

転生したら スライム だった件 ②

Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime





Story by Fuse, Illustration by Mitz Vah

伏瀬 イラスト/
みつつばー

**転生したら
スライム
だった件 ②**
Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime

GC NOVELS





Continent of Eternal Ice

Eastern Empire

Dragon's Peak

Dwarf Kingdom

**Holy Kingdom
Ruberium**

Farmas Kingdom
王国

Ingrasia Kingdom
王国

Jura Forest

**Demon Lord Clayman's
Domain**

Barren Lands

**Brumund
Kingdom**

Cave of the Seal

Various Western States

Demon Lord Milim's Domain

Heretic's Dynasty

**Beast Kingdom
Yuurazania**

**Heaven's Wing
Country Fulbroshia**

**Demon Lord
Karion's Domain**

Ulbresia Republic
共和国

**Demon Lord
Frey's Domain**



PRESENT STATUS

リムル= テンペスト

Rimuru Tempest



種族 Race — スライム (人化可能)

加護 Protection — 暴風の紋章

称号 Title — 魔物を統べる者

魔法 Magic — アイシクルランス
元素魔法…水氷大魔槍

ユニークスキル Unique Skill — 大賢者 変質者 暴食者

エクストラスキル Extra Skill — 音波感知 影移動 黒雷 黒炎 剛力 身体強化
多重結界 超嗅覚 超速再生 熱源感知 粘鋼糸
万能変化 分子操作 分身体 魔力感知

コモンスキル Common Skill — 威圧 思念伝達 身体装甲 毒霧吐息 麻痺吐息

耐性 Tolerance — 痛覚無効 熱変動無効 腐食無効
電流耐性 物理攻撃耐性 麻痺耐性

擬態 Mimicry — 炎巨人 黒狼 黒蛇 ムカデ 蜘蛛 蝙蝠 蜥蜴
子鬼 豚頭

PRESENT STATUS

ゲルド

Gerudo



種族
Race

オーク・ディザスター
豚頭魔王

加護
Protection

魔王種

称号
Title

仮初の魔王

魔法
Magic

回復魔法

ユニークスキル
Unique Skill

飢餓者

エクストラスキル
Extra Skill

魔力感知

外装同一化

剛力

コモンスキル
Common Skill

威圧

強化

魚鱗装甲

自己再生

耐性
Tolerance

炎熱攻撃耐性

電流耐性

物理攻撃耐性

麻痺耐性

ROUGH SKETCH



ROUGH SKETCH



Note from the Clown:

I truly appreciate that Guro-san has provided the illustrations from the light novel. I would like to warn the readers ahead of time: some of these illustrations may not match the web novel. Thus, enjoy these at your own leisure. If something does not match what you had expected, do not come asking why. The answer will always be: because the light novel is different from the web novel. I mean, sure, you can go and ask me; but that's how I'll reply. Anyways, enjoy.

Tensei Shitara Slime datta ken

Forest Disturbance Arc

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 27 – The Ogre Tribe

All monsters within the cave now run away at the mere sight of me.
Probably the result of my aura.
Pleased, I left the cave.
So I planned, but...

「*Gu*, who is it! Pursuers?」

「Young master! We'll only slow you down! Please escape with the princess!!!」

「Wicked demon! Don't try to deceive our eyes!!!」

And other similar grand statements I could hear from a group at the entrance of the cave.

Height surpassing two meters, a group of large monsters looking like a ragtag militia. Their bodies a lump of muscles, the ogres.

Aren't these the self-proclaimed rulers of the forest? They look exactly as Rigurdo has described.

So, what are they afraid of, some demon? What's with that? Scary!

A bit bewildered, I plan my escape.

I check behind me, but don't feel any presence. No heat signatures either.

So the ogres can see it but I can't! This might be bad...

Just when I thought I had gained new abilities... I guess I am still far from true strength.

「*Ku*, a demon? What kind? My bad, but I don't see it... where is it now?」

While on my guard, I begin to make retreat to ogre's side.

But they still haven't responded to my question.

Moreover, they are keeping distance from me.

What? Are they planning on using me as a bait?

The moment I thought so,

「What are you saying? The wicked demon is none other than you, slime! You have not fooled our eyes!!!」

One of the ogres called out.

Wha... what?

To call such an adorable slime a wicked demon? That's not a nice thing to say!

「*Oi. Oi!* Wait a second. I am a the wicked demon?」

「Are you trying to play dumb? That aura unbefitting of a slime! Did you think you'd fool someone?!」

Hmm? Oh... I was enjoying freaking out the cave's monsters too much and kept it open, huh.

So I quickly pull back the aura. And,

「I don't have anything like that! You must've imagined it!」

「 「 「 」 」 」 」

Of course, I couldn't fool them.

But, after insisting that it was just a misunderstanding for a while, I somehow managed to have them lower their guard.

Oh, boy...

In the first place, why are they even here?

When I so asked, they told me that they had escaped here.

Looking closely, there are many injured, with some gravely so.

A normal monster would have died by now.

The only reason they are still standing is surely due to the extremely high vitality of the ogre race.

Still, I proceed to spit out some restorative medicine and treat their wounds.

With their high vitality, even the diluted medicine quickly restores them to perfect health.

While appearing surprised for some reason, they thank me.

Now, although their wounds are healed, they are nonetheless clearly exhausted. So I decided to have them rest at my village.

After all, I need to find out what had enough power to so decimate the ogres.

They are a B rank monsters; but, from training, they can raise that to B+ or even A-.

The rulers of the forest. The strongest beings around, or so I heard.

In any case, I'll guide them to the village.

Deciding to carry them over there, I summoned Ranga.

When called, he appears from within my shadow. That is, I finally succeeded at summoning him.

My pride simply didn't allow the fact that Gobuta succeeded where I couldn't. Thus, I practiced.

And good thing I had done so—considering the current situation.

There were six ogres.

Mimicking the black wolf, I carried three and left the remaining three to Ranga; thus we returned to the village.

By foot it would have taken more than a day, but at our pace we managed it in under an hour.

As expected of ogres! Unlike the dwarfs who fainted, they were merely impressed with the speed.

Thus, we escorted the ogres to our village, where I invited them to my tent.

Well, in place of the tent stood a log cabin when I arrived.

Looking just like the blueprint I had suggested.

Seems like while I was away practicing my skills, they quickly set it up.

While thanking the dwarfs and goblins, I enter it.

Looks just like I had imagined. Amazing.

The blueprint I made by drawing on a plank with some charcoal, and, along with measurements, I passed it all to Mildo.

After looking it over, "Got it!" he exclaimed. By the results. seems like my handwriting effectively communicated the design.

Furthermore, the room was furnished just as I had previously requested.

As for the ogres, I show them to the reception room.

And, asking them to wait inside, I head over to the dwarfs.

To pick up the clothing I had requested from Garm, of course.

Assuming my child version, I tried the clothing on.

Steelthread underwear, and fang wolf outerwear.

The materials used, of course, came from the previous pack leader. But, for some reason, the fur had turned black.

Putting on pants and overcoat, I felt like I dressed to impress.

As an extra bonus, it seems that the fur had quite some magical energy stored in it.

「*Danna*, this seems to have tremendous defense power. It ain't just some normal fur!」

Satisfied, Garm gave his approval.

The final item was not armor, but a piece of clothing. Which is fine. I'd fine without it, but I guess having it is better.

So I thought, until I heard about,

「Ah, by the way, this attire just happened to have become a magic item. It will always perfectly fit the one who wears it!」

Such wonderful news! In other words, even if I turn into my adult version, the clothing won't rip!

Well done, Garm-kun.

Chances are, the fur, that had been constantly floating inside my magical energy (stomach), was thus strengthened. So, if I come across any good ingredients, I should remember to allow them to mature inside.

Let's make a mental note about that.

Now then, I shouldn't make them wait too long.

Having found a fitting spot, I asked Haruna to prepare tea for seven people, and returned to the ogres.

The ogres patiently waited. Perhaps finding things unusual, they were looking around the room.

Sadly, as the building had just recently been finished, it lacks any decoration.

Haruna brought in tea, and immediately left.

I guess it's now time to try out my human sense of taste.

I take a sip of the tea. Delicious.

To someone who never made a fuss about taste or anything, this world's palette has already been able to impress me.

It tastes like matcha—a bit bitter. I also feels its warmth. Not the effect of warmth, but just warmth itself.

A bizarre feeling.

The ogres too seem to enjoy the tea.
And after we had all calmed down, we began the discussion.
Half way through, I called for Rigurdo. And, I also had the remaining four clan chiefs also attend.

Kaijin also just started his break, and came over. Perfect.

Rigurdo and Ririna immediately came over.

The rest are apparently very busy, so we decided to continue the conversation with the five of us.

Why did I call for them?

Because of the gravity of the situation.

If I had to summarize the ogre's story, it would be simple: a war. And the ogres were defeated.

Just that.

At the same time as we fought the Flame Giant Ifrit, the ogres were caught up in their own war.

Who could have taken on the rulers of the forest? And to win, at that...

The goblin chiefs were just as shocked.

In a instant, their expressions tightened.

The enemy was?

「They suddenly attacked our village. With overwhelming strength...!
Those bastards... Orcs!!!」

Unlike humans, monsters don't have any rules stipulating a declaration of war.

But, although they can't badmouthed for the surprise attack, the fact that the orcs even attacked the ogres in the first place is strange.

Orcs rank between C~D. Stronger than your average goblin, but pose no danger to veteran adventurers.

However... these weaklings attacked the strongest, and even managed to win...

Thus, I asked for details.

The ogre village, though perhaps it was too small to call it that, only housed 300 ogres.

300 B rank monsters.

That is the size of a country's knights order. If you are planning on subjugating such a village with rank B- knights, you'd need about 3,000 of

them.

And the orcs possessing that much might? We all have expressions of disbelief.

Considering that nearly every villager was slaughtered.

The village chief and a small group apparently opened up a path for their young master and the princess to escape.

With a pained voice, one ogre said,

「Had I had more power...!!!」

He must be their young master.

The last scene they had seen was that of their chief falling to the orcs.

Also, a giant orc was releasing some strange aura.

There were there others like him.

While the elite warriors of the village approached those four, the remaining orcs invaded the village.

They numbered around a ten thousand. Of course, he did not count each one, but rather felt that there were at least that many.

But regardless of method, there was an absurd number of orcs.

And each one, like the humans, was fully armored in plate mail.

Should that be true, then this was certainly not planned by orcs alone.

Perhaps some country is using the orcs...

「Hmm, perhaps, they have become pawns of the “Demon Lord”」

Kaijin muttered.

Does that possibility exist...?

I thought that the Demon Lord avoids the forest on principle.

Beyond the forest spreads the demon's continent.

With fertile land, production is undertaken by the enslaved masses and golems.

Thus, the demon's country does not starve, and cares little for humans.

And for that reason, a demon lord desiring conquest would be most likely to attack the humans.

However, there could surely be a demon lord who, out of boredom, decides to start a war.

The disappearance of the Jura Forest's guardian – Veldora – also meant that

this particular type of demon lord would no longer be deterred.

I see.

In that case, I probably have to put more thought into the defense of the forest.

Now, what happens next...?

I asked for everyone's opinion.

「I believe the orcs intend to capture our lands!」

Rigurdo answers on everyone's behalf.

They look at me, waiting for my opinion.

Fight, run, or join them?

The ogres, after all, would immediately become prisoners depending on my decision.

Quickly, the tension rises.

「Well, how about we request some more tea!」

Having said that, I called for a second serving.

As everyone sips their tea, their expressions loosen.

Now, then.

「What are you planning on doing?」

I ask the ogres.

「Isn't it obvious. Look for a chance, and charge right in!」

「Of course. I have to take revenge for my master!」

「Me too! While I am yet powerless, I can't let those pigs live!」

「 「We shall follow our young master and princess!」 」 」

Huh. They know they're going to their deaths, but...

「You guys. Not interested in becoming my subordinates?」

「What did you say?」

Yeah. Even if they do, the goblins won't be enough to sway the course of battle.

We need to increase our fighting strength for when the orcs arrive.

「If you guys support me, I think I can fulfill your wishes?」

「What are you saying?」

「Simple. I'll help you guys. Well, I'll be fighting them anyways eventually.」

「I see... the goblins will help us fight, and we'll be used to protect this place... right?」

「Exactly. By the way, it's fine if the agreement lasts until we defeat the orcs! Afterwards, I don't mind if you request your freedom. You can stay with the goblins and create a country! Or, you can set off on your own! How about it?」

The ogre called "young master" stopped to think upon hearing my offer. As expected of a B rank. This "young master" clearly has the abilities of a B+. I can see intelligence in his eyes. He slowly closed his eyes, and then opened them wide. And,

「Understood! We shall become your subordinates!」

To raise their chances of victory if even a bit, they decided to serve me. I'm glad, to say the least. Perhaps I can save these guys too.

I hadn't known at the time, but the ogres often served as mercenaries. And, the vanguard army that demon lord had sent out, just happened to be of the same occupation. They easily accepted my offer. When I had heard it then, I accepted them as friends without question.

「Alright! Now then, let's name you guys!」

「Huh? What are...?」

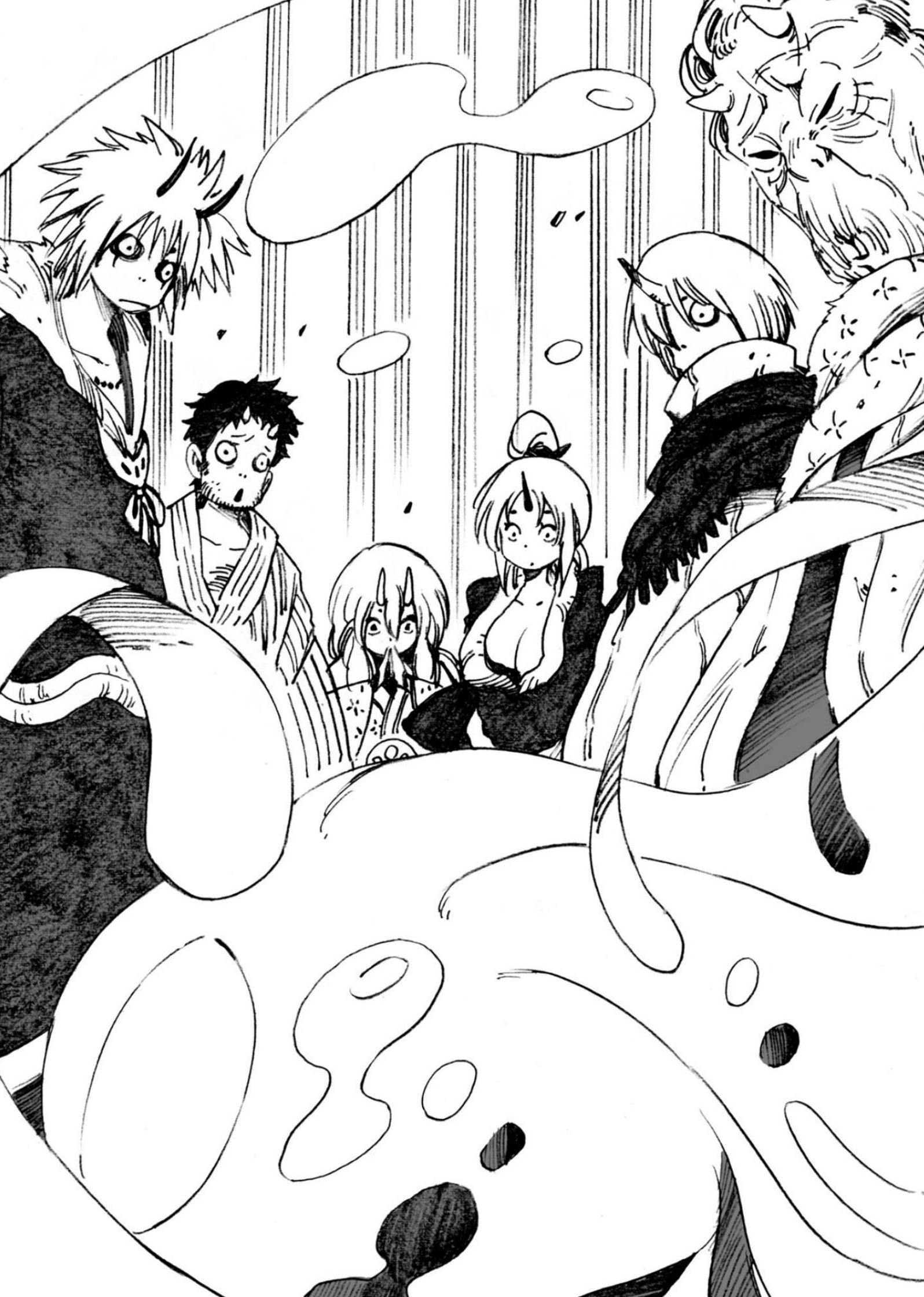
The usual naming.

While the ogres are bewildered by the turn of events, I don't mind at all.

I'll quickly give them some names!
Today, I feel particularly creative.
I looked at the color of their aura.
Young master will be "Benimaru".
Princess will be "Shuna".
Their guard as well, Kurobee, Hakurou, Souei, Shion.
So I called them.
And then I entered a state of low activity...
Hey, for that to happen from just six of them... what's with that?

When I awoke (well, I was awake, but...) the following day, I got my answer.
With hair burning like a crimson flame, Benimaru.
Although he used to be big and bulky, his height decreased to 180 cm, and his body tightened.
However, his magical energy changed, enough to mistake him for a different being...
Eh? They evolved that much?
That, of course, was my intention.
Clearly, they surpassed A rank. Truly, *Onibito*. (TL note: Ogre-men sounds weird)
Two black horns protrude from below the hair. Glowing more brilliantly than obsidian.
Though I bet he'd find it unpleasant if I called him a beauty.
Next.
Shuna and Shion are women. If the princess were a guy, I'd be complaining.
Ogre women were surprisingly beautiful, but the evolution made them gorgeous.
What's with this? Where did these idols come from?
No, no, they aren't that good!
From within her long, wavy, pink hair, two white horns could be seen.
White skin and pink lips.
What a beautiful girl!!! Her height is about 155 cm.
Crimson eyes, with a gaze filled with passion, stare at me.
The other, Shion.
Purple, dark, straight hair, with a single purple horn. White skin, and red lips.
Purple eyes, as if looking into my soul. A height of 170 cm...
Licking her lips as models sometimes do, a true beauty.

I want her as my secretary.
So I thought from the bottom of my heart.
Kurobee is in his prime. A dandy uncle.
Hakurou is a middle-aged man. However, you can't underestimate him for
it.
Souei is the same age as Benimaru.
Darker skin, and dark blue hair. A beautiful man with a different air around
him; 190 cm tall.
Blue eyes, that suit him well.
And all surpass A rank!
I'll say it again. They all surpass A rank!!!
That's why I had to use that much magical energy!
If you asked me, I'd tell you that all the strongest ogres had fled here...
And they probably already had names.
But really, if they betray us... that ain't going to be anything to laugh about!
And, as if ridiculing my worries,
「 「 「Rimuru-sama! We humbly wish for You to listen to our request! If
You are so kindly disposed, please accept our loyalty!!!」 」 」



And, they simultaneously bowed before me!
A reason to refuse...? I have none.

Thus, I obtained new comrades!

... the fact that I slightly feared their strength, we'll keep a secret!



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 28 – Jobs

Making new friends is good and all, but will everyone get along?

I had such a worry for a bit, but it was quickly dispelled.

The ogres who have evolved into *Oni*.

Perhaps as they evolve closer to their ancestors they'll unlock some special powers.

I know I said that it seemed like their powers surpassed A rank, but as their powers stabilize, they could end up falling down to A-.

Even so, they have clearly become very strong.

And furthermore, in a battle, perhaps more than physical prowess, special abilities are the key to victory.

I, myself, defeated Ifrit thanks to abilities.

So I must admit, I am rather interested in what kind of abilities their bodies hold.

Also, because of the evolution, the clothing they wore doesn't fit them at all. Since their bodies shrunk (though they are still bigger than the goblins) the sizes are too big.

Their armor broken, and their weapons chipped and cracked.

Curiously, they had dressed looking like soldiers fleeing from a battlefield.

And since their sense of style I found curious, I decided to ask

「Ay! Some 400 years ago, a young lad wandered into our village.

The villagers were suspicious, but the Chief warmly welcomed him.

Around the same time, a lesser dragon was rampaging in the forest. After expressing his gratitude, the lad defeated the dragon.

The villagers hallowed his name, and passed down his praise to us.

We began imitating the lad's attire, and that has been how we dressed ever since.」

And that's how it is.

They imitated his equipment and successfully recreated it?

「So, you recreated the equipment yourselves?」

「As you say. The lad had taught us various techniques, and through trial and error, we learned them. Kurobee, for example, is a blacksmith, and specializes in swords.」

Oh! To think that we already have someone to make swords...

Let's quickly introduce him to Kaijin.

Since they've already met yesterday, the discussion didn't take too long.

In fact, as if they had known each for years, they quickly started producing new weapons.

Let's leave it to them.

Moreover, there was something surprising!

This world also has silk products.

Most of clothing I've seen so far were made from something that looks like hemp. Goblins' original clothing, for example.

Well, whether it actually is hemp or not, I wouldn't know, but it certainly looks like it.

But I digress. About silk.

That is something that can be harvested from a Hell Moth—a monster living near the Ogres' village. Well, to be more precise, it's from the pupa.

If the larva grows into a hell moth, it is a powerful monster with bewitching powder that is ranked B; however, during its transformation, it is perfectly harmless.

So you look for cocoons and gather those.

Shuna is an expert at this, and has been called the fabric princess.

Let's introduce her to Garm and Doldo.

Garm is in charge of everyday clothing and underwear.

Doldo focuses more on dyes and high class attire.

While we cannot make those yet, we are making arrangements to produce them eventually.

As for hunting the cocoons—we left that to the goblin cavalry.

And while they're at it, they'll capture some larva to breed in the village.

As I don't know much about silkworm cultivation, this may just end up succeeding through trial and error.

However, as we may eventually get some decent clothing, the pain may be worth it.

About my steel thread pile...

"I leave it to you!" I told Shuna, and handed it over.

「Got it! I'll make you proud, Rimuru-sama!」

She answered with a bright blush.

Adorable. She must be at that age where she is happy to be depended on. As an ogre princess she probably hadn't worked with cloth besides as a hobby.

So even a bit of responsibility seems to make her happy.

The dwarf brothers are also happy to be working together with her.

Just please, don't touch her...

Unlike how she looks, that girl's frighteningly strong!

Probably, if they try touching her ass, they won't be seeing the sun rise again.

These two are pretty perverted, so it makes me worry.

Well, the only reason I can worry about them is my lack of sexual desire.

If I had it, I'd have to worry about my myself over any other person.

Cause she's so damn adorable!

Truly an *Oni-hime* (TL note: hime meaning princess).

You'd be risking your life each time you'd flirt with her.

「Shuna-sama. Shuna-sama has found employment?

Please calm your worries for I shall devote myself to Rimuru-sama.」

Shion pushed herself between me and Shuna.

It looked as if sparks were flying between them... nah! I was probably just seeing some optical illusion.

「*Ufufu*. How could that be if I shall be the one to care for Rimuru-sama?」

「Perish the thought, *Hime-sama*, I shall not let it come to that! I personally shall fully devote myself to Rimuru-sama!」

Bachibachibachi (Lightning sparks)

See? They're perfectly civil!

And besides, I require no one's care.

Having lived alone for a long time, I can manage all household duties.

So... let's take our leave.

Is what I wanted to do...

「Rimuru-sama! Between myself and Shion, which would you fancy at Your side?」

They didn't let me run away.

「Ah, yeah. Shuna has her weaving, right? So I'll depend on you when you're free, maybe?」

Depend regarding what?
I don't get it. Shuna, on other hand,

「Understood!! I have been favored, right!」

Ah, yeah. That's right. Let's leave it at that.

「Right! Glad to have you!」

She smiled and nodded at my words. Cute.

「In that case, for the time being, please leave Rimuru-sama to me, *Hime-sama!*」

「(Tch.) Please take care of our lord!」

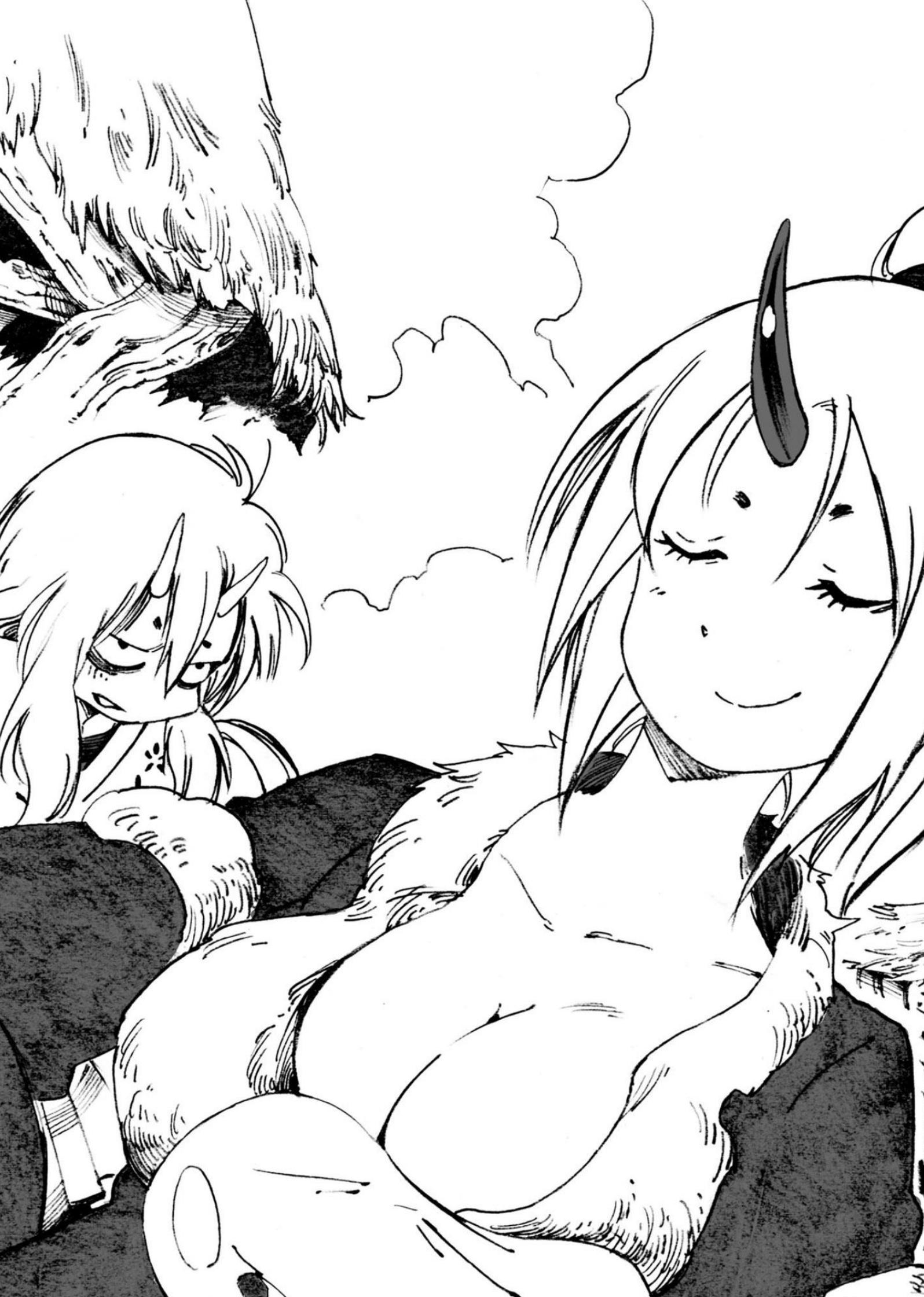
「(Fufu.) I live to serve!」

Somehow, the conversation grew heavy.

