on a quiet expression as his shoulders drooped. Ah, no matter, I was sure he did not come here all the way just to fool around. Here was the research lab, where state secrets flew around, way deep in the castle.

“.....Sensei... I, had done it.”

From what I could see, his eyes were slightly wet. According to Will, his eyes were ‘drooling’ as he totally denied his sadness. He was stubbornly refusing to admit it but, Will was crying. I had unconsciously forgotten about it but he was only 8.

Did he have a painful experience from school? I usually see him as a friend of the same age, but 8 years old is still 8 years old.

...Plus, his wet eyes enhanced his angelic looks and I somehow felt like I did something wrong to him. I had to comfort him somehow or the other.

Bu, but, I didn’t have any experience in dealing with kids so I had no idea what to do. There was a running gag in a novel I read somewhere... I think.

Thinking of stuff that was very out-of-character, I opened my mouth.

“So you finally did it. Where and who did you kill?”

I blew it.

This was not even a gag. It was a totally black joke. I really blew it, I thought as I regretted it, looking at Will with a bitter smile.

“No, wait a minute, John-sensei. What kind of impression do you have of me?... to the extent of using that out-of-character joke... Sorry. Thank you very much. You are taking

care of me, aren't you?"

Ah, it worked somehow.

Although there were the 'out-of-character' unlikable words mixed in there, at least the atmosphere of which 'mushroom could start growing' was gone. But, after Will said his thanks and gave a small nod, the raised face was free of sadness but instead a serious expression was on it.

"...I will show you the magic tools I recovered from the Hall of Shadows."

Saying that, Will met my eyes.

Silence went on for a while.

My facial muscles stiffened involuntarily.

I knew this look.

.....Yes, this was Gion-sama's look. It was the sharp look Gion-sama had on when he had important jobs as the leader of the Knights. And this 8 year old kid in front of me was making the same face. His future was unthinkable.

Really. I want to praise my judgement, and thank the stars that I am able to become this person's sensei. I wonder how many times was it that I had given thanks to god? At least, I knew it had increased all at once since 5 years ago.

# CHAPTER 90

## THE SHADOW'S MAGIC TOOLS & THE MAGIC LANGUAGE

---

".....Please show me the tools from the Hall of Shadows."

I said to John-sensei nervously but he gave a consenting look at me.

"...True, you might know something since you're Will."

John-sensei then injected mana into a lock on top of a chest. Click, cluck noises sounded as it sprang open. John-sensei then thrust his arm deep into it.

"There. Though it's not supposed to be shown to others."

Say that, John-sensei looked at me with eyes like I was his master, holding a bowl.

A bowl of 'food'.

I stared at him with slightly reproachful eyes but thinking about it, of course he would show that kind of eyes. It was because even for all the researchers working in Elzmu's castle, they might not even come up with 1 new spell in this lifetime. Which was why these kind of new magical tools were valuable to them.

The tool handed over was shaped like a birdcage and had a magic stone embedded in the place where the bird was supposed to be. I opened the cage door and took out the stone, revealing the magic circle underneath.

".....eh?"

Simulating mana increase...?

Looking at the dumbfounded me, John-sensei asked with a serious look on his face.

"Will, do you know the meaning of this circle?"

Usually he would hide his interest well but regarding this, oh how John-sensei had fallen.

“Yes. The carved circle had a magic to mimic an increase in mana.”

“I see..... The reason why the chief of Shadows had summoned beasts of higher mana than him following him was...”

“Because of this tool, which gathered mana from the surroundings and forcefully pushed it into the user.”

Silence.

Unintentionally, both of us looked at each other in silence. This was the only way one could increase their mana pool. It was not impossible, but very very very difficult to do.

“This...”

John-sensei groaned, stunned.

“I think Spinel’s death was caused by this...”

As the truth was too shocking, I went into a daze. I rushed over, worrying if Spinel’s death was because of me but it was not so.

To summon Demon, Spinel’s body was being used/eaten up. Even I did nothing, he would die anyway. Rather, it could be said that thanks to me draining his mana, he managed to live a little while longer.

“.....ha...”

A small sigh of relief leaked out.

I was quite heartless, wasn’t I?

I would never know what pushed him to do this, even disregarding his life, but knowing that he *did* it, gave me the chills.

Even though everyone would die sooner or later.

I was relieved. I didn’t know if it’s a good or a bad thing, but I was not a kid, overflowing

with a sense of ‘justice’, who thought that all evil must be defeated as I knew that the world was not as simple. People didn’t usually produce a bright smile when they killed off an enemy like those of a superhero show.

...But I wondered if I was as cold-hearted for feeling relief.

“I am relieved.”

As all of that was going through my mind, John-sensei said that, folding his arms.

“Relieved...?”

I mumbled reflexively and was directed a gentle smile.

“Yes. As there is no need to worry about the threat [Shadows] posed any longer... Actually, I was worried if that [Shadow] was feigning death.”

John-sensei’s words struck straight through me. The complex and complicated feelings melted away.

I see.

Rather than being angry at the [Shadows], I was in fear of them. I did not see the body itself, that was why I had a lingering fear inside me.

Even so, what tenacity.

In this case, it might be easier to understand if I were to compare it to salt. It is already in our bodies ——— let’s ignore the fact that different people have different mana pool ——— it is alright to consume an appropriate amount but, using this tool, it was like drinking the entire bottle of soy sauce. When salt was overconsumption, salt levels for places other than the cells were raised, and in order to maintain the equilibrium, water would be extracted from the cells and dehydration would happen. Well, it was a bit different for mana but this comparison, to me, seemed to be the closest.

To have a huge amount of mana forced into one’s body, the existing mana inside the body would be turned into a mess, causing the body to break down. The mana needed to summon Demon was forced into the body all at once so the body could not even resist.

With this, I finally understood Spinel’s death.

So that was why Spinel looked tired and his movements were a little sluggish during our fight at the Hall of Shadows. Rather, I felt admiration for him, for being able to move till that extent despite everything. But for the body to be eaten to that extent... was pretty disgusting.

Instinctively, I shivered and hugged my shoulders as my eyes met with John-sensei, who had a frown on.

“.....John-sensei, what is the matter?”

Sensei snapped his head up when he heard my question. Then, as though having made a decision, he turned and faced me.

“Will, can I ask something?”

“Yes?”

“Chants and circles, they are a language, aren't they?”

To the nervous me, the question was a simple one. Since that day I came clean about my magic to John-sensei, I had been dodging this question. And now, I had a feeling I could no longer avoid it.

“.....”

To the me who lapsed into silence, John-sensei said nothing as he continued to look at me. I could just say no. There were no doubt or suspicion in that pair of eyes that were looking at me, John-sensei must have already known it.

If he were to know about it...

Was I only worrying about myself? If you were to ask me if I trust John-sensei, I would say that he was the one I trusted the most, so there was no way he would use it to abuse that information right?

The most he would use it for the sake of the country, but even I knew that was just me looking for an excuse.

Right now, facing that question straight on, all I felt was an obscure sense of fear. No matter how I mocked myself for being stupid, I still felt it. I knew that I could just

change, or admit my weakness, but even if I knew it in my head, I couldn't help how I felt.

How stupid.

To think I even preached at Chiffon.

In the end, I ran. I continued to avoid my eyes.

Even if I have to accept it even if I cannot overcome it.

I started laughing softly at the ridiculousness. I had asked to retain my former memories for the experience I had as so not to be hated in this life, and yet now I was attempting to avoid these experiences... Wasn't I stupid?

Now, I couldn't help but started thinking. About the reason why I was reborn into this world.

Questions started arising. I knew there were no meaning to it by now and I did sometimes think that gramps was a fool.....

But still.

The reason I was reborn into this world was of god's (gramps) will. Even if it was because a vase fell accidentally, and I was here because this just so happened to be the world gramps was in-charge of.

Yet such a trivial incident gave me a sense of relief every time I thought back to it. It gave me a strong and definite significance of why I existed.

It was sometime I did not have in my previous life.

The parents that accepted me.

Not for what I can do, but for *me*.

I came to know that there were a boundary line between others and me because I was keeping a secret. I was finally able to recognize it.

"That's right, John-sensei."

But I can't help but think.

Why was it this world.

Why was it this world where all chants and circles were in Japanese, and even the First Founder was a Japanese.

There was way too much coincidence.

I had to wonder if I was secretly blessed by that invisible gramps.

And in that manner, my thoughts flew to a different place.

"I thought so, Will."

"Eh?!"

The moment John-sensei spoke, I landed back in reality in a snap.

"What's the matter?"

My heart thumped as I stared in amazement at him. But, it too, blew all of my complex thoughts away.

"Not, nothing..... Why did you think that?"

Pulling myself together, I faced Sensei.

"The reason not being able to produce a new magic tool was because we had no idea if magic was a language or not."

At this, I finally understood why John-sensei asked me that question now.

"But, more than that."

John-Sensei face grew serious.

"If magic were to invoke without even knowing the effect, an extremely large amount of mana was required. Usually it wouldn't even activate, and if forcefully activated, it would totally drained the caster's mana and killed them."

With a snap, John-sensei's sharp eyes looked at me.

“We have no way of knowing if these tools were passed down from generations to generations within the [Shadows] or if it was created just for this incident's summoning.”

Sensei took a breather, before continuing.

“If it was newly created, the number of victims (guinea pigs) will be unfathomable... A one-man team will not be able to do it.”

# CHAPTER 91

## WHAT AM I DEPRESSED FOR?

---

It was when Will was at John's laboratory.

Zen had a rare gloomy expression as he sat at his table. Books that were taken out from the desk drawers were sprawled on top of the desk for a long time now.

".....It's useless....."

Muttering that to himself, Zen stood up.

That's right, he didn't understand. For the skipping of grades exam, he had borrowed a book from the library but he was far from understanding what it wrote.

To Zen, who was aiming to skip grades, this was a matter of life and death.

———When Will was first gone, he faced no problems. But, as early as the 2nd day, problems that he did not understand appeared and as he continued reading, those problems just kept accumulating. Finally, he didn't even feel like opening the book any longer.

It had not even been a week.

To Zen, rather than not understanding the book, the truth scared him more. Ah, but he still was troubled over the fact that he couldn't understand it.

Before he knew it, he had totally relied on Will.

And now, Zen had realized that.

Right now, the only 'official' request from Zen to Will was only the study session held every Saturday. Which was why, when Will 'disappeared', leaving only a note saying 'I am playing truant', he felt a tiny bit offended and did not even think that he would have problems with his studies. He thought since he was not being taught by Will all that much, he must have understood those questions on his own.

But no.

And it was proven by Will's absurd 'playing truant' stunt.

Thinking back, Will and Zen were often 'talking' in their room. Zen did not remember having asked the answer to questions or asking Will to teach him but no, that was what happened. Will was supporting Zen without him realizing it.

Zen wouldn't lie that it was not vexing. But, he also knew Will was an out-of-the-norm existence.

And right now, Zen's head was filled with questions that were most likely to appear from the [Skipping of Grades Exams] in July. No matter what, he had to pass that exam but there was no way he could solve those questions. At 1 month before the exam, which was now, he finally realized that he was actually not that great at studying.

"This is terrible..."

Zen muttered as he hugged his head.



As the validation of the magic tool was over, I left John-sensei and teleported to the Hall of Shadows.

I came here once before when I was anxious about Spinel's death but this time, I was just making sure. It was difficult to think that people living in the city were observing my every move every second, but, just in case. It would be unnatural to see someone who had not even come out of the house to walk back in.

I was, however, slightly worried about my future for being over-dependent on this really convenient magic.

I was not wrong, was I? If there was not even the need to walk, the physical strength of my legs would decrease. It was unexpectedly important to build up the foundation of one's body when they were young. The health of a person who did exercise when they were young and those who did not, were going to be totally different when they grew old. Those without exercise would find it hard to even walk fast, and their immunity would be weak which caused them to fall sick easily. For the worst case, they would become bedridden once they reach their retirement age. That might be going a little too far... anyway, one must not make light of the shortage of exercising. It was

something to be feared. Eh, but since this world did not have a lifetime employment system, there would be no retirement age to speak of.

.....Or rather, forget about that!..... What was I saying? Ah, that's right.

Teleport.

Let's keep this magic as my trump card.

Only an idiot would flaunt their trump card. Well, although there existed a strategy of showing it off in order to pressure the opponent and I aimed to use this strategy wisely.

But, it didn't mean to show all of my trump card. It all depended on the place, purpose and judgement. Here, was not where I should show my teleport. I shall be the one to judge when and where to use it.

Because I was not an idiot!

.....Un, I... was not, right?

It must be just the wind blowing that I misheard as that I did quite a number of idiotic stuff in Hattuo.

Mah, there were no choice in regard to this case.

I was not supposed to do anything.

But it was an urgent matter... A kid went to the royal castle and was commanded by a scholar working there... requested, before driven away you know?

Ah, it might also be a little rude to just teleport away right in front of Zirco-san without saying anything...! Tee hee! Will did it~!

...I was really sorry, I was totally in the wrong.

Calm down.

Let's add this to this year's resolution. Reflection.

"I am really sorry!!!"

And thus, the me who lowered my head right after I teleported again.



Ah, I somewhat managed to cover it all over and after explaining the magic tool to Zirco-san, he had on a dumbfounded as well as a relief expression as I imagined.

“So that’s it...”

Zirco-san said, looking at the ceiling as he nodded, before a wryly smile came back.

“But, I thought my heart would stop when Will-dono disappeared all of a sudden.”

“.....That is... I am really sorry about that.”

I lowered my head, which induced more wryly smiles.

“.....Really a person who lacks common sense.”

The small mutter by Zirco-san was, unfortunately, heard by my sharp ears.

.....Really, I was really sorry for that. Lacking in calmness and being impolite, this William, had already deeply reflected on it so please forgive me! Yay!

Ah, I should not be fooling around.

I was reflecting on it but right now, I was facing a serious problem. It was time for my curfew.

“By the way, Zirco-san. I am really sorry but...”

I looked down at my watch and Zirco-san seemed to catch the drift.

“It is already this time... Ah, come to think of it, Will-dono is only 8...”

To the muttering Zirco-san, I slowly stood up.