At that moment, it felt as if the temperature dropped in the room... but I probably imagined it.

You know, there are plenty things in this world to which you absolutely should say: I probably imagined it! This was one of them.

.



Together with Shion we walked around to oversee the construction.
Speaking of, what are the remaining three up to?
They were together with us up until a little bit ago...

「Hakurou-sama was our martial instructor. The strongest swordsman in the royal guard, surely he went to confirm the city's defenses. Benimaru-sama and Souei seem to have gone to check their abilities. They are rivals and best friends. I believe they desire to test their new strength.」

I see.

Certainly, even I understood how important it is to check your abilities. And Hakurou is a swordsman, huh. Really should have him teach me. But if he's busy checking the village, asking him for training will have to wait.

Kurobee and the rest as also busy making armor and swords, so that should be fine. But really, can't wait to get a sword.

I really want to imagine an army of goblins armed with swords. However, in actual combat, a spear is surely a better option.

We went to look for Benimaru and Souei.

Or rather, we went to the area where two great auras clashed. A plain in the direction of the cave.

It was a battle like you'd see in a manga.

The red and blue aura would intertwine and fight for dominance.

The earth split and the heavens cracked? That's how intense their fight felt.

I couldn't believe my eyes. So these are *Oni*...!

Their armor crumbled from the strength of their blows. Not that it could protect them in the first place.

Their swords broke, but they continued the fight barehanded—in what resembled karate, with set techniques and rules. It was not an amateurs' brawl.

... Um... they were ogres, right?

Their motions were so fluid that I wanted to ask.

「As expected of young master. Souei is also splendid. In our martial arts, barehanded skills serve as the foundation for mastery of the sword.」

Is what she said. The sword is an extension of your body; thus, first master the body...

These words were passed down in the village from the young lad who defeated the dragon.

Masters of martial arts ogres—if adventurers encounter them... I wonder how many unfortunate adventurers met such a fate. Let's offer them a prayer.

Having noticed me, the two immediately stopped their fight, and rushed over.

No injuries on either of them.

If anything, they look like they've been playing catch or something.

「Rimuru-sama, I humbly thank you for this wonderful power!」

「With this power, I shall turn the orcs into a sea of blood in Your name!」

Yeah. Though I can't say I'm looking forward to it.

「Promising words! I'll leave it to you. Well, we still need the goblins to gather more information, though.」

「Has scouting been going poorly?」

「No, the goblins are excellent, but there are many dangers associated with approaching too closely.」

Right. For the sake of intelligence, I had sent out scouts.

However, as some orcs may be especially careful, I strictly ordered the scouts to avoid detection.

Upon hearing my explanation, Souei said

「Rimuru-sama, in that case, I shall go on reconnaissance. Please order me!」

Looks like he has confidence in his espionage skills.

Perhaps now that he has evolved, the powerful *Oni* Souei may gather better intel than the goblins.

If anything, he looks cool-headed, so he probably won't do anything rash.

Maybe I can leave it to him.

「Can I leave it to you?」

「Ay! I hear and obey!」

The moment he answered his figure vanished from sight.

Shadow movement.

I see he has obtained a wonderful skill.

With effort, I should also be able to acquire it. Seems like I have another thing I need to practice for.

「Sorry for using your friend...」

「It is of no problem. We must show results with the power you bestowed upon us!」

「I see... the orcs are your sworn enemies, after all. The day we fight them shall come; still your rage until then!」

「Of course. If there is anything I can do, please give me your command. I live to become your hands and feet!」

「... Is that so. Your words relieve my fears! By the way, did you find the goblins capable?」

「That I did. You had mentioned making a country here? Rimuru-sama as our monarch, Rigurdo as the Prime Minister? I fear I understand little in politics, but please leave the military matters to me.」

While we were conversing thus,

「*Ho ho ho*. Young master, you intend to put my old bones to use?

However, if it be for Rimuru-sama's sake, then I shall force this old body to work!」

With such words, Hakurou had joined the conversation.

I hadn't noticed his presence at all. Nor his body temperature.

Oi oi...

Had he struck me now, I would have been hit once without any warning...

This is what they call a master...!

In a better time, or perhaps had he been born as a human, he would probably be called a Sword Saint or something.

Nameless, never having gone out into the world, this grandpa (ogre) quietly polished his sword skills.

I can see how he'd be the strongest among them.

「Benimaru... are you stronger than Hakurou-san?」

「Fu. Rimuru-sama, your joke puts me at an awkward position. This old timer, rather, Hakurou is the strongest man in the royal guard. He even surpassed my father. And besides, he is of a mixed race with the blood of the young human warrior flowing through him.」

「As he said. My ancestor was none other than the master swordsman Araki Byakuya!」

Japanese, huh.

Seems like from the time of the katana.

「I see, in that case, you are a samurai, aren't you?」

A single, casual word caused it.

Magical energy escaped from Hakurou's body, mixed with that of his surrounding, and then reassembled.

The amount of energy in his body did not change. However, its quality did.

I forgot about it. Evolution due to class change, huh.

A middle aged *oni*, but I seem to have reinvigorated him... now he looks as if in the prime of his life.

Well, he also looks shocked at the change in his body. I've done it again.

To think that just a single word of mine could have such an effect.

While his body was still adjusting to the increase in magical energy, it seems to have found the samurai class as appropriate to attune to.

I just pray he hadn't become stronger than me.

「Good for you. From today on, you are a samurai. Samurai live by their loyalty. Serve Benimaru well!」

So I exclaimed.

「Wait a second, I always want to be made into a sa-mu-ra-i.」

Benimaru said while looking at me with eyes full of determination.

He really is like a stereotypical warrior.

But to ask now of all time...

「I can do that, but, are you fine with not becoming a village chief?」

「You speak those words at such a late hour! I have chosen to serve

beneath You. I have pledged my loyalty to you. Again, I offer you my loyalty, please recognize me as a your samurai!」

「I, too, ask this of you!」

Shion as well, huh.

If it has come to this, I guess I'll just have to bite the bullet.

「I understand. From now on, you are samurai! Live for my sake!」

I feel like I've said this yesterday as well... how embarrassing.

But these guys...

「 「 「As You command!!! We pledge our entire lives to You!!!」 」 」

Without a hint of embarrassment, they pledged themselves to me. By the way, I gave Kurobee the Blacksmith profession, and Shuna the Shrine Maiden class.

But Kurobee... though his power decreased as a result, he showed me terrifying skill at forging swords.

I should ask him to craft me a sword soon.

Shuna seemed to have been able to use black magic since the beginning, but becoming a Shrine Maiden seems to have revealed some secret arts to her.

Unlike magic, it's not something she can teach other people.

Though if she acquires some seemingly useful skill, I'll definitely ask to analyze it.

It doesn't matter that she can't teach it to other people. I have [Predator], after all!

I'll quickly learn it the moment she gets it.

Fufufu. As for the guy who already has shadow movement, I know exactly what will fit him.

Right! What every child loves... ninja!

If it's him, he could probably land a critical hit sending heads flying!

Actually... Hakurou can already do that... scary.

Just standing by him in human form makes me imagine my head flying off... how worrisome.

I have to further consider their strength.

Now that they have gotten stronger, I have to think of methods of

improving myself.

I can't keep depending on abilities forever.

Seems like I have much to learn for the upcoming battle! Then, it happened.

Revealing exactly what I needed to prepare.



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 29 – Lizardmen’s Invasion

There is a lake in the center of the Jura Forest, called Shisu. A marsh surrounds the lake, and is controlled by the Lizardmen. Countless caves surround their lands, forming a natural labyrinth thwarting any invasion. Protected thus by the land itself, the Lizardmen peacefully ruled over the lake. However, one day, troubling news reached them. The orc army was advancing to the lake. The Head, upon hearing these news, quickly issued orders.

「Prepare for battle! We’ll crush them!!!」

The Head was full of confidence. Had they fought on the plains it might have been different, especially considering the Lizardmen’s were outnumbered, But this battle would be on their terms. If they set traps and proceed carefully, they were sure to win. While sending some to prepare for battle, he also sent a reconnaissance team to investigate the orcs. Knowing the size of the enemy is a must. Along with becoming the leader, his intelligence increased. The carnivorous Lizardmen would individually rank as a C+ monster. The warriors could reach B-, and some special individuals among them could even reach B rank. The total number of their troops numbered ten thousand–if calling half of their entire population to arms. However, even so, their abilities are rather highly ranked. If they properly cooperate and fight as a single unit, they can easily rival the army of a small human country.

Thus, this battle seems completely to their advantage.
There is no way we will lose! So thought their head.
However, his heart was still heavy.
Orcs were typically a race that wouldn't attack those stronger than themselves.
And by no means are Lizardmen weaker.
Had they attacked the goblins, then it would've made some sense... but why them?
And thus the question slowly grew into unease that tormented him.
A bold personality, but with enough humility. That was the Head of the Lizardmen who ruled them carefully for many years.
And this lizard's fears were soon to come true.
That much was confirmed but the reconnaissance team.

The orcs numbered 200 thousand!!!

Impossible!... so he thought.
The orcs were indeed a race bursting with life, renown for their reproductive abilities. However, even then, to prepare 200 thousand warriors was unthinkable.
How were they able to procure enough food?
Who had united that many selfish and greedy orcs under one banner?
With their power, at most a thousand would follow...
The best the head could do would be raise an army for twenty thousand.
Are they divided into sections controlled by some outstanding individuals?
But even so, someone has to unite the leaders...
It couldn't have been...
The mere thought evoked fear.
He wanted to reject that thought with all his might.
That's how terrifying that existence was. The... Orc Lord, said to be born once in many hundreds of years!
However, no matter how hard he thought, only that entity could have achieved such results.
If... if the Orc Lord has indeed been born, then the advantage he so depended on would probably be meaningless.
If they fight normally, defeat is almost inevitable. They don't have enough troops!

So the Head thought.
What could they do to escape from this predicament?
If his worries proved mistaken, he would only jump for joy. However, one has to prepare for any circumstance before the decisive battle.
So he decided to call for reinforcements.
And thus he sent one of his subordinates.
Unfortunately, it was that subordinate that caused the chaos.

Lizardmen's Raid Leader Gabil, upon receiving the orders from the head, left the marshes.
Taking with him a hundred warriors.
Gabil was not pleased.
To him, who had a name, to be taking orders from a the nameless head... how revolting!
I am a chosen one! That very fact was the root of Gabil's pride and confidence.
A certain devil he had met granted him this name.

「You show promise! Someday, I'll come back to call you to my side!」

So the great devil told him.
He remembers those words as if they were said yesterday.
My great master, the devil Gelmudo himself bestowed this name upon me!
So how could I be satisfied working under those low class lizardmen and their pathetic leader?
For Gelmudo-sama's sake, I must take control of the lizardmen...
Gabil kept thinking the same thing: is this fine? Of course not!
In that case, what should he do?
The orders from the Head were to journey to the goblins' village and to request their assistance.
He did allow some forceful coercion, but strictly forbid any action that would prompt a violent response.
Pathetic! So thought Gabil.
We should just conquer the goblins! We should have some faith in our abilities, and all will go as planned!

Yes!

We have no need for the weak head who overestimates the power of some lowly orcs!

Isn't this the chance for take over that I was waiting for?

It is. So-how should I proceed?

Those lowly goblins can at least serve as meat shields. So let's gather them up and put those lowlives to use.

Ten thousand goblins should be useful.

Wait... I got a better idea.

This is the perfect opportunity to show the world our power!

My power!

For that goal, I should proceed carefully here.

Carefully, without letting my guard down, wait for the right timing.

First, gather forces.

This Gabil will proceed onward to the Goblin village!

For the sake of my great ambition!

.

The goblin village chiefs gathered with paled faces.

Compared to before, their numbers significantly dwindled.

It all began with the coming of the fang wolves.

Or perhaps it began when they abandoned the village of the Named warrior.

The villages which wanted to fight along that seemingly despondent village have now joined it.

A savior appeared in that village.

A being with unbelievable power.

Those goblins came under the protection of that being, gained new powers, and successfully reconstructed their village.

But the goblin chiefs can't do something as shameless as request to join them now of all times.

Actually, a lot want to do that. There are many who already have.

But if they join them now surely they would be treated as slave. That was the thought that prevented them from making a decision.

However, time doesn't wait.

The orc army has begun their advance.

A few chiefs have decided to serve the orcs.
Rather than be trampled down by them, better to promise help in advance,
and live under their protection...
With those intentions, they sent a messenger.
The messenger did not return... not all of him.
The orc envoy brought the messenger's head, and said this.

「*Guhahahaha!* We shall not permit your capitulation! However. If you
chose to become our slaves, we shall at least spare your lives! Such is our
response.」

And he leisurely left.

Yet anger did not arise within them. For they witnessed that overwhelming
power.

That single orc could have slaughtered everyone in the village himself.

Normally, orcs are a rank D monster.

Stronger than your average goblin, but not so overwhelmingly strong.

Upon hearing the report, the village chiefs fell into an ever deeper despair.

They should have chosen to serve under fellow brethren, at least...

The orc who promised to save their lives also demanded that they give up
all their food.

“We won't kill you, but die!” That's what he's saying.

However, even if all the goblins assembled, they would certainly be
annihilated.

The goblins who could fight numbered slightly less than ten thousand.

Their brothers from the savage regions, those not included in their
gatherings, could not be contacted.

So, they were out of options.

At that time, an urgent report arrived.

Lizardmen warriors have entered the village! It read.

Was this not a glimmer of hope?

So the village chiefs went to meet the Lizardmen's Raid Leader; he was their
only hope, they thought.

Moreover, he was a named monster! Surely he would become their savior.

And then, their messiah proclaimed

「Swear your loyalty to me! If you do, I promise you a bright future!」

We believe those words!
Thus, the village chiefs made their decision.

It was a mistake of the weak who had no one to depend on.

There were some who insisted on serving their kind rather than the Lizardmen.

However, they were greatly outnumbered, so the goblins chose to serve Gabil.

If only they knew that this decision would decide their fate...

.

Hakurou is a master swordsman.

Strength without a blemish.

Although he's at the age to be someone's grandpa, his spirit is clearly years younger.

Having taken my human form, I am learning the sword from him.

Although I haven't held a sword since those *kendo* lessons in middle school...

My perception speed is a thousand times the norm!

Receiving a blow is a piece of cake!

I also had a time when I had thought that.

Since moving around in the child form was unpleasant, I changed to my adult version.

"Come at me, gramps!" I thought, watching Hakurou.

Then he somehow grew hazy. At that moment.

Supaaaaan!

He landed a hit square on the top of my helmet.

I felt no pain nor took any damage. The helmet was made from wood, so didn't offer any protection.

Since the point is to learn these movements, it's best to hear when a hit lands.

But, really...

It wasn't speed; it was skill. Completely a difference of skill.

His ability is probably higher than mine.

How unexpected.

I wasn't planning on being conceited, but this completely took me by surprise.

So this is a swordsman! A power one can easily recognize.

Had this been an actual fight, well I have a few tricks of my own, but if this were a surprise attack, I would have lost.

Though even knowing this much, any mistake will certainly lead to my defeat.

Besides, there's no way Hakurou has gone all out there.

Next to me, Benimaru has been knocked out (with a pleased expression?).

If I didn't have the accelerated perception, I surely would have been in the same state. Not something to laugh about at all.

Two of us taken out at the same time.

Since this old man regained his youthful spirit he became truly dangerous.

And then,

Karan, karan, karan, karan!!!!

A strange sound resounded from the surrounding.

What is that?

That noise, apparently, was an alarm system the goblins had set up.

Of course, they've done that without my knowledge. Using the traps I had previously set as a clue.

Ending our practice, we head over to Rigurdo.

When he sees me, Rigurdo rushes over.

「There is trouble, Rimuru-sama! The Lizardmen's messenger has arrived!!」

So he impatiently reported.

By the way, Rigurdo has pretty much established this panicky image, hasn't he?

That aside... Lizardmen?

Sigh... I knew that annoyance would arrive someday, but seems like its finally here.

Well, let's calmly listen like I always do!



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 30 – Envoy

Gabil had easily acquired the Goblin Villages' support. Without even having to show our power, the goblins quickly surrendered themselves to me.

They are a pathetic race, after all. Should they show any intention to disobey, I'll quickly force them to obey.

Gabil had completely forgotten the Head's words.

He had every village bring out food from their storehouses.

And, for have every warrior assemble before him.

The goblin warriors numbered 7,000.

They were clothed in battered leather armor, and armed with stone spears.

A poor fighting force, but good enough for now.

Those without the will to fight have already ran away.

「Clan chiefs! Are there any other villages around here?」

The chiefs exchanged glances.

One nervously replied,

「No... though not exactly a village, but there is a community...」

What's with that?

The way they are trying to avoid the question was getting on Gabil's nerves.

And when he pressed further, they began telling him a bizarre story.

That there was a group of goblins hunting atop of fang wolves.

However, that makes no sense, he thought. Fang wolves are powerful monsters that move in packs.

Called the rulers of the plains, they've thwarted Lizadmen's advances many times.

For them to serve some lowly goblins... impossible!

And moreover, they've concluded with a truly ludicrous statement. Those goblins obeyed a slime. A slime, the lowest of monsters! What wolf, or even goblin would serve such trash? He decided to confirm their words. There's probably some trick involved, he thought. If he handled this well, he could gain control over the fang wolves. Gabil thus decided... for the sake of his grand ambition.

The village was not where he was told. That had angered him, but he decided to be patient. In order to control the wolves, he probably needed to be more patient. To achieve his desire of ousting the current Head, he needed to have more self-control. Thus, for the sake of his goals, he decided to be patient. Gabil perceived only one obstacle to his plans—a lack of an army. If only he could command the wolves, the other lizardmen would surely follow. And with the rulers of the plains and the rulers of the marshes under one banner, how could they even think to fear the lowly orcs! Gabil so believed, without even a hint of doubt. By expelling the orcs, they would become the true rulers of the Jura Forest. And thus, surely Gelmudo-sama would distinguish them for their service. For such a grand dream, he'd wait as long as necessary. The main army he'd already sent back to the Shisu lake, ordering them to be on standby. Since they didn't have much provision, they had to act quickly. Time was of essence. And after receiving reports that tracks were found, he quickly issued orders. Including himself, he selected ten elites. Mounting the Overlizards, they ran towards their objective. The wolves were nothing to fear, as although they were certainly powerful, they obeyed some lowly goblins. Probably the leftovers of a pack. "I'll train them myself, and have them regain their former power!" So he thought. Oh, but how could he have imagined what would lay before him...!

His head was filled with the dream of becoming a ruler of the forest and serving Gelmudo-sama.

To meet with the lizardmen's envoy, I proceeded to the entrance of the city. There, we had built a small cabin that the guards used to rest in. The members who attended were myself, Rigurdo, Benimaru, Hakurou, and Shion.

I had asked Shion to prepare some tea, but that ended in regret. She does not understand the beauty of gentle refinement and natural simplicity. She does everything with all her strength.

As if screaming, strength is everything!

When cleaning, "Everything must be erased" she concluded, and attempted to destroy the very building. Fortunately, we were able to stop her in time and did not need to rebuild it.

"I sincerely beg your forgiveness!" she exclaimed dejectedly, but that doesn't mean we can let our guard down around her.

She'll just try to solve any problem with her strength. So I worry about letting her out of my sight.

However, she was ecstatic when I let her take wait on me.

I just wish she wasn't that happy about it.

And as I had expected, the tea was horrible. But was that even tea...?

I feel like there was strange grass, looking like *wakame*, floating in there. In short, that was not something you'd drink.

Rigurdo, fearing "What is this... explain yourself!" question, timidly turned away.

What a guy...

Benimaru, keeping his eyes closed as if his life depended on it, refused to look this way.

Damn you guys...

And the oblivious to our trouble, waiting for praise—Shion.

Wait! What is there to praise?

Having said my prayers, I moved to take the teacup,

「Ah! Tea, huh! I was just getting thirsty!」

With those words, Gobuta who had just arrived took the cup and drank it all.

Guuuuuuuuudo!!!

Well done! I'm proud of you from the bottom of my heart!

Shion's face, however, twisted into a smile devoid of any positive emotion...

That, Gobuta did not notice... couldn't notice.

One last **Gobu~!** escaped from his mouth before it had filled with foam.

And, **Bikun bikun!** he fell to the floor convulsing.

Dodged that bullet. That could've been me right there.

Her face colored in surprise, Shion slightly inclined her head.

But I won't be deceived. She's forbidden from cooking from now on.

「Ah, Shion. When making food or drink for people, make sure to run it by Benimaru first!」

Let's make sure she understands.

Benimaru, choking on something, stares at me in response.

“Nope. She's your problem now, I leave her to you!” I told him with my eyes.

And thus both dejectedly hang their heads.

I pray there be less victims from now on.

Since the alarm sounded, an hour had passed.

And the envoy had finally arrived.

And, with a somewhat 'different' attitude, a Lizardman dismounted a giant lizard.

Would he be... their leader?

「Well done with the reception! I'll allow you to become my servants. Be honored!!!」

Is he still asleep?

Somehow... I have no words to say. What the hell is this idiot saying?

「Hmph. Haven't you heard? The orc army is advancing on the forest. The only one who can save you small fry is me!」

So the orcs are indeed coming. I was waiting for Souei to report, so this is within expectations.

I guess it would make sense to unite against them, but...

「Oh, right. I've heard there is someone among you who has tamed a fang wolf. I'll make him into an officer. Bring him to me!」

Umm...

Fighting together is good. But what if our ally is an idiot?

An incompetent ally is worse than a hardened foe. That much is common sense...

I took a quick glance at Rigurdo. His mouth was gaping open.

Benimaru scratched his head, and looked at me as if saying, "can I kill this idiot?"

Of course, I hadn't considered his offer.

We refuse. No, not about Shion's cooking—their offer!

Hakurou simply crossed his arms, and closed his eyes... or is he sleeping?

And, Shion, who is holding me, is flexing her arms...

Sto! You'll crush me!

But when she noticed my panic, she loosened up a bit.

Being held in the slime body certainly feels good, but it's dangerous.

I let my guard down. Being hugged to death would not be funny. Seems like she can't control her strength at all.

In any case, this is rather troubling. Who'd have thought the envoy would be an idiot.

「Umm, the one who tamed the fang wolf... or rather made him his servant would be me...」

Anyways, let's continue the conversation.

「Haaah? A lowly slime? Then summon his now. If you do, I'll believe you.」

How condescending!

Now I'm annoyed. This guy... he's completely ignoring us, going at his own pace. He's looking down on us too much.

I've met many politicians and office workers before, but never before have I

met someone so blatantly foolish.
For such a moron, it should be fine to ignore any rules of civility.
And besides, there is no benefit in making such an ally.
I decided to change my approach,

「Ranga!」

「Ay! I hear and obey.」

Ranga appears from within my shadow. Recently, lurking around in there has become his habit.

「Oh. It seems I have business with you. I permit you to speak.」

I prefer to leave this things to others.
Since there's always someone who can better manage such people.
But really, the only one who didn't treat me – while a slime – as trash was Rigurdo, huh.
Well, there's nothing I can do about losing interest in humoring this guy.
And by the way, it seems that for every person that recognizes my aura while I hide it there is an idiot who doesn't even while I display it.
That's something I need to think about.
Noticing my displeasure, Ranga

「Rather than with my lord, I have been ordered to speak with thou. I'm listening. Speak!」

While intimidating the lizardmen, he confronted the envoy.
Who, in turn, lost his composure for a second, but then quickly regained it.

「Ri... right. So you are the Fang Wolf? The chief here? I am the Lizardmen's raid leader Gabil.

Pleased to make your acquaintance. As I have just stated, I have received a name. So rather than that slime, how about serving me?」

He brazenly replied.

Let me hit him!

No, no, have to act like the mature monster here. Let's forgive him.

I am an adult. Calm yourself.

But more than myself, I want Shion to relax. Wait, any more power and I'll..!

Noticing my squirming, Shion apologized by patting me. Seriously, calm down.

However, isn't he too arrogant for a simple lizard...

Ranga too is begging to let him loose.

「*Guruu*. Lowly lizard... I am no longer a Fang Wolf. For you to not recognize that much, insignificant being...」

Ranga gritted his teeth and a dangerous crimson light filled his eyes. He is stilling his anger.

Ranga-san... don't over do it. Will the lizard survive?

Were he not a messenger, I'd laugh watching him torn to pieces for his stupidity, but...

「Very well! I'll show you my power! Who will be my opponent?」

Oi oi... that's a bad joke.

Please read the mood, lizard. You're the weakest one here.

At most, he might be stronger than Rigurdo...

I mean, even Rigurdo possesses B rank strength.

Being the Goblin king, he is strongest warrior among the goblins.

The average for a hobgoblin is C+, but he's worlds above that.

And that's not counting his armaments.

Sure, the lizard is a named monster and maybe strong among them, but he pales in comparison to anyone here.

Where the hell is this self-confidence coming from?

We exchanged glances.

Who will fight him...?

「*Kukuku*, fine. In that case, fight with one of my storm wolves, should you defeat him, I will listen.」

Ranga continued the conversation.

Thank goodness. We couldn't agree on who'd fight him.

Everyone wanted to beat the guy senseless, and had a dangerous glow in their eyes.

But somehow, seeing them act like that, made me relax.

And whenever someone had an outburst of anger, the rest of us seemed to

calm down.

For guys like this, only I seem to be able to keep my cool at all times... but whatever.

「Is that fine? I am willing to face you, you know?

Well, if you feel like making excuses when you lose, you are free to send out your subordinate!」

Uoooooooooooo!!! Ranga howled.

Damn it! Just when the anger had subsided, the lizard had to provoke us again.

Ranga calmly summons a wolf.

I didn't know he had learned such a summoning skill.

Moreover, a black wolf appearing thus, I must admit, looks pretty damn cool.

「*Garuu*. Shut this lizard up!」

「*Gau!* (Ay!)」

And then, to the lizard,

「If you wish to borrow my strength, first show your own. Now, begin!」

Ranga shouted.

At the sound of his voice, the battle began.

The lizard, no, Gabil readied a trident, and carefully observed the storm wolf's movements.

The wolf, on the other hand, stood composed.

Ton! He kicked the ground, covering the distance to his opponent in a single leap.

Surpassing Gabil's perception ability, an overwhelming speed.

Completely unable to react, Gabil never knew what hit him.

In a split second, he received a blow to the chest. The wolf then circled behind him, and held him by the neck – with his mouth, of course – in midair.

He threw Gabil into the air once, and then smashed him to the ground.

That all had happened in the blink of an eye.

Not Ranga, but some average storm wolf had completely overwhelmed the

B ranking Lizardmen's raid leader Gabil.

I knew Ranga had been growing stronger recently, but to think that the other wolves have developed this far...

As a result of the attack, Gabil's scale armor fell apart, and the lizard himself had fainted.

Gabil's subordinates, who were busy encouraging him a second ago, now stood troubled.

They could not understand what had happened at all.



「*Oi*. The winner has been decided. The offer I refuse.
If you come asking for help to fight against the orcs, I may consider it.
Today, however, take *that* away and leave」
Upon hearing my words, the Lizardmen finally began leaving.
And thus, the troublesome Lizardmen's envoy had finally departed.

However... the orcs are still going to invade, and we do not have a solid plan yet.

Moreover, we seem to have met a headache-inducing, unreliable "allies" known as the Lizardmen.

The more I thought about these things, the deeper into melancholy I fell.



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 31 – Emergency Meeting

Now, after the moron had left, this is what we did.

Right about then, Souei had returned from his scouting mission.

Just in time.

Gathering everyone, I decided to hold a conference.

From the Hobgoblins: Rigurdo, Rigur, Rugurdo, Regurdo, Rogurdo, and Ririna.

Kaijin representing the dwarfs.

Benimaru, Hakurou, Shion, and Souei representing the *Oni*.

And, myself.

All together, 12 “people”. The current core members. Kaijin also speaking on behalf the Construction and Manufacturing departments.

Department of Production is supervised by Ririna.

Department of Governance has Rigurdo at the top, and three chiefs making up the judicial, legislative, and executive branches.

However, this particular department is not completely established yet...

But that’s a problem for the future.

Department of War by Benimaru and Hakurou.

Department of Intelligence by Souei.

Department of Defense by Rigur.

At present, we have only six departments active in our city.

Well, though I say “active”, they are so in name only; however, it’s probably a good idea to slowly develop them.

Currently, everyone is living with little worry about food.

The department of defense is also regulating hunting, so that sector should be fine.

If I think about it, Rigur is handling things well. He’s one of those unsung heroes, isn’t he.

Frankly, about the department of war, Benimaru knows nothing except numbers of soldiers when it comes to the art of war.

So it’s an appointment in name only. It was something that I had to do.

Ririna shows promise. After obtaining a potato-like plant, she succeeded in its cultivation.

With short harvest cycles, and high nutritional value, it will improve our food supply.

In the future, when we trade with the humans, we should obtain many different vegetable seeds.

The construction and manufacturing departments are completely left to Kaijin.

He normally specializes in smithing, but after Kurobee joined, he ended up in a managerial position.

Seems like Kaijin has been completely separated from his field of expertise. However, he had entrusted it all to Kurobee.

According to Kaijin, they are still busy with establishing the smithy, but once things calm down, he'll devote himself fully to production. That's how it is.

He probably wants to come back soon.

Shion is in charge of my care? I kind of want to rethink that post, but right now, no matter where we put her, it'll be bad for my heart.

For now, let's wait and see.

And, about Souei.

He's strange.

I know I appointed him as a ninja... but he's taking it too seriously.

He can make clones appear from any direction.

While their abilities drop, they have no movement restrictions.

Furthermore, he can deploy six clones without any restrictions.

And even if I say their abilities decrease, that's only about their vigor (HP) and magical energy (MP)—it becomes 1/10th of original. Their movement abilities and attack power are completely unchanged.

An ability superior to mine.

Actually, all the *Oni* are strange.

Souei, as I had just described.

Shuna had specialized in my Analysis Ability, and awakened to the unique skill [Analytic].

Our abilities are basically identical, with the exception that she doesn't need to eat the target. She can analyze with eyesight alone.

Kurobee had awakened to the unique skill [Researcher]. This skill also bears great semblance to my own.

As someone who specializes in production, it is a very useful skill.

Hakurou has had his perception ability accelerated by a a thousand times.

So I basically can't see him losing in a battle.

Shion, as you'd expect, obtained [Herculean Strength EX] and [Physical Strength EX].

Moreover, she also awakened to a special skill [Battle Craze] that she should absolutely never use.

Last up, Benimaru. This bastard learned [Black Lightning] of all things.

Seriously! Of all the dangerous skills I did not want circulating!

I think I'll need to come up with some countermeasures.

Anyhow, they seem to have inherited my skills and completed their evolution.

Now then, let's start the conference.

「First, let's hear the report.」

Upon my order, Souei began conveying the state of affairs.

Everyone silently listened.

He sent out six clones to gather intel

1. Goblin Villages
2. State of the marshes
3. State of the Orc army

He seems to have sent two clones to each location.

First, the Goblin villages have decided to join the Lizardmen's raid leader Gabil as his warriors.

Probably that lizard from some time ago.

To have decided to serve that moron, what weird tastes they have. Those that decided against joining him, have ran away in various direction.

There were also a few that ran in the direction of human countries, but they'll probably end up as subjugation targets.

As long as goblins establish their communities in the forest, the humans would stay away, but if you invade their territory, they would surely bare their fangs.

And while I don't know the humans' strength, they will surely order a subjugation quickly.

When they do, the goblins could only continue living in hiding. Their future looks grim.

While on this topic, I also listened to the report about Gabil.

Somehow, the goblins he had gathered numbered 7,000 warriors.

A decent army.

As we had gathered, they once appealed to the orcs, but were rejected. At least they can use their head a bit.

However, they were also forced to take along with them all their food, so even if they survive against the orcs, there will surely be people dying afterwards.

But we won't be doing anything about that.

That was the unanimous decision of their clan chiefs who decided that such a fate was better than being murdered by the orcs.

And besides, we are not an NPO.

We have only begun establishing this city, but abandoning it would not be fun.

If we allow the orcs to invade this far, the forest ecosystem would probably collapse>

Which is why we must stop them at the marshes.

Now about the marshes.

Here, the Lizardmen's Head had begun assembling troops, and prepared an army of ten thousand.

Living off the lake's fish, they have an abundance of food.

Furthermore, they are barricading themselves in their natural labyrinth in preparation of any attack.

But are the orcs an enemy that they should so fear?

So let's hear about the orcs.

The orc army, numbering 200,000.

「Huh? 200,000?!!!」

I thoughtlessly let out my voice.

The orcs who attacked the ogres numbered only ten thousand...

「So the ones who attacked our village was but a single division?」

「Right. After investigating, that much became clear. Their army consists of

200,000 warriors! Coming from the south, they took a relatively wide route and are aiming for the marshes.]

Hmm. I don't really know the geography yet.

「Souei, do you have a map or something?」

「What would a map be?」

「Eh?」

「 「 「 . . . ??? 」 」 」 」

What did he say?

For there to be so few people who know about maps...

Kaijin had known. He knew of them, but none in circulation.

Seems like this world is treating maps as a military secret.

Hakurou's grandfather had drawn the map of the village's surrounding on a block of wood.

Having no paper hurts.

Anyways, holding a wood block, we'll carve the map of our city's vicinity.

Using the map in my head, and Rigur's knowledge, we have Hakurou record the information.

This way, using all our knowledge, we created a half-way decent map.

Before even getting to the main issue of the conference, we had wasted two hours on map creation.

And here we took a short break.

I don't need it, but the goblins probably do.

Shuna brought in a tray of food.

Following her, a group of girls followed with more trays.

I changed into my child form.

Maybe rest is unnecessary, but meals are important. Since I have this human form, I might as well eat while tasting.

..., as long as it's not made by Shion, that is.

Since getting used to human transformation, I managed to transform already wearing clothing. Seems like practice really does wonders.

A feast was laid before me.

And for some reason, Shuna had sat right by me. Just in case, I have to check...

The appearance is normal, but what about the inside? Clearly lacking spices, seems like a bunch of ingredients were stir-fried together...
Who cooked this? I felt a sharp glance from my side.
Gulp. Somehow, I'm getting very nervous.

「Let's eat!」

Until I had said it, nobody moved.
Seems like if I don't eat first, nobody will begin. I had been hoping that someone would finally eat, but seems like I need to steel myself.
It's fine. Shion did not make this!
However, I kind of regret changing into a form that has a sense of taste.
With those thought, I reached for the food. But not with chopsticks, since we only had spoons.
Bringing some soup to my mouth, I take a sip... it was delicious.

「Delicious!!!」

The moment I said so, everyone moved.
But hey... you guys, how can you just watch your lord drink poison! Though it's not poison per se...
And I also have a resistance to most poisons...
However, I want to be a bit more considerate.
Chances are, Shuna had pulled some strings ahead of time...
Upon hearing my praise, Shuna's face lit up in a full smile.
Grabbing my plate, she insisted to feed me.
Seeming a bit happy, and a bit embarrassed.
Though I'm an adult, I'm a child at heart. Appearance that of a little girl.
Even if I let her feed me, there shouldn't be any problems.
Fufun A victory laugh escaped from Shuna while she glanced at Shion.
Tears seem to have started to form in Shion's eyes, but her expression quickly turned to that of surprise after she had tasted the dish.
Right, Shuna. If you polish your cooking skills a bit more, they'll really shine.
You'd never consider putting strange things into people food!
Even without seasoning, to be able to bring out the taste of the ingredients this well.
But was Benimaru a test subject for the many dishes before this? That I

could not have known about.

Well, Shuna was probably a cooking prodigy. She could probably perfect the taste using her [Analytic] skill.

That isn't a waste of ability, that's the proper way to use it.

It's been a long time since I last enjoyed a meal this much.

With the end of the meal comes the end of our break.

We have a pretty good time.

But now we need to get down to business.

「The object that clearly explains the nearby geography is called a map. Looking at this map, let's continue the report.」

Having said so, everyone crowded around the map.

Well, I can also transmit the image to everyone using [Telepathic Communication].

Souei marked the orcs army with a wooden chip.

I was in the middle of teaching goblins basic arithmetic, so I don't know if they'll understand all of this.

But there's nothing we can do about that, we need to continue the discussion.

The orcs' invasion route.

There are three routes leading to the center of the Jura forest that the orcs could use.

One runs from the Canaat Mountain range. The other along Ameld river.

These connect north forest and south forest.

But this is not a straight path, as the river runs east along the way.

They could probably have the soldiers cross at the place where Ameld river meets the Eastern Empire's river.

However, there is no route that could support a large army from the orcs' current position.

Therefore, they probably decided to invade the marsh from the west.

However, the forest will hamper their attempts to move beyond the river.

According to Hakurou, there is a community of Treants in this forest, so avoiding them would leave the orcs' army less exhausted.

The western route had the Ogre's village, but its fate is common knowledge now.

They were a high class race, but too few in number. Thus, the orcs decided

to avoid the route with the Treants, who were similarly high classed but many.

And, after eliminating the ogres, they opened the invasion route to the marshes and were now planning their formation.

「However, with 200,000 soldiers, how are they keeping them fed? What are they doing about food?」

To my question,

「I looked into it. A group of common foot soldiers escorts caravans of food. However, there is clearly not enough...」

With some hesitation, he quickly added

「This is but my opinion, but I think they've had deaths from starvation and resorted to cannibalism of the dead...」

What an unpleasant thing he had said.

Uee... were orcs such a race?

「No matter how omni...」

「They do indeed eat anything, but isn't this much expected?」

To that question,

「No, I am not certain about this. However, there are no bodies after they leave. And our village has also been wiped clean, without anything remaining.

There is a skill that comes to mind, but...」

Having realized the truth, Souei said.

「Could it be... Orc Lord?」

Without waiting for Souei's response, Benimaru concluded.

「Exactly. This is not certain, but there's a good chance the Orc Lord had appeared.

At the very least, a high class Orc Knight is leading them.

Probably that thing that had attacked our village.」

To summarize the conversation, the Orc Lord is a unique monster that hold powerful ruling abilities over the orcs.

Appears once every few hundred years. Causing violence across the world, a horrible monster.

And he seems to possess the unique skill [Starving Ones].

This skill, bestowed upon his subordinates as well, allows them to eat anything and everything in sight. A truly terrible skills.

In the first place, not enough time had passed since the last one...

But now, he's already grown and prepared an army. If he lacks some intelligence, then there's a high chance that the demon lord had forcefully accelerated his growth.

In any case, the orc lord is a troubling existence.

Such an annoying guy should've been put down long ago...

But I will not complain.

While keeping the existence of the orc lord in mind, we continue the conference.

Arranging wooden pieces on the map in place of pawns, we mark the Lizardmen army of 10.000.

Behind them, Gabil's army of 7,000 goblins.

Having done so, we clearly see what is abnormal about the orc army...

But more importantly.

「This way, that stupid lizard's headquarters would fall from a single attack, wouldn't it?」

Right. The lizardmen's envoy called Gabil.

That guy is planning on attacking the lizardmen's fortress while they are preoccupied fighting with the orcs. The exhausted and few lizardmen there would surely fall quickly.

That is how wonderfully the goblins are positioned.

However, there is no reason to attack his own lizard.

It could be just suspicion born out of the strange place he had halted his troops.

However,

「Hmm. So that's how it is.」

Hakurou nodded. A strange fire burned in his eyes.

However, even if they bring down the headquarters then, they would be trampled down by the orcs.

I am thinking too much, aren't I.

「I'm just thinking too much. Sorry, I'm an amateur after all.」

I had planned to continue the discussion after those words, but...

「No, what you said is likely. I can think of no other reason to assume that position.」

「That guy is an idiot after all. He's probably intending to replace the current head.」

Such was the opinion from both members of the Department of War. I mean, I know he's an idiot... but was he that much of an idiot?

「However, in this case, stopping that guy is probably the best idea.」

That was the conclusion we had reached.

Now then, how should we stop Gabil?

「I would want to establish a proper alliance with the Lizardmen. We are few in numbers. However, I feel we shouldn't abandon them.」

Hakurou so added, and everyone accepted.

I also agreed.

「But, forming an alliance is good and all, but we're far too outnumbered here. Won't we just be used in the end?」

I tried expressing my worries.

The *Oni* exchanged glances.

「Rimuru-sama, calm your fears! Each one of us is capable of decimating ten thousand foes, this much is of no concern!」

Hakuro answered as their representative.

“They read too much manga... no way they can take on ten thousand each!”
Is what I thought, but

「Rimuru-sama, I plan to go and negotiate. To have a discussion directly with the Lizardmen’s head.

Would you permit me?」

Souei had so asked, and waited for my response.

How confident! Should I try leaving it to him?

Using the map, we had made some predictions. That allowed us some temporary mental respite.

I decided to send out Souei.

「Alright! In that case, I order you to talk with the Lizardmen’s Head.
Demand equal treatment!」

With those words, I sent out Souei.

「Ay! I live to serve!」

With that response, he immediately disappeared into the shadows.

He’s quick on his feet. Seems to have left already.

「The rest, with these things in mind, continue preparations!」

Those words ended the conference.

In some sense, we have decided next course of action.

If we can form an alliance that would be great, and if we can’t, we’ll cross that bridge then.

There’s no use thinking about those things. Rather, we must do what can now be done.

And thus we continued our preparations while waiting for the next piece to move on the board.

But an orc lord, huh. If he truly had appeared, that'll probably be an annoying fight.

Thinking about the future made me fall slightly into melancholy.



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 32 – Stage Curtain Rises

Leveling the ground in their wake, the orc army advanced into the forest.

Trample them! Trample them! Trample them! Trample Them!

While lifting their voices, with a glow in their eyes, the orc army advanced into the forest.

There was not a single normal thought in their minds.

Everything their eyes fell upon was food.

They forever hungered, and only the desire to eat pushed them forward.

Collapse.

Again, a comrade had fallen.

But they were overjoyed. More food! They thought.

Normally, he was their dear comrade.

Now, he was but a lump of flesh to eat.

He was still breathing, but to them it meant the meat was fresh.

Those fortunate to be walking close immediately began disassembling the corpse.

The liver was reserved for the squad leader, but the rest went to he who grabbed it first.

Guchaguchaguchagucha

A disgusting sound reverberated through the land.

The always hunger.

And, their strength rises the hungrier they are.

That is the effect of the unique skill [Starving Ones].

As far as they eat their fallen comrades, as long as their hunger remains

unfulfilled, their strength will continue to rise.
They are the 200,000 orc army.
Under the control of the Orc Lord, an army that marches through the hell of starvation.
Never to see salvation.
Just marching forward to satisfy their hunger. Never being able to satisfy it...
An endless hell.

Before them lay the Ogre village.
They are only rank D monsters.
Normally, they could only feel fear towards the rank B ogres; directing killing intent at them would have been unthinkable.
However...

Trample them! Trample them! Trample them! Trample them!

Their feet would not stop.
Rather, they ran towards the food.
Towards the rampaging ogres, their relentless strength!
How many comrades were torn to pieces, how many cut down...
However! That matter not to the orcs who saw the fallen as merely more food.
They were overjoyed.
Perhaps they could satisfy their hunger, if a bit.
A single ogre had fallen.
Immediately, the orcs crowded the corpse and began dismembering it.
Drinking blood and devouring flesh. Oh... but that did not satisfy their hunger.
But, the orcs bodies had changed—they absorbed the ogres' strength.
Seeing their friends gulped down by lowly orcs, the ogres let out a scream of agony.
Lamenting the weakness of their overwhelming power...
Gradually, those filled with power appeared from within the orcs.

Devour our comrades, and make their powers ours!
Devour our enemies, and make their powers ours!

And again they eat.

Without any fear of death. Someday, their power will grow and surpass that of their king.

Their king.

The ultimate orc, the Orc Lord!

Their march continues.

And now again the prey has appeared before them.

.

The Lizardmen's head paled upon hearing the report.

His greatest fears had come true.

According to the report, the powerful Ogre village had disappeared after a single day.

They were devoured by the orcs.

There was no more room for suspicion.

The Orc Lord had appeared.

If by numbers alone, 200,000 D-rank orcs against 10,000 C+ rank Lizardmen; that could have been an unexpectedly even fight.

However, now that the orc lord had appeared, they were no longer D rank monsters.

It would be best to expect their abilities to have risen by 1-2 levels.

At least, they would be C rank. Worst case scenario, they would have the power of C+.

By numbers alone, relentless assault on our exhausted position would prove unbearable, and even a single loss could prove decisive.

Moreover, due to the presence of the orc lord, he could no hope for their food to run out.

Even if their numbers dwindle, their strength would instead increase.

Furthermore, if there was any hope of reinforcements they could barricade themselves in... but as things stand that would end in a hungry death.

They have no choice but to attack.

The head bitterly concludes.

Gabil, who he sent to gain the cooperation of the goblins, has yet to report.

However, if they waste too much time there, their enemy will only grow

stronger.

In worst case scenario, he might just have to lead the troops into battle before Gabil's return...

Suddenly, he felt an aura stronger than he had ever felt before approaching. The head decided not to show any resistance to this being.

Calling for a subordinate, he ordered that the guest be guided in.

The lizardmen had previously collapsed some of the routes of their natural labyrinth, and having those cleared by someone would be unpleasant.

The being who approached them certainly had that much power.

Now, all he had to do was wait.

Led by his subordinate, a single demon had appeared.

Darkish skin, blue-black hair, blue eyes, and a height of 190 cm.

For a monster, he had a rather slim build. However, his presence radiated composure and unblemished strength.

A being from whom he felt overwhelming power.

The Head kept a hundred warriors stationed around him.

With a single word, he could command them all to arms... however, that would surely mean their deaths.

Upon seeing this demon, the Head felt that very fact.

「Pardon us, we are rather troubled at the moment, and cannot provide an adequate welcome. What business would You have with us today?」

The young lizardmen warriors got angry at those words.

“Why must we grovel before this suspicious character” They thought.

The head would normally praise such thoughts, but now it would only bring misfortune.

If they spoiled his mood, he could, without a doubt, massacre them all.

The young ones have too little experience with the phenomenal. They do not have the ability to judge other's power.

However, contrary to his fears,

「No serious business. Calm yourselves.

My “name” is Souei.

My master wishes to form an alliance with you.

I have been sent for that purpose. Think of me as a messenger.

Rejoice. My lord has refused to abandon you.
Moreover, he offers to become your allies. What be your response?」

Completely in contrast to his first statement, such a speech he delivered.
The meaning of the words aside...
That is, the message was brief. However, he seems to demand an immediate decision.
But... the head needed to think.
Souei. So he called himself, this demon. A named monster with overwhelming power.
And such a monster serves someone. If they side with such a being, than perhaps even the Orc Lord could be defeated?
Moreover, they are offering an alliance and not servitude. That would mean that the lizardmen would be treated as equals.
What choice did he have but to accept? So he thought.
But at that moment,

「Head! Why do you permit him to run his mouth thus?
Where he hails from we don't know, but the proud lizardmen shouldn't flatter such a pompous fool!」
「Exactly! Gabil-sama should soon return, and then we alone could handle the lowly orcs!」
「Right. Their master probably fears the orcs and came to cling onto us. Doesn't he simply want us to save him? How charming!」

The ones who so shouted were Gabil's subordinates.
Caught with his mouth open, the Head's face twisted in horror and dismay. Even if you idiots can't understand the power of the man in front of you, to go and reject someone's offer of an alliance...
Yes, his speech was slightly impolite. However, it is unbecoming for some foot soldiers to show disrespect to a messenger.
Moreover, for someone of higher status to himself journey to us offsets any possible disrespect...
He had thought he sent a group with an outgoing personality to the negotiations, but that seems to have backfired.
Have we angered him?
Thinking so, he looked at Souei.

He had not averted his sight, but looked straight at the head. He seemed to have no intention of humoring the noisy idiots.

The head felt relief.

He could not let a group of ignorant people to ruin the conversation.

「Silence!」

With a single word, he shut that group up.

He then sent a signal to his bodyguards,

「I will decide what we do. You have no right to speak here! Reflect on your foolishness tonight!!!」

Gabil's subordinates he had sent to prison.

They were making noise on their way out, but he had no time to deal with them.

And, to the messenger,

「I apologize for their rudeness. I intend to accept the alliance. However, I fear we must hurry. Normally, we would select a neutral zone to discuss the details, but this may be currently impossible. Could I ask you to come here, instead?」

Hiding his inner nervousness, the head asked that question.

To request someone of such clear superiority to appear before them! The messenger had every right to be angry.

However, the messenger, with no concern for the head's worries, replied

「Understood. To have received such a quick decision, my master will be glad. We are pleased to fight along with you. Now then, after we finish our preparations we shall join up with you. Then, you shall be able to have an audience with our lord. Act as you see fit!」

As if completely natural, so Souei replied.

Appearing as if he had never even considered the possibility of being rejected.

“Had I refused, would he simply destroy the lizardmen?” This thought filled

the Head's mind.

He was certainly not overthinking it.

The demon before him had enough power to do so...

「We intend to join you in at most 5 days. Until then, do your best to survive. And, by no means should you attempt to attack alone!」

Leaving these words, the demon in front of him disappeared.

Without a sound, as if a passing shadow.

5 days...

If they just needed to wait that long, they could certainly manage.

The orcs may grow stronger, but they could now hope for reinforcement.

How large the reinforcement would be, he didn't know; however, even if Souei were to show up alone, he could possibly turn the tide of battle.

Clinging to this one hope and preserving one's strength is surely the best decision here.

Having made his decision, the Head declared

「Hold the Castle! Until reinforcements arrive, hold it no matter what it takes!」

And, waiting for the decisive battle, the lizardmen hid in the labyrinth.

.

Gabil awoke.

Then, he needed some time to remember what had happened.

And, filled with indignation, he jumped to his feet.

「You have come to, my lord!」

A worried subordinate had said.

「I caused you some worry. Seems like they set a trap ahead of time...」

「A trap, you say?」

「Yeah. Those fang wolves, used an ingenious trick...」

They sent their master under the guise of a common wolf!

Inviting me to lower my guard, such dirty trick. Rulers of the plains they called them, but they're just beasts who employ cowardly and cheap tricks! I had intended to battle with them fairly, but seems like I was mistaken about them!]

「I, I see... so it was like that. Were it not for their trick, Gabil-sama would certainly be victorious!]

「Is that how it was! Those dastardly wolves!!! To resort to such dirty trick!]

Gabil nodded to such a reaction.

It was as they said. There could have been no other reason for his defeat. However, for the proud and powerful race to employ such dirty tactics... Gabil was disappointed in the wolves.

「However, it is also true that we would have no use to take such cowardly creatures as our comrades! With that in mind, this might actually have been for the best.」

「As you say!]

「Right, right!]

Their group laughed loudly.

「By the way, this is just my personal thought, but I find it strange how Gabil-sama has always stayed as the raid leader.」

「What?]

「No, I don't mean that he is incapable. Rather, the opposite! I find it strange that we keep following that decrepit Head...」

「Continue」

「Yes. I think that the old head should just retire and have Gabil-sama succeed as our leader.