Well, I was too... in a completely off-mode right now.

Standing up, I stepped forward and all of a sudden, the floor I was stepping on gave a click as it registered my foot. Before I knew it, I fell into a dark place.

“.....Where, is this?”

Somehow managing to land safely, I looked around me and sighed.

—————There was really no need to raise a flag here at all!!

If Zirco-san was not standing above me with a panicked face, I would have cried.

# CHAPTER 92

## AFTER THE FALL

---

What I could see was only darkness.

Unseen falling through the revolving floor that flipped suddenly, the sight that awaited me down below was this.

“.....Will-dono—! Are you okay—?!”

Having heard a desperate voice calling from above, I put aside my bewilderment and replied.

“———I’m okay! I’m alright! It looks like I had fallen into a very dark place.”

Well, I was caught surprised and lost to gravity but I did have a thing called Magic.

“Well then, I’m going to te-”

...eleport... Was what I was about to say when a weird noise sounded up ahead. And when I was about to venture into the darkness to investigate by reflex, Zirco-san’s rare shouting voice reached my ears.

“I am coming to rescue you now!”

After which, a heavy scrapping sound was heard on top and, surprise surprise, a fairy (Zirco-san) that was wrapped in wind descended.

Master! You came from the sky..... Hm. Nothing. Let’s give it up.  
I was so surprised that I almost sprouted a certain person’s lines.  
.....Why did you come down, Zirco-san?!

“Oh dear, I came down on impulse.”

Said the Ninja-san with a beautiful emotionless face. At least say that with a wry smile or something!

It will destroy your reputation of an Intelligence Corp to not even know what traps your house has! Was what I wanted to say but.....

He gave off a straight-laced Ninja feel when we first met but this person was actually quite out there. I could finally understand John-sensei's questionable face when he said, before our journey, Zirco-san most probably had common sense. To begin with, I should know that this person was not normal since he was John-sensei's friend. It was best not to get involved with him.

He was, in some ways, very ninja-like.

For the sake of my master—! He would do all sorts of things while saying that. His loyalty was first-class. I would definitely accomplish my mission! Something like that? Yep.

“I don't care anymore...”

You would have to forgive me for this attitude. I just can't help it.

“.....I came because I was interested in the traps this mansion had as well.”

“Ooh! Is that true!”

He seemed to be impressed. With an emotionless face as usual. It was like I was being recognized for my usefulness. I was not unwilling in helping the owner to uncover the mysteries of his house.

Mah, I would be lying if I said I was not excited.

I then cast a light magic, which illuminated the darkness, showing a cave-like tunnel.

The secret passage underneath the revolving door in a Ninja mansion...!

This just added on to my excitement! It was like a maze! Was I going to explore a dungeon?!

I would not be called a Japanese if my excitement was not this high.

And so, let's us continue on! Let's go!

The dimly lit tunnel, by magic, continued on. Sometimes, the moaning of the wind made me jumped. Even so, this sight made me really excited.

“.....Hm?”

What will awaited me at the end of this tunnel? It was when I continued walking. Something was making a noise ahead of the unlit part of the tunnel. And when I used magic to search, I felt something moving.

<<暗視>>

[TN: Anshi, Night vision]

When I secretly chantlessly cast it, I could see a human figure. His height was about 150~160cm I think. Hm? I should have used this in the first place? You totally don't understand, do you? There will be no excitement in that! What for did you think I broke my curfew to explore this?!

For the adventure!

Since I specially came to another world. Anyone would yearn after this kind of adventure. Plus, a ninja mansion coupled with a secret tunnel, it was like a dream come true! Was there any other way than to explore it?

Seeing Zirco-san stopped his feet, he noticed it too.

Looking at each other, we nodded, before stealthy walking. Ninja stealthy walking... how authentic. My excitement was high to the point that pointless stuff was running through my brain. I shall ignore the voice that said I was always thinking of useless stuff like that.

Furthermore, a stone-paved ceiling could be seen up ahead. Eh, could it be, this was buried a building? Uoooohhhhhhhh! Awesome!!

With my excitement at max levels, I activated my magic chantlessly.

<<現在位置検索>> !

[TN: Genzai Ichi Kensaku, Search current location]

A map appeared in my brain with the name of the building on top was shown.

“.....The academy?”

I mumbled, stunned, as the person on the other side came into the light.

“...Eh...?”

To think it was the school that laid ahead. Then-----

“Oh, you found it, Zirco-san.”

“You---! What are you doing here?! And don’t call me Zirco-san! Didn’t you always call me Father?! ” [TN: Chi chi ue, direct translation would be oh great father.]

“What, you say, just remodeling?... Ah, but it’s embarrassing. To talk like that now is quite embarrassing, isn’t it? Zirco-san (.....), it really shows a lack of common sense to talk like this in this period of time.”

“This way of speaking is the correct way as passed down through our lineage. Besides---”

“.....it was bestowed by the First Founder?”

“That tone of yours! Not only that! This speech is fitting for both a ninja and the leader of the Intelligence Corp! It is a kind of speech which carried power and might! And you! What are you doing, speaking in that foolish way and complaining, you are the one with the lack of common sense for even making a trap in the guest room!”

I don’t think I was in the wrong for my jaw dropping open. I mean, the tunnel that was under the trap floor was linked with the school. not only that, Calius-senpai was standing at the end of it, and the default emotionless Zirco-san was red in the face, engaging in a shouting match with him. Anyone would had their jaw hanging open.

“But that kind of speech is lost as time goes by, isn’t it? Is there any meaning in using it then?”

“.....Kkuu.”

“Plus, you know, who do you think the one who was taking care of the house when Father was not around? Even Mother said it. To say all this despite the fact you are always not at home.”

[TN: Calius is using the normal way of saying father, Oto-san]

“Kkuuu!”

Zirco-san’s character was collapsing.

“Erm..... sorry for breaking in the middle...?”

Chaos was spreading with Zirco-san hugging his head as he mumbled while Calius-senpai was watching happily. And as I spoke up timidly, the both of them looked at me. I was suddenly pierced with the glance of 4 eyeballs.

Uuuhhh.....

So alike. Weren’t they super alike, these 2?

Why did I not notice it earlier?

The me who was surprised by Calius-senpai’s background... it’s useless. It was to the extent where even his own parent didn’t know.

From the emotionless pair, a question mark could be seen pointed at me.

“Ah... erm..... Calius-senpai..... this here is?”

Somehow, I lost my ability to make a normal sentence. I can’t help it. Anyone would lose it when they were being stared at by those emotionless eyes. 2 pairs of them.

Calius-senpai looked proud at my question.

“A secret passageway. Just when I was taking a stroll under the floor, I found this tunnel which led back to our guest room. Convenient isn’t it, to be able to come back to the academy any time?”

Oi, wait a minute. Convenient? Sure, but why the hell did this tunnel even exist in the first place?! Or rather, what did you mean by talking a stroll underneath the floor?! Was it somewhere you can casually take a stroll to?! Under the floor??!!

.....There was too many things to retort to.

Urgh, I cannot lose here.

The conversation couldn’t continue. I was betting my curfew on this. I should swallow all of my retorts and maintain my pace.

I somehow put on poker-face, before returning my gaze to Calius-senpai.

“.....It sure is. I’m envious. And, Zirco-san over there.”

It sounded like I was reading lines but it can’t be helped. I’m not the wrong one here. Zirco-san, who was crouching down, lifted his head at my call. He had a miserable face on.

“What’s the lost speech of the Ninja family’s?”

Zirco-san opened his mouth somewhat timidly.

“The Ninja family was bestowed a way of speaking from the First Founder. But the 2nd generation rejected it, causing it to be lost.....”

Calius-senpai continued on.

“It started with a ‘Go’ and ended with ‘Ru’ but as it was lost, Zirco-san tried his darrest to match at least the last word, which ended up in him ending his words with ‘de aru’. It’s embarrassing, isn’t it?”

Calius-senpai shrugged and my mouth dropped open once again.

.....That was certainly ‘de gozaru’!!

# CHAPTER 93

## CALIUS-SENPAI

---

Thanks to the secret tunnel that led all the way back to the academy, I managed to avoid breaking curfew. I was not that bold and shameless as to break the school rules just after resolving to abide by them yesterday.

“So you *did* go with Father, didn’t you?”

Calius-senpai said as he hummed happily. But that sentence.

“.....Ah, seems so. I am actually quite flustered when I heard that you knew about it.”

“Ha ha ha ha, it was kinda fun seeing you flustered~”

I said, while sighing as I tried to complain to Calius-senpai who was in a good mood, but to think it raised his good mood further up.

What was with this person? Being with him was tiring.

Or rather, to go ‘Ha ha ha ha’ with that emotionless face was kinda scary.

Within this short period, I finally caught glimpse of why Yuria-senpai was so afraid of him.

“Saying that, I thought ‘Ah, he must have received a secret mission from the King.’ when I saw Father leaving the house happily and right after, I heard that you played truant. Considering your personality, you don’t look like someone who does that so when I start thinking of reasons that prevents a Duke’s son from speaking out, I came to the conclusion that the 2 of you must be on a secret mission or something.”

.....Zirco-sannnnnnnn...!!

How can you?! You were seen through easily by your son despite not saying anything! All information were totally leaked! What happened to being the leader of the Intelligence Corp?!

I hit my forehead unintentionally and Calius-senpai smiled wryly, looking at my grim

face.

“One of the weaknesses my Father, as an intelligence corp, has was that his emotions showed on his face too easily.”

.....True.

At first, I was awed by how ninja-like Zirco-san was with his emotionless face to prevent his feelings from being read but as I got to know him more, somehow, even with his emotionless face, I knew what he was feeling. Maybe it was the aura around him. Anyhow, I could read his emotions.

Calius-senpai was nodding every other second beside me.

“Haaaaaaahhhh.....”

I was tired. Somehow I was super tired.

I sighed, as I jumped from a wall to another.

By the way, I was in the ceiling right now. I climbed up using the stone wall and the place I arrived at was the ceiling. Or inside of it. Was it above?

The conversation we had was as we moved in the ceiling, soundlessly, and by concealing our voices. We were so ninja-like.

I think it was above the route from the classroom to our dormitory. Headmaster should know this.

.....He did, didn't he?

Ahh, if he did, I wish he could keep it like this. Since this secret tunnel looked to be created intentionally, it must have been the First Founder who did it. How cool. I was pretty sure it would not become his black history when he grew older.

Ah, no matter.

It was a man's dream. Not dim. Dream.

[TN: In Japanese, romance (roman), chestnut (maron), romance (roman).]

To have a secret tunnel within the academy's ceiling. What a nice dream-like ring it has to it. I pray this will survive to the end of time.

“Come to think of it, does Senpai use this route often?”

I asked casually and Calius-senpai tilted his head, thinking about it.

“I wonder which you meant... hmm... I do use this when it’s the school from home, I guess? About once per week. Because that house was filled with traps so it’s impossible for Mother to clean it.”

“Sounds tiring. It’s quite a big house, isn’t it?”

Hmm—, did it mean that Calius-senpai cleaned the entire house by himself? That was really something. Senpai was only lower acad 3, in previous world terms, he was only a grade 6 student when he had to clean an entire mansion!

As expected of a Ninja.

“You understand~? Thanks to that, I am troubled that my wind magic and my cleaning skills got really good~. Ah, having skills without relying on magic is not a bad thing though~”

Ah, I see. He had magic to help him. But, using magic to clean... wouldn’t he cause a flood if he got to into it or something? Walking brooms sounded like what a certain mouse would do..... No no no no no.

Skills being raised... could this be a hidden training routine to train the grasshoppers of Ninja House? It was scary how it sounded plausible.

...Hm?

As I laughed at my imagination, something nudged at me. What did Calius-senpai say just now?

“I wonder which you meant”

He said that, didn’t he? Which meant, apart from using it to travel between his house and the academy, he was using it to travel to other places as well, wasn’t it?

Timidly, I turned to Calius-senpai and tilted my head.

“Erm, which, you said.....”

“Ah! Yes, yes, that’s because my hobby is observation~”

Eh?

“Ah, don’t worry~ I don’t have any weird sexual desires so of course I will not enter the rooms or any private spaces. Just the classrooms, corridors, lobbies and the back of the teacher’s office~”

Eh eh?

“Ah, but I saw how Will got lost around the school when you first enrolled in~ Fu fu fu fu.”

Eh eh eh eh eh?!?!?!?

Wait, what was this person saying?! Even if he was using that cute face of his to smile at me, I couldn’t smile. What forte was that? Training for the Intelligence corp? Did he say anything regarding that?

“Ah, it’s just training for my future. But still, the number 1 reason is because it’s fun.”

Kyaaaa! Don’t say that with an emotionless face! It’s scary!  
Hm? Wait a minute. Did he say that he saw how I was lost?

“Lo... lost?”

I asked, slightly panicking and this time, Calius-senpai showed a complacent smile.

“Yep yep. Observation sure is fun~”

Ah, Yuria-senpai, I am really sorry.  
This onii-san just understood your feelings.



I was finally here.

“Hahh.....”

Descending onto the lobby of our dormitory, my shoulders slumped as I gave a deep sigh. Calius-senpai, who gracefully jumped down, looked at me and smiled.

“Are you okay?”

No way I am. I was tired from this and that, plus the shocking truth about Calius-senpai... especially my mental strength. Well, I couldn't really say all of that so I hesitated a little.

And Calius-senpai mistook that as some information I could not reveal as a weird aura leaked out from him.

“I want to get into the Intelligence Corp soon too... Will is so lucky.”

Oh, it turned into that. I panicked a little in front of the down-hearted Calius-senpai. I looked low acad 1 and Calius-senpai low acad 3 but my inner age was around 30. I should not let a younger child get depressed just because I was tired from some useless matter.

This was bad. Panicking, I tried to correct Calius-senpai as I opened my mouth.

“No, it is not like I can't speak about it, it's that-”

It's nothing, but the words got stuck in my throat once again and my meaning got mistaken. Again.

“Ah, I understand. Then, why don't you come to my room? Senpai will listen to your troubles! At this time, Kiro will most likely be in the cafeteria so there is no one in now. Yep.”