If he does, then the orcs would have no reason to look down on us.」

「As you just said!

We should display Gabil-sama's power before all the lizardmen, have him purge those who reject him, and start a new age for our race. What could bring our race greater joy!!!」

Gabil nodded.

「So you guys had thought the same thing, huh? I had just been thinking whether it was not a good time to make my move! Would you fight alongside me?」

He looked around him.

The lizardmen could only imagine a new age unfolding before them.

They were certain that they would seize tremendous power...

And,

「Will you represent us?」

One of them asked.

Gabil lightly nodded.

「So the time has come... Very well! Let us fight together!!!」

He declared.

Surrounding him, cries of joy could be heard from the lizardmen.

Thus, the fool has taken the stage.

And thus, the curtain rises as chaos spreads on the stage.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 33 – Audience

The Lizardmen's Head nodded once in response to the report on the progress of battle.

Since meeting Souei four days had passed.

Tomorrow they would be reinforced. With no great casualties thus far, they'll most likely see the sun rise again.

Orc's attacks have intensified to the extreme.

Depending only on their resources, the passageways are overflowing with orcs. Orcs were affected little by the labyrinth, and merely swarmed through it.

By placing traps along the passageways, they managed to decrease their numbers—if slightly.

But still, thanks to the labyrinth the lizardmen were able to avoid any real losses. The labyrinth diverges many times, and emergency escape passageways are still usable.

They've been alternating the squads that fight the orcs most often, and quickly reinforce teams that have engaged the enemy.

Since this battle is under his direct command, he has no intention of becoming conceited.

Because the reinforcements are coming, because there is hope, everyone is somehow struggling by.

In reality, those who have fought the orcs were surprised by their strength. These orcs were worlds stronger than the usual.

Right now, a single orc can challenge up to three lizardmen. Moreover, their power seems to be increasing.

This is, of course, the result of the Orc Lord's command.

The Head also strictly ordered that those injured must immediately switch with out. Since, should the injury result in death, the orcs will become stronger.

Carefully, and without error thus far, they have been maintaining the defense line.

And only a day left.

When the reinforcements arrive, they'll probably be able to make use of the terrain to crush every orc.

At the very least, they could at least alternate with the members stationed at the most important defense points.

Thus filling his head with wishful thinking, the Head relaxed a bit.

That's when it came.

The news of Gabil's return...

.

Gabil was indignant.

What's with this! The prideful Lizardmen were cowardly hiding in holes from some lowly pigs! He was going blind from anger.

However, all would soon be fine. He had returned, and, like a proper Lizardman, would fight with pride.

With that thought, he headed to the Head.

「Well done, Gabil. I presume you've been able to obtain the goblin's support?」

「Ay! We've been joined by 7,000 warriors.」

「Is that so... with this, we'll somehow make it.」

「In that case, let's engage the enemy at once!」

After reporting thus to the Head, he prepared himself for battle.

Now that he had returned, he could not permit the orcs' selfish actions.

Surely the head had been waiting for him to return.

However,

「Hmm? No, the time hasn't come yet. While you weren't here, we had been offered an alliance. They will be arriving tomorrow. And then, after holding a strategy meeting, we will be striking against the orcs!」

Completely out of the blue. Such unthinkable things the head had said.

“What? The head was not waiting for me?”

That thought led to dissatisfaction, which further worsened Gabil's mood.

To depend on some unknown reinforcement against some lowly orcs...

「Head, if you send me out, I'll quickly crush the orcs. Order me to go!」

His indignation growing, he was hoping to vent it on the enemies. However,

「No. We shall fight tomorrow! You must be tired, so rest up.」

Completely ignored.

Gabil's mind went blank in anger. Completely ignoring him, and depending on some strangers! Unforgivable.

「Head, no, father! Stop this foolishness! You seem to have gone senile, you just don't see the truth.」

「What was that? Gabil, what are you planning!」

Up until now, he was holding back in respect of his father.

In fact, there were many admirable qualities that he possessed. So Gabil was obedient.

However, he refused to recognize Gabil, and that Gabil could not forgive.

His time had finally come, that's all.

So nodding once, he shot his subordinates the signal.

「Father, your time has come to an end. From now on, I am the new Lizardmen's Head!」

Gabil loudly declared.

At this declaration, the goblins noisily ran into the Head's chamber.

Armed with stone spears, they surrounded the Head and his guards.

Gabil's subordinates, the handpicked elite, also readied themselves behind the goblins.

「Gabil, what is the meaning of this?!」

Unable to understand the situation, the Head raised a panicked voice. How unusual.

However, that only pleased Gabil's superiority complex.

「Father, good work up until now! Leave the rest to me, and enjoy your retirement!」

His subordinates then disarmed the Head and his guards.

And then, Gabil took the head's, no, his father's spear into his hands. The spear, a magic item called the Water Vortex Spear, is the symbol of the Lizardmen themselves.

An item with overflowing magical power. Held by the strongest lizardman.

A weapon that was most fitting for Gabil.

And looking at his father and the guards,

「Leave the rest to me! You'll probably be restrained until the war is over, but bear with it, okay?」

So he called out.

「Wait, Gabil! Stop this selfishness! At least, wait until tomorrow!!!」

Ignoring his father's pleas,

「What an eyesore. Take him away!」

So he ordered.

Of course, he had no intentions of having him killed. He needed him out of the way, though.

Gabil needed to personally beat the head.

Of course, as a new hero who'd stand atop of all the lizardmen, such an event was necessary.

Surely then his father would recognize his strength and praise him.

The mere thought made him giddy.

The new head, taking along his goblins, proceeded to take command over the lizardmen. They will soon hear about the usurpation anyways.

And once they acknowledge him, they will set off to fight.

Gabil could not imagine the possibility of defeat.

His father's warning were completely wasted on him.

From the beginning, Gabil's followers were cheering on, demanding the opening act of the play.

The ones he found in the prison were the same.
Drunk on their praise, Gabil enjoyed sitting on the throne.
His time had finally arrived.
He had completely ignored the trivial things like an orc invasion.

What a...
The Head was tormented by regret.
Don't be hasty! So he was told many times before. And this was the situation he had found himself in.
He was certain in his control over his brethren.
But to have been betrayed by his own son...
This is very bad.
If this goes on, the lizardmen will attack without waiting, and will meet certain demise.
Making up his mind, he looked at the Guard Captain.
He is another one of his sons, Gabil's brother.
Guard Captain noticed the Head's signal and nodded.

「Go!」

The moment the Head screamed that word, the Guard Captain broke free of the restraints and took off running.
They needed to let their ally know about this situation.
That messenger, Souei did not hide his aura.
So, surely upon getting out of the labyrinth, he would know where to go.
Betting on that fleeting possibility, the Head sent his son out.
He had thought about restraining Gabil's subordinates. However, he did not have the heart to hurt his brethren, so decided to simply escape.
The Head, intending to take responsibility, stayed in prison.
And prayed that his son may make it out safely.
Only 5 days.
That promise he could not keep, and now lamented his failure.
And hoped that his failure did not result in them being abandoned.
Surely he was offered an alliance because of some value they had seen in the lizardmen. Perhaps now they had lost what little value they had.

Gabil was probably busy making his debut.

In that case, no one will be sent to replace the tunnel defense squads.

With reinforcements, the orcs will gradually grow stronger, and the defense teams will be eventually overrun.

The women and civilians we had gathered in the center of the labyrinth will then be defenseless.

Should that happen... but, grieving won't stop this.

We will defend them to the end.

That was the Head's decision.

To buy even a bit more time. That was the only thing he could do.



Forest Disturbance Arc

Side Story

A wide conference room.

Made from fragrant wood, a table that must have cost a fortune.

A true round table, capable of sitting more than 10 people.

The number of chairs currently set: 12. Surpassing the most extravagant designs, even royalty would have a hard time acquiring it.

A rug that textile workers took more than ten years to weave covered the floor.

One wall was decorated by a painting of some wondrous landscape by a heavenly artist.

Any article in the room would cost ten years worth of an aristocrat's income.

And by the entrance of the room,

A single man, dressed like a clown, refrained from entering.

And seemingly to an empty room,

「For gathering despite your busy schedules, I offer my gratitude!」

Respectfully offered his greetings.

Carefully, as if to avoid losing the interest of the beings inside.

Today's guests. They were those whom you must never anger, supreme beings.

As if out of thin air, a shadow of a man appeared in one of the chairs.

Lacking details, a hazy shadow.

「What plot are you intending to humor us with today? We tire of this, how about starting already?」

A woman replied.

A room that was previously empty was now occupied by a number of auras.

「*Guhahahaha*. Fret not, it shall be soon, no? The tragic birth of a new “*Maou*“?»

(TL Note: *Maou* – demon lord. You might as well know this word)

「*Fufufu*. A *Maou*? We have plenty of those already! Any more won't be amusing in the slightest, no?»

「Hey, don't say that. The ruler of Jura Forest has disappeared. A new one is needed, right?»

「In that case, shouldn't we just claim it for ourselves?»

「Hmph. It's because of people like you that the Nonaggression pact may be annulled!»

「Shut up! I know.»

And other similar egoistic conversations were held among them. The clown by the entrance felt as if covered by sweat from their very presence, and yet couldn't wipe it off. Because he is a demon. He doesn't sweat. He, the demon Gelmudo, simply wished to explain the stage he had prepared for them.

「Now then, ladies and gentlemen! I wish to explain the play, if you may permit?»

Fearfully he called out.

The noisy conversation suddenly stopped and all eyes focused on Gelmudo. Intimidating him without having said a word.

Were they insulted to be interrupted by a lower rank Gelmudo?

Worry spread in his heart. Were he to earn their displeasure, someone like Gelmudo would be erased in a blink of an eye...

Contrary to his fears,

「Begin already! Didn't I already say I was bored of boredom?»

They permitted it.

Relieved, he began the explanation.

He had planted the seeds of conflict in the forest. There were some that failed to bloom, but there were plenty fruitful ones. He had also intended to plant some seeds among the Ogres and the Treants, but those seems were refused. The ones he manipulated were still powerless. However, on the ones who rejected being named by him—the ogres, he had passed his judgment. So overall he was satisfied with the results.

「Now then, let us open the curtain on this tragedy! The threat of the orc lord met with an alliance of the races! The one left standing shall be proclaimed the new “*Maou*“!!!」

Right.

This was all planned to create a new “*Maou*“. That task was left to Gelmudo. He was overjoyed with this order. If he handled this well, he could obtain a *maou* for his personal use.

He worked hard towards that end.

Until now, for 300 years, he had been planning a species war.

However, Veldora’s disappearance caused the plans to spiral out of control. So he gave up on having a war between the named monsters born from the goblins, lizardmen, and other such races.

Instead, he sent out the Orc Lord. This was a not in the plan, but it was something he could use well.

An orc lord loyal to his order.

The game’s rigged, but there’s nothing he could do about it now.

After crushing the goblins and the lizardmen, the Orc Lord will become the new “*Maou*“.

He also got rid of those annoying ogres.

Now, there was nothing to worry about. As long as the orcs avoided invading the treants territory, that is.

All according to plan!

He had feared the many *maou* that had been manipulating him until now, but he finally had the chance to return the favor.

He would soon be able to manipulate a *maou*! A birth of one loyal to his command.

Hiding his excitement, Gelmudo continued the explanation...

He could already see the Orc Lord that would bow before him.
The day his ambitions would be fulfilled would come soon.
He honestly believed that...

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Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 34 – The Outbreak of War

That day, the orcs army filled the marshes with thousands of troops. If you looked from above, you'd see the swarming the tunnels as if an incessant maelstrom.

However, those present were only a small part of their army. The orcs decided to invade by circling around the lake.

With little resistance they had occupied the marshes, and proceeded into the caverns.

However, a commotion rippled through the swarm.

For suddenly someone had ordered the lizardmen to attack.

And that was the cause for the outbreak of war between the orcs and the lizardmen.

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The rulers of the marshes—the Lizardmen.

Possessing high battle abilities they can maneuver smoothly through mud or swamp.

Hiding among the grass, they approached the orc army, and attacked undetected.

Everything went according to plan.

He had locked up the previous head in an underground chamber, reorganized the army, and had them relocate above ground.

And, quickly assuming battle formations, he began an attack on the orcs.

Gabil was not completely incompetent. He did lack the ability to see the bigger picture, but he certainly could lead a squad in battle.

That ability he had inherited from his father, the former chief.

The Lizardmen respected strength.

Thus, they wouldn't follow someone who only boasted of his strength.

Gabil idolized an individual. For his sake, he had to display his competence.

However...

He left a thousand warriors to guard the main chamber.

It was occupied only by women and other civilians. If they have to, the women can also fight, but they lack the necessary strength.

For that reason, he had been sending 500 extra troops at a time to the main chamber.

That is, Gabil decided to gradually reinforce that defense line with troops fighting in the tunnels.

Having cleared thus relocated the troops, Gabil obtained control over the entire army.

Their numbers: 7,000 goblins and 8,000 lizardmen.

That was his fighting strength.

Without depending on the labyrinth, he proceeded to meet his foe above ground.

And leaving the bare minimum for defense, he deployed everyone to battle.

The first attack was as described.

They successfully divided the enemy and landed a devastating attack on their flanks.

The orcs that the lizardmen scattered were hunted down by the goblins.

Following Gabil's orders to the letter, the troops performed exceedingly well.

The goblins, too, fought earnestly. Thus, they were able to advance with the rest of the troops.

The success of the attack could thus be attributed to the ideal cooperation of individual units.

Behold!

Gabil thought. There is no need to fear the orcs!

Father has gone senile. Thus he worried needlessly.

I will calm his fears.

After seeing my heroic feats, he will surely recognize me as the next head.

For that end, we must clean up the orcs at once.

Or maybe this whole scenario was planned out to pass the leadership onto me! So he thought.

A cry for joy filled the field.

Look at them! The lowly orcs are no match for the great Lizardmen!

Proud of his work, Gabil observed the battlefield.

Things have gone well... until now.
Having lost many soldiers, the orcs must have been walloping in despair.

But Gabil did not know, the terror of the Orc Lord.
That the Head had known, the terror of the Orc Lord.

That difference now bared its fangs.

Guchaguchaguchagucha

The orcs were walking on the dead.
On all fours, crawling over them. No, wait!
They were not walking on them, they were eating them. A gruesome sight.
The brave lizardmen warriors, hardened in many battles, this was an unusual sight.
A sinister aura wrapped around the orcs.
One warrior who was frightened by this sight, tried to retreat a step and fell backwards.
Without missing this chance, the orcs swarmed the warrior.
He was dragged into the mud and ripped limb from limb.
Since the war had begun, he was the first casualty.
And that began it all.
The orcs that were devouring stranded soldiers gradually obtained their abilities.
That ability was not like [Predator], and could not perfectly replicate the skills.
Nonetheless, they absorbed the lizardmen's power to some degree, and shared it among those in their domain.
That was one of the effects of the unique skill [Starving Ones].
They were as much one swarm as they were an individual. Again, quiet similar to the shared evolution of the fang wolf species.
That is why the previous head was so afraid of letting any lizardmen die.
For the sake of not allowing the orcs to develop any further.
Although they could not obtain all the abilities of those that ate, they could still acquire some of their special features.
For example, the ability of the lizardmen to move freely through mud and swamp.
For example, growing scales around their vital areas to defend.

This kind of trivial changes they could do.
However, that is how they can quickly change the tide of battle.

「Fear not! Show them the power of the high and proud Lizardmen!!!」

The lizardmen regained their morale from Gabil's cry.
They were rulers of the marshes fighting on their own land; they attacked again.

Their were still faster than the orcs, that much they were sure of.
Even if they are overwhelmed by numbers, should they retreat to their defense lines they could surely crush the enemy again.

However!

When they tried to outflank the orcs again, they were met with a ready formation.

The orcs movements have gotten faster.

Strange. Thought Gabil, but far too late.

Without the advantage in speed, they were now surrounded by many orcs.
Five thousands troops have already cut off Gabil's escape.

And they pressed their attack.

Having too much faith in their speed, they blindly pursued the orcs in their retreat, and were thus surrounded.

Perhaps if the orcs were not under the influence of their lord, Gabil's group could have endured this predicament.

One could continue discussing such suppositions without an end. The truth of the matter is: they were completely surrounded.

As ants block of their prey's escape, so the orcs swarm them.

Even if they fought with all their might, they will surely succumb soon.

How could that be? Gabil could not understand.

He desperately tried to rally his forces, screaming words of encouragement.
However, the Goblins have lost formation out of panic, and the Lizardmen trembled in worry.

This is bad. Thinking thus, he wanted to issue an order to retreat... but even he understood that they had no place to run to.

To gather them all under his banner, he had forced the warriors to vacate the caverns.

Even if had ordered a desperate retreat into the tunnels, the entrance was far too narrow.

The goblins who would be running in first would obstruct their escape. And, without a way in, they would be slaughtered by the orcs. If they instead ran into the forest... they would be pursued and slaughtered. They could not retreat. Gabil understood that well. Why had his father fought in such a cowardly way? He had finally understood. Just how much of an idiot was I? Thought Gabil. But there was no time for regret now. Right now, Gabil had only one thing he could do. Increase the morale and lessen the worries of his comrades.

「*Guwahahaha!* What a worried face you all make! I am here! There is no way I can lose to some orcs!」
Yes, to encourage his allies by saying something he himself did not believe. Their fate had been decided...

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Ah...
The Lizardmen's Head sighed. He was full of regrets. That, for one, he had mentioned the terror that Orc Lord was only in fairy tales. No, he had mentioned it at other occasions. However, the fact that he failed to convey his terror now caused the Head endless regret. Had he explained it properly, maybe Gabil would have been more vigilant. But now it's too late. With a sigh, he cast such thoughts away. They still had things they needed to do. His kind, gathered in the main chamber, looked anxious. Four paths lead to the chamber, one could be used to escape. The orcs could not come from the escape route... probably. It was a direct route into the forest. This was the only route that you couldn't get lost in; one that they had dug themselves. Therefore, they needed to observe the other four. The units fighting in the tunnels slowly withdrew and reassembled in the main chamber.

The chamber's defense line currently consisted of 1,500 soldiers. There were also probably some who have yet to withdraw. On the other hand, the orcs are numerous. They will probably soon discover this place. Hopefully, the remaining soldiers will return before they do... The head briefly glances down the escape route. With all their brethren gathering, the large chamber now feels very tight. If they had to escape at a moment's notice, it's hard to imagine them all being able to withdraw safely. Perhaps they need to begin evacuating small groups at a time. Whichever he chooses, the situation is bound to become chaotic. However, he must decrease the chance of extinction no matter what it takes. However, even if they escape into the forest, the orcs will discover them sooner or later. And even if they are successful with their escape, surviving may prove impossible. Because of that, the Head could not order the evacuation. The only thing he can do is buy time. Whether they come or not, he doesn't know; but, he still bet all on the reinforcements. The Head's suffering seemed as if it would continue on forever.

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Lizardmen's Guard Captain escaped into the forest. Feeling an aura of strength, he headed in its direction. Though the lizardmen boasted of high mobility in the marshes, the same could not be said about the forest. His breath ragged, his pulse unstable, the Captain fatigued quickly. However, he had to keep running. His sprint could decide the future of his race. And like that he continued for three hours. As if ignoring his bodily limits, he earnestly pressed on. Pressing on by will alone, he could collapse at any moment. He was well aware of the fact. Moreover, he did not know if the demon named Souei was in fact up ahead. Whether he would agree to help, he also did not know.

Should he even bother running?

That thought crept from the dark corners of his mind. However, he refused to entertain the thought.

He failed to stop Gabil's foolishness. So he believed.

He had known that Gabil desired to be recognized by the Head.

However, he had not mentioned it to the Head. The Lizardmen's hero, Gabil.

He was also one of those who respected Gabil.

To take responsibility for his mistake, the Captain could not abandon his mission.

If he stopped, he would not be able to run again.

Thus, he pressed on.

There was someone who saw this desperate sprint.

Though the Captain himself had not noticed that being.

That being pursued the Captain soundlessly from branch to branch.

Was he conversing with someone? Without a partner in sight and without a voice, he appeared to be in the middle of a conversation.

After it had ended, he nodded once.

And,

「Your will be done. I will act as you have commanded.」

Muttering thus, he swooped down in front of the Captain!

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 35 – War Preparations

After sending out Souei, I had everyone else prepare for war. However, it's not like we were all going to set off. Since we don't know our enemy's abilities, we need to take it seriously from the start. The construction of the city is proceeding smoothly, but we have not prepared any fortifications. Thus, if we are attacked, relocating would be the best option. So I decided. So what are we to do? In response to that thought,

「The decisive battle will occur at the marshes. If we win, great. If we lose, we'll retreat back here as fast as circumstances allow. In that case, since fighting here wouldn't increase our chances of winning, we will barricade ourselves in the Cave of the Seal. While holding the fort, we will request help from the humans. If we request through the guild, they just might help, so prepare yourselves to evacuate at a moment's notice. Regarding our attack, I'm designating Benimaru as the captain in charge of the hundred wolf riders. Shion, you indiscriminately slaughter at your discretion. Hakurou will serve as my Adjutant. I will create a network with [Telepathic Communication] for you all to join and issue orders as needed. A withdraw order will be given by your commander-me.

Riguru will stay with the remaining goblins and see to the defense of the city.
Dismissed!」

I thus conveyed the plan.

Everyone nodded; no one disagreed.

I had thought that there would be some complaints about requesting help from the humans, but seems like I was mistaken.

I wonder if they have gotten over their aversion after spending some time with those adventurers.

As for the guild request, if I sell the demonic steel, we should have enough gold. And besides, the orcs are as much a threat to the humans.

If we hold a proper discussion, we should be able to gain their assistance.

That much I probably shouldn't worry about.

And besides, we're already trying to figure out just how dangerous this Orc Lord is.

Anyways, completing the goblin's armor takes priority.

I had ordered Kaijin to quickly produce 100 armors.

Benimaru, Hakurou, and Shion also need some armor.

Before Souei returns with their response, we need to finish these preparations. If they reject our alliance, we will move as soon as we ascertain Gabil's motives.

If we can't fight side by side, we should wait for the Lizardmen to deal the first strike.

Having thus decided, we concluded the conference.

After dismissing the group, almost all immediately left.

Only the three *oni* and I were left inside.

Do they want something? I looked inquisitively at Benimaru,

「Rimuru-sama, do you perhaps worry too much?

Even if You do not trouble yourself to ride onto the battlefield, Hakurou and I alone should manage, would you not agree?」

「As he said. Rimuru-sama is our lord. Commanding the battle can be left to us, if you so wish.」

So they said.

No, no, that won't do at all. I mean, you guys have been had by orcs before!

But, of course, I didn't say that.

We shouldn't count that time before they had evolved.

「Well, that should be fine. I just plan to observe the battle from above, and leave the orders to Benimaru.」

「I see, so it was like that!」

They agreed with my words.

In the first place, I have never commanded a battle. While I've ran plenty simulations, I have no actual experience.

Thus, as I observe from above, I intend to devote myself fully to relay orders.

「That aside, you guys, get yourselves ready. Unless you are planning on fighting a war in the nude?」

Nodding at my words, the three *oni*.

And thus, we headed towards the production building.

Dedicated to the Department of Production,

A building as large as a gymnasium made of wood. We had planned on reinforcing the walls with mortar, but have yet to get around to it.

Still, the building is the largest in its kind, and looks pretty impressive.

Upon entering, we are assaulted by the noise of hard labor. At my order, they are busy producing 100 sets of armor.

Well actually, only the dwarf Garm and Doldo are making things with ten apprentice goblins assist them.

The rest are preparing raw material and transporting completed products.

We proceed further in.

Recently, they've also warded off rooms for specialized products.

Only Shuna can enter that room—the rest are forbidden. She is far too skilled and teaching others will take too long.

Goblins were also learning the textile craft, and are right now working under Garm producing hemp-linen clothing.

Gradually, they should move on to finer work with silk.

Since under the armor one must first wear linen.

We proceeded towards Shuna's room, and, after I announced ourselves, entered.

Shuna greeted us with a smile.

I don't know when it happened, but I suddenly found myself wrapped in a beautiful *kimono*.

Not pure white, but dyed in a pale crimson color; needless to say, it was cute.

Standing up from a chair,

「I had been waiting.

I wished to participate in the conference myself, but feared unable to contribute better than with a meal, I humbly ask your forgiveness.

However, I had finished preparing Rimuru-sama's dress. And *Onii-sama* and the rest's by the way.」

「"By the way" huh...」

「*Ho ho ho*. That's only to be expected.」

「Well, considering Shuna-sama's marvelous skill. I would presume mine to have been made as well?」

The three thus responded.

「Here they are!」

With those words, she brought out more dresses.

A pure white *kimono*.

Having received mine, I was guided to a room to change.

First, I entered and began changing.

Changing into my child form that wore the black fur coat.

Removing the coat, I wrapped myself in the *kimono* that Shuna had made.

A glossy linen. First class silk that feels wonderful to the touch.

Underneath, I'll probably wear the pants I previously received. Putting the silk to my body, it immediately changed size to fit me.

This one also became a magic item, huh.

Seems like after mixing with my magic it becomes as if a part of my body.

Just to try, I change into an adult and, as expected, the clothing grows appropriately.

What a wonderful product she had made.

Wearing the coat over it, I finished with the clothing.

Then, I take out an item from my breast pocket.

It is a beautiful mask.

The one Shizu-san had forgotten, the "Anti-demon Mask".

My body radiates a small amount of magical energy as aura.

If I focus, I can conceal it, but there have been times when I've let it spill.

Thus, I plan to use this mask to hide it.