Calius-senpai's hair swished as he started walking ahead happily.



Yep. This is William Beryl, who was currently in Calius-senpai's room to discuss about my troubles yet had none, William Beryl.

I could not lie, as it would most likely come back to me.

The setup in Calius-senpai's room was the same as ours, the only difference was the bookshelf at one side of the room was totally empty. I stared at the empty bookshelf involuntarily and Calius-senpai smiled wryly, pulling up a chair.

“It is as you thought, that's Kiro's side.”

He did not betray my expectations.

As the chair was pulled out for me, I had to take a seat. After doing that, Calius-senpai took a seat opposite of me.

“And? What's up?”

What should I do?

Being stared by Calius-senpai, I tried to keep a poker face as cold sweat dripped down my back. I had nothing, what should I do? Let's just dig something up.

.....The things I was troubled with lately... Hmm... Ah, that's it. This might be perfect.

Looking straight at Calius-senpai, I swallowed, before opening my mouth.

“That... Zen was behaving weirdly when I came back. I don't remember doing anything wrong and Zen himself said it was nothing when I asked but his attitude was obviously different from before...”

I was truly troubled over this matter. This was not the reason I hesitated previously but it was still a trouble. Plus, I could hit 2 birds with 1 stone by cheering up Calius-senpai and discussing it with someone at the same time. It was not like I was expecting an advice, just by listening to it was enough.

...Although, for an adult to be discussing his troubles with a child... don't mind, don't mind. Wait, no. No matter who will only see me as an 8 year old child! Safe!

And, when I was not expecting an answer, something surprising happened.

“Ah~ I see! That's why you wanted to discuss with me~”

He looked happy as he nodded at me. Hmm, minus the fact that I still didn't really

know him well enough to discuss it with him, why did he think that?

“You must have asked because you knew I was observing right?”

.....Ah, that’s why.

Putting aside the fact if that was legal or not, he did have an advantage to offer.

I gave a tiny nod and Calius-senpai turned serious.

“If it’s that, I do have an idea.”

You do?!

The retort I had reflexively was swallowed down. As expected of the next-head-in-line of the Ninja House. I cannot make light of the information he has.

“He had an increasingly sullen face as he visited the library every day. I guess he must have problems with his studies? Maybe he felt a sense of crisis when he found out that he couldn’t solve the problems by himself when Will was not around, I think.”

.....Everyone, we had a genius detective here, like a certain someone.

# CHAPTER 94

## THE MAGIC TOOL SHOP AND DYLAN

---

Magic tools.

Throughout history, it was known as the miracle that could make impossible into possible. After engraving the detailed magic circle onto it and setting a mana stone, you could blow life into it. It was a dream-like existence, as long as you keep the mana stones going, one could even overcome the wall of being bound by your attribute.

Well then, let's ignore that last paragraph, which advertised the excellence of magic tools, you noticed the word 'magic' in front. Of course, that meant that normal tools apart from 'magic tools' exist too.

If only magic tools exist in this world, then they would simply be called 'tools' instead.

Well, let me apply the example of the tools we had on earth. Those that obey the laws of physics. Cars that ran on gas were called normally as cars but when the new breed which uses electric instead, appeared, they were branded as 'Electric Cars'. If cars were being called as 'cars that follow the laws of physics', you could think if there were any other kind. Like what? Telekinesis cars?... Which was why that kind of naming would cause confusion.

In the first place, just about 200 years ago, magic was deemed to be something only doable by Nobles. For the commoners, they would hardly be able to live without any sorts of tools. Of course, those that can be used without magic.

Presently, most of the commoners in Hattuo spend much of their lives without even encountering magic. To them, the only tools they know were of the non-magical kinds.

### Dylan Magical Tool Shop

It was a building made out of stone, and had a thick-set wooden door. If not without the signboard stating it's name, you wouldn't even noticed it was a shop. For it looked

just like any other house.

In the first place, it was not situated in a place for business. In other words, this was a residential area. If they really wanted to do business, they would have never chosen this kind of place.

By the looks of how their goods were arranged haphazardly, it just gave off a feeling of not wanting to do business. Anyway, the only person working was the owner, who was deep inside the shop, working on his craftsmanship. That might be the reason why he did not feel like serving customers.

And this Dylan Magical Tool Shop was at the west of Elzmu, just next to the Iiza River, at a street governed by Sociunov house. It was as though fate was playing a trick, as the next head would be Mi but...

The owner, who was working silently, raised his head up.

".....I wonder what's happening with Zen..."

Yes, this magic tool shop was Zen's house.



".....no-san... Bruno-san!"

Having heard a voice, the owner snapped his head up. It was already evening.

He then stood up redundantly, for it was a voice he was familiar with. Brushing aside the pieces of metal piling up all around him, he finally made his way to the counter.

"Oh, so it's Ruby."

"What oh! How many times do you think I called you?! At least be slightly embarrassed about it!"

Raising her slanted eyes at him, was dark-skinned white-fluffy ears cat beastman. It was a girl at the peak of her youth around 20.

"Ah, I am very sorry."

“Why did you say that as though you’re reading lines?! And badly to-!”

She said that as her tail and ears stood up straight, her entire body trembling as she retorted before biting her own tongue. She stood there quietly, embarrassed, her entire face red. And, without minding Rudy, Bruno opened his mouth.

“And, what’s up?”

Ruby looked at him, amazed.

“You really did forget about it... I give up! Although I have lots to say to you, if I did the day is really going to end...”

She said but it was just an excuse in case she bit her tongue or stumbled over her words again.

“Today’s the collection date for the goods, which is why I’m here! Really! No matter how I called, you just won’t come out!”

“...Ha ha ha, really? Ah sorry sorry, I forgot.”

Ruby clenched her fist, trying to endure how Bruno said that without a shred of remorse.

“That’s nyan you should should be nyanarrassed about it!!!”

And, as expected, she still stumbled over it.



When I returned to my room, Zen was still sitting at his table with a gloomy face. It looked quite bad as not even one book was opened on his desk.

He did not seem to notice me, who entered the room quietly.

“What should I do... Will Father be okay...”

He looked at the ceiling with an unreadable face.

His father, was it? Hmm. According to Calius-senpai, Zen seem to be worrying over not

being able to catch up with his studies... Could it be that there was some troubles with his family which was why he wanted to skipped grades so he could returned home soon?

...I can't see it from his usual attitude but he was bearing some pretty heavy stuff, wasn't he?

When it come to this situation, I had no idea what to do. You might be asking what am I talking about as a 25 year old but really, I had never met this kind of situation before. Saying that, I felt slightly depressed.

Ha ha ha, that's because I had always been alone... Zen was my first friend since coming into this world too. What was this? Why was I becoming sadder?

I did had someone I could call a friend when I went into High school but that guy was someone who don't worry over things. Ah, that might be just an excuse.

No matter, until now, Zen did not tell me anything. I don't want to think that I was not being rely on... but it was the truth. He do trust and rely on me to a certain extend but in this case, even if he did tell me, I doubt I could do anything and it might not be a something that can be told to others.

Then, what should I do?

Stuck in my thoughts, I stood there in a daze in front of the door, a behavior very unbecoming of my age.

And it was when I was troubled over how I should raise this topic up with Zen.

Guuuuuuuuuuuuuu!!

"Ah. Welcome home, Will."

".....!"

Taking his disappointing owner's place, his stomach growled loudly.

Of course, I went red.

Suppressing my embarrassment as much as I could, I lifted my head up and looked at Zen. My growling stomach had given me a great chance. I can't let this chance slipped away. I will never lose to my embarrassment!

Clenching my fists, I opened my mouth.

"Erm, Zen? Are you okay?"

"Wha...?"

"You said something about your father just now... Sorry, I overheard."

I explained to the confused Zen. As it sounded like I as eavesdropping, I apologized just in case.

At my answer, Zen laughed awkwardly.

"Ah, it's nothing big though?"

And so, Zen began talking.



"...Erm, so the main point is that Zen's father is bad in everything else other than making magic tools?"

"Un. I'm really worried how long the shop can last."

Zen sighed, as his shoulders slumped. In the end, the only thing I could do was to pat him on the back.

# CHAPTER 95

## AS EXPECTED OF YOU, ZEN

---

It was evening.

I kicked the worm in my stomach, who was growling with all its might due to its loss of today's dinner, far far away as Zen and me sat in front of the table. Sitting opposite of each other, I was looking at Zen in all seriousness and at this exact moment, the worm raised its head and did its best growl as I ignored it, and ignored it! It was just a worm!

.....Ah, I'm sorry.

As my heart grew colder , Zen opened his mouth.

"I, had always thought I am good at studying. I had always thought that, different from Selphy who is receiving your teachings, I did most of my studies myself with just a few bits of advice from you."

I imagined Selphy shouting 'How rude!' at his comment but I would just let it slide.

I mean, this guy was a natural airhead, which contributed to the 'bad' part of his personality. He was a guy who could say unpleasant stuff like 'You are too small (chibi)' straight to my face. If I were to retort to each and very little thing he said, I wouldn't last.

I had a feeling there was another guy like this around me but... no. That guy, Shiro, he was doing it on purpose.

———No wait, wasn't this fatal?

Zen was worried about how his father was handling everything else half-heartedly but wasn't a magic tool shop a place frequented by Nobles? Wasn't it dangerous if he was to accidentally be rude to one?

According to this flow... was this a place I was supposed to retort?

...Ah, no, the important thing right now was listening to Zen's troubles. I kept the

serious look on my face as I made some agreeable response.

“But then I... When I tried to study on my own, I found that I can’t understand anything... And that Will had been helping me all along. I can’t even get pass page 10.....”

Zen;s shoulders drooped as he said that.

I had no idea how to response. Certainly, it sounded like I had been giving Zen support without even realizing it. Zen, who realized it on his own was awesome too though...

Or rather, the studies we were doing right now were rather ahead and leaving aside my reincarnation cheat, frankly, Zen can be considered a genius.

But, he had a shock when he found out he couldn’t do it on his own.

At a loss at how to response, to the me who remained silent, Zen sighed and went ‘As I thought...’

...Sorry.

Was this where I should deny it?

———How foolish. To be 30 and yet showed this kind of face to a 10 years old who was worried. But this was truly the first time, including my previous life, to have someone consult and discuss his worries with me. Since I had only made a close friend only when I entered High School in my previous life.

Ah, even so, this was completely my fault.

I had closed myself up when I was in Primary School and did not talk with anyone. All because I was idiotically studying hard and trying my best with household chores just to get my mother’s approval. But maybe thanks to that, in this life, that experience in turn could help Buu-san’s business.

Of course, at that time, the me who was doing all of those had no spare time to make any friends.

Due to my grades, I had high praises from the teachers and since my Middle School

was linked with my Primary one, the only time I could escape that 'chains' was in High School.

And well, even that was beautifully severed by a vase.

Thinking back, I grew slightly depressed.

Let's stop. Leaving aside my previous life, in this life I was having fun every day. If I were a normal kid, I would definitely spend each day without even realizing it. That such normal life was something so wonderful.

That was why, to allow me to realize that, there was a meaning to bring my memories (cheat) over. Yep yep. Even if it does not help in some areas! Like this

And when I was thinking about these useless stuff, Zen's drooping shoulders drooped even more. And then, he began mumbling.

"I mean, yes, I am depressed over not being able to do it on my own but... the skipping of grades exam... there is only 1 month left... It would be hopeless if no one is going to teach me....."

With an aura that looked like mushrooms were going to sprout from his head, Zen continued mumbling to himself. And to tell the truth, it was quite an eerie sight but I did catch some important stuff from it.

.....The skipping of grades exam.

Yep.

.....

...Hee, tee hee?

".....Er, erm, Zen? This is really difficult for me to say but..."

I tried to hold down the trembling of my voice as I continued.

"What? As I thought, even Will can't do it...?"

[TN: He meant teaching him]

Zen, who lifted up his head, had slightly wet, glistening eyes.

.....Uwahh!

When our eyes met, my body drew back.

“Ah no, you see, the book we are doing right now..... is already the last from the lower acad 3.....”

I had a cramp on my face after forcing myself to smile. I know! I know! I know the mouth opposite of me was opening and closing over and over again!

Holy cow.

It can't be, it can't be, I had put others through the thing I had been put through!

.....Kuuu! This was that, wasn't it? The one where the student was influenced by the weird habit of the teacher!

.....No, that wasn't it! I am really sorry! John-sensei!!

At Zen, who was still opening and closing his mouth, I was doing a very beautiful dogeza in my heart. I didn't inform you, did I?! Sorry!

“Tee, Tee hee♪”

I had said that instinctively in a small voice but there was no other choice, was it? Stop it, I know, I know, so please stop throwing stones at me.

“Eh.”

Zen, who finally recovered, moved quickly. In a speed faster than the eyes could follow, he pulled out a book from the drawer.

“Eh, eh, eh.”

I was really sorry to the Zen who was in a dazed state, staring at the book as I glanced at it. No matter what, it would be the best to confirm the book Zen was currently studying.

Hm?

...Oi.

“Wait- I say, Zen.”

Without thinking, I took the book from Zen. And, pushing it in front of him, I pointed at the title.

“Please look at this.”

“Um..... 『Understanding with Diagrams! The How of Mathematics – 5』 ”

With a question mark floating on top of his head when I pointed it to him, Zen slowly read the title out loud.

“Number...?”

Zen froze. I nodded.

“5!?!?!?!?”

Zen yelled as he stood up.

I will explain. This 『Understanding with Diagrams! The How of Mathematics』 was an exercise book intended for the lower acads. It was like a reference book that had both explanations and practice questions and was a book recommended by me if one were to undergo the skipping of grades exams. And yes, as with exercise books, each number of the book corresponds with the academy levels. Which meant, book 1 for lower acad 1 and so forth.

Well then, everyone, you understood by now, don't you?

“Zen, you went and skipped a grade...”

Of course he couldn't do any questionsssss!!!!!!

I yelled in my heart, forgetting my fault from earlier.

———Really, as expected of Zen.

Yep, it was screwed on loosely. Ah no, it was totally undone.



.....And so, since I wanted to get through this as fast as I could, I entered the capital's academy which had the system to skip grades. The boarding system also served as a way to build my self-reliance. Or rather, I had a feeling I was going to be a useless person if I continued to stay in that house. Playing with Chiffon and allowing Marysan to pamper over me..... definitely useless. I do want to become a splendid man. In reputation too!

.....I cannot pay attention to the fact that I was already around 30 plus for my inner age.

Th-that's because I-I am William Beryl, 8 years old! Anyone would agree with me! I won't mind it. Don't mind it, me!

All the studying also played a part for skipping grades. This was a long-awaited chance for me to enjoy school life while messing around with friends so I would not deny that I was wasting that time away.

Anyway, let's put that aside.

I lay on the bed, exhausted, thinking hard about one more person.

-----Selphy.

“...I wonder what she skipping grades is for...”

I mumbled, glaring at the ceiling.

All in all, Zen and I both had a clear reason for skipping grades and it was the main reason we came to this academy. But that was not so for Selphy. The thing about school life was that it unexpectedly has a large influence on the future and skipping grades will directly affect the employment opportunities, speeding it ahead.

I wonder if it was alright to accept that she was doing it because she did not want to be left out from the group.

Unusually for me, I started considering about these kind of things.

# CHAPTER 96

## RETURN MY FEELINGS!

---

Hearing the chirping from the birds, I knew it was morning. My eyes opened at the same moment I was thinking that as my consciousness awakened.

“Morning chirps...”

I mumbled as I rubbed my eyes.

.....That’s wrong. The meaning was slightly different. Yep, I knew that. Unfortunately, regardless of the previous life or this, it was something I had not experienced before. [TN: Explanation time. Raws are chu chu from the birds. Morning chu, raws’s asa chu, means a morning kiss after sharing the night. ]

Rising up slowly, I stretched my arms, warming up my body. Since this body was still young, there was no stiffness whatsoever. It was just that I was used to doing it.

By doing this, I felt like my head too, was clearing up from the muddiness from sleeping, not just my body. I suddenly thought of something as I was climbing down from the upper bunk without making a sound.

Here, the White Wind Dormitory... or rather, dormitories inside Phyllis Academy were situated right in the center. And in this academy, magic was being taught. Which meant, the academy was sound-proof. Explosions that could not be simply covered by thick walls as well as the previous incident where my summoned beast destroyed the classroom, the noises were all prevented from leaking outside. This was, of course, something to be expected since the academy was inside the Capital.

See, strange right?

Why could the soft chirping of the birds be heard? How particular.

“Well, then.”

While I was thinking all that, I had finished changing as well as washing my face. I then

slowly tip-toed, before taking a deep breath.....

“WAKE UPPPPPPPPPP!!!!!!!”

I yelled, right into Zen’s ear.

“UWAHHHHH!!!???”

A loud bang was then heard, as Zen crouched down, hugging his head. Glancing at him, I nodded, satisfied.

Mission complete.

This way he would be fully awake. Eh? What, I’m mean? Although stones were about to be thrown at me for not using a gentler method, this *was* the gentlest method. You see, this guy, Zen, he just can’t wake up.

Just to mention, he wouldn’t wake up even if you kicked him. It was that bad.

Eh? No no no, it was not that I kicked him before or something. I won’t ever do such a horrible thing, you know~ I will never do such a horrible thing such as kicking him to see if he could wake up or not, you know~

Plus, he would be late and missing breakfast if not for me. The way to solve the dilemma was this method. Yep, can you feel my love for going through all this instead of just leaving him?

I was really quite reluctant to use my strengthened voice too.

“Ouch..... Will, please stop waking me up this way.....”

Even though there was a creature with tears in his eyes and looking up at me, I felt no guilt whatsoever. Oi, you. Why were you sitting there like a girl as you massaged your head while trembling? It made me looked as if I was the bad guy! I won’t apologize!

.....Maybe I went a little too far. Maybe.

Since there was no helping it, I pointed to the clock hanging on the wall without changing my expression.

“.....Crap! It’s already this time?!”

It had only been a few seconds since Zen lay eyes on the time but he had already stood up and stripped naked. Oh!? What just happened? Zen just stripped in a speed even my eyes cannot catch up... Not to mention his movement were a blur, like it was drawn in a gag manga?! Even that 3rd generation thief would be surprised at that speed! Zirco-san would even cry! Zen, when exactly did you learn this skill?

[TN: That reference was Lupin the 3rd.]

“Phew...! Thank god! I made it!”

As I indulged in retorting, Zen had already finished changing. Although his hair was artistically sticking up everywhere, I ignored it.

“Good. Let’s rush over to the cafeteria.”

Swallowing my retorts that were almost flying out, I said only that.

“Oh, good morning.”

Once we reached the cafeteria, Selphy, who was already there, greeted us with a dazzling smile.

“Un. Good morning~”

“Morning!”

As though infected, both of us returned the greeting with bright smiles. Although Zen had some drool coming out of his. As always.

And as usual, Zen sat besides Selphy as I sat opposite them as we began eating. It was a simple meal of bread and soup but since this was breakfast, it was just right. After blowing to cool the soup and drinking it, Selphy opened her mouth.

“Oh yes, Maria and I was talking about it yesterday, about how there’s only a month to the tournament.”

I snapped my head up at this. Thanks to that, Selphy and I were staring at each other

for a while.

“Tournament?”

I was pulled back into reality by Zen’s voice.

.....Here it came——! The standard development for the other world——-!!

Well, let me stop my inner cheering at this. Tournament... after everything from the secret mission to Hattuo to Zen acting weird, I had forgotten that this academy had the standard development of a [Tournament]. And the rare thing was that I knew about it.

That was because when I was still at home, Father had bragged about it. ” At our generation, the winning team was your mother’s, you know! She was really really beautiful up there...” Father had said that many times in delight, as Mother smiled gently as she blushed, as beautiful as ever. Though it was a scene enough for anyone to vomit sugar.

Or rather, since young Father had been a raijuu, didn’t he? Just explode!

But Mother’s team managed to win despite Father, being strongly suspected of having a [cheat], was there..... made me felt that Mother was stronger than she looked. And... let us stop this topic right here.

Anyway, when I knew about this event, I was very very excited about it but.....

“Un. Right before the skipping of grades exam.”

“That means it’s around mid-July.”

At Selphy’s frown, I too, had a troubled look on my face. At our sentences, Zen tilted his head in confusion.

“.....What kind of tournament is it?”

He asked timidly. Selphy and I looked at each other and laughed.

“” Swimming tournament! “”

Really, what was the First Founder thinking?

Since an academy from the other world was holding a tournament, why was it not a martial tournament but a swimming one? How puzzling. My expectations were totally betrayed.

Until now, he had left so many standard events so why a swimming tournament? Had he wanted to relive his younger days when he grew older? Or was it his youthful indiscretion? I see, it must be.

Ah, you should understand by now. Anyway, there was only 1 month to the swimming tournament. As the name implied, a giant pool would be set up in the school and students would be separated into teams and undergo a 1 km swimming relay.

But, this was after all a different world.  
It was not just a simple swimming relay.  
Yep, I'm glad I was not betrayed in this aspect.

"I can't swim...!!"

A sad cry was heard as we walked down the corridor. It went without saying, the owner of that voice was Zen.

"Well, lessons will begin from now then."  
"Yes! It will be okay as long as I practice!"

Selphy and I smiled wryly at the depressed Zen before throwing him a bone.

That's right.

The continent Elzmu was in, Riina, was extremely big. In other words, different from Japan, which was an island country, there was no place near that could allow one to swim. You could think of it as an inland without any pools or river.

Another thing was that Elzmu was a wasteland until 200 years ago. There was nowhere for one to swim leisurely. There only existed a river which would eat you up

the moment you entered it.

Therefore, there was hardly any students who knew how to swim.

That was why it was really a mystery why Phillis Academy, situated in Elzmu, would hold a swimming tournament. I was starting to feel that it was just to betray my expectations.

I mean, think about it!! It could only be a martial one when one mentioned tournament in another world, wasn't it?! Right?!?!?

As I moaned in my heart, Zen started moaning.

"But why can the 2 of you swim?"

"Since I live in the forest, we have a spring I can swim in."

Selphy said proudly, sticking her chest out.

"Eh-, so there's a spring you can swim in inside the forest."

When I said that aloud, Selphy looked slightly troubled.

"Ah, you see, there's the faeries."

I get it.

Although not much was known about the ecology of faeries but most of them could be found at places where a beautiful spring gushed out. They might have unconsciously created the spring with their magic when they yearned to play in the water, John-sensei had said something fantasy-like when he said that faeries loved pure water but he certainly did not sound like he believed it.

My eyes were shining when he said that so he stopped whatever he was about to say further on. Thinking back now, I shuddered to think what he wanted to say. But, things like Elves and Faeries were fantasy-like to begin with so I could accept that explanation.

".....And, why is Will able to?"

I just realized it when I was asked.

About why I could swim.

I mean, I had worked part-time as an instructor in my previous life but ever since I was reborn here, I had never ever swum. Ah, it was really difficult to answer why I could swim.

“.....Ha ha... I wonder why.....”

As I tried to pull one over by smiling wryly, my help appeared.  
Yes, we reached the classroom.

And so, as I gave a not-really-an-answer, we sat down on our seats as lessons started.

.....Now, I had to think of an explanation.

# CHAPTER 97

## THE SWIMMING TOURNAMENT & THE SOMETHING THAT FLOWED AWAY

---

Entering the classroom, I buried my head in studying for trying to avoid answering that question. My aim right now was trying to master every single details about the geography and the climate of Elzmu.

Be it the preparation for managing the territory or following in my Father's footsteps of being an adventurer first, geography was a must. Plus, knowing the detailed information about various places was needed to properly manage a territory. Otherwise, it would be difficult to survive.

For harmony, victory or defeat, information was valuable and extremely important. Ah... although I was not thinking of completing now.

No matter, there was no disadvantage to learning.

I was thinking of taking out the book from the table that John-sensei passed me if I ever felt like learning about climate or geography. Zen, sitting next to me, peeked over and when he saw me opening the first page, he gave a deep sigh and started his self-study.

.....Would this be that thing, the common knowledge that every lower acad knew about Elzmu?

I had no common knowledge. I was quite self-aware that my knowledge was quite one-sided..... The friends I had till now was limited to John-sensei or Chiffon... Let's stop. I don't want to think about it.

By the way, as for Selphy, she made a face as if she stepped on a bug and left the moment she saw me taking out the book.

After staying like that for a while, the front of the classroom started getting noisy. It would be weird for them to be this noisy if it was only Zelda-sensei appearing. Could it be... he finally got rid of the unfitting suit he always wore?!

I lifted my head up as I thought about those rude stuff. But, still, I could see nothing. But those guys in front of them were looking down at the floor, pointing at it.

“Is there a snake there or something.....?”

That the same moment I mumbled to myself, it jumped onto the teacher’s desk.

“Everyone from the first year White team, are you all here? Today, I have an announcement from my master. Please head over to the gymnasium.”

Saying that, he bowed and left the classroom smartly as he left the rest there, mouth agape.

.....Wasn’t he... wasn’t he Alcumedes-san?!!!

It appeared that Alcumedes-san had informed the rest of the classes as well as when we were out into the corridor, discussion about a ‘walking eyeball’ could be heard. Part of them were excitedly discussing about the topic about ‘My Master’ while the rest were walking as if they were in a daze.

I wondered what would happen if they knew that ‘The Master’ was referring to the King.

Apart from getting curious and really looking forward to any amusing reaction, and also since there was no way to escape, I obediently headed towards the gym.

“Will, what do you think about this~?”

Zen asked.

“Hm... I wonder...”

I would be exposed if I were to give a weird answer so I simple tilted my head.

“Ah, so you don’t know anything too~ Yeah. I wonder when Zelda-sensei changed into that...”

.....Huh?!

What did he say just now?! Zelda-sensei...?!

Although I did not pay attention to the first half, why did the conversation suddenly change direction? Why did it suddenly bounce over to the Zelda-sensei?!

“No, I really don’t think that’s it!”

I think I accidentally revealed something just now but without minding it, I simply gave my all into retorting. I was surprised. Onii-san was really surprised, you know. People from other worlds really had some weird ideas. So the alternate world was a place where a normal teacher can turn into a talking eyeball. Onii-chan just experienced cultural shock.

“Eh?”

Both Zen and Selphy tilted their head at my retort and looked at me, puzzled.

.....Ah, my head hurt. Yep.

“No, you see, even if Zelda-sensei has that kind of magic, is there even a need to change his voice as well? Right?”

Halfway through my rather reasonable explanation, my tone started to press them into agreeing. And then...

“Besides, that Eyeball-san said ‘My Master’, didn’t he? I am more concerned about that.”

I skilfully diverted the question and even led them into the direction I wanted. Yep, since everyone had their own interpretation, it was not that important to correct them. Retorting just about this level would be enough, wouldn’t it? And really, it was impossible to not retort since that comment was practically asking for it.

Hearing someone shouted ‘ The Master for Eyeball is most definitely the Brain! ’, I sighed deeply.

The gymnasium was the place where the entrance ceremony was held. Once there, seats were prepared and it was almost full. It appeared that, the same as the entrance

ceremony, everyone here was from the 1st year of lower academy. Come to think of it, it had only been 2 months since I entered school. It felt a lot longer to me, maybe because of how densely packed each day was.

But, even if it was only 2 months, it still meant a lot. Especially for children of my age.

To boys and girls 10 years of age, 2 months would feel long. Not only the mind, but everyone's body had grown, their weight increased and even their faces grew sharper and more adult-like.

But now, with their faces bathed in curiosity with what little information they had, they looked like innocent children.

Eh? Me?... I'm, yep.

I looked down. The height till the floor remained unchanged!

.....Ah, anyway, I was still only 8! Father's tall as I definitely still have that future!

As I looked around me, someone tugged at my sleeve.

"Will, are you sitting? :"

Oh, it was the rare-upturned-eye look from Selphy! The best position was born when Selphy took a seat! Ha ha! At this moment, I was the taller one!!

.....Let's stop this. It would only make me feel empty.

"Yes."

As all of that ran through my mind, I quietly took a seat.