It had broken once before, but I had Doldo repair it.
I equipped the mask. Strange, but it makes me feel calm.
Normally, since I don't need to breathe, I don't do it even as a human.
I could create lungs if I wanted to, but since I don't see a need to, I haven't made them.
However, when wearing a mask I can pretend to be breathing.
And it doesn't feel strange.
Okay. When we head out into the world, let's use this appearance.
Returning to my child form, I had so decided.
Wearing the clothing, I exit the fitting room.
Praising my looks for a while, Shuna continued to help the other *oni*.
This clothing. Absorbing the aura of its wearer, it can change its appearance.
My clothing turned jet black.
Benimaru's blood red.
Hakurou's pure white.
Shion's, of course, turned purple. It'd be strange if it turned orange or something.
Seems like even if this clothing rips, as long as it absorbs our magical energy, it can repair itself.
Magic items completely specialized for our use.
Truly magnificent! And I must admit that I was surprised when I heard that we can change how the clothing looks at will.
Makes changing clothing seem kind of pointless. In the first place, had you bought this, you just might wear it for the rest of your life.
I don't know how good human magic items are, but this one is worthy of an A rank appraisal.
A very high quality product.
Thus, I can probably expect some great weapon from Kurobee.
After saying thanks and taking Souei's clothing with us, we took our leave.
The next place we stopped by was Kurobee's smithy.
Recently, he has been so busy with production that he hasn't even shown his face around the city.
That he's fine in there, I know... he's probably the type that gets engrossed in what he loves.
Seems like he's been working in there without sleep the past few days.
Kaijin had mentioned it before the conference.
The door to his room was open.
Kaijin had provided him with a set of tools he took from the kingdom.

Next to his room stands a warehouse where I deposited the materials I kept. The demon steel I held I also deposited there. As a material it's also there, but I just help but think of iron ore as unreliable.

We had wanted to investigate the nearby mountains for any iron ore deposits, but planned it for a later day.

Because of ongoing construction, there have been too few hands around here.

From within the room the sound of clashing metal and the heat of the furnace leaked.

This is the only place with a high temperature furnace. Made with packed, backed clay, a furnace we had built.

Though it was made with my [Fire Manipulation] ability, it came out pretty well. I plan to later analyze this furnace, and increase the number of them in the village.

I have a ton of plans, but not enough hands.

That aside, having noticed us, Kurobee came out.

Showing his whole face...

「I have been waiting! By all means, come and behold!」

He greeted us with a face that wanted to boast of his products.

Two hours had passed.

We were listening to the explanation with eyes devoid of life.

It's fine already! We get it, we get it! It's amazing!

I had wanted to say those words many times, but just couldn't bring myself to.

Seeing Kurobee's happy face stopped me. What can I... I began thinking thus.

(Rimuru-sama, would now be a good time?)

Telepathically, I was asked. By Souei.

I had sent him to offer an alliance, but... did he encounter trouble? Could he be... lost?

After leaving looking so cool only to come back saying, "My bad, I have no clue where to go, where is it?" Even the benevolent me would get mad at

that...

I had begun worrying slightly, but of course the worry was needless.

With a voice free of worry,

(I had met with the Lizardmen's head. He accepted our offer.

However, he wishes for us to journey there...)

What did he say! To have arrived already. Isn't it too fast?

Not even half a day has passed since the conference ended.

(That's no problem. If anything, I was planning on settling it there anyways. And besides, you already arrived?)

(Ah, yes. By moving through the shadows I arrived at the marshes without great difficulty. If it were to someone I knew, I could have moved instantly.

That aside, when shall we hold the strategy meeting?)

That aside, huh? Isn't it a damn amazing skill! That Shadow Step.

I can also use it, but was it that amazing? I haven't used it that much yet, though...

That was a surprise... oh well.

(Yeah... preparations will take some time, and we'll also need to account the time it takes for the wolf riders to travel there, set it five days from now.)

(Understood! I shall do as you command)

(After the negotiations end, come back. If you have to—as a clone)

(As you will!)

He handled the negotiations well. What a useful guy.

We are quiet a distance away from the marshes.

If marching by foot, it would take two weeks; the wolves could over it in three days.

That lizard Gabil came riding on some big monster.

But we shouldn't arrive before him.

There's a chance he will strike us in back; rather, observing the situation and seizing the initiative should be something that we will do.

After thinking about these things, I tuned in to the never ending explanation.

「I apologize for my belated appearance.」

Souei appeared from the shadows.

Just like a ninja.

Giving him his clothing, I asked him to change.

At Souei's appearance, Kurobee seems to have come back from his own little world.

Ohon! He cleared his throat, and brought out a number of swords.

We finally see what we came for.

He showed us six swords.

Simple, straight sword.

An elegant *tachi*.

Shaped like a cane, *katana*.

A massive, *odachi*.

And two *ninjato*.

Pleased with his creations, he lined them up.

And thus said,

「For Rimuru-sama, I offer this straight sword. This is but a base, it is not yet complete. We wish to create a weapon from demonic steel as Rimuru-sama has suggested. That is our goal, but Kaijin and I are busy researching towards that end. Therefore, please wait some more! Until then, please keep the sword inside of you. 」

With those words, he handed me the sword.

I see, they are still continuing their research? Makes me excited.

Something to look forward to.

「Got it!」

With a nod, I deposit the sword into my stomach. To let it mix with my magic in there.

Kurobee nods once, and hands me another sword.

「This is a prototype among prototypes. Please honor us by using it as a replacement.」

I'll happily put it to use.
Using the skills I have been learning from Hakurou recently.
Really wanted to have a sword. Thus, I hang it on my hip.
Somehow, it makes me feel strong.
And each one of us receives a sword.
Benimaru the *tachi*. Hakurou the *katana*.
Shion the *odachi*.
How will she draw it? It's a freaking huge *katana*,
「Please fret not. The scabbard is made from magical energy, it will
disappear when you wish.」

Is what he said.
It looks so heavy that a normal person couldn't use it; even Kaijin would be
hard to wield it.
The dwarfs also have some bizarre strength, but can barely lift it with both
hands.
Shion, however, holds it easily with one hand.
Souei came back after changing and took the two *ninjato*. A two sword style,
huh...
Somehow it fits him.
After we had taken our weapons, Garm stopped by.
He had finished *oni's* armor.
Seems like he was running out of iron so. Thus, he was unable to create full
plate armor.
Instead, he made it out of monster's materials—scale mail.
Much like the one they had given to the adventurer Cabal before.
This too seems to have been affected by my magical energy. Created
partially from the demonic steel I had, it is considerably strong than that
test product.
To me, however, he gave Dark Leather Guards.
And thus, we finished preparing our equipment.
The following day.
The goblins have finished their preparations.
With one week's worth of provision, they wait for us.
Next comes the decisive battle. Only bring enough food to get there and
back. If we burden the troops with too much, we'll lose speed.
Mobility is everything, if we fail, we must run.
I had thought preparing provisions would take two days, but seeing how

they were ready already, we managed to finish early.

Well, though I said 5 days, there should be no problem with coming early.

「The enemy is the Orc Lord! Now, advance!」



I simply declared.

If we lose, then that's that. We proceed as fate allows.

The simpler the goal the better.

To my declaration the troops responded with a battle cry.

A shout capable of shattering the enemies' hearts filled the forest.

The goblins atop of the wolves are the main force.

Though there are many new members among them, the goblins that ride the storm wolves are the elite among them.

Morale is high.

And having thus seen their spirit, my own worries were dispelled.

We shall win.

Enjoying this too much is probably bad. However, riding into battle while imagining defeat is also no good.

Riding towards the marshes, towards war... we thus set off.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 36 - Participation in the War

Three days have passed since we departed.

We had been able to reach the marshes.

Since we couldn't replenish our water reserves along the way, I had used the water from my stomach, but it seems to also have filled everyone with power.

Come to think of, since it constantly flows within my magic power, this just may be the water's acquired effect.

When departing we focused on minimizing luggage to maximize speed.

Thanks to that, we were able to arrive sooner than expected.

Before we continue our advance we must confirm the current situation.

The meeting with the Lizardmen's Chief is scheduled for tomorrow, and we have yet to have any cause for concern.

Thus, I ordered everyone to standby and take a break. Tension filled the air. Now, for the reconnaissance...

[Rimuru-sama, I shall go.]

Souei immediately offered.

He was not wearing any armor. Instead, he was wearing a chainmail woven from my steel thread.

No questions about it—it was built for agility.

According to him, I won't be hit, so there's no need! Such were the smug and brisk words of this handsome guy.

I see... I somehow managed to reply.

This time too, I can entrust this mission to him with confidence.

[Okay then, Souei. Go, confirm the situations for me.

If possible, go check how good the ability of the pig boss is!]

Saying so, I sent him out.

Surely, he will discover many interesting things with his exceedingly high ability.

[Rimuru-sama, would you mind if we rampage as we liked this time?]
Benimaru had asked.

Frankly, since I had no idea about the situation I couldn't say. Thus,

[Hmm? I don't mind, but can you properly withdraw once I order the retreat?]

So I say.

Benimaru sported a fearless smile.

[That signal, I think it would be unnecessary? After all, it will be annihilation! Won't it?]

Such self confidence. You too, huh! So I thought.

Good men are full of confidence, was it... if we win...

Was acting so smug but lost anyways! Were that to happen, the embarrassment would be intolerable.

This guy probably doesn't worry about such things, right?

Oh well.

[Don't be careless, okay?]

So I said, and ended the conversation with a shrug.

Shion was entranced, admiring her sword. Soon she would be allowed to rampage as she like! Such a smile appeared on her face.

Had she not been so ditzy, she'd be the cool Shion.

That girl, entranced with her sword, makes a really dangerous impression.

Let's act like we hadn't seen it, shall we. That's the best thing for my mental health.

As expected from Hakurou, he was calm as usual.

Or should I say: as bright and clean as a stainless mirror, truly a dignified presence that comes from a skilled person.

However,

[No opponents to sink my teeth in...]

He murmured, but my ears didn't not miss it.

Seriously, I wonder if all Ogre people were this overconfident?
They had lost once against the same opponent, so I'd think they would be more wary in this situation.

Such worries caused me to let out a sigh.

But.... that my worries were completely unnecessary, was proven almost immediately later.

2 hours later.

(Would now be acceptable?)

Confirming the battle formation, I received a telepathic message.

(What? Did you find something?)

(No, just a single Lizardman, is running in our direction)

(What? Do you understand why?)

(Yes, according to the information from the clones, the war has already begun in the marshes, although I had warned them not to act alone...)

(Oh, is the one who leading them the Lizardmen name Gabil? That guy that was pointlessly overconfident....)

(That is likely. What should I do regarding the lizardman?)

Fumu. The war had already begun. But has the outcome been decided yet? Rather, maybe we made it in the nick of time. Need to confirm the state of battle from above.

Well, about the Lizardman...

(Let's hear his story. Whether it was the decision of the Chief or not, we need to confirm their intentions.)

(As you will!)

I cut the connection.

So, it had begun. I thought that we could enjoy a long awaited break but the circumstances seem to dictate otherwise.

So addressing everyone,

[Listen! The break's over. The war has begun

From now on I will command from above!

You guys follow my command, prepare yourself for war!]

Hearing my words, everyone faces tighten.

[Understood. For honor and glory!]

Shion replies and Benimaru nods

Hakurou casually walks forward.

I sprout wings from my back. The wings open a hole in the clothes, but once the wings disappear, the hole would close.

At my pleasure the clothing would change its form. A truly convenient ability.

[It's an order. I forbid you to die. This war is not a decisive battle. Make no mistake!]

Hearing my words,

[[[Oooo~o~o~o~o !!!]]]

They let out a battle cry.

While nodding, I soar to the sky.

From above, I observe the battle.

What cannot be seen with naked eye alone is clearly visible with [Magic Perception].

Almost as if you were observing with a satellite far beyond the clouds.

The current situation was bad for the Lizardmen.

Clearly, the situation had degraded to where they could not do anything and were surrounded.

They somehow manage to hold the orcs back, which was caused, it seems, by the desperate encouragements from their commander. However, they clearly wouldn't last much longer.

That commander looks familiar. It's Gabil. I had thought that he was just a fool, but it seems I had underestimated him.

For a commander, it is fatal to not be able to see the bigger picture.

However, no one would expect a young commander who lacks experience to properly observe the entire theatre.

In any age and in any country, not every commander is an excellent one.

Should he, however, survive and learn from this experience, he just might become an excellent one.

It's pity for him to die here. So I thought. then issued orders.

(Benimaru, hear my wish. First, the encircled Lizardmen. Help them!
After that, do as you like. The details you will hear from Hakurou)

Replying happily to my orders.

(Understood! Is it okay if I go there with Ranga?)
(I leave it to you!)

Thus, I have begun to change the tides of war.

In fact, above the clouds, thinking while observing the armies clash and being able to understand their every movement, gives me a sense of overwhelming superiority.

I must also note that through "Thought Transmission", the aerial information can be transmitted to every soldier.....

Information tactics of modern warfare can be implemented in a fantasy world..

Unlike conventional armies, the amount of information provided is vastly different. With this, it is possible even for an individual unit to maneuver well.

Actually, this makes individual movement possible.

When I was thus thinking, Souei called.

(Rimuru-sama, apparently their flank was taken. The Chief's son, Gabil had caused a rebellion.

Furthermore, the Chief was confined in an underground chamber.

They have also been attacked by the orcs, and anxiety spreads among their forces.)

I see, so he was his son. Moreover, we shouldn't let anything happen to the Chief

Thus I had an idea,

(Souei, can you leap to the former Chief with shadow step?)

So I ask him, since they met once, it should be possible.....

(It's possible, shall I go now?)

(I leave it to you. Assist the Chief, and do with the orcs in the caves as you please!)

(I will! Would you have another minute?)

Shadow step, let's practice that when the war ends. As I was thinking so, Souei called out.

Seems like he had more to say.

(What? Is there something else?)

(Ay! The clones have reported suspicious monsters in every direction across the marshes...

They have decent magical power, high ranking individuals. How should I proceed?]

What?

Could it be a trap? Even so, what kind of trap I—we wouldn't know.

(How many have you confirmed?)

(Yes! I able to confirm, 4 individuals. Unfortunately, there could be more. However, I don't feel any other auras.)

(I see..... Is it possible to dispose of them?)

(If doing it simultaneously, it may be possible with 2 clones... It may take time, but I can eliminate all of them!)

Truly an outstanding guy.

Somehow, I feel it's best to dispose of them simultaneously.... Just what are they—that much is unclear.

But, would killing them be bad? I don't know whether they are an enemy or not....

(Two clones at the same time, is it possible to neutralize them without killing?)

(Absolutely, it is possible)

(Send me the information about their position. I will send Shion and Hakurou)

(In that case, please have them contact me, we will neutralize the targets together.)

(I entrust it to you)

I told Shion and Hakurou about the situation.

Absolutely no killing, just knock them out! I ordered.

I don't know who they are, and I don't have any high class demon acquaintances.

Since they stand in every direction, they are either scouts or setting traps. They seem to haven't noticed us, and are clearly not part of the Lizardmen's fighting strength.

But this is too late for reconnaissance...so are they from the Orc army? That also seems doubtful. Pointless, in my opinion.

A third party? Suddenly, I thought that.

Perhaps there are beings who are confirming the situation as we are. Well, if they are successfully captured, I will ask them then. I don't know if I can make them talk, but we'll cross that bridge when we get there.

It's unlikely that the demons came by the humans' orders, since they are rather antagonistic.

Since thinking about it wouldn't help, I decided to stop.

I issued orders and observed the situation.

Lizardmen side had begun to succumb to pressure.

They will surely fall soon. For all I know, the Chief was meeting a similar fate in the caverns.

Souei already dispatched his clones, but I wonder if his main body is unaffected?

My head as filled with many worries at this late hour.

I issued an order, they followed it.

Someone was incompetent if he takes more that he can do.

Once, when I was still a rookie in the company, the Chief often got mad at me and said. Do not take more work than you can manage yourself!

When the person in question stagnates, everyone will be affected.

Since then, I avoided reckless action, always taking on only as much work as I knew I could handle.

This time, the gifted one can't understand. They wouldn't know whether the job I gave them was possible.

I pray that they are not incompetent. And, that they do not call me an incompetent lord.

For now, I think I'll just continue to observe the situation.

If they face trouble, I will immediately send help

Well,
After finishing the telepathy, Souei wears a thin smile.
He feels he was able to help his Lord.
For Souei, Benimaru who is son of the lord was not his Lord.
Similar of age, Souei treats him as a rival. Someday, he considered to serve under him, but it was not meant to be.
Instead, they began to serve a lord named Rimuru.
I am fortunate, he thought.
A time of peace had continued for a while. Symbolizing strength, the Ogres had no opponent in the forest.
Recently, even lesser dragons had not caused any commotions.
He had thought that the peace was a good thing. However, they also wanted to use the skills they have obtained, such was their earnest wish.
Then, they were attacked by the Orc army.
He could do nothing at all, and left without avenging his lord and fallen comrades...
I am fortunate, he thought.
Under the new Lord, he was given the opportunity to avenge his former lord.
Negligence born of pride. That he currently did not have.
For the Lord, he had polished his technique (skill), all to eliminate his enemies.
Being commanded filled him with the highest of pleasure.
Souei calmly creates two clones of himself.
And,

(I will catch the two presences. Hakurou and Shion, go to south and west)

Confirming using telepathy, they acknowledged his request.
Each of the clones went to the north and east.
He himself sunk into shadows and disappeared. He was going to meet up with the Lizardmen's Chief.
The high class demons were not his enemies right now.
He understands that much.

After receiving Souei request, Hakurou and Shion exchanged glances.
They nodded.

[So, I guess I'm off west.]
[Very well, I am going south]

After a short conversation, they run off.
They disappear from the spot with high speed.
Seeing their departure,

[Can't be the last ones to leave!]

The main force led by Benimaru began to move.
Soundlessly like the wind, the Storm fanged wolves gallop into battle.
The goblins ride in enthusiasm.
They move in accordance to Rimuru's order. So extreme was their joy, that they felt their very blood dance in delight.
You guys felt the same right.....
Benimaru thought so, he was aware of his carefree personality.
That's why, he remember the hesitation he felt when faced with the need to take over the Ogre tribe village Chief. Right now, however, he had no such choice.
Thus, He liked his current position with Rimuru as the Lord he served.
As one of the military commander, he merely wished to rampage to his heart's content.
Had he become Chief, he could not ride off to battle thus. But now was different.
He can participate without any concern.
Benimaru sprints.
He can't stop his blood from boiling.

Souei, Hakurou, Shion, had confirmed that they had arrived at their destinations.
To prevent their presence from being noticed, they concealed themselves.
In front of each of them, a suspicious demon was visible.
They confirmed their observations, and found their opinions to match.
This demon was a familiar of a High Devil which specialized in reconnaissance!
Just in case, Souei conveyed to the two

(I'm going to report this to Rimuru-sama)

Our lord would surely be troubled if suddenly beset by three reports.
The two reluctantly agreed, as the one who with the best telepathy was Souei.

Clumsy Shion was only good at receiving. She swore in heart to continue practicing.

After receiving the two's permission,

(Rimuru-sama, the presence of demons was confirmed. It is familiar of a High Devil, which specialized in reconnaissance, are you sure you want to capture them?)

In my opinion, that we killed them will not be discovered, so there is no cause for further concern!)

To Rimuru, he sent such a message with telepathy.

I leave it to you! So was the response.

With the other two discussing the timing, they decided to simultaneously eliminate the four scouts.

Hakurou would signal.

At the same time as Hakurou commands,

His slash gleaming, the monster before Hakurou is cut down and disappears.

As if sucked into the shadows, as if consumed by the ground... two more demons are crushed. Souei's kills.

After one thunderous slash, the demon was blown away without a trace...
Shion's target.

All happened within the same second.

The slash that Shion had put all her strength into, after blowing the demon away, lost none of its momentum and continued onward.

So great was the momentum, that it had reached the outskirts of the marshes and cut down many orcs.

And that attack signaled Rimuru's participation in battle.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 37 – Encounter ~ Benimaru & Ranga

Gabil continued the hopeless struggle.

The odds were clearly against them.

Without ever tiring, without ever resting, the orcs constantly attacked.

The goblins and the lizardmen, on the other hand, were slowly being killed off one by one.

They only needed to regain their formation and break through the encirclement, but doing so would mean abandoning the goblins who lack the necessary mobility.

Moreover, many exhausted and wounded lizardmen would be lost in the charge...

Though he had refused to order a retreat, perhaps now he had no choice but to try to save even a few lives.

Normally, the war would end when a decisive blow had been dealt to the enemy. However, the orcs sought the complete eradication of the lizardmen. No chance of surrender either. Simply being killed and devoured.

That fact evoked fear. The weak-willed monsters lost their will to fight and abandoned their post. The goblins, in fact, could no longer be considered a force at all.

Some goblins gave up and tried to escape, but such was not permitted by the orcs. Hunting down the escaping goblins, they killed and ate them.

No more than a thousand goblins had now remained. Soon they will be completely annihilated...

The lizardmen fared not much better. The original eight thousand troops were now reduced to less than six thousand.

They kept losing ground, making organized movements difficult to perform. Yet Gabil kept encouraging his troops. While slowly trying to break through the orc encirclement...

Suddenly, a squad of orcs clad in black armor began to move.

Different from common orcs, these took command of the battle. Each wore full plate armor.

Perhaps their base strength was no higher than that of an average orc. However, their equipment made all the difference. They, in turn, were commanded by a single orc. Carrying an aura of strength around him, he was clearly world above the common orcs.

The Orc General.

Possessing the strength of an entire army, the Orc Army General. And following him are 2,500 orc knights.

There are five such individuals. Their power may be ranked as B+.

A fourth of the Orc Lord's true army had moved.

It's over.

That power could decide the battle right there.

Escape is impossible. Their only choice is to fall in battle...

"At least, I want to be cut down by a warrior." So he thought.

「*Guwahahaha!* Cowardly general of swine! Do you have the courage to meet me alone in battle!!!」

He cried loudly.

He could not win. His armor was in pieces.

Moreover, seems like his opponent's armor was strengthened with magic.

If he accepts this request, Gabil could die like a warrior. If it went well, perhaps he could take out a single general. Such were his thoughts.

「*Gugugu.* Very well. I'll be your opponent!」

Responding thus, the orc general jumps down from his horse.

The surrounding clashes froze, swallowed by his aura. Further away, fighting continued, but it didn't reach Gabil's ears.

Gabil could feel his concentration rising like it never had before.

「I am grateful!」

The rest was a silent duel.

Gabil readied the Magic Weapon: Water Vortex Spear.

「Come!」

The Orc General bellowed, and at the same time

「Die!!! Water Vortex Style, *Tornado Crush*!!!」

Gabil released an attack filled with all his might. Combining spear technique and magical energy, a certain kill technique.

It was filled with all the strength Gabil had. However,

「*Kanrangue*!!!」 (Chaos Eater)

(TL Note: do you want me to translate skill names? Some of these may get strange...

Pointing his spear at Gabil, the Orc Lord devoured the vortex itself.

But that's not all; the spear also began emitting an aura. An ominous yellow aura that attacked Gabil's very flesh.

"It seeks to eat me!" Stumbling, falling Gabil realized. However, the aura would not let him escape...

「*Guguguga!* Pitiful lizard. Rolling in dirt suits you!」

Gabil was laughed at by the Orc General.

But he wouldn't give up. If only... if only he could land a single hit...

Picking up some dirt, he flung it at the orc. Call it cowardice, but Gabil desired the chance to cut him down!

However, that attack, too, was in vain, as the yellow aura quickly devoured it.

Gabil felt the attack directed at him.

He was desperate to evade that aura, but knew not how.

This far, huh...

Gabil thought, and closed his eyes.

Suddenly, a deafening roar.

The previously silent scenery came alive again.

That roar assaulted the orc general, preventing him from landing a finishing blow on Gabil.

What was that?

Even amidst the battle, Gabil was confused. By now, the tide began to change.

Without any concern for Gabil's thoughts, events developed rapidly before him.

Shion's strike mowed down many orcs.

That became the signal to start the battle.

Benimaru was not surprised by the sudden slash that came from behind him.

Rather, he only muttered

「What the hell she doing... that idiot...」

Benimaru did not tremble, for better or worse, and the goblin wolf riders were also stoic.

Rather, he was merely bitter that he could not draw first blood. However, he finally could go wild. He could bear the earlier grief.

Advancing at full speed, they crashed into the orc troops.

The orcs were ready to sudden attacks by unidentified individuals, but they simply could not react in time to the speed at which the wolf riders attacked.

Brittle.

That is how Benimaru had described them.

There was no need even for us to go out, the goblins could have managed this alone.

This wasn't fun, so he thought.

「All troops stop!」

He ordered.

To give up the momentum they had built up would normally be unthinkable. Moreover, for a unit specializing a speed such would be unnecessary...

But the goblin riders, without a question, immediately stopped.

「Ranga, could you shadow step to the Lizardman named Gabil?」

Benimaru asked. Souei's skill, and Ranga's as well. Since it's the same, it should be possible, right? He didn't know, so inquired.

「It is possible.」

A simple response.

「Alright! You go on ahead and protect them. I'll stroll over there!」

What a strange thing he had said! To stroll forward in the middle of a battlefield replete with orcs.

Gabil's group should have been encircled by many warriors, such that a small number of troops could never break through.

And rather than advancing quickly, he decides to walk there? What a bizarre thing to say... one would expect.

「Understood. And please, take your time getting there. I'm off ahead!」

With those words, Ranga leaps into a shadow.

Benimaru stands firmly on the ground, and slowly prepares himself.

Seeing his actions, the orcs were at a loss. Should they attack or not?

The goblins thought his appearance magnificent.

Well, among them

Gobuta: 「Hmm? Why'd we stop~su? Is running ahead bad~su?

No way, must we walk ahead~su? I hate walking~su!」

There was one goblin who had said that, but let's ignore him.

「Okaaay. Yo, bastards. Yeah, you pigs over there, move. If you do, I'll let you go!」

Finishing his stretches, Benimaru calls out to an orc in front of him.

But not a single orc moved.