It was the moment when our chat about B-grade food turned to Fried Dragon Meat. The noisy gymnasium quietened down as all the students raised their faces.

"Everyone, you did well in assembling."

In the quiet gymnasium, a deep baritone voice resounded, causing ripples in the air. And then, one by one, everyone who raised their head had their jaws dropped open. Plus, there were some who had their eyes wide, even some who lay slumped in their seats.

Ah, but of course. Since the face from the pictures and magazines they had seen since young was right in front of them.

And the one who smiled, satisfied at the reaction, was our King Kesamu.

I did feel his charisma when I was conversing with him in his private room but seeing him here, in all his glory, made me truly felt that he was the King. And when I realized it, there were mana drifting all around King Kesamu. Only, there was no malice in it, and was simply sparkling.

And it was as though time stopped, as the gymnasium was wrapped in silence, drunk in his aura. Then, in an instant, he suppressed his mana and smiled gently.

.....e, Eh?

I somehow had a feeling that our eyes met but it couldn't be, right? If he possessed my cheat-enhanced vision then I could understand but this... had to be a joke right? And him grinning after seeing I was surprised by our eyes meeting was also a joke right?

And it was as if my wishes were heard by the heavens.

“I come over regarding about the Swimming Tournament. ————And, before that.”

King Kesamu paused and a smile floated up onto his face as though he remembered something about our meeting before glancing at me. Naturally, everyone's line of sight changed their direction to me.

.....What was this?? A punishment game?!!!!

Why did I feel like the student representative of the entire school body when they were doing the radio calisthenics?! My face was all red due to embarrassment and misery! Kesamu-san!!!! My height would stand out if I was looked at this much! I would be looked down upon! I would be totally looked down upon!!

As if having heard the scream of the bottom of my heart, King Kesamu finally shifted his line of sight away from me. And with slow motions, he looked at the Headmaster.

“Eidus, I borrowed one of your student a while back. I have caused him trouble,

regarding homework as well, do take care of him.”

...Oi.

I mumbled in a low voice.

Headmaster once again, glanced at me before snapping his glance back, with such a force that a sound effect could be heard. My mouth could only twitched with a wry smile.

Since it was a national secret, I had even tried my utmost to keep it under wraps!! Because of that, I even withstood Selphy’s smile and Varino-sensei freezing attacks!! What was the reason for me doing that?!!

“The Swimming Tournament is not simply a swimming race. Magic, strategy, strength, the aim of this tournament is to use your imagination and creativity to win. Everyone, you are most probably aiming to be an adventurer. An adventurer is often working alongside of danger. Thanks to that, it is not a job that only requires you to only use your strong point. You would need to have the techniques to face danger head on. And that, swimming. There is almost no one in Elzmu who knows how to swim. But, that is where creativity shines. ————And what is the reason why our First Founder, King Elzmu founded this tournament. And that, I want all of you to deliberate about how you are to enter the tournament.”

When I covered my face with my hands when I was unable to withstand the gazes from everyone, King Kesamu began to talk about the Swimming Tournament.

He said a lot about the origin and stuff but in the end, as expected, it was the First Founder’s decision. Which meant, this was really just a way for him to relieve his youth. What? It was not that? Did you really believe that? Having learned about all the stuff he did before, wasn’t it obvious that I was telling the truth?

And right now, only one verse was taking all the place in my heart.

...Return me my considerationnnnnnnnnNNNN.....!!!!!!!

# CHAPTER 98

## WE NEED TO TALK

---

Yes, of course there would be a trial waiting for me after the ceremony / announcement. It's named, being-in-the-center-of-a-storm-from-everyone's-gazes. I was being pierced by arrows everywhere. If my situation was to be drawn in a manga, I would be lying in a pool of blood right now.

By the way, King Kesamu met my eyes again when he was leaving. Yes, he snickered. Seeing that expression, I had a feeling he was aiming to expose this in the first place but since it was already done, there was no use crying over spilled milk.

Anyway, it had already been exposed to a muggle student, Calius-senpai via Zirco-san. Come to think of it, hadn't I been exposed many times already?

As this all ran through my mind, I walked cheerfully down the corridor, driven out by all the gazes directed at me. At least the only relief was there were hardly any malice in the gazes. Zen and Selphy's gazes were exceptionally sharp and pierced right through my back but sorry, I would not look back.

As long as I reached the classroom, I would be saved. A savior (god) was waiting for me. A savior (god) given by John-sensei.

I was not planning to stay silent, but this was not a suitable place to talk. At least wait till we were in the dorm.

Like that, with a slightly quicker pace, we reached the classroom. And there, I was dealt with another shock.

".....Zelda-sensei.....?!?!?!"

I shouted, unintentionally. Because the person standing there was.....

"Ha ha ha ha ha!!"

Grinning while revealing his rows of white shiny teeth, he was showing off his muscle with just a *single pair of briefs* on.

“.....”

The unfortunate trio that arrived at the classroom looked at each other. Within the huge classroom, we were unforgivingly assaulted by the swirling chaos.

With us frozen in position of looking at each other, we began talking with our eyes. When Selphy and I looked at Zen, his eyes swam about as he gave a small shake of his head. And when Zen, who looked like he was about to cry, looked at Selphy, she shook her head, her face stunned. If you were to forcefully dub this...

[ Zen, you go! ]

[ Im, impossible! Help, Selphy! ]

[ What are you saying? I don't want to! ]

Was what happened.

In the end, their gazes were directed at me..... Oi. Was today 'direct your gazes at me' day? Oooooiiii.

No helping it, I gave an inaudible sigh as I took a step forward.

“Wh, what are you doing, Zelda-sensei.....”

Please forgive me for stammering.

It was that you know.

The intensity of that sight close up was stronger than I thought. What was this brown luster coming from his muscles..... when did you get this tan, Zelda-sensei. Elzmu does not have a beach, you know? Nor a tanning salon.

.....You meant you did it on the streets? Or the park?!

At my question that was overflowing with doubts and bewilderment, Zelda-sensei directed a matter-of-fact refreshing smile at me.

“That is, of course, the explanation for the swimming tournament!”

.....

Ah. Mm. You see, I know why you were wearing swimwear to explain, I know, but.

Here. Is. The. Classroom. The classroom!!!! Indoor!!!!

After a while, the classroom was filled with noise.

That much was of course.

A muscular gori... no, Zelda-sensei was standing at the front of the classroom with just a pair of swimwear on.

But since most of them hadn't swum before, they might not know that it was a swimwear. Which meant, there was a man clad in just a pair of briefs standing right in front of their eyes.

In that case he was just a pervert.

Plus it was their homeroom teacher whom they, kinda, had respect for. Of course they would be making noise. And in the mist of it, that one man was currently doing various muscle-showing poses. What the heck was he doing? I totally could not understand.

But thanks to that, the storm of the gazes were not directed at me now..... Eh, can it be that Zelda-sensei was aiming for that?!

Wondering, I directed my gaze filled with respect at Zelda-sensei.

.....No, never.

The respect died down. Yep, I mean, look at his skin. To get it this tanned would take about a week. Since he couldn't have known that this would happen, there was no way he was doing it on purpose to help. Sitting by my side, Zen whispered to me with a stunned look.

"Will..... Is that... is that a 'swimwear'?"

"Hm?..... Ah, I think so."

He asked timidly and at my answer, his shoulders drooped.

.....His reaction was too honest. Ah, although I was the same as him. But as expected of children, to show their dislike straight to the person's face. Ah, no, as expected of

Zen.

Selphy, who was also standing next to me, started shaking at my answer. Naturally, 3 of our gazes went to where Zelda-sensei's 'swimwear' was.

“Kyahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!”

A distressed scream came out of Selphy's mouth. Yes, Zelda-sensei's swimwear had a distinct shape of a [T]. Which meant, Zelda-sensei was wearing a T-back with his glistening brown muscles in various poses, as per bodybuilder.

And that T-back had a pattern painstakingly printed on it. A green background with black stripes running down, just like a watermelon, giving off a strong summer-feel. I was not happy at seeing that at all, plus summer was just suffering hot. I sighed.

“No, I don't think our swimwear will be in that shape.”

From my small mumble, the 2 of them looked at me.

“Really?!”

Selphy cried happily, grabbing hold of me as I was taken aback at her sudden movement.

“No, ah, I mean, there was no way girls can wear that.”

“.....Which means... that is for us...?”

This time, it was Zen who went pale. With a wry smile, I was about to explain before Zelda-sensei's voice boomed throughout the classroom.

“Well then, since everyone is here, the explanation for the swimming tournament will begin! Firstly, I am sure you are interested at this clothing. This is called [Swimwear]!”

As Zelda-sensei showed off his white teeth, distressed cries from the girls resounded throughout the class.



As the class calmed down, Zelda-sensei laughed.

“Although all of you are so happy about this, unfortunately, this is not the [swimwear] for girls. As for the reason why I am pretty sure you guys know. Plus there is another reason.”

At Zelda-sensei’s words, half of the class, girls, got excited. Beautiful smiles decorated their faces while the rest of the class were as pale as Zen as they waited for Zelda-sensei to continue. Would it be that it was not for them too? They believed there was hope in the world.

Full of smile, Zelda-sensei headed towards his desk and rummaged around in it. Everyone’s gazes followed his every action, afraid in missing out anything. Then, finally having found it, Zelda-sensei took it out.

“.....”

My jaw dropped opened.

————— The thing held in Zelda-sensei’s hands was a school swimsuit. Schoolsuit. It was a deep shiny blue color. At the chest area, a piece of white cloth was sewed on, with the words ‘1st years – White Team’ written on carefully. With a proud expression, Zelda-sensei held it out.

“This is the swimwear that the First Founder had suggested! Although there are many other variations, this is the one everybody prefer... ah, what I wanted to say is, this is the product from the wonderful First Founder!”

Pausing, Zelda-sensei looked around the classroom.

“.....Basically, this could be said to be one of Phillis Academy’s uniforms. As this is a place where everyone, from commoners to nobles, attends, uniforms are created by the First Founder to bring equality! And then this swimwear! Plus, it is designed to be the best shape for one to move in the water!! Isn’t this swimwear wonderful?!!”

AS he got heated up, Zelda-sensei clenched his fists, and his eyes were shining as though he could shoot laser out from them.

“”””” Oooohhhhhh!!! “””””

The class raised their voices.

Zelda-sensei nodded satisfied, before taking a piece of chalk and began writing down the explanation for the tournament on the blackboard. As for me, feeling were swirling around like a storm inside.

First Founder— — — —!!

You did this!!!!!!!!!!

# CHAPTER 99

## SEPARATING TEAMS

---

The rules to the Swimming Tournament was simple.

Apart from attacking other teams, any magic or methods can be used to get to the goal within the shortest time. Because of this rule, people who won by purely just swimming were few and far in between, and it was not a tournament that relied on one's body build or reflexes. Therefore, if all went well, even the 1st years had a chance to win the 3rd years.

Everyone's expressions in the class changed as Zelda-sensei explained the rules proudly. Seeing this, I felt that Zelda-sensei was not a sensei just for show. Although he was as hot-blooded as a certain tennis-player. And that he was currently only wearing a T-back.

Anyway, as he managed to stir the fire within everyone, they stayed silent, waiting for his next words.

“Well then, the first team is Maria and...”

Yes, he began to announce the members of the different teams.

Of course, since this was still a school tournament, there was still an underlying objective to it. To sum it up, cultivating the character as well as to improve the communication between students.

Because you couldn't win just by using magic. So, this was not just about one's swimming skills or magic techniques, but creativity as well. And the main point of the entire tournament, is the team.

Teamwork, tactics, making use of each other skills.

To improve the communication within the class, there was no need to clump people within the same cliques together, which was why we didn't get to choose the teams, rather, the teachers did that.

Ahh, there might also be that they wouldn't want people with ability to team up together, upsetting the balance. I was really thankful for this. It was really a system filled with consideration.

Yep. Because in my previous world, it was horrible. As it had to be a mixed team of boys and girls, there was a 'Rock-Paper-Scissors' war going on. They were so desperate not to get roped into the same team as me.

...Can I cry? Ah, somehow the scenery in front of me was getting blurrier. Rrrrrrrrr.

"Then, the last team, the 4th team! Mi, Selphy, Zen and Will! Okay! Get into your teams and start your discussion!"

As this me was crying like a kid in my inner heart, my name was called. Zelda-sensei said new connection within the class would form right? Yep.

.....It was all a lie!!!



"Mmm, it turned out this way."

"Somehow is this still the same group as we have in class!"

After gathering, Zen completed my sentence. Mi and Selphy were nodding in agreement happily. Well, although there were no new relationships, at least they were all people I knew I would have fun with.

A grin played on my mouth as I gestured the 3 to come closer.



"So, the only one who can't swim is Zen."

The 2 besides Zen nodded at my words. I knew Selphy learned how to swim in the forest spring but Mi was a surprise. It seemed like the head of Sociunnov declared, out of nowhere, that all men needed to know how to swim and Mi took swimming lessons as per his father's orders.

.....Oi.

He definitely knew about this, Mi's father. He's an oldboy here, wasn't he? Stop trying to give your son special privileges!

And, I left all my tsukkomis in my heart. I was not someone who could not read the atmosphere by looking down on Mi's father here.

Me? I just gave a vague answer. Since I was from a Duke's family, I would do anything. This was those kind of situation where I should flaunt my family's power. Hooray for power!

...You there, stop your tsukkomi that, that was not the correct way to use it. Because I knew that. Yep.

"Then, what is the strategy this time?"

"Don't we need to train Zen in swimming first?"

Selphy opened her mouth and started the meeting. Next was Mi. I just nodded at their words. Although the tournament was that anything goes, there was still a rule that we would need to at least come in contact with the pool.

Which meant, although anything goes, most of the action would be within the pool. For that, Mi's suggestion to first learn swimming was valid. Plus, although any magic was usable apart from attacking others, we were all just 1st years. The magic we could use were limited.

[TN: Guys, Will is trying to promote teamwork. Which means no... not standing out too much. If he can.]

But, but, but guys.

The one who started this tournament was *that* First Founder. In both good and bad way, I fully believed in him. Would it really be just a simple tournament? Was it really just a tournament he made so he could admire some swimsuits? From what I had heard from Shiro, he did not seem like the type who went wild like this. That was to say, there was a reason for this tournament.

But what? What was the most recent thing that happened in the academy? And when I reached that point of thinking, I lifted my head up and grinned.

“But then, there is something I wanna do.”

To the us who hadn't learned much magic, [any magic] was said. There was bound to be a hidden meaning to that. And at that moment, Zelda-sensei announced that today's lesson was over. But the meeting between us was not over that easily.



And so, we moved our location to the academy's rear garden. The forest, said to be the garden, was as dense as ever but still, I moved towards the empty plot of land I found earlier without hesitating. Zen was explaining to the Mi who had question marks and exclamation marks floating above his head.

And, the only difference from before was the faeries.

I did gather mana around my ears before I entered the rear garden but the moment I stepped into the forest, all chatting ceased immediately. Hm. I did give them a pretty strong warning. But it might be useless since Selphy had learned how to control her mana output.

I did feel a little pity but they were just getting their own deserts. If they were simply chatting it would be fine but they purposely did it in a way just to make Selphy suffer. I was not a man of such noble character that I could let them go after that.

Reflect on it as much as you can.

.....Ah, although I wouldn't know if they were doing it or not since I was not observing them all the time.

“And there Will taught us mana perception. It looks someplace like a plaza.”

Zen said as he pointed.

...Unfortunately, that's the wrong direction, Zen. As I was smiling wryly, a voice entered my ears.

“Hoh hoh. So Will-dono had already known how to handle mana before enrolling.”

“Ah, yea... That's because I had a tutor.”

Mi nodded at my words, satisfied with the explanation. That was because it was not an uncommon situation within the Noble community. And when we reached the plaza,

we gathered into a circle.



“《召喚》!” [TN: Shokan, summon]

As I wish that it would be a normal and bland entrance, I gathered mana as I shouted. Then, as if the destruction of when he was first summoned was a lie, Shiro simply appeared. A ‘pop’ like how popcorn popped sound rang out as he appeared, his long white hair not even swaying.

After looking around him, Shiro began walking towards me, smiling happily. Seeing that blissfully happy face made it really hard to be angry with him. No matter what he did, all would be forgiven. Or rather, he was really like a dog...

“Oh! Master! You are not corss-dre... gwahp!”

I take it all back.

After magically strengthening myself, I gave a flying kick right to Shiro’s face. With a speed that you couldn’t even see, I shut his mouth up.

I’m that. I have a big heart. Even when he destroyed the classroom, I swept it all under the rug because there was no helping it. I was not small-minded like that. Yep.... I knew that. But. But then. It was not like I could forgive everything. Shiro was immediately given an ‘X’ when he started talking about that part of black history of my cross-dressing mission in Hattuo.

《お口くちばってん》

[TN: Okuchi Batten, X the mouth]

I imagined a white rabbit with an X for a mouth as I cast the magic chantlessly. Activating wind magic, I landed on the ground safely as Shiro touched his mouth, panicking.

“Hmー! Hmー!”

Well, I ignored Shiro who was trying to say something behind me as I returned to the

main topic. Clapping my hands, I got the 3, who were in a daze, to look at me.

“Well then, there are a lot of attributes to magic. Like fireball or water ball. And according to each person’s attribute, the techniques they use will be different. And since attribute-magic was the first magic we learned, that’s the magic we thought of when ‘magic’ is mentioned.”

To confirm all 3 were listening to me, I raised my finger. Like how others raised their finger with a proud expression. It was important to check their concentration with such a subtle method. You, please don’t say that it was an excuse.

“That there. Think about it. Is magic just that? I think not. There is something else. Yes, summoning magic!”

With Shiro mumbling as my BGM, I stood with an extremely proud expression. The 3 of them went ” Ohhhhh!!! ” and gave me applause, their eyes shining with pure admiration for me.

.....How embarrassing.

This was embarrassing! To be looked at with those kind of eyes as I stood here with a proud face! I really yearned for some tsukkomi.

I want someone to tsukkomi me!

My heart was in anguish. In my house, there was John-sensei, and on my travel, there was Buu-san so I completely forgot about it but yes, this was this kind of place. This was a place where I was the only tsukkomi around. It was a lapse of memory. My failure.

My shoulders slumped as I reluctantly cast.

《解除》

[TN: Kaijo, Release]

I released the lock I had on Shiro’s mouth. It, it’s not that I need Shiro’s help!

.....Let’s stop, this was getting sad.

# CHAPTER 100

## DISPARITY

---

Shiro, who had been mumbling all this while, let out a breath before leaning onto me. He's heavy.

"Oi Shiro. What are you doing?"

My voice came out dangerously low but Shiro looked like it did not concern him at all. No, I was not unhappy about this difference in height at all, nope.

.....Oi, why was I not even touching his waist? Or rather, your legs were too long, baka.

"Lack of oxygen..."

Saying that, Shiro then proceeded to leave his entire weight onto my head. If I was just a normal 8 year old kid, I was pretty sure my neck would be bending at an odd angle by now. Which summoned beast would harm his owner's body like this?..... No, if it was Shiro, he most definitely knew what I was capable of before doing it. What bad taste.

But, thanks to Shiro's action, the sparkling eyes filled with pure admiration that was causing me to itch all over the place soon died down. If this was what Shiro was aiming for, then my valuation of him had to change.

.....The him who was humming a song while shaking his butt... No, not possible. After clearing my head of those thoughts, I returned to the topic, ignoring Shiro.

"And that's why, how about doing a collaboration with our summoned beast?"

"Sounds good!"

"I agree!"

"Wonderful!"

At my suggestion, the 3 of them agreed happily. Then looking at each other with a happy grin on their faces, they took some distance from each other.

After getting into their position as if they were surrounding me, they nodded, satisfied, before facing outside, taking something out. They then proceeded to gather mana and when they had gathered enough, they shouted.

“” “《召喚》!” “”

[TN: Shokan, summon]

Cute ‘pop’ like sound sounded before the magic x 3 began to activate at the same time. It seemed like the thing that they took out just now were magic circles drawn on a sheet of paper to help aid them in summoning their beasts.

Looking at the unruly head of red hair, he pounced straight towards a dog that appeared while looking like it was swimming in the air, crashing into the ground... Zen. I know you miss him, I do. Really, you don’t feel embarrassed at all, do you?

An unusual sense of admiration came over me. That was because I did not possess that ability.

Since it was dangerous for his head, I used wind magic to absorb the shock. Like a certain princess in a certain castle, Zen floated in the air for a bit before floating down, gently. As for his dog... his summoned beast, Dogg, was licking his face all over as its tails wagged hard, like rotating blades.

I turned to the others. Well then, if I remembered correctly, Selphy’s summoned beast was a Bird species beast, Asuka.... No, the reason why I did not see it the first time was not because I found it tiresome. It’s that, you know. I have to control my beast. Yep.

A gust of wind blew and a beautiful greenish bird appeared. Selphy’s beautiful green hair was dancing in the wind. The little bird flew high into the sky, before turning around immediately and landed on Selphy’s shoulder.

“Gruuuuuuu...”

The bird chirped happily as they looked each other in the eye. Selphy, as though embarrassed to be looked in the eye, smiled bashfully.

...Yep, how cute. Too cute, damn it.

I have to say again, I am not a lolicon. An elf with her green hair dancing in the wind

while smiling at her pet bird, a beautiful elf, surrounded by the forest! Only beautiful and cute could describe it! Those that don't feel it must have something wrong. They need a doctor.

".....cough"

I coughed and tore my eyes away to another spot. To Mi. I knew about Zen and Selphy's beasts but I left for the 'secret mission' before I even found out what Mi's was. I wondered what he summoned. As I looked over with anticipation, Mi was already greetings with his summoned beast. They both bowed to each other before shaking hands.

"I will be relying on you."

"Gigigigiii."

Mi said to which his beast answered him.

"Oh, so Mi's summoned beast is a monkey."

I said, and the both of them turned towards me. Monkey, as its name suggested, was a monkey-like beast. But the color of their fur was not the same as Earth, they possessed all sorts of colors.

"Um. Aiki the monkey."

Mi said, introducing his beast proudly. And Aiki, sitting on Mi's shoulder, puffed its chest out and looked proud. Aiki had a deep blue coat and his short fur made him look really cute. I wondered if his fur felt like velour. Maybe it's still young, it was really quite small in size, just like a lemur, and very cute.

I felt like stroking it. To ruffle its fur.

And as I was thinking of it, our eyes met and it quickly hid behind Mi's back. Maybe my enthusiasm was too strong and it scared him. It looked to be a wild monkey so maybe they were sensitive to these kind of feelings.

I need to control myself.

As I reflected upon it, I waited for the next chance. If I can hide my feelings well enough,

I might be able to stroke it the moment it let its guard down. Hm? Why was I not quitting? There was no way I could. How could I, after seeing that soft fur?

The dog that would make all mofu mofu believers swoon, the cute Dogg was licking Zen's face.

The natural beauty that was everlasting, Selphy and her bird, were looking at each other.

The soft and velvety fur of the cute monkey with its proud face and Mi who was enjoying its presence.

And then, there was the me, who was being leaned on by my summoned beast.

Oi, wait a minute.

Instantly, I darted out from under Shiro and pointed at him. There was lot about our tactics I need to discuss about but I had to deal with this first.

“Shiro! Your cuteness level is hideously low! Soothing and healing therapy! Give me some soothing and healing therapy!”

My soul was crying out loud.

I was not wrong for wanting to be healed! I was totally not happy about having an ikemen leaning on me at all! I don't have that kind of hobby!

At my words, Shiro looked like he realized something and clapped his hands together.

“I got it! That must be an order from master to cross-dre.....”

“NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!”

I gave my all in shutting Shiro's mouth, which was saying something weird again. When will this cross-dressing gag ever end..... My head hurt. I then let out a deep sigh, before lifting my head up.

“Since our summoned beasts are all here, let's us start our strategy meeting.”

I could only give up.

On my healing.

Yep, but once I go home, my mofu mofu-sama would be waiting for me! I still have

Chiffon! She would definitely allow me to hug her while smiling sweetly!

As my heart sobbed, I put out a smiling face.

I won't lose! Not for the tournament, and not for everything else either! Yep!

# CHAPTER 101

## IVAN'S NEW LIFE (FIRST)

---

In the dark and humid weather that even flattery cannot save it for what it was, a man was glaring at the sky with a complicated expression. He was not planning to glare, but his face just made it seemed like so. And at that moment, he was trying to give up on feeling sad.

However, simply the sight of him was screaming with a tragic aura. A man used his aura to speak.

“My Willia-chan..... does not exist...”

The man, who spoke like tears were going to spring from his eyes any moment, was none other than Ivan. The man whom Will had mistaken to be filled with justice and truth, the former thug-like Hattuo soldier, Ivan. And that the moment where Ivan was glaring at the sky, Will was in Phyllis Academy having a meeting for the Swimming Tournament.

How empty.

The angel (Willia-chan) who saved him from the sluggish-life was a sham. ....This loss had sunk Ivan's heart to the very bottom. Even though moving south from the freezing Hattuo had warmed his body, the surprising situation had not been warm to his heart.

He had lost one of the most important things in his life...!

Ivan lifted his downcast eyes up towards the sky again, glaring at it. The important thing in his life had slipped out from under his fingers while he was not paying attention.

“We are reaching the Beryl's territory.”

“.....Yea.”

The person driving the carriage spoke to Ivan. Towards Buu, Ivan gave an empty

response, as if life was draining out of him. As Ivan was looking at the sky, all that can be seen was the white of his eyes.

Scary.

Luckily, no one was around to see this expression of his, otherwise he would lose another important part of his life.

Beryl's Territory.

Ivan's lifeless brain was turning. If he remembered correctly, Willia's real appearance, Will, had said that he was someone from the Beryl's family. So even Willia was a fake name. In the end, he was tricked into allowing her/him to enter Hattuo illegally. But even so, Ivan was not angry at that.

Only sadness as it swirled around in his heart.

She was so cute. Even when he quit cross-dressing and cut his hair short, he was still cute! Damn it—.

Thinking till this point, Ivan fell onto his back. His trail of thoughts went all over the place. Although 'really remarkable' and 'duke' flashed in his brain for an instant, but before he knew it, it became the problem of how cute Will was.

And now, he was like the last time when he was rotting in despair. He had to change before he met up with his angel the next time.

Although now, he was rotting in another way... he can't. Ivan's guts that hardly ever worked was warning him. Plus, to chase after Will as the fake Willia's shadow was rude to Will.

And Ivan reached a conclusion.

Every crisis was a chance. He was fortunate to be given a chance to change. Was what Ivan thought but it was rather difficult to change his thinking after thinking about his angel (Willia-chan).

It can't be helped. Laying in the carriage, Ivan closed his eyes.



Clip and clop and the horse carriage stopped. Ivan, who was nodding off to that sound, woke up. Shaking his head lightly, he stretched his body.

“Ugah.”

Of course, the one who said that was Ivan. It seemed like he had slept in an awkward position and his neck was locked in a weird position. Buu, who saw Ivan, was stunned. Was he going to be all right? Although he was feeling unease, in a certain sense, ignorance was the strongest of them all. Even if they were on their way to meet the only Duke in Elzmu, he can't see any nervousness from Ivan and he was even groaning from the pain in his neck.

Plus, all those who received training from the Beryl's house, no matter how rowdy or incompetent they were, they would emerge quite 'usable' to others. Although the reason was unknown. Luckily, Buu-san was very 'usable' from the start so he did not have to undergo 'training' but.....

That was 1 year ago.

A brat, with his rude attitude that ought to be locked up in jail, had attended the examination to become Beryl's family vessel serving directly under Gion..... The word brat was said but he was quite old..... That violent guy who went " What strongest Knight in the country! He must have bribed his way in anyway! In 2 years, this would be under my control! " as he went around yelling, was speaking politely while smiling refreshingly as a newbie knight just after 1 month when Buu-san went back to discuss business with the Beryl's.

“.....It is to be feared...”

Buu had said his thoughts out aloud. Ivan was, as usual, happy-go-lucky, worrying about his neck instead.

“.....Mah, I'll just leave it to fate...”