「Don't screw with us! How could you...」

「Then, die!」

Since they had no intention to retreat, Benimaru decided to step in himself. On his right palm, a black spherical flame appeared. Increasing the diameter of this ball to a meter, he shot it at the orcs. Sensing danger, they tried to run away. But it was far too late. The ever accelerating round chased them. It's speed was around 600 kph—clearly beyond the orcs' abilities. Those struck were immediately engulfed and burned without leaving ashes. However, the terror of the flame was not in this. The ball also absorbed the magical energy of the orcs it struck and used it to fuel its growth. Rather than a ball, it was now a dome with a radius of 100 meters. And in a second, another roar resounded across the battlefield. Well, it wasn't actually that loud, but those that heard it could feel their blood freezing in their veins. Wide-area destruction skill... [Hell Flare]. A skill that Benimaru had acquired. The black dome had disappeared, and left scorched earth behind it. They were supposed to be fighting in the marshes, but the ground was burned into glass. Who could even imagine that terrible heat! It should go without saying, but it is easy to guess what happened to the orcs who got caught in the 2,000 ~ 5,000 degree fireball. Even their ashes were burned. Only a minute had passed since Benimaru shot the flare. And flashing a wicked smile,

「Clear the way, swine!」

He declared again. The orcs were panicked out of fear. Though they were under the effect of the [Starving Ones], they should not have even recognized the emotion called fear. However, that one attack awakened that terrible feeling. For no matter how much they struggled, they could not escape. An overpowering strength that they could not even imagine. Only forbidden spells could match such awesome might. They had no way to counter the skill, and even if they attempted to grow

stronger by feeding, the corpses were burned to a crisp.
He was truly a high demon far beyond their reach. And thus they feared.
The panicking orcs began to disperse.
Soon, they could barely maintain order.
Seeing them act like this, Benimaru quietly walked ahead.
To him, the orcs ahead were naught but a hindrance.

Gabil was ready for death, but, strangely, he didn't feel the blow other than the one that hit him in the side.
Feeling that something was amiss, he fearfully opened his eyes.
What he saw before him was a black wolf.
One that he had seen before... Right! The body double of the leader of the fang wolves!

「*O, ooo!* Body double-dono, have you come to offer assistance?」
He asked without thinking.
What had happened, Gabil did not know, nor did he have the strength to look around.
Flustered, he finally looked around.
Somewhere in the distance, some commotion was occurring.
And to Gabil,

「I am not a fang wolf, nor a body double.」

Reverberating from the depth of his stomach, Ranga said in a low voice.
And having zero interest in Gabil, he stared at the Orc General.
They stared at each other.
Orc General himself was confused. Suddenly a monster of great power had appeared.
He felt power oozing from the beast's body.
And moreover, from the direction the beast had come, he could feel terrifying magical energy.
Some great misfortune happened there. So the Orc General felt.
But being clueless to this all,

「What a revelation! Then, if you are not a fang wolf... would you be the leader of the black wolves?」

Gabil asked surprised.

Surprised that Gabil had not recognized him for who he is. Ranga declared with a sigh,

「Would you shut up for a minute. I am Ranga! The one who serves Rimuru-sama!!!」

And to the orc,

「Swine, if you retreat, I shall not chase; if you attack, I shall not forgive!」

Ranga barked.

The orc soldiers trembled, but not of fear.

Their general by their side, the effect of [Starving Ones] was strengthened.

「*Guguguga!* How insolent! A mere beast dares bare his fangs at me!!!」

The Orc General retorted.

And thus a battle began between them.

The general commanded the orc soldiers to surround Ranga.

For a beast, he saw no need for a fair fight.

But Ranga only laughed.

How joyous he was! He could finally show his true abilities.

Uooooooooooooooooooooon!!!

Howling with all his strength, Ranga released his aura.

How long had he lurked within his beloved Rimuru-sama's shadow, absorbing the aura, while constantly re-imagining his body.

“Aim for this form!” Since he was told so, Ranga worked daily.

And now came the time for Ranga's true power to awaken.

Power gushed forth from his body.

His muscles bulged, his claws hardened, his fangs sharpened.

And, two horns appeared atop his head...

That appearance, was just like that of his lord. Thus Ranga evolved into Tempest Storm Wolf.

Ranga glanced at the Orc General.

And he knew, he was no threat. To get a feel for his power, and to prove his intuition, he moved.

Ranga felt the flow of power, and directed magical energy into his horns.

After observing Ranga's transformation, Orc General sensed danger.

Go! He wanted to scream the order...

Flash, and a roar.

Many lightning pillars appeared, connecting the heavens and the earth.

And a winding waterspout.

It was a skill that Ranga acquired, [Death Storm]. A wider area skill than the [Black Lightning].

In a second, the Orc General was vaporized, and the surrounding orcs fell to the ongoing storm.

After the storm had passed, no orcs remained in the vicinity.

Wide area skill [Death Storm] held truly terrifying power.

Ranga observed this situation.

There were no casualties among the lizardmen, and he had used it with the largest possible range.

As expected, a lot of energy was used to fuel this skill, but Ranga could still continue fighting.

Having confirmed mastery over this skill,

Uooooooooooooooooon!!!

A roar of victory.

Looking down at his feet, he saw a fainted Gabil.

However, that was none of his concern. He was ordered to protect the lizardmen, and having them faint posed no problem.

Perhaps now that stupid lizard would fix his misconceptions.

Thinking that, Ranga sat down.

Far away, he could see Benimaru slowly walking towards them.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 38 - Devil Gelmudo

A wide conference room.

The room were shrouded in silence.

Several shadows of men and women were sitting surrounding the large round meeting table.

A large crystal sphere was nested in the middle of the table.

From the lowest position seat near the entrance of the room, a man was casting some kind of spell towards the sphere.

The man dressed as a clown. His name is Gelmudo

He is the one who was entrusted with this meeting, and also the person responsible for certain project.

The project that he had worked for many years, and that project is to give birth to a new Demon Lord

For the sake of his own ambition, the project must not ended in failure.

And then, it was finally the last day of the project.

He succeeded in inviting the four whimsical "Demon Lord"

It has to succeed at all cost.

It's impossible to make the Demon Lord move with money

You would need things that attract their interest, like a prey or a hard to obtain Magic Tool (Artifacts).

Anyway, it was necessary to pay a very valuable compensation.

This time, Gelmudo succeed in making the four Demon Lord move. In other words, the compensation he paid was enough.

When the time comes for the birth of a new Demon Lord, the other Demon Lord would not stay silent.

If a fool freely calling himself a Demon Lord, he or she would be killed because they invoked the Demon Lord's wrath. Moreover, if there was such person that managed to turn the table against an infuriated Demon Lord. Such person, if they had the ability, they would be recognized as a Demon Lord.

These past several hundred of years. There was no birth of Demon Lord with such ability.

The last born Demon Lord, the Human "Demon Lord" Leon Cromwell.

With his overwhelming Magical power he increased the number of Majin (Demonic person) that he controlled, he claimed himself as the Demon Lord of the frontier.

One of the Demon Lord, which was furious with him, the Magic King (Curse Lord) had waged war against him. But he was slain by Leon instead.

He was also defeated by Leon's own hands.

In response to the situation, the other Demon Lord recognized him as a new Demon Lord.

But, Demon Lord with such ability was not a common occurrence.

Therefore to claim a stranger as a Demon Lord, it was necessary to get the support of at least three or more Demon Lord. If you messed with the new Demon Lord, the supporting Demon Lord will become opponents at the same time, that is what to be expected.

And following such procedures, for the sake of the birth of the new Demon Lord, Gelmudo become fired up because of his ambition.

This time, to make the Orc Lord as Demon Lord would require one more step.

For the bored Demon Lord, he prepares the stage for the birth of the Demon Lord as a spectacle. It was for them to have fun, which was one of the conditions for the support.

Of course it's not just that, he would also gave them Magic equipment (Magic Item) and Magic tool (Artifacts).

For Gelmudo this was a gamble of a lifetime.

The Orc Lord had to eat the Goblins and Lizardmen, to evolve as Demon Lord.

Today was the day when it will all end.

To become a Demon Lord and getting the support at the same time, one must devastated human city.

In doing so, it will become the news of the birth of a new Demon Lord.

If such things happened, Gelmudo's ambition will be achieved. With manipulating the Orc Lord from the shadow, he would be on equal standing with the other Demon Lords.

And yet...

There was no reaction from the crystal ball.

Gelmudo become impatient.

This is bad.

He doesn't want to imagine what happened if he offends the Demon Lord that were looking forward to the play.

It won't project! There's nothing that can be done. At that moment, he wondered if he is going to become a minced meat. Even, if he's not killed, He might be cursed to become minced meat with only consciousness left.

It's no use. I don't want to imagine it anymore. Gelmudo hurriedly cast the spell again, but there are still no reaction from the crystal ball. (TL: because his familiar was killed by Souei and co.)

[Hey..., what are you doing?]

A voice colder than ice echoes. The room turns silent, the intimidation was enough to disturb Gelmudo's spell. Gelmudo was panicking with sweat leaking all over.

[Ple, Please wait! I will determine the cause right away!]

His instinct was saying, if he left it just like this it would be bad. However,

Creak!

A sound of something that were creaking as if it was being squashed was heard. But no sooner than that,

Baaaaa~~m !

On the right side of Gelmudo something big flew past by at high speed, it crashed at the rear door with thunderous sound. One of the Demon Lord, a petite and beautiful silver haired girl, lifted and threw the big round table with her left hand. It was without any skill. The desk alone was several percent of state budget of a small country; it was a product of art from carved fragrant wood. The heavy door in the back was decorated with elaborate decoration, Now it's just a large hole in the building's wall. You can see it miserably destroyed, such thing happened.

[You..., are you treating me like a fool?]

The girl said.

Gelmudo cannot mutter his words well due to his fear.

[P, p, please forgive me!!! I will immediately confirm the cause myself!!!]

So he spoke.

[Really? Then made it quick. Since I'm generous, I'm going to wait!]

Which part of you are generous! Though he can't even afford the time to think about it.

Gelmudo was trembling in fear, the door was destroyed by the table that flew outside from the now large hole in the wall.

The conference room was on the 3rd floor, but he can't be picky about appearances anymore.

He leaps outside and starts chanting flight movement spell.

His ambition has all scattered away.

What occupied Gelmudo's thoughts now, he doesn't want to die, only that.

He was not making fun of the Demon Lord. It's the truth

But, it had been seen as if he was making fun of them.

Gelmudo prided himself as being a high ranked devil. That's why; he thought he was able to put a good fight against one Demon Lord.

But because there was four here, he worried that it was necessary to depreciate oneself and praise the listener, so he thought.

That's wrong.

Demon Lord is Demon Lord, because of that they were feared. Because he afraid of them, he was not a Demon Lord.

He knows it, he was being too conceited.

To become equal with the Demon Lord, such thing like that were impossible for Gelmudo.

He was able to truly understand it.

Those who can't fathom the Demon Lord, won't be able to speak with Demon Lord.

With speed reaching the speed of sound, Gelmudo flew toward the marshes.

But it was not for sake of his ambition.

But for his survival, he needs to fix the blunder with all his might.

What the... What the hell is going on here?

While flying in the sky, I confirmed the situation of the war on the marshes.
A situation that I can't understand, had happened in front of my eyes

What the hell is happening here!?

Like I'm gonna have any idea!!!

To my own question, I retort it myself.

I wish you can see it.

If seen from the above, a sudden flash was flashing from the corner, the bodies of the Orc soldiers were blown away along with a thunderous roar.
Hmm? When I observed at a certain direction... So Loud! A thunderous sound resounded.

Looking at it, there is a black sphere (Dome) appeared on the battlefield.
It disappears after a few seconds, leaving only the scorched ground.
The Orc soldiers that crowded that place had all been neatly erased.

What the h.....!!!?

I was able to understand the situation in that moment, but I feel my heart refused to admit it.

Not just that, a raging storm appeared suddenly in one corner of the battlefield.

Numerous thunders from the storm struck the Orc soldiers killing and grilled them all.

The orc soldiers clad in black armor on that corner;

Without any resistance they all turn into cinders by the power of the storm.

What the hell is going on? It was his honest thoughts.

With only a sword slash attack, Shion has mowed down many Orc soldiers.
The blade of the massive Odachi was emitting lilac lights. It's wrapped in an aura.

Every time she swung her sword, flash of purple ran through, slashing and mowing down the Orc soldiers.

Of course, if someone received the direct attack of the blade they would not be able to withstand it and be slashed into two.

The range of the blow was about 10 m. An attack that kill all in a straight line.

The graceful beauty, sprouting a slight smile, dancing around slashing all.

With bottomless stamina, she attack without any interruptions, all the Orc soldiers around her cannot come close.
It's was an overwhelming strength.

But however, there are some guys that overshadowing Shion.

It was Benimaru and Ranga.

First Benimaru, what the hell kind of joke was that previous black sphere (Dome)?

No, I was able to vaguely understand the mechanism after I saw it for a moment.

In other words, It was a composite skill of [Barrier] [Fire Manipulation] [Black Lightning] I have.

First, the space is secured with [Barrier], He accelerate the molecular motion inside with [Fire Manipulation]. So it will produce a high temperature.

Finally, the magical power inside the space acts as fuel, and the [Black Lighting] will turn it into Plasma that would burn whatever is inside it. It can be said that the skills had become the composite skill [Black Flame Manipulation].

I wonder if a degenerated version of the Unique skill [Shapeshifter] was passed down to Benimaru.

Because I had [Great Sage] there won't be any mistake on its judgment.

That skill, unlike a nuclear explosion, its characteristic was not causing any damage outside of its radius.

The proof was, even if the boundary is released, there was no shock wave that went outside.

Range specification can be performed, it seems the purpose for increasing the inside heat synergistic-ally was to make the heat inside unbearable. So once confined inside the boundary, there will be no hope for survival.

The problem was, I don't feel I want to freely use that kind of extremely dangerous skill.

And, one person or one animal.

It was Ranga.

I was surprised by this guy when he suddenly evolved into Black Storm Star Wolf (Tempest Star Wolf).....

The skill he use immediately after evolving was something to be astonished. Evidently, if you used the [Black Lighting] without any imposing restrictions, the result will be AAAH.

It seemed what used just now was the strongest output, it seems like he can't use it twice.

I was surprised that it had devastated the enemy forces on that corner with just one shot.

I can unconsciously or consciously put brake in my mind, but those guys weren't like that.

Because It's dangerous don't use it, they didn't have such thoughts.

The opponents will not hesitate to use such thing. It was the law of the jungle in this world, it was the natural course of action.

Maybe the strange one was me.

I was hesitating to use it, because I don't want any allies to get any injuries.

Living in that world, there was an unspoken rule that powerful weapons cannot be used.

There was no meaning for weapons to only be used as deterrent. But, was it really just that?

It doesn't make sense to spent money on weapons that can't be used. So, how can money be spent for the development of weapons?

Was it going to be used when things going hairy?

At the very least, if it was used by a civilian it will be considered evil, then is it considered justice if it's used on the battlefield?

On the other side, using weapon to kill was not counted as a crime.

And thus... To hold a power that can be used as a deterrent, perhaps showing off a power that used to coerce them, are not a mistake.

Since the fighting began, two hours has passed.

Benimaru shoot off another four black spheres (dome) shaped attack.

As I expected it can't be fire rapidly, but it seems it didn't require a large amount of Magic power (Energy).

Ranga only shoot on the first attack.

I thought the power was too high. Still, it was an AoE attack.

Thus, with just that single attack, it seems to have made the opponents recognized the feeling of fear.

All the Orc soldiers that were trying to escape were eviscerated by Shion.

I renew how I felt, and calmly mobilize the battle progress

It's strange, my feelings were calm.

The first blow was dealt by Benimaru, but the rest of the attack point was on my commands.

It was aimed at the crowed areas, to cut down the enemy's forces.

Shion was successful in finishing off her enemy, she continued to strike the place as ordered.

Hakurou was taking care of the enemy's commander, he precisely kill the general class.

It can't be called a battle. Approaching without any sound, and in an instant he cut them all down.

Because the effect of the Unique skill [Starving ones] is to increase the power of an individual under its influence after devouring corpse. So, it was a good idea to destroy the corpse of the one that was cut down.

Is it some kind of Hakkei (Internal power emission)? A ghastly aura was released from the palm and it cremates the corpse.

Rather than cremating, its closer to the image of being dissolved...

I locate where the Orc general was and they were instantaneously killed by Hakurou after I communicated with him.

The current situation, the losses of the Orc soldiers reached about 30%. And then, the Orc Lord finally began to show movement.

Once the time to reorganize the forces of both sides comes, they shifted from confrontation to glaring at each other.

The free me, was calmly observing the situation.

The pigs were tense after they noticed the superiority they brought here was lost.

The Orc Lord comes out to the front.

A monstrous and ugly pig.

Suddenly, the two surviving Orc Generals were cut from head to toe and devoured.

The dull yellow colored eyes were filled with hostility, and he releases his aura.

In response to the aura, all of the orc soldier's forces seemed to brimming with power...

(Benimaru, can you cast Black Flame Prison (Hell Flare) again?)

(It's an easy victory if I cast them!)

(Ranga, how about you?)

(My Lord! About thirty percent of my magic power has recovered. It won't bring out power like the previous one, but it's possible to shot it one more time!)

(One shot is enough. Beside, that strike at the Orc was an overkill. Just half of the power was enough to kill them.

Cast it with the same range as earlier, but decrease the power when use it!)

(With pleasure!)

(Shion. This time I want you to strike the Orc Lord with a flashy single slash!)

(Yes! I will use all of my power this time!)

What...? Up until now she didn't use her full power!? Well....

(O, ou! Do your best!)

She was brandishing her Odachi joyfully with full power, or trying to slashing with it.

This fellow might be holding a strange strength after all, or so I thought.

(Hakurou. You also want to kill the Orc Lord? But not this time. Please endure!)

(Whew, understood. You want the young people to blossom....)

(I'll be counting on you!)

This way, I finish the preparation for the interception.

The Orc Lord was no longer a threat.

That fellow ability was still uncompleted. I offer him my prayers. At the time I was thinking that

Kiin!!!

A harsh sound was heard.

My [Magic Perception] had perceived someone that comes flying at supersonic speed from a distance.

That person was in the middle of the marshes, and landed in the middle of the two confronting armies.

I feel a pretty strong aura from the strange men that dressed like a clown. Perhaps, it was a high ranked Devil.

I followed after him, and then I landed on the ground.

At that moment, both Ranga and Benimuru come next to my side

The man that looked like a clown glanced at me.

[What the heck is all of this!? To dare to ruin this Gelmudo-sama plan like this!!!]

So he shouted loudly.

Gelmudo. The high ranked Devil, the mastermind of this war.

And the first Devil I met in this world.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 39 – Gears of Fate

So... a guy shows up looking like a clown and shouting some stuff about ruined plans or something.

I got it of course. This is all his fault. No question about it.

I mean, we didn't even ask him, but he goes and confesses his crimes... is he an idiot?

Acting like some big shot while looking like that. Maybe he's not dressing up like a clown.

Maybe he is a clown, so I concluded.

From what I gathered, he also led the Orc Lord here.

The Clown-Gelmudo-san seems to be very angry.

Moreover, he seems to be trembling and greatly flustered, so he's very incoherent.

Is he just calcium-deficient? I guess devils need vitamins.

Then the clown said,

「What a useless blockhead!

It's all because you haven't evolved into a demon lord even after eating the lizards and the ogre trash!

Making this great Gelmudo-sama come out all the way out here!!!」

What a horrible manner of speech.

Waking to these words, Gabil called out.

「Ah, Gelmudo-sama! You've come to our rescue!」

Eh? This lizard... was he passed out the entire time?

You... he called you orc food, you know.

「Ah? Oh, what do you know, it's Gabil. You should've been killed already! Whatever. Since I came out here I might as well finish the job. Rejoice! You are dying for my sake!!」

Saying thus, Gelmudo pointed his hand at Gabil. And saying, "Die!", he fired a magic bullet at him.

「Protect Gabil-sama!」
「Gabil-sama is in danger!」

Screaming their lungs out—Gabil's followers. A single magic bullet downed five lizardmen. Well, maybe because hitting five targets weakened it, or maybe they were just really tough, but none of them died. Gravely wounded, but still alive.

「Guys... what is the meaning of this, Gelmudo sama?!!!」

A panicked Gabil asks. Figure it out already, you were used! However, this isn't the right time to say it. Betrayed by his most trusted person, Gabil's face was pale despair.

「Ga... Gabil-sama, it's dangerous here... please run away...!」

Even when on verge of death his subordinates worry about him. What great subordinates he has. Soldiers that a commander yearns for... something like that?

「Lowly lizards! If you want to die that much, I'll gladly kill you all! And have the Orc Lord devour your bodies!!!」

While saying that, I felt him gathering a larger magic bullet in his hand. That wasn't magic, right? I didn't hear an incantation. Feels more like he gathers magic in one spot. Hmph. I walked ahead, right in front of the lizardmen.

Right in front of the scared and trembling Gabil.
My expression hidden by the mask.
I wonder how I look to Gabil? A passing thought.
Why did I walk over here?
Gabil caught my interest. So I'll save him. That was the only reason.
That's all the reason I need. I've chosen to live as I please.
I live free!
That's the kind of "me" that I want to show Gabil.
However, he looks completely lost. Maybe all the new information
overloaded his brain?
But don't worry. It's not like I want him to say anything.
I'm just pissed at the clown.
Gelmudo, however, completely ignored me and fired the magic bullet.

「*Fuhahahaha!* I'll show you the power of a high class devil!
Die! *Shisha no Koushinenbu!!!* (Death March Dance)」
A large magic bullet, split in mid air, and as if drawing a circle flew at us.
Unfortunately, it won't be passing me.
In my child form, I lift my small hand as if to grab it.
And with just that, the magic bullet is absorbed into it.
I was immediately able to analyze it. It was a simple magic manipulation
skill.
With low energy cost, it's easy to change the output. Well, as long as the
caster is within range.
If he went all out to fire this round, then he's no threat to me.
Let's make sure,

「Hey, did you really intend to kill me with this boring skill? To test your
words, could you please show me how to die? 」

Saying that, I fired off a magic bullet.
If I wanted to, I could also split it like he had, but I see no need. Putting in
more magic energy, I make it the size of a fist.
That got me thinking. The one he had fired was the size of a head, so was
probably denser and more potent.
If I use the same magic theory with the fire bullet, I should be able to
increase its strength even further.

How fun!

Let's not forget that the clown looks pretty tough, so he makes a great target.

And if I bore of this, I can just eat him.

I further accelerated the bullet and it made contact with the clown. And the moment it did, I released the magic energy.

Gelmudo was sent flying.

He had meant to evade, but couldn't due to the sudden acceleration.

Rolling over, he desperately started to regenerate his wounds.

Heeeh. He's got a regeneration skill. Isn't that wonderful! I bet he tastes great.

Let's enjoy (eating) my first devil.

As if understanding my intentions, Benimaru and Ranga are standing pleased, but on guard.

And Shion, despondent due to not being able to go all out... nope, that's not how she looked.

Rather, her eyes were sparking in delight watching my fight.

No idea how she'll be venting all the pent up later though, but it should be fine.

I leisurely walk right up to Gelmudo – who was still rolling on the ground.

「Just get up already. Weren't you going to show me the power of a high class devil?」

I kicked the collapsed Gelmudo.

Seems like it was more powerful than I thought, since he was blown away again.

What a brittle guy.

「Y-yo-you! How dare you! To a high...」

Kicking the ground, I immediately appear right in front of Gelmudo.

Aiming at his solar plexus, I throw some punches. Punches that are reinforced with armor.

I don't feel pain of the impact of course, but as my punch drives further and further into his flesh, Gelmudo's face distorted in anguish.

Without care, I continue punching the guy.

And once again, I fire off a magic bullet.

Though I can regulate its strength, I was able to figure out that the bullet does five times more damage than one punch.

Unless I start infusing my punches with energy, of course. If I do, my punches also become quite lethal, and energy consumption grows.

However, as the bullet uses less energy, it is a more efficient weapon.

Seems like I can fight barehanded like a certain warrior race. Not that I will.

But anyways, this guy is clearly above an A rank, but still way weaker than Benimaru.

I wonder why?

<<Solution. It is based on ranking system as defined by humans that focuses on the amount of energy in circulation.

However, even if those with the same amount of energy battle, the one who is able to utilize it more efficiently shall have the advantage.

Moreover, since skill level is not included in the ranking, great difference of strength tend to occur among those of the same rank>>

So that's how it was.

Level is not something I can just figure out by looking. Since this isn't a game, if I don't fight them, I wouldn't know.

And that's why Hakurou, who's skill level was surely high, had obtained that powerful body.

Even if you possess a lot of energy, it's meaningless if you can't use it.

So right now, I know I cannot possibly lose against either Gelmudo or the Orc Lord.

「Hey, can't you put on a good show? Or is that clown appearance just for laughs?」

What kind of skills does he have?

I don't feel any threat from him. Rather, it's like I'm asking a shopkeeper to show me his wares.

「Wh-wha-whaaat... you! Y-y-y-youuuu!!! Such words, to a high ranking devil, such... you...」

I hit him.

Can't this guy properly respond when asked?

「Sto-stop! Please stop! I'm backed by the Demon Lords! For you to do such a thing!!!」

Seems like he's saying something.

How annoying. Is he thinking that he'll be able to cry about this to his patrons?

And... demon lord Leon is, well, my prey.

「And? How are you planning on going back to cry to them? You aren't thinking that I'll let you live, right?」

Hearing my question, Gelmudo pales and he begins to tremble in fear. That kind of response was surprisingly amusing. As expected of a clown. Gelmudo then used some kind of spell and flew into the air. Seems like he's trying to escape.

But, all I could think of looking at that was: that magic looks delicious!

I could fly with by sprouting wings, but not at supersonic speeds. This guy, on the other hand was pretty fast. I want it.

And it's not like I was planning on letting him go.

I shot him down with a fire bullet.

Well, even if it hadn't hit, I had already tied some sticky thread around his foot.

Gelmudo fell crashing into the ground. He was so flustered that he didn't even put up a guard.

Though I like those that yearn for subordinates, I hate the opposite type of personality.

Especially those who'd take advantage of and discard people—for them I show no mercy. But since he possesses various abilities, let's at least munch on him a bit.

When I approach,

「Kieeeeeeeeeee!!! Stay away! You're finished! The demon lords won't forgive you!!!」

He blurted out while trying to crawl away.
Demon lords, huh. Seems like he knows a lot, and I'd certainly want to question him, but there's a chance of him running away.
Probably need to interrogate him before he has a chance to.
Even if I eat him, I won't get his knowledge. I can only get my hands on his skills. Though that's also a bit random.
Though I can acquire the skills, there being too few of them is one of the flaws (if I can call it that).
I approach silently.

In utter terror, Gelmudo shoots magic bullets at me while crawling away.
Not that they have any effect.
I repel them all with my barrier.
He doesn't have enough power to break through my barrier. That much we already established.
After finally figuring it out, he stood up and tried to run away.
The Orc Lord stands there, does he plan to ask for help?
Whatever. I'll let him do that.