Buu was only thinking of escaping from this situation as soon as he could.



Buu, walking unusually fast, was followed by Ivan, who was looking around restlessly. He was wondering about it when the carriage was stopped at the gate but the scene in front of Ivan made him understood.

There were stalls lining up on the left and the right of the street, merchants were calling out as they tried to attract customers. Multicolored items lined on the shelves and they were all items Ivan had never seen before.

And on this street that they were walking on, children were holding hands with each other when they ran about, laughing, aunt... wives were standing around as they gossiped. There were a lot of people walking to and fro.

Ivan, who had his mouth wide opened as his eyes darted around, was looking just like a country bumpkin who had visited a city for the first time. At times, voices shouting 'Welcome!' to him could be heard from the stalls.

Ivan jumped when it happened. No one seemed bothered about him, who was always seen as a thug, with his face. When he was in Flowason, everyone would hide the moment his eyes met theirs. But.

"O, oi, Buu-san!"

Ivan called out to Buu without thinking.

"Hm—? What's up—?"

As the slow response that dragged out every word came, Ivan panicky pointed to a place.

"That is a menu right?! And the thing underneath is the price I think...?"

On the counter of a food stall, several notes were seen. It was the money paid by children for the order they made but the owner did not seem like he was giving any change back.

".....Such young brats can already read and calculate?"

"Of course—."

Although he had expected it, but when Buu said that answer, Ivan was overcome with astonishment.

“Shit..... I, I can't even win against brats...”

The small mumble by Ivan who was looking at the sky again was left seemingly unheard by Buu. With a smile, Buu continued talking.

“It's not only reading and math—. Almost everyone here knows how to use magic.”

Another critical hit.

Ivan's shoulders slumped as his soul was left half floating out of his mouth. Thanks to that additional damage by Buu, they had reached a door before he realized it.

“This here— is the Beryl's residence.”

Without hearing everything, Ivan's jaw dropped open.

What was this place.

What was this?

Wasn't this bigger than the border gates of Flowason?

There was already no more space in Ivan's head for new information. A huge amount of 'WTF' was taking up the space there.

“Today, Ivan-dono would be working here under Will-dono's recommendation so we will be meeting Gion-sama for your greetings first.”

That was why, Buu's words were all in the left and out the other. As Ivan was totally overwhelmed by the imposing aura of the 3-stories high gate, Buu started walking.

Reaching the side, Buu was saying something to the gatekeeper. Immediately, a side door opened. Ivan, who was in a trance, was half-dragged by Buu through the gate as the gatekeeper saluted them.

# CHAPTER 102

## IVAN'S NEW LIFE (LAST)

---

“Thank you for coming all the way here, Buu-sama, Ivan-sama.”

A beautiful aunt... lady was standing in front of the door. As there was quite a distance from the gate till the front door of the mansion, Ivan had enough time to regain his footing. When he thought to himself that he would not be surprised by anything anymore, a beautiful lady such as her, standing in front of him was shaking his resolve.

Or rather, it was within his expectation. It was not possible for the place where the very cute Willia-chan lived in to not have any beautiful people inside.

A very ridiculous way of reasoning, but luckily, it was not wrong.

“Mary-dono, I have brought Ivan-dono along.”

“Yes, thank you very much, Buu-sama. I have heard it from Master. It seems to be a personal recommendation from Will-sama. I was ordered by Master to lead Ivan-sama to his office when he arrives but... Does Buu-sama have any arrangements after this?”

The lady's name seemed to be Mary. Buu, asked politely and gracefully by Mary, shook his head.

“People from the company will start to look for me so I would most like be heading back.”

“I understand. Once again, I thank you for today. We have troubled you to come all the way here.”

As Ivan's head was filled wondering what the word 'office' meant, Buu was seen off by Mary with a graceful bow.

It was too late when he finally realized it.

When Ivan snapped his head up, only a smiling Mary and him were left.

“Well Ivan-sama, please come in.”

Mary opened the door with a smile for the dazed Ivan.

“Uwah.....!? Ye! Yes!”

Producing a weird sound at how ‘sama’ was attached to his name, he somehow had goosebumps appearing all over when he saw Mary’s beautiful smile and immediately gave a response that he thought he had to do.

And on the other side of the door, laid the softest carpet Ivan had ever saw in his life. As his heartbeat broke the highest record, Ivan stepped timidly inside.

Squish.

“.....!?”

His shoes sank in. Ivan swallowed the weird sound he was about to make into his stomach. He was suddenly very self-conscious about the dirt on his shoes. The sound of a door closing behind him was heard. Ivan thought that was a roar of a magical beast.

But, the smiling Mary had rapidly proceeded ahead. He could only give it up. Mustering his courage, Ivan took a step forward.

Paintings were hung on the walls of the long corridor. Every few meters, there would be a hole in the wall where plates and flowers were decorated.

How much do all these cost?

That thought flashed passed Ivan’s brain but his instinct told him it was something he should never think about. He then tried his best to only stare at Mary’s back as they advanced forward.

After following Mary for a while, she stopped. It was just about a minute or so but to Ivan, hours had passed. He felt like he had sweated quite a bit. When he looked up, he saw Mary knocking on a door in front of them.

“Master, I have brought Ivan-sama.”

“Enter.”

From the thick, black, solid wooden door, a refreshing voice was heard. Ivan’s shoulders jumped. When he looked at Mary, asking for what he should do, she opened the door without any hesitation and stood outside.

“.....Eh?”

When a small voice was leaked out by Ivan, Mary spread her arm through the door. Was she telling him to enter by himself? The world sure was heartless. Till now, Ivan had somehow maintained his calmness by only focusing on Mary’s back.

But he could only obey. With a face that could burst into tears any moment, Ivan passed through the door.

The first thing Ivan saw after he entered the room was the tall mountains made of papers. Or rather, it was filled with the mountains of papers. No, although when he calmed down, he could see the red carpet and the flat table but the main thing was still the papers. Question marks started appearing in a row on top of Ivan’s head.

“Please stand just there.”

When he entered when Mary told him to, he slowly and carefully walked forward, resisting the urge to kick the mountains of papers, a voice then called out to him beyond the mountains.

“Ye, yes.”

Although it was a youthful and gentle voice, Ivan felt like he needed to obey the voice, as he sputtered out a response. Let’s just think the stuttering to be the respect for the voice.

Ivan, who panicky stopped moving, suddenly recalled the conversation between Buu and Mary.

*“I was ordered by Master to lead Ivan-sama to his office when he arrives...”*

Was what Mary said. So it meant that the Master of the house was in here somewhere.

It was the Master of this wonderful mansion. It must be a very distinguished person.

Ivan corrected his posture hurriedly. And then, the voice just now. It was from beyond the mountains of papers. It had directed him to this spot where he was standing at this very moment.

“Yes yes!”

In a smooth and fluid movement, he prostrated himself. He was sure the voice from beyond the mountains of papers was the one and only [Master]. Unfortunately, Ivan, who came from a country that discriminated beastman, had not even considered the personality of [Master], and had already deemed him to be a very big-wig.

That was the aura he felt the moment he entered the room. An aura even the vulgar Ivan would feel. All these went through Ivan’s mind as he lay there, forehead touching the ground.

“.....Huh?”

In this chaos, Gion’s troubled voice would be heard.



“Ha ha ha ha ha...”

Gion wiped the tears from the corner of his eyes as he hugged his stomach. He laughed too hard. The lack of oxygen had caused his fingers to shake a little.

On the other hand, standing in front of the laughing Gion, was Ivan, with his head hanging down, face totally red.

“.....I thought this was what you need to do here...”

Hearing the words Ivan mumbled, Gion’s shoulders shook even harder. Unable to stand it, Ivan covered his face with his hands.

Ivan, who was beginning his new life in Beryl’s territory, looked like it was going to be

smooth sailing ahead.

# CHAPTER 103

## THE TOURNAMENT IS STARTING!

---

The bright and unrelenting sun. The glittering water. And, that dazzling dark blue swimsuit that reflected in my eyes... no, no, no, I'm kidding! I did not see it! I saw nothing! So stop throwing stones at me!

The ones who were wearing the school swimsuits around me were all my classmates from the First Years White Team. It was all my classmates. I am not a lolicon. I had no reason to be looking at kids, 10 years old kids.

Yes, these eyes were eyes as if a mother was looking upon her own children! It was pure! Very pure! I was just admiring them for how cute they looked. ...Stop the tsukkomi about how you were right that I was looking. Because you lose the moment you tsukkomi.

No, not that Selphy, who was sitting right in the middle of my view, had blinding white long legs was making me stared at them hard! I was only admiring at how great youth was! That's all!

.....Let's stop.

As the tsundere comments rolled around in my mind, they came to a stop when I spotted Zen. The only thing left was a bittersweet and slightly empty feeling.

"Yo. You are quite late, Zen."

Hearing me, Selphy, who was dangling her legs in front of me, looked back. At the same time, her left leg was left hanging in mid-air and that scene just went and struck me in the face, causing me to let out a noise. And that, made everyone turned and looked at me. I smiled, trying to gloss it over as I returned my attention to the both of them.

"Why are you even later than me?"

She said, lightly glaring at Zen as she twisted around to look at him. Zen took a step

back at her response but then, as if he recalled something, a smile floated up onto his face.

“No no, the reason was...”

He stopped speaking. Or rather, he was stopped. Why?

“Uwahhhhhhhhhhh!!”

Someone standing at the edge of the pool had fallen in, causing a splash. The droplets of water falling glittered in the sun, making me stare in wonder of the beauty Summer can give.

“Did you not say you will never say it?!!”

Snapping my head back, a flushing red Mi was standing there. His tightly clenched fists were trembling slightly. He was really frantic. Without thinking, Selphy and I looked at each other before breaking into grins. He he he he he, so that’s how it was.

I tried my best to resist the urge to grin. Mi stood there, looking as if he was considering to confess or not. Grabbing hold of the edge, I lifted myself out of the pool before standing behind Mi in an instant. At the same time, Selphy stood up and placed a hand on Mi’s shoulder, glancing at him.

“What happened, Mi?”

Saying that, the corners of Selphy’s mouth rose, as she glanced at Mi, grinning widely. Ah, I think my expression was most likely the same as hers. Looking between the 2 of us, a noise got stuck in his throat as his face paled.

Zen, at this moment, was waving his limbs about. And he was somehow saying something weird like ” Glub glub glop glop ”..... Heck, he was drowning! Panicking, I dived into the pool. Catch and release.

...Ah, no, that was slightly wrong.



Standing at the stage erected next to the pool was the Headmaster. And then, mana started accumulating at his throat. Without the Headmaster even saying anything, everyone quietened down. Why? Because everyone was anticipating his arrival, and so, all eyes were on him. Taking a deep breath, the Headmaster's voice reverberated throughout the area.

“AND NOW, THE PHYLLIS ACADEMY SWIMMING TOURNAMENT WILL COMMENCE!”  
“”””” OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHH!!!! “””””

A loud bang sounded the moment Headmaster finished speaking.

Yes. And thus, it had started. The Swimming Tournament.

Although there wasn't much time between saving Zen and preparing, our team managed to safely stand at the starting point.

Ah, thank God.

Because if I can't bring myself to have the widely anticipated swimming tournament suspended because of our team. I am really thankful for how unperturbed this other world was.

If this was 'highly aware of the issue' Japan, if a kid was to drown before the start of the tournament, this entire event would be suspended due to the 'teachers' negligence.

But anyway, I was acting as the 'guardian' of the group. Although I had always known that Zen can't swim, I still gave in to curiosity and focused on Mi instead.

I have to reflect on that.

Looking around, I saw everyone up with burning with a fighting aura. The ones near us were mostly consisted of First years, but looking towards end of the pool, I could see the senpais there.

They were only 1-2 years older, but just that and I could see a difference in body build. Especially their muscles. If this was purely a test of strength, we would be completely

defeated. But too bad, this was another world. The main point was that magic existed here. Even I cannot imagine what kind of tournament this would be.

Well then, well then.

I took my time observing the pool, as I would not be able to once the tournament started. Letting out a breath, I focused on everyone in front of me.

Firstly, Selphy. I saw her standing behind the diving board. And if I was to squint, I would see the tiny figures of Zen and Mi standing at the opposite side of the pool. Yea, they were full of cheating spirit.

“Selphy!”

I raised my voice as I yelled. It did not attract any attention as it was slightly covered by the surrounding chattering.

“Yes?”

But Selphy heard it. She tilted her head as she turned around to look at me. And on that face, no trace of nervousness could be seen.

Yosh, if that was the case, everything was going to be alright.  
I grinned, and gave her a thumbs up.

Try your best!

Was what I was trying to convey and Selphy nodded, grinning as she turned back to face the front.

Every team seemed to be doing the same thing. Looking satisfyingly around, the Headmaster had a smile on his face. Then, he lifted his hand up in a snap.

“A-nd, START!”

With that, water magic were shot straight up in the sky, as the tournament started.

# CHAPTER 104

## THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT (FIRST)

---

Splashes of water could be heard immediately after the Headmaster's words.

Everyone at the opposite end of the pool dived in vigorously and started swimming. The intensity of this scene was, instead of watching the swimming segment of the Olympics, it was more like watching the starting of a horse race.

And as expected, the Senpais seemed to be using magic. The speed they showed at the start had a remarkable difference. And right now, in the center of the field of my vision was Selphy's back.

Ah no, no no no no. I was not looking at her. No I was not.  
I mean, Zen was trying his darrest in swimming over right now.

At when the rest of the competitors were swimming ferociously, Zen had raised his hand and shouted " 召喚！" at another place as he fell into the water and 'gulp gulp' for a while before his summoned beast, Dogg, finally appeared and started swimming as it pulled Zen along by his swimming trunks.

And Zen right now was struggling to keep his face above water as he floundered around, being pulled along by Dogg. Yep, what a magnificent doggy paddle.  
.....Yes, Zen was not the one swimming though!

"Try your best, Dogg! Zen!"

But let's just cheered him along. Will, who was looking out for Zen's pride, had given up explaining. Let's just stop at informing everyone that Dogg was pulling Zen along by his trunks. As for the rest, well everyone, it was up to your imagination.