In any case, I had planned to exterminate the Orc Lord later. If they both come at once, it save me some trouble.
I can easily beat them alone, but this is all so tiring.
I wouldn't mind if the orc lord peacefully capitulates; I don't hate him.
The easier this ends the happier I'll be.
Though I do worry that orc soldiers will then be running around causing trouble in the forest.
While thinking these things, I let him distance himself from me.

「You blockhead! Don't just stand there doing nothing! Save me!
Hyahahaha! I don't know who the hell you are, but you must be able to see this orc's power! Go, Orc Lord! Make the idiot who dared strike me regret...」
Doshun!

A head rolled.

Baki, baribori...

Gelmudo's body was cut up into a thousand pieces.

Guchaguchaboriboriguchabaki

Ueh... He's being eaten.

The Orc Lord, to whom Gelmudo ran with the intention of intimidating me, had lopped off his head with a butcher knife.

And ripping his body up, he began eating him.

What to say... he really died like a small fry.

And besides, the Orc had also been aiming to eat him? Or was it by instinct?

Whichever is the case, this has gotten rather troublesome.

His eyes glowing a pale light, he seems to have become intelligent.

At that moment, the Orc Lord, who had been moving on instinct alone, finally acquired self-awareness.

And released an aura that could not be compared with his past self.



<<Confirmed. The Orc Lord's magical energy has greatly increased.
Evolving into a demon lord ... success.

Individual: Orc Lord has evolved into Demon Lord Orc Disaster>>

I didn't ask about that! I can do without an explanation.

Seriously, cut me some slack.

Without a care for my thoughts,

「*Fuhaaaaa!* I am the Demon Lord Orc Disaster. The Devourer of the World.
Call me, Demon Lord Gelmudo!!! Honor given to my first prey!!!」

See.

Just cause I got carried away a bit. "That's why I should have just killed him already!" I cursed. ... well, it's too late now.

Just like some alien with an M-shape bald spot, getting carried away and losing. Letting the enemy increase their power only to lose afterwards.

Pathetic.

I always made fun of him when I read that, but now that I did it myself...

Let's remember from now on. Kill them when you can. A golden rule.

That aside...

What should I do about him? Thinking that, I got a little depressed.

.

The Demon lords silently observed the scene.

「How fun!」

The girl muttered.

Gelmudo hadn't noticed it, but the Girl had already made use of his eyes.

The moment he looked over at her.

After Gelmudo had left, she had his sight projected unto a water sphere she created...

And as expected, Gelmudo wanted to cheat by intervening in the conflict.

That much earned him death, but the demon lords had not expected a human to do it.

A human child wearing a beautiful mask.

Moreover, since they were following Gelmudo's vision, they didn't see the surrounding group.

The flustered and irrational Gelmudo had not noticed the large gathering of high class monsters.

The *oni* race. Once every few hundred years an elderly ogre could evolve into one.

Their ability unnaturally high, they are often said to be capable of crushing the heavens. And three of such *oni* were present.

Had he noticed, he would know that they weren't someone he could handle. And a fang wolf that evolved strangely was also present. Judging from his appearance alone, he was at least an A rank monster.

Thus, four rank A+ monsters were present. And they obeyed a single child? A child wearing a beautiful mask. Certainly not a normal person. Probably a monster that took on the appearance of a human.

If not that, then a new "hero" had been born among the humans.

Those summoned or "World Travelers" were certainly strong, but none so as a child.

That's because their souls have not yet developed so they can't properly put their skills to use.

By a process of elimination, they demon lords figured out the correct answer.

A mimicking monster!

One capable of easily overpowering the A rank high class devil Gelmudo.

And four high ranking monsters serving him.

Power that they couldn't ignore.

「Who would've thought that *that* Gelmudo would put on such a good show!」

The girl exclaimed happily.

「Seriously... That monster, should we crush it? Or raise it?」

「No getting a head start. Though negotiating to make it a servant is allowed!」

The demon lords thought.

If they could acquire that as their servant, they could surpass the other demon lords.

However, they also needed to consider the chance of it becoming a threat.

「Hey, about this, can we keep it a secret among the four of us? Since we finally got something to kill our boredom with!」

The real purpose was, of course, to gain a trump card against the absent demon lords. That's how highly they valued that monster.

Should that monster selfishly proclaim themselves as a demon lord, they are sure to immediately lose interest and eliminate it.

However, that time has yet to come.

The four nodded, and thus formed a new coalition.

Had the demon lords moved at this time, then Rimuru's fate would be very different.

However, the demon lords did not move.



That decision moved the gears of fate.
And, pushed this story onto an unalterable route.



Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 40 - Orc Disaster

The Chief of the Lizardmen had desperately tried to hold back the incoming attack from the orc soldiers.

He divided the troops and sends them forth to the 4 passageway, they will be supporting each other.

Since the passageway was not really that large, and the fact that only a few can fight, it was a relief.

If you considered the strength of the individuals, the small forces of Lizardmen had higher strength compared the Orc soldiers.

At the end of the chamber are the evacuated women and children, and those who can fight are protecting them in the front lines.

They were there in case that someone managed to break through from the passage.

The Chief observed the war situation and realized that they could not survive more than a day.

While he kept switching the troops to let them recover their fatigue, they are still managing to fight decently, even so, between the gap of switching the two teams, they were pushed back little by little.

Their current forces was less than 1,200.

Even without regrouping, he can see that there were some of the troops that died in battle.

Also, another nightmare struck the Chief. The Orc soldiers began to be shrouded in yellow aura.

What is this?

Was what he thought, but the answer was given immediately. The combat ability of the individual orc was increasing.

While they did not drastically grow stronger, they now posed the ability to win against a Lizardmen.

Until now, the individual ability of Lizardmen was able to hold them off, but now that advantage was lost.

This is it...The only fate remaining for them is a honorable death.

The Chief prepared his resolution.

Escaping would be useless, struggling any longer would be useless.

Even so.....

[Listen!!! Women and children shall retreat from this place! Guards,
Gather!

You guys shall escorts the women and children, keep protecting them to the very end, even if it's just 1 more person! I will not tolerate anyone who gave up! To obtain the new world (Alt: or to see the future), as many people as possible are needed to survive!!!]

With all of the dignity he had, he spoke in a loud voice.

[Chief, are you going to do it?]

The Vice captain of the Guards come asking.

[I know! I won't let the Orc do as they pleased!
I will show them the strength of Lizardmen !!!]

Never show your weaknesses.

For him, it was the symbol of strength for the Lizardmens which bring him hope.

[Warriors! Prepare yourself to fight to the death against the Orc! Do not let a single one of them pass!

We will buy the woman and children the time they needed to escape!!!]

And so, the warriors group becomes inspired.

There was no despair in the Lizardmen faces. Even if the opponent was stronger, if it possible for the women and children to escape, it's their victory.

Their future will not cease.

After this, it would be a difficult time for them, but that doesn't mean the end of their species.

[[[U~o o ooooo !!!]]]

They raise their voice to dispel their fear.

The cave interior was filled with the Lizardmen war cry and it reverberate with thunderous vibration.

Satisfied with the situation, a voice heard from the place where the women and children tried to escape.

[That's going to be troubling. Chief-dono, the promise was still not fulfilled yet. Weren't you supposed to wait here?]

Quietly, there stood a man which nobody unawares of.

With darkish skin, bluish black hair. Blue eyes, a demon with height 190 cm. Once, he and the demon had met, which he identified himself as Souei.

Have they arrived? No, the alliance was not formed yet. But...

[Souei-dono... Have they arrived? But, we did not follow your advice, we have been disrespectful...]

[Advice...? What you talking about? Such thing does not matter at all. All of you please stay in this place. The promise is tomorrow. Tomorrow, My Lord wish to come here personally.]

The promise for alliance, he doesn't know if it can protect them. But...

[However, we cannot stay here, the Orcs are here!]

Hearing the words, Souei glanced at the passages with the noisy Orc soldiers.

He look at them as if he was looking at trash.

[Those guys noisy stomach certainly can't calm down... Very well. I suppose I have to clean them up first. Please wait here for a moment.]

After he said that, he started to calmly walk towards them.

Is it illusion? It's looks as if Souei body start blurring and overlapping.....No! It has divided into four clones.

Each of them went into the passage, they reached the place where the Lizardmen were devoting themselves to defense.

[Substitute]

Saying that word.

The 4 clones in each passage were facing the Orc soldiers.

Then the Lizardmen that were there saw the incredible spectacle.

The orcs, who have tormenting us as if hungry ghosts from hell, could not break through Souei's stoic defense.

At each passage stand a single person.

[*Misaitoayazanjin!* (Beheading Formation of Restraining String!)]

It was a slaughter dance of glittering string.

Steel thread spreading around the passage instantly, and it move freely according to Souei's command.

As soon as he executes the technique in the passage, the Orc soldier's body was cut down.



For those who come to invade, they think it will be a massacre without any resistance.

It was unfortunate for those Orc soldiers. At each and every passage, every one of them got killed by the skill that Souei's clones used.

Without their sense of self, only following simple order, therefore they cannot feel fear.

One by one, they march forward as if to let themselves be trapped in the stretched spider thread. However, this thread is terrible trap that instantly reap life itself.

They happily devoured the corpse that has been chopped to pieces, continuing their advance, and get killed.

The scene repeated endlessly, the Lizardman can't let out any sounds.

The battlefield with structure like labyrinth is a stage for Souei.

The spread sharp trap had many varieties; he can change it according to the situation. This time, Souei focused his interest in elimination of the Orc soldiers.

He didn't show any mercy, he carry out the slaughter without even batting an eyelids.

The Lizardmen didn't let any sound in astonishment.

After witnessing the strength from a different dimension. It's become the embodiment of fear.

Overwhelming and surpassing them all, it was the figure of the strong.

The situation has changed; 2 hours has passed since then.

Until now, the Orc soldiers that had come to invade were easily killed and they suddenly begun to withdraw.

Has something occurred that it changed the war situation?

Souei intuitively think.

The amount of clones that he can use at the same time is 6. Because the first two clones went out, only four clones left to protect the chamber.

The main body was lurking in the shadow while controlling the clones.

Everything is all right now. He decides to entrust the rest to his clones.

Souei's main body begun to move without anyone noticing.

He returned back to his Lord's side, Rimuru.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster had identifies himself as a Demon Lord. Moreover, the name was someone else's. Or in this case, it would be correct if I say that he stole it?

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster fulfilled Gelmudo's ambition to become a Demon Lord, but it just that.

The one who really desire to become Demon Lord was Gelmudo.

The Orc Lord without self-awareness was loyal to him. Of course, I was not aware of such thing, it don't have any relation with them.

Self-awareness begun to appear, his eyes become intelligent.

Declaring himself the Demon Lord, as the Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo, he has evolved with strength beyond comparison of an Orc Lord.

Behind me, Benimaru was in a battle stance.

He probably recognized the Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo as a threat.

The smile he showed up until now had disappeared, it has become a serious expression.

[Rimuru-sama! I will handle it!]

So he says, he used the Black Flame Prison (Hellflare).

I receive the signal by telepathy; I proceed to fly into the sky. It's good to have the wings.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo is in the center of the formed black sphere (dome). Inside it raged a high temperature storm that burn the Demon Lord. However....

After about ten seconds, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster calmly stands in the location of the disappeared sphere (Dome).

It's not that it doesn't effective. He doesn't seem to have any heat resistance ability, his skin is completely burnt.

But it's not a mortal wound, because he clad himself in his aura, it seems to had similar effect with Heat resistance (resist).

Moreover, the burnt skins are starting to regenerate. It's the same as Gelmudo, he also had regeneration ability.

The magical energy is now overwhelmingly different from just. He is now a self-proclaimed Demon Lord.

Rather, "Voice of the World" said it before; this guy had the "Demon Lord Quality". He evolved, and truly become a Demon Lord.

This guy must be killed now, or he will become a real disaster. I'm convinced so.

Benimaru is frowning, because it managed to withstand his deadly attack.

Indeed, Black Flame Prison (Hellflare) is powerful. However, it is an AoE skill that weak if used against an individual.

The energy is scattered and not focused. To use it against an individual, more of the energy has to be focused.
If done that way, the resistance and the regeneration will not be able to cope and he will be completely burned.

The one who attacked next after Benimaru was Ranga.
He used the [Black Lightning] just like I suggested him to and converged it to a single point before shooting it.
Receiving a direct hit, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo's body stiffened.
The aim is good; I will use it that way from now on.
The area of attack was adjusted for individual target, the optimum blow.
The black charred Demon Lord Orc Disaster collapsed in the place where he stands.
Of course that happens. Even I could not bear such an attack.
Rather than one on one it's a fight against many opponents, moreover defeated by a surprise attack, please do not think badly of me.
Perhaps, any of the Oni would not win in one on one.
But, with this the war would finally end..... at the very moment I think that,

[Fuha~a! So this is pain! I even saw a glimpse of death!
But, it's not enough to make the great me perish!!!]

Even though he is carbonized and seemed dead, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster rises up.
If you look at him, he pulls and tears his arm and eats it.
The Demon Lord Orc Disaster then ran to the Orc soldiers. He casually kills the Orc soldiers and eats them.
What a guy! Each time he eats, his carbonized skin peels off and a brand new skin appears.
Also, the arm that he tore off has regrown.
Really, what a tremendous regeneration ability.

[Are you kidding me...]

Ranga murmured involuntary.

It goes beyond aridiculous monster, its way beyond reality.

It seems Ranga's energy was empty after using that attack. He sat down and stops moving.

I wonder if he is entering the low activity state.

It can't be helped. Energy consumption of [Black Lighting] was enormous.

With this, he will not able to use it any more.

A single flash.

Unnoticed, Shion swung her Ōdachi, she did a single slash.

The slash that she had put all her strength into. The Demon Lord Orc

Disaster stops the slash with the Butcher knife "Meat Crusher" in his hand.

The slash didn't connect. He takes some damage from the blow. But it's not serious.

[This filthy pig is a Demon Lord? Stop being so conceited!]

She shout, and once again she clad her Ōdachi with her aura, she raise her sword over her head and then swings it down.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster stood to his feet while staggering, this time he hold the Butcher knife "Meat Crusher" with both hands. The sword and the knife clash, resulting in fierce sparks.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster won the pushing contest. His physical strength surpassed even Shion's, the one who has ridiculous strength and [Herculean Strength].

It seems his physical abilities is strengthened to an overwhelming level...., I heave a sigh at that.

Shion was sent flying, The Demon Lord Orc Disaster try to finished Shion off.

Perceiving the danger, Shion covered her body with her aura.

But it seems she receive considerable damage from that attack.

Her face filled with frustration, it seem it will take some time until she is able to move again.

Without noise, standing behind the Demon Lord Orc Disaster is a person, a samurai in his prime.

Hakurou.

Even I, observing from the sky can recognize the speed of the slash, it will hit.

It can't be stopped, it's also impossible to avoid it. The sword slashes through the body of Demon Lord Orc Disaster, cutting him into 2 separate pieces, the head fall.

With this he should be dead. So I thought.

Yet...

The separated body parts connected by a yellow aura that coiling into them like a tentacles

Then it bend down, picking up the head that fell down, and fixed the head back to the original location.

It looks like a sight from a horror movie, everyone lost their words.

Hakurou also opened his eyes in surprise.

I'm convinced now.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster most formidable ability is his tremendous regeneration ability.

Up until now, it doesn't have variety of resistance. However the problem is his recovery power. Also, added with his resistance, it would be impossible to kill him.

However, if we burn him together with Flame and [Black Lighting], it's possible to surpass his defense and restoration ability.

But now it's impossible.....

Benimaru and Ranga have run out of Magic power. Shion is injured, right now Hakurou is exchanging blade against him one on one.

Hakurou's attack did not hit its target, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster's attack also doesn't hit.

As expected from a master. However, how long will it continue, the situation is gradually getting worse.

At that time,

[Beheading Formation of Restraining String!]

At the same time as the voice heard, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster is captured by the "Sticky Steel Thread".

It was Souei's doing. Quietly, lurking in Hakurou's shadow, he is waiting for the right timing.

I see! I was impressed.

Like this, even if you have high regeneration ability it would be useless.

Hero always comes late. As expected of Souei.
The moment I feel relieved, I sense something out place.
His yellow aura is coiling around the “Sticky Steel Thread”.

[Chaos Eater]

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster uses his skill. It is more heinous than when he uses it at the Orc General.

It corrodes every thing it touches.

That yellow aura thingies must be the essence of the Demon Lord Orc Disaster skill.

In fact, that skill is one of the ability of the Unique skill [Starving Ones].

Its effect is corroding and decomposing every material he come in contact with.

When the resistance failed to resist the corrosion, death will visit the living creature.

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster begin his pursuit.

[Die! *Gaki no kōshinenbu!!!* (Death March Dance)]

It was the skill that Gelmudo used. But, the power level is different.

Sensing it, Hakurou and Souei retreat.

Benimaru’s black flame prison (Hell Flare), nothing remains on its surrounding. Although it power is not absolute, it didn’t give damage to the person touching it, instead it will give them corrosion effect.

Quality, power, range. If all of it combined it will become a certain kill attack. Fortunately the speed is slow.

If they receive it normally, the Oni will not stay unharmed.

[Fuhah~a! Good! Entertain me more! It’s a good exercise before the meal.

You guys must be very delicious. Fuhahaha! You all will become food for me. You guys happy?]

My subordinate, the main force of five people even if they work together, they are still unable to win.

This is...

I’m no longer able to stop my body tremble.

This trembling is, a trembling that comes from my instinct.

This bad. I can’t stop trembling

Was it, fear?

No, it's different

This was...

Joy. Yes. I was feeling joyful!

I, from the bottom of my body, can no longer stop my instinct from going crazy and making noises from joy

My subordinate, the main force of five people fighting together were not able to win against this opponent.

Yet, in my mind there was no fear.

The feeling of depression that appear on the beginning, at this point it has all been blown away

That's right, I recognize this guy as an enemy.

Sorry for thinking of you as troublesome.

I stop flying and descend to the ground.

When I come closer, the yellow aura, Chaos Eater rushed towards me.

I feel it coiling around me and stick to my body. This is unpleasant.

I see, so he trying to eat me?

Nice, if you think you can do it, then do it!

Feeling highly excited from my instinct, smile began to float on my face.

Before you eat me, I will eat you first!

And thus the time comes for the clash between me and the Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 41 – Predator

If it were the usual me, I'd be freaking out about how difficult it would be to win again the Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo.

The yellow aura coiling around me I can easily cut through with my sword. But receiving the butcher knife "Meat Crusher" would probably send me flying.

But that's to be expected.

Even Shion, who's stronger than me, lost in a contest of strength against him.

Moreover, even Hakurou, who far exceeds me in sword skill, could not damage him.

So I again try to land an attack while darting around at high speeds.

Checking from every angle, trying to find a weakness.

I know it's pointless, but I see no reason to stop.

Even if he lands a hit blowing me away, I just resume trying out attacks.

Confirming my own weakness.

Thinking about it, my main forces consists of five people. Including Shuna and Kurobee, that is.

They have all received one of my powers and exceeded my own abilities in them.

Ranga's [Black Lightning]

Benimaru's [Flame Manipulation]

Shuna's [Analyst]

Hakurou's [Perception Acceleration]

Shion's [Herculean Strength] and Body Strengthening

Souei's [Magic Perception] and special skills

Kurobee's [Researcher]

In every skill they exceed me.
I can only be called strong because I have every skill that they do.
If we fought one on one and I went all out, I think I could win. However, if all five gather, I would probably lose.
And yet this orc surpassed all five of them.
Never being able to land the finishing blow, they were bound to run out of magic energy and perish.
So even if I fought the orc fair and square, I could never win.
Right.
Even if I fought fair and...
Why are the *oni*'s skills stronger than mine?
Hakurou is stronger because his sword skill level is so much higher.
That much is perfectly understandable. But what about the rest?
Actually... are they really stronger than me?
The answer to that...
In the first place,
All my abilities I have gained from monsters.
Since they are not skills I was born with, I need to take time to properly understand them.
Just like having a license does not necessarily mean you can drive a car right now, and certainly does not mean you can win against a professional driver.
However.
There is a skill I have had since the moment I reincarnated into this world.
It is a skill I have had from birth.
One that I can freely manipulate.
That skill even I have nearly complete mastery of.
Thus, I order.

I permit you to control my body. Move it as you please, [Great Sage]!

<<Received. Switching to Battle Mode.>>

And thus the response to the previous question,

* * *

Demon Lord Orc Disaster was bewildered.

Just as he had intended to cook and eat the five strong demons, another one had appeared.

A boring monster, he had thought.

The monster's magic energy was certainly high, easily surpassing that of the other five.

However, the monster had continued meaningless attacks, each one just as weak.

Ones even inferior to the five before him.

No matter how often the monster would have attacked, no damage would accumulate. Thus, the orc did not feel threatened.

Thus, just when he had designated the monster as a good meal...

The constant onslaught of attacks suddenly stopped.

And, she took off her mask.

And the orc saw a beautiful young face of a silver haired girl.

What is she planning?

The moment he thought that,

Zasu!

His arm, elbow down, was cut away from his body. And where it used to be attached, a dark flame burned him.

And when he looked, his enemy, with appearance of a child, held a melting sword engulfed in a dark flame.

Enemy? Yes, that was an enemy.

He had considered her food. Now, however, was different. There was an overwhelming difference with the presence now before him.

It didn't matter that his foe's weapon had burned away. Her abilities were so high that she didn't need it!

Having met an enemy for the first time since evolving, the Demon Lord Orc Disaster's body tensed'.

And another strange feeling.

How strange... his arm had not started regenerating!

Confused, he looked at where his arm had been only to find the dark flame still burning and sealing his regeneration.

Anger burned in his eyes.

Cutting his arm off at the shoulder, he had it regenerate. And, he started swinging the Butcher Knife "Meat Crusher" with all his might.

"That small child cannot withstand even a single hit!:

However. The seemingly unarmed child casually lifted her arms, produced a sword out of thin air, and received the attack.

With the same sword that he had thought was burned by her skill.

And when the butcher knife came in contact with the sword both were engulfed by the black flame and disappeared.

"I must go all out to devour her!" The Orc Disaster's aura swelled causing shockwaves on the battlefield.

Filling up his fists with his aura, he attacked. His enemy, too, armored her fists and repelled his attacks.

He saw magic bullets flying at him. Dodging those, he responded with *Gakki no Koushinenbu* (Death March Dance).

Colliding with the seven bullets in the air, his magic bullets continued on.

They were strengthened with [Starving Ones] and had a corrosive effect.

While she would probably not die from this, she'd take some damage.

Just as he had thought that, she stood up as if nothing happened.

And a new armor was now covering her. His attack was probably deflected by that armor.

It was true for him, so maybe his enemy was also in the middle of evolving.

I hunger. I want to eat her!!!

The Demon Lord Orc Disaster thought. The five before had not mattered, all he wanted was to eat the one before him!

He grabbed onto his enemy.

Since he was stronger, if he fought long enough, he'd eventually crush her.

Just when he thought that, his leg was crushed.

A roundhouse kick landed into him causing his body to fall, but still he wouldn't let go.

Releasing the yellow aura, he had it envelop his enemy.

One of the effects of [Starving Ones] was to corrode and devour his enemies directly.

And as his enemy's life dwindled, it would become his nutrients.

I want to eat her! His head filled with that one thought, he directed his entire

being into corroding her!

And, his enemy having given up struggling, gradually succumbed to...

* * *

Things proceeded just as I had planned.

With the full support from the [Great Sage] I was able to use the skills to their full potential.

A never before seen optimized form of combat. I can even use [Black Flame Manipulation] now.

Moreover, [Body Armor] had changed into [Full Armor Transformation]. It further strengthens my equipment.

Skills I had previously hard time mastering I now easily control with the help from [Great Sage].

However, it is still hard outdo your fundamental limitations. The longer this fight continues the stronger the Orc Disaster may grow.

Even if I know how to use my skills, it's not like my overall proficiency with them has increased.

The Orc Disaster as well has just evolved and has poor control over them.

Thus, this advantage is clearly temporary.

Which is why I must end this quickly.

So I planned to lead the battle to a state where I can quickly overwhelm him with a skill I am superior at.

And everything went according to plan.

The Orc Disaster had begun corroding me, intending to devour.

However, I also intend to devour you!

I am a slime. My basic abilities are [Dissolve, Absorb, Regenerate].

My regeneration ability is similar to his. However, the slime body is naturally resistant to corrosion.

Thus, I had planned from the beginning to eat you in this manner!

I made him believe that my body had melted, and used that to envelop him.

Slowly moving up the arm...

And by the time he had noticed, it was already too late.

This was the standard method of combat for the slime race.
No matter how much he rages now, he's already been covered by me; his
attacks nullified.



Pointless, you must think? You pride yourself in your regenerative abilities, and my attack will have no effect?

The battle has become a stalemate.

I try to dissolve him, but his regeneration prevents his death. At the same time, my regenerative ability negates his corrosion.

Each one attempts to devour the other like the Ouroboros.

The one who eats the other first, wins.

Simple, isn't it?

I had planned this in order to win.

Rather than depending on skills I have yet to truly master, I decided to depend on my most fundamental ones.

The power that I have.

My slime abilities [Dissolve, Absorb] mix incredibly well with [Predator].

Thus at the same time as I began absorbing and dissolving this orc, I also activated [Predator].

I am a predator.

Orc Disaster, the power that you hold, [Starving Ones], is certainly strong. However, you are a scavenger.

Eating anything and everything is certainly amazing, but it is my skill that specializes in hunting down and devouring prey.

And while we have both been eating each other, I will devour your ability first.

Using my ability, unique skill [Predator]!

My skill can analyze the abilities of living enemies, whereas yours only of the dead.

This moment has decided the battle.

.....

.....

...

How much time had passed?
As we attempt to eat each other.
But believing in my victory, I focus on predating him and,

I cannot lose.

I have eaten my brethren.

I cannot lose.

I must become a demon lord.

I have eaten Gelmudo-sama.

I cannot lose.

My brethren are starving.

I cannot lose.

Eating until we have our fill!

Thoughts poured into me.

Hmph. Are you an idiot?

I don't know what you're on, but you've already lost to me.

But, I cannot lose...

I have eaten my brethren.

I... am sinful...

So I will not lose.

It's pointless.

Let me teach you something.

It's survival of the fittest in this world. You've lost.

So you die.

But, I cannot lose...

If I die, my brethren will be burdened with my sins.

I became sinful, so that they won't starve, for that I would do anything!