"...Phew."

I didn't know if he, who was still struggling in the water, read what I was thinking, but I put on a 'don't-blame-me' look as I continued to cheer for him. Thanks to Dogg's effort, there was only about 3m to the end and they were head to head with the other

competitors.

Seeing that, Selphy raised her hand up vigorously. Mana gathered around her fingertips rapidly as her hair danced in the wind.

“《召喚》！” [TN: Summon]

She shouted, as the magic activated above her head. Looking at how her hair was dancing about, I knew the wind was swirling around her. As I stared, feathers started appearing, swirling in the wind, before her summoned beast appeared.

Selphy's summoned beast was Lilisu-chan of the Asuka species.

After confirming that Zen's hand had touched the wall, Selphy dived in. Lilisu-chan then landed on the head of the swimming Selphy and started fluttering its wings, as it jetted air out and propelled Selphy forward.

She kept advancing.

And what was left was a large amount of bubbles/froth, looking like water jet pack just went by.

Yes, our strategy this time round was a collaboration between our summoned beasts.

.....Well, for Zen, there wasn't enough time to practice. Oh well. You did your best, Zen!

As for Selphy, she was instructed to use the power of the Asuka species to the fullest. And during the practice before the tournament, she had achieved perfecting the coordination between the both of them.

The first thing we had to practice was how to summon our beasts smoothly. The practice of the gathering of mana, the pronunciation of the chant, etc.

Yep. For me, it was the Japanese I was already very familiar with, but for foreigners whose language had a completely different set of intonation, it was rather difficult. And it seemed like a clear and precise pronunciation will highly improve the rate of the magic activating. Which was why we practiced chanting multiple times as I corrected them.

Next, was the cooperation between the beasts. If they were given instructions

beforehand and had perfect cooperation with their owners, the loss of time would be greatly reduced.

And, thanks to all these, we were very prepared when we entered this tournament.

“Try your best, Selphy! Lilisu-chan!”

I shouted.

Not mentioning the help given by Lilisu-chan by reducing the water resistance via wind magic, Selphy was too, giving her all in moving her legs.

I was impatient at how I can't do anything to help but the only thing I could do now was to believe in them, and to cheer them on.

Oh, and I forgot to mention but the pool was about 25m long. If this was created by the First Founder, it was to be expected. Because the pools in school were all around this size. And Selphy had about 5m more before the wall.

“Fiiiigghhhtttt!!!!”

I shouted after taking a deep breath, cheering them on with my all. Because somehow, I was very fired up at the moment. Because anyone would get excited when it was a competition.

But, it seemed like I was a tad *too* excited.

Having forgotten that my body was strengthened with my ‘super cheat’ abilities, every student around jumped and covered their ears at my shout and directed their gazes at me all at once.

.....Sorry.

I would try to control myself a bit more as I get fired up over this tournament. So please stop tsukkomi-ing me.

As these thoughts were filling my brain, Selphy was speeding towards the wall. Another 1m... 30cm. My cheat-eyes were allowing me to view it in detail. I gulped as I

stared and finally, Selphy's fingers touched the wall. And the next person who dived in immediately was no other than Mi-sama.

Well then, I wondered what was going to happen next!

# CHAPTER 105

## DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT (LAST)

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Selphy's fingers touched the wall of the swimming pool. And at that exact moment, the one who dived into the pool was no other than our Mi-sama.

"Yosh!"

I did a tiny pump of my fist. It wouldn't be good to be a bother to others. I was a man who learned, a gentleman who would not commit the same mistake second time. And I shall ignore that tsukkomi about how a gentleman would not even make that first mistake in the first place. I can't hear anything.

Aiki the monkey immediately dived in after Mi and started running at the bottom of the pool. After passing Mi, Aiki held onto Mi's hands, like baton touching. The scene and the timing of that was like a primary school relay baton touching race.

Ah, although I did not get to participate in that the last time. Because there would always be a fight about who was being the one to grab the baton from me so I was removed from the race by a visibly troubled Sensei. And after that, it was impossible for me to participate in any relay.

Because I was a good kid! I would never do anything to trouble my Sensei! I would certainly pull myself out of it with a smile! It was not like I was hated so much that no one wanted to be in a relay with me, you know!

.....Ha ha. I tried using a tsundere tone to convince myself but I ended up only feeling quite empty.

Anyway, let's put this aside.

Aiki, holding onto Mi's hand, ran through the water without any resistance. Seeing this scene once again reminded me that I was in an alternate world. By the way, this strange phenomenon of being able to move in water as if on land was a special trait of

the water-attribute of Monkey, who lived near the river in the forest. This little tidbit was new to me too.

As I thought about all these random stuff, Mi was getting closer and closer to me. Fast. Because it had only been 4 seconds since he dived in. And the difference was very obvious as the rest of the opponents had only advanced about 2~3m ahead.

Mi was securely in the the first place.

.....Though it didn't mean that we would come out first in the tournament. Why? Because this was the Phyllis Academy, located in the heart of the capital.

Naturally, the population was, of course, highest in the capital and Nobles that came from other territory, like me, were few and far in between. Many people chose this academy because of their grades skipping system like I did, although this being the place where my parents met each other as well as the alma mater of John-sensei factored in as well, another main point was to increase my connections within the Noble society.

There were many who sent their children into this academy for them to try to get into the royalty's good side. Thanks to that, Phyllis Academy became the school that had the highest amount of Nobles attending which in turn attracted other nobles as well as merchant family enrolling in for the connections.

Leaving aside the history, what I was trying to say was that there was a large number of students currently enrolled in this academy.

If everyone was to enter into this tournament at the same time, the pool would have to be as big as the Tokyo Dome! So the tournament was separated into blocks and even that took some time.

Which meant, time was of the essence!

I finally see what you were planning, First Founder. Did you want to hold a swimming tournament that badly, First Founder?!..... To the extent of even creating a magic tool that record time...

Ah, Mi touched the wall as that all was going through my mind. Wah!

Yes, I was the last leg. The important anchor. I wanted to give a perfect performance as a tribute to my last life of being unable to participate in any relays. Anchor was a heavy responsibility.

.....You were cold? Eh, how strange. Right now it was the middle of summer.

“《召喚》！” [TN: Shokan. Summon]

Because it was a festival today, I shall allow some flashy moves, Shiro!

Thinking of that as I chanted, water splashed around me as Shiro appeared in the air. Of course, the form was of a dragon. Sunlight bounced off the scales of its huge form and even though that was awesomely cool, I kept that comment to myself as I dived into the pool.

“””” EHHHHHH!! “””””

Yes, I dived all the way into the pool. I knew others were making noise. I also knew I had a grin on my face. And then, I landed at the bottom of the pool.

.....I was pretty sure some of you had guessed it by now. My strategy was ‘Moses’. Or maybe some would like to call it ‘Red Sea’.

Shiro then separated the water of the lane I was at. Water began to split into left and right as I sprinted forward.

How exhilarating. And how very fun.

Grinning, I ran. In this case, the most appropriate lines would be ‘AWESOME!’ and ‘The water is making way for him!’. The feeling I felt was like a young child running through a corn field to pass something to his mother.

Eh? That’s not Moses? It’s of the same feeling! Who else were you thinking?

“YOSHHHHH!!!”

I gave a roar as I touched the wall of the pool. Of course, the roar was because we were totally in the first place. Because, thanks to excitement, I left everything to my cheat-ability of my legs and sprinted, spending a total of 2 seconds. The speed was about 45km per second. The same speed as a beginner riding a bicycle. Ah... that example might not be correct...

But, if it was a 100m run, I would take only 8 seconds. It would be the world record for an 8 years old. Ah, someone like a referee would be running too, pale in the face if that ever happened. But since this world had magic, this much was common.

Selphy then came over and we high-touched. After everyone had finished recording their timings, Headmaster gave the orders for us to return to our respective dormitories. Students then began to leave the noisy grounds as per orders.

Looking at each other, Selphy and I gave each other a wry smile. And somehow, our first tournament came to a close.

# CHAPTER 106

## GION'S BOYHOOD

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*"Yep, we won."*

"Oo! You are indeed a son of Lily's and mine! I did think that you would win but really! By a lower acad first year!"

Gion stood up as his excitement levels rose. He had paid a close attention to the time and knew that the tournament would be just about ending and when the phone rang, he rushed to pick it up. The better result than expected made it hard for him to hide his joy.

He continued to talk in high spirits with Will through the phone, chuckling throughout.

*"It was all thanks to everyone's summoned beasts."*

"Well, it might look that way but it was the idea that won. You deserved the praise."

As he continued praising his humble son, he began to reminisce about his boyhood.



"Oiiii!! Stop right there!!!"

Today was another day of escaping. At the escaping side, Gion looked at his partner-in-crime's face and the both of them grinned. Then, at the forked end of the passage, they cleanly split up, one going to the left, while the other to the right. The black-haired boy who was chasing them, stopped as he wavered about which way to go. But that moment of waver cost him the both of them.

"Damn it....."

The 2, who looked down at the frustrated boy with his slicked back hair, looked at each other and grinned once again.

Gion Beryl.

He was the eldest son of the distinguished Beryl family of the current 12 year old Elzmu country. But the real him was.....

“Hehehehehe..... It went swimmingly well, Gion!”

“Aah, my crime-in-partner Kesamu! Everything’s easy with this damascus ring! Fu hahahahaha!!”

He laughed loudly.

Yes, the son from the highest ranking family was a Chuunibyō scamp. Moreover, he loved playing tricks.

“Yea. The face of Varino when he got [Kancho-ed] was the best!”

Kesamu laughed, his eyes a pair of slits. Yes, the one running around playing tricks on people with Gion was none other than the next king-in-line, Kesamu Tera Oi Elzmu.

The 2 scamps often played pranks on their teachers as often as they played truant. But even so, they scored high marks when it came to their exams so it was frustrating.

The black-haired boy just now, Varino, had stopped their pranks on the teachers the moment he became the dorm leader but that was because most pranks headed his way instead.

This had earned him praises from the Headmaster and from the teachers as they were freed from the pranks but was it really a good thing for Varino?

The poor Varino, who had his butt assaulted with a [Kancho] from Gion, held it with his hand as he went back to the classroom, eyes watering. The 2, who had waited for that, descended down from the ceiling. Gion even posed when he landed on the floor. Ah... the painfulness of Chuunibyō...

“What shall we do next?”

Gion laughed fearlessly. Many ideas started appearing in his head.

“It wouldn’t be art if we are to repeat our pranks...”

Gion flipped his soft silver hair as he grinned. The pranks from the 2 of them had quite a wide range. Like inserting the blackboard eraser between the doors (which was opened by Varino a second just before the teacher), or to steal his favorite food during lunch, or to ask about Liliana, who Varino seemed to have a crush on.

There was one time where they used the organs of magical beasts which gave off such a putrid smell that they felt like they were really betting their lives with that one. And after that, the 3 years white class had a stinking classroom for a week.

And the 2 vowed never to touch that one again.

Anyway, pranks were the reason for living to the both of them. The both of them had spent their childhood as good kids but from the moment they met at the Phyllis Academy entrance ceremony, they had surprisingly turned into a pair of troublemakers.

But even so, their personality was still very likable and coupled with their looks, the [pranking] aspects of their personality was deemed as 'cute' by the girls. Serious boys like Varino was not as well-liked as them.

Kesamu snapped his head up.

"Talking about scheming, Gion."

"What?"

"The swimming tournament is around the corner, isn't it?"

"Aah! That's right!"

Gion remembered the time during the May festival where the both of them cross-dressed as they escaped. That was fun. Time sure flies.

"It is time for them to see why [Trickers](us) reputation is so high!"

Of course, there was no one throughout the academy who called them that. This, guys, was a perfect example of what chuunibyō was.

But, Kesamu, who was inflicted with the same illness, nodded happily.



And then, it was finally the day of the tournament.

It was the day the both of them had been looking forward too. The 2 of them randomly chose a speedy Beastman and an elf and had practiced hard for this. They were prepared.

Gion looked at Kesamu, who was at the other end of the pool. Just nice, Kesamu was looking over as well. Their eyes met. Grins appeared on their faces and others, who were standing near them, shrank back when they saw it.

Those 2 were well-known for playing pranks and they were trying not to get involved with whatever these 2 were planning to do.

Not sure if he had known about their plans, the Headmaster gave the staring call. The first leg was Gion. He gathered his mana, which was way higher than anyone else, and activated his magic.

“《火球》！” [TN: Hidama, Fireball]

As he posed with his right hand, a fireball was shot out from it. Gion was one of the rare ones who possessed double attributes, fire and wind. Everyone knew fire would be extinguished when it came into contact with water so they were expecting wind magic.

But, wasn't he cool when he used the unexpected fire magic?!

Gion then proceeded to dive all the way to the bottom of the pool. With his overwhelming mana, the fireball had evaporated the water from the pool. And Gion began giving his all in running to the other end of the pool. Without taking much time, his hand touched the wall of the pool

Next was Kesamu.

He was also a rare one, who possessed all attributes.

“《土壁》！” [TN: Tsuchikabe, Earth wall]

Walls were built to prevent water from rushing back and Kesamu ran as fast as he could. When other teams had only completed 2 rounds, they had completed 3.



In the end, their team were disqualified for foul play. It was a tragedy induced by forgetting about the rule which one part of their body had to touch water. They had completely forgotten all about it.

Thanks to that, Varino won, and he was a part of Liliana's team. Liliana had frozen the water as they took turns in running down the pool. Gion and Kesamu were defeated with this one clever scheme.

“Come to think of it, that was the time I took an interest in Lily.”

Thinking back to his dark boyhood, Gion's face flushed red from embarrassment as he coughed. Since that tournament, Gion's pranks stopped. He began observing Lily, who devised that clever scheme, and had fallen in love.

And he became Varino's rival in love as they fight it out in the open (?) for Lily's love.

Of course, Gion won. Liliana... Lily, was the mother of his 1 year old child (Will). Her looks were beautiful as ever. Gion felt blessed to have his wife and a son he could boast about.

“I wondered if that guy, Varino, is well...”

Gion, who was thinking of boasting to Varino the next time he headed towards the capital, was the same old Gion.



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