I will become the demon lord.

So that no one starves, I will devour the hunger itself!

That's right!

I am Demon Lord Orc Disaster. The devourer of worlds.

And yet, you're still going to die.

But rest easy.

I will devour your sins.

What...?!

You will devour... my sins?

Yeah.

And not just yours, but also those of your kind.

Mine... ours... all our sins...

Aren't you greedy.

That's right.

I am greedy.

Can you relax now?

Once you have, just go to sleep.

Ah...

I cannot lose.

But...

Sleep, huh. I feel... warm.

Greedy one.

You destination is hardly tranquil.

But, you who have accepted my sins...

Thank you.

Now my hunger has finally been fulfilled!

Demon Lord Orc Disaster. Named Gelmudo.

Just now, his consciousness has finally disappeared.

<<Confirmed. Demon Lord Orc Disaster has disappeared.

Unique Skill [Starving Ones] has been absorbed by unique skill

[Predator].>>

I have won.

One who always starves could never have won against me who knows no hunger.

And, I open my eyes.

Burdened with the sins of his entire race.

「I have won. Sleep well, Demon Lord Orc Disaster Gelmudo!」

My declaration resounded across the land otherwise silent.
And at that moment, the Goblins and Lizardmen shouted for joy even as the Orcs lamented in despair.
And thus, the Orc invasion has been stopped.
Based on his consciousness that had been flowing into me until now, Gelmudo was in fact the cause of this incident.
Furthermore, he was in fact supported by an unknown number of demon lords.
That, however, the Orc Lord had learned before establishing his self, so was rather unsure about it.
But I know enough to stay vigilant.
And beside, I can't just leave the orcs as they are.
The main problem has yet to be resolved.

The following day.
History will forever remember the birth of the Great Jura Forest Alliance, and the conference where it began.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 42 – The Great Jura Forest Coalition

The war ended.

I fought a truly strong opponent.

Perhaps, if he had finished his evolution... I probably would not have a method to defeat him.

It's because we had fought now that I could win.

I'd much rather had fought him before he had evolved!

Though he had evolved, I am rather fortunate that I defeated him.

But more importantly!

Right. I've gotten another unique skill!

Well, though I actually haven't gotten the unique skill [Starving Ones], I did absorb its potential.

That is, my [Predator] has changed into [Gluttony].

Analyzing the skill made me want to seal it away.

Nope. It's too dangerous of a skill.

And while I was thinking these things,

「*Mu?* Somehow my power feels as if though it's boiling...」

「My wounds are healing faster! Have all been restored already?」

「Yeah...」

I heard such voices.

Hmm. As I had thought.

It's the effect of [Gluttony].

Its effects are,

<<Solution. Changing into unique skill [Gluttony] has added the following effects...

Decay: The ability to decompose the target. Ability to add decomposition status effect.

There is now a chance of acquiring an ability after consuming only a part of a monster's corpse (※ Random)

Supply: Whether a subordinate or not, you can now grant an ability unto a monster with whom you have a relationship. (※ Limited by the target's inherent magical energy)

Food Chain: It is now possible to acquire skills from your subordinates (※ All of them)

These three have become your power.>>

Is what it said. The five original abilities of predator stayed the same, and these three were added.

And along with that, my stomach capacity seems to have doubled.

So does this mean that I can now use Benimaru and Ranga's skills that they've gotten from evolution?

<<Solution. It is possible.>>

Seriously?!

So whenever they get stronger I get stronger, and the opposite is also true.

How terrifying this power had become!

Though as you'd expect, I can't share knowledge this way or transmit magic.

Of course, proficiency I also need to raise on my own. Daily effort is important, after all.

But seriously, what an absurd power I got my hands on.

As expected of Orc Disaster.

It's a shame I couldn't eat the clown earlier, but I did get some spare change from him.

Particularly, through pure luck, I have gotten 〈Flight Magic〉 !

I don't need incantations to use it. I can fly around just by willing to do so.

Well, I'll slowly practice with it, and along the way learn to fly at supersonic speeds.

But more than getting my hands on unique skills and such, I was able to optimize [Great Sage] and further integrate all my skills.

For example, I had thought that I can't mimic all monsters at a time... but I

was wrong.

And if you're wondering about 『Devil Transformation』, my human version has acquired a new strongest form.

This too I will carefully research later.

This all aside, I did just mention that the war has ended.

The battlefield was filled with happiness, sadness, and despair.

Now then.

I think it every time after a battle, but more troublesome than the war itself are the reparations afterwards.

The day after the Orc Disaster was exterminated.

In the center of the marshes, in a temporary tent, the representative of every race has gathered.

From our side came I, Benimaru, Shion, Hakurou, and Souei. Ranga is lurking within my shadow as always.

I am in my slime form, sitting on Shion's knees.

Since I had shown them my true form when I defeated Orc Disaster there is no need to conceal it now.

From the lizardmen—the Head, Guard Captain, and Guard Vice Captain.

Gabil is imprisoned for treason. Even if they are parent and child, insubordination is bad.

Though he's an idiot, he does have some amusing points. And since it's not the time to discuss his sentence, we'll just leave him there for now.

The orcs sent the one remaining Orc General and ten clan chief representatives.

They were all pale, depression visible on their faces.

The reason for the previous chaos was, indubitably, the orcs.

No matter how hard anyone tries to pin all the blame on the Orc Lord's manipulation, they were clearly not blameless.

And it is because they understand this fact, that their expressions are so dark.

According to what Souei had gathered, they didn't prepare that much food.

Through cannibalism and the effects of the unique skill, they were able to advance while starving. Now that they have lost the skill's effects they can't

possibly eat their brethren.

Their rather unfortunate situation made the atmosphere in the room even heavier.

They are fully expecting to be demanded to take responsibility for the war, but they also know that they can't possibly pay reparations.

As in the first place, the main cause for the war was the perpetually starving orcs and their leaders who could do naught about it.

Even considering that their numbers have decreased, there are still 150 thousand of them. There's not enough food to feed them all.

And the fact that even with this many troops they can't continue combat simply emphasizes just how cornered the orcs are.

If they did not have the [Starving Ones] skill, they would have all perished from hunger.

Though there are 150 thousand of them, that also includes women, children and the young. It was a mass exodus of the orc race.

* * *

The cause was a severe famine.

The Magic Continent is a land with fertile soil under the protection of the demon lords.

Many powerful demonic beasts and demons inhabit it, but thanks to the demon lords, it is safe.

However, there was a price for safety. A steep tax.

Those who wanted to live on fertile lands had to provide a large amount of crop.

Orc, who reproduced quickly, worked in the mines and toiled the fields, and were necessary to the demon lords.

However. Those who could not pay the tax were immediately killed.

The demon lord never lends a helping hand.

Aiming for the abundant resources, many monsters attack.

Those that have not paid a protection tax are not protected.

Thus that land inevitably becomes dangerous.

The fertile orcs, even if the majority of them were killed, would soon enough restore their population to needed levels.

Though there was a need to control their number, the demon lords decided that the extras would die anyways.

Now, thanks to a great famine, they could not pay their tax.
Thus, losing the protection of the demon lords, they decided to flee those lands in search of a safe haven.
While beset by hunger, the orc lord was born among them, but until then they would never fight anyone stronger than themselves.
And thus wandering, they have made their way to Jura Forest's outskirts.

Around that time, a devil named Gelmudo offered them a hand.
Oblivious to his machinations, they decided to accept his offer.
And thus, following his directions, they plunged Jura Forest into chaos.

* * *

The conference began with a heavy atmosphere.
Hakurou presided over it.
I had originally asked the Lizardmen's Guard Captain to do it, but he refused.

「That role is too much for one such as I!」

He said, and turned me down.
And since this wasn't something I could delegate to the defeated, I imposed... asked the most fitting man—Hakurou to do it.
Hakurou had declared the conference open, but no one said anything.
Everyone was looking at me.
How annoying. I seriously hate conferences.
Well, it can't be helped.

「Before we begin the conference, I wish to share the information I have gathered. Listen!」

I exclaimed. At my words, everyone's expressions hardened, and they fixated their gazes on me.
And then I conveyed the information I have gotten from Souei and Orc Disaster.
The cause for the Orc uprising, and their current situation.
The orc representatives, not expecting me to bring these things up, stared at

me with wonder.

There a few who shed tears listening to me. They were fully convinced that they'd all be executed without a chance to explain themselves.

Then my story ended.

And giving Hakurou the signal, I continued the conference.

「Ahem! Now then, the first let's confirm the casualties!」

And thus the discussion started.

Lizardmen's head discussed their casualties.

Listening to his report, the Orcs hid their faces and stayed silent.

「Now then, Head-dono, do you have any demands for the orcs?」

After discussing the losses, the discussion proceeded to discuss appropriate payment.

Though I've never experienced an actual war before so I wouldn't know, but they probably have the winner demand things from the loser.

I couldn't prevent the conversation from going this way.

「Nothing specific. This victory was not wrought by our strength. We were saved by Rimuru-dono!」

Abandoning the right to reparations, the Head thus replied.

Not like they could do much in the first place, though.

Alright. Let's let the orcs speak now, but when I had just looked at them

「Please pardon my interruption! Please allow me to compensate for this incident with my life! Of course, I understand that it is not enough, but I have no followers to add!」

Orc Generals calls out, falling prostate before me.

He desperately pleads for this.

“I have become a B rank monster, and gained quite a lot of magical energy, so please forgive the rest with my death!” Is what he says.

Not that I'm planning on that, but that's not the problematic point.

Damn it, conferences are annoying.
Let's just do this my way.

「Wait. Rimuru-sama has something to say!」

Hakurou intervened.

The Orc General shut up, and looked at me.

The rest, as well, quietly waited for me to speak. Just the atmosphere that I hate.

「Umm, so this is my first conference, so I'm not sure I can handle this well. Thus, I'll just say what I think. After that, I want you all to discuss my words.」

Having said that I proceeded to discuss my thoughts.

First, that I thought that we should not pursue the discussion about the orcs' sins.

Next, that I wanted to continue the alliance with the Lizardmen.

And finally, that I wanted the orcs to join that alliance.

「And those are my thoughts. I bet you have many things you want to say, but know this: I will not permit any punishment to befall the orcs. That is because I have thus promised to Orc Disaster. I will bear all their sins. If you got something to complain about, let me hear it!」

So I declared.

The orcs stared at me amazed.

In contrast to them, the Head asked a question.

「We are completely satisfied with what you have said. However, we do have a question...」

「What is it?」

「Now that the war has ended, why do we need an alliance?」

「About that, huh. To explain...」

And thus I explained that point further. My plan to create the Great Jura Forest Coalition.

In the first place, if we ended the conversation with “No punishment! Dismissed!” the orcs would simply die from hunger. Lacking in discipline, some would attack lizardmen and goblin villages. Their hunger was the cause for this mess in the first place. It’s meaningless if we don’t solve it.

And that’s why we’ll form a coalition.

The Lizardmen can offer fertile fishing grounds and fish.

The goblins... can’t expect much from them.

My city can provide processed goods.

And the orcs excel at manual labor.

They can inhabit the lands away from the marshes. Those originally owned by the ogres.

That place is also by a foot of a mountain with abundant resources.

Speaking of area alone, all 150 thousand couldn’t possibly all live on the same land, but they could split into Mountain district, Mountain-base district, River-district, and the Forest district and thus live.

If the particularly large clans split into individual districts, this’ll work... somehow.

We’ll provide the technical support about constructing housing and such. However, we’ll work the orcs hard in return.

After all, our village’s population is too small and many things are left undone.

That I want to finish all in one go.

That much I explained to them.

Everyone heard the same explanation.

Unlike last time, this declaration left everybody greatly excited.

Their fears wiped away, a fire of hope was lit in their hearts.

For some reason, Shion, who had been holding me, bent her back and haughtily laughed **Fufun!**. That, of course, I could not permit.

However, then her breasts touched me with a *puyooon!*

Ah, whatever, I permit it. I am a gracious lord!

「Y-y-you’d permit us... to join your coalition...?」

The orc general fearfully asked.

「You can work, right? I won’t let you slack off」

「O-of course! We’ll work as if our lives depended on it!!!」

The orcs trembled, tears falling from their eyes.

「We have no objections. Rather, we'd like to aid you!」

The Lizardmen's Head also voiced his agreement. Seems like they've all accepted my plan.

Now that we have everyone's consent, the Great Jura Forest Coalition is born.

However, a problem remains.

An unnaturally troubling, worrisome problem!

I'm sorry for bringing this up while you're rejoicing, but...

「Quiet. Now that everyone has agreed, I want us to tackle the largest problem!

That is... provision!

How do we prevent 150 thousand orcs from starving?

I want everyone to lend me their wisdom in this!」

The last great perplexity.

Provision, or rather—the lack of thereof, is the problem. The orcs have enough for three days.

Even if we plant crops now, we won't make it in time; if we fish for food, we'll clean the lake dry.

A troubling dilemma is upon us.

The lizardmen have enough food to feed ten thousand for half a year.

Even if we gave all of that up, 150 thousand would eat it in twelve days.

So what can we do...

Everyone was scratching their heads thinking about it.

And then,

「Pardon the interruption during the conference! There is an emissary that desperately seeks your audience!」

A Lizardman had run in saying.

Seems to be very flustered.

After I nodded to Hakurou,

「Show them in!」

Hakurou responded, sending the soldier away.

An emissary? From whom?

As if answering my question, a single “person” had entered the tent.

A Dryad.

A beautiful girl with green hair. Like the people of Europe, her skin was white with well defined facial features.

Plump lips, and blue eyes that suit her well. If measured in human years, she’d look about 16-18 years old.

A guardian spirit of the Treants. Among the monsters, she would rank among the top of A rank.

Many voiced their surprise when she entered.

Well duh, you’d be surprised. As I heard later, it’s been many hundreds of years since a Dryad “Layato” has last been seen.

With long life spans (immortal, actually) these women rarely leave their sacred dwellings.

You would normally be happy if they had sent a messenger.

Dryad “Layato” looked around the room and focused her eyes on me.

「Please to meet you, everyone!

I am a Dryad “Layato” trainee. Pleased to make your acquaintance.

I had come today to exterminate the orc lord...

But that seems to have been done already.

I was planning to leave a second ago, but decided to at least greet everyone.

And then I found that you are troubled over a certain problem. I ask that you listen to what I have to say!」

She said with a bright smile.

But she also seemed perfectly calm.

And immediately continued her speech.

「It seem you lack provisions, correct? I believe we could assist with that.

However...,

We ask that our beneficiaries, the Treants, are allowed to join your coalition!」

We have no reason to reject. Actually, we would gladly accept.
However,

「Umm, we are grateful for the offer, but why would you want to join the coalition?」

I asked on everyone's behalf.
And when I did,

「The Treants are a race that hardly move.
Thus, they have little interaction with other races.
Should they be attacked by a powerful opponent or face some natural disaster, they would be helpless.
We the Dryads could escape on our own, but we are few in number...
If we were to join an alliance, we could receive help when needed, right?」

She responded with a pure smile.
Could she be willing to put her trust in a our good will?
Do you honestly believe strangers' words? Since you haven't met that many, you aren't even doubting them, right?
I can't read any hidden intentions from her smile.
Of course, I have no intention of betraying her.
However, a girl like her would find herself in danger due to her trust...

「Of course! When troubled, our lord Rimuru-sama would help somehow!」

With a *Fufun!* Shion selfishly replied.
Don't forget to mention that there are also things I can't do, lass!
I wanted to interject, but it was too late.
「*Maa!* So it was as I thought!
In that case, please take care of us from now on.」
She ended the conversation with a smile.
Umm... my opinion was completely ignored the moment it mattered... but whatever.
I guess I must concede here.

Thus, the Great Jura Forest Coalition was established.
Its members,

Rimuru's Happy Bunch.

Goblins

Lizardmen

Orcs

Treants

And leading this coalition, (hopefully temporarily) is me.

This day, my name was for the first time etched into the history of this world.

Status**Name:** Rimuru (Disaster) Tempest**Species:** Slime (Human Form Possible)**Divine Protection:** The Storm Crest**Title:** One who leads Demons**Magic:** 〈Thought Battle Magic〉 〈Flight Magic〉**Skills:** Slime Specific Skills 『Absorb, Dissolve, Regenerate EX』

Unique Skill 『Great Sage』 Thought Acceleration, Analysis, Parallel

Processing, Incantation Nullification, All of Creation

Unique Skill 『Gluttony』 Stomach, Mimicry, Separation, Decay, Supply,

Food

Chain

『Shapeshifter』 Fusion, Separation

Extra Skills 『Segmenting』 『Black Flame』 『Black

Lightning』 『Barrier』

『Shadow Step』

Daily skills 『Magic Perception』 『Heat detection』 『Auditory

Perception』

『Supreme Olfaction』 『Intimidation』 『Herculean Strength』

Battle Skills 『Noxious and Paralysis Breath』 『Full Body Armor』

『Sticky Thread』 『Telepathic Communication』 『Cloning』

『Devil Transformation』 『Flame Transformation』

Mimicking: Flame Giant, Black Wolf, Black Snake, Lizard, Giant Spider,

Giant Bat, Centipede, Goblin, Orc

Resistances: Thermal Fluctuation Resistance EX, Physical Damage

Resistance, Pain Resistance, Heat Attack Resistance, Paralysis Resistance,

Corrosion Resistance, Electricity Resistance

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 43 – War Reparations

The day the coalition was established would become a day of great commemoration for the monsters.

Because each one of them received a name.

Just kidding.

Even if it sounds cool you've got to think about who would be giving them names.

There's 150 thousand, damn it. That's just reckless. I mean, I had gone into a three day hibernation after naming merely five hundred goblins!

By the time I name all 150 thousand, they'd die from hunger!

I was planning to just ignore it this time, but...

In any case, I also need to devour their sins.

And somehow, while they had risen up to rank C+, it seems that they'll be returning back to D in about two weeks.

They were merely strengthened by the Orc Lord's abilities.

And once they lose their magic energy I will eat it and bestow it back upon them. Thus, I will be able to name them without tiring needlessly.

So there is no problem in naming them... except that I'll run out of simple letter combinations.

Even if I give start giving out the same names in different districts, managing the process will be a pain.

There's only one thing to do, the most extreme and supreme method. I will name them based on a series with infinite potential!

That's right! Numbers!

Sounds too much like a citizen's registration number? Well, frankly, this is the most efficient method.

Since they are able to at least line up in formation, I had them line up in the

marshes.

Would they hate being named on a whim?

I had that passing thought, but once the magical energy disappears, they'll devolve into an uncontrollable mob of 150 thousand.

That's too many to let loose.

Being only a D rank, they wouldn't pose much of a threat; however, I can see them breaking into private property.

Besides, as they are, I can't expect much of their work skills, making the coalition rather pointless.

Also, if they evolve, their status increases and their reproductive ability decreases—that much we know from the time I named the goblins.

Thus, I'll be exercising victor's rights here.

The great clans shall be separated by their names: *Yama* (mountain), *Oka* (hill), *Hora* (cave), *Umi* (sea), *Kawa* (river), *Ko* (lake), *Mori* (forest), *Kusa* (grass), and *Suna* (sand).

For example, a man from the mountains would be "Yama-1M". A woman would be "Yama-1F". That's how I would diversify their names.

Honestly, managing this will still be a pain. For kids I decided to go with something like "Yama-1-1M", for example.

Perhaps it would be more appropriate to give with some name or letter combination instead, but I'll leave that to them for new names.

And thus, I absorbed their magical energy, and gave them names instead.

I first aligned them by clan, then separated them by gender, and began giving them names; as you'd expect, it took a while.

However, I was able to give them all names without worrying endlessly.

They were given names by their place in the line. I didn't try to match names for parents and children.

They should just name themselves if unsatisfied.

In this fashion, I went on naming them all.

I then had the clan representatives conduct a census. But since they had no paper, it was only to make sure no mistakes were made.

But in reality, there was nothing to worry about—those named could hardly

forget it.

Unlike humans, monsters always know the name etched on their soul.

I thus started to give and each one of them a name.

Taking no more than five second per person.

However... giving each one a name still took 10 days.

Of course, while I was naming them without rest, I couldn't just have Benimaru and the rest having fun.

I had the Dryad Trainee escort them to the Treant's community.

In order to transport the food.

Would it really be enough to feed 150 thousand? While I had such worries, I could only trust in her words.

At the very least, I hope there is enough to last them a year.

I didn't worry about the carriers at all.

The fundamental worry of war is logistics, after all. Allowing the front line to starve welcomes defeat.

No matter how much of a demon each one of them is, carrying enough food for all the orcs must be difficult.

However!

The Storm Wolves, the moment Ranga had evolved into Tempest Star Wolf, had evolved into Star Wolves.

Each one is at least a B rank now. A high ranking monster.

Their numbers are still at one-hundred, but they have unlocked a Star Leader evolution variation.

And let's not forget to mention that they can all use 『Shadow Step』 now.

They can't move instantaneously like Souei or Ranga do, but they can easily move faster than sound.

And they now move ignoring any obstacle—straight to their target.

Closing long distance with every step, they are moving at three times their original speed. In short—really quickly.

So I also had the strong Star Wolves handle ferrying the provisions over.

If we used a carriage, the trip – with a necessary detour – would take two

months; this way, a round trip takes only a day.
However, the Goblin riders cannot journey with them.
I don't know if this is something they can learn through practice, but I want them to try.
So having remained with me, the Goblins are helping arranging the orcs.
Thus, we came up with a method to procure food.

Which lead me to worry about food reserves...
I mean, Treants are monsters who survive on water, sunlight, and air alone.
They would grow fruits using their magical energy, but there was no one to eat them.
They were meant for the race residing in the holy lands, but the immortal race just had them accumulate.
Moreover, the fruit being magical, it does not rot no matter how much time passes.

By the way, as I learned later, this fruit is sold as a rare ingredient called "Dried Treant" in human markets.
It's really hard to find and can be sold for a large amount of money.
The reason for the price is its abundant magical energy. Just one drop can keep you going for seven days. Without feeling hunger.
Another reason for the high price is the fact that Treants don't interact with other races, and the troublesome Dryads, who manage this product, give it out sometimes as a present.

When I learned this fact, I had mild regrets about giving it out to the orcs for free... but it is what it is.
And thus, thanks for Dryad Trainee's guidance, we were able to acquire food.

Ten days later.

Exhausted, I finished.

I almost ran out of numbers to use. Tired.

However, I was also filled with a sense of accomplishment.

150 thousand? Just counting that high is annoying.

Well, by the time I finished naming them, we also finished dividing up the food.

Fifty pieces each.

The probably understand that when they run out they starve. So everyone wore serious expressions when accepting the fruit.

After being named, the orcs evolved into high orcs. But since they weren't named using my magical energy, there was no master-servant relationship between us.

Everything rests on their sincere promise to join and support our coalition. Their strength did reach up to C+ immediately after evolving, but they settled comfortably in the C rank zone. Considering they were D ranks originally, this should be good enough.

More importantly, they have gotten smarter while preserving their special characteristics.

They evolved into a race that can adapt to and make use of any situation.

After thanking me, they dispersed each to their lands. Overseeing this were 10 goblin riders per group.

Once they confirm the location, we plan to assist them with setting up tents.

And, guiding them on necessary skills, we will set up each and every community.

Though this won't be for a while, but they'll eventually settle down, and their living standards should improve.

Thus, we saw the orcs off.

Which reminded of a certain individual.

The Orc General insisted that I work him to my pleasure.

But...

I did want another laborer.

Ah, whatever. Let's just let him in.

I also need to figure out what to do with the black full plate armor clad, two-thousand strong elite orc army.

Them I cannot name using a district. What should I do...

Since they have a yellow aura about them, I decided to name them using a color and numbers.

I glance over the orc army. And, have them line up according to my wishes. Recently, I can use my 『Great Sage』's appraisal ability simply by looking. Just like Shuna does.

As expected of 『Gluttony』's Food Chain ability. It's super effective!

And so I named (assigned numbers to) everyone, except the Orc General.

Thus the later famous Yellow Corps was born. Numbers assigned indiscriminately of gender.

Since there could be no gender inequality among fellow warriors.

I'll be later dispatching them to every community as production workers. At the present, there's no choice but to have them do this kind of work.

Now, about the Orc General.

I'm going to ignore any feeling of foreboding.

And decide on a name.

I'll incorporate the Orc Lord's ambition, the one he got from Gelmudo. Just thinking about that Clown's face makes me angry, but to the orcs he's an important benefactor.

I don't care much about his expectations, and I don't have anything to base it on.

So, the name I will bestow upon him,

「With respect given to Orc Disaster's dying wish, you shall henceforth be known as Gerudo!」

At that moment, the Orc General's body was enveloped in a yellow aura, and he began evolving.

And at the same time, I lost a lot of magical energy. Crap... so it really came to this.

As always, I entered a lowered activity state (Sleep Mode).

And the following day,

Should I say "just as expected" or something? My premonition was spot on.

The Orc Elite has all evolved into High Orcs.

Though they possessed strength almost surpassing C+ rank, they were able to retain that level. All in all, they have evolved into rather powerful warriors.

Considering that Goblin Riders are also ranked C+, I seem to have acquired a rather powerful army.

Well, though Goblin Riders are ranked thus, they really should be evaluated together with the Star Wolves.

So perhaps I shouldn't be comparing them.

Now then, the problematic Orc General, or rather, Gerudo...

He had gained the unique skill 『Gourmet』 with abilities 「Stomach, Supply, and Demand」 .

His magic energy is also pretty high, almost reaching A rank.

As expected, he no longer has any of the abilities he got from cannibalizing. Simply because he has no need for them.

This skill he got probably because he wished for it from the bottom of his heart.

Perhaps because he had endured the pain and suffering, he became such a rational and dignified monster.

"Can I be satisfied with such a subordinate?" I had such a fleeting thought, but decided to ignore it.

If he desired to go on independent, I would permit it.

Though he doesn't seem to want to do that.

And perhaps the Death March has finally come to an end.

Was all their suffering up until now the effect of Gelmudo's skill—that I wouldn't know. Perhaps that clown was actually a really powerful guy. I joked to myself.

The goblin soldiers have finally returned. Their numbers greatly reduced, with only 4,000 survivors.

Are they okay? I worried slightly. But, this is their problem and not something I will intervene in.

Too much intervention would be harmful to them.

Now then, should we take our leave?

Let's return the control of this area back to the lizardmen, say our farewells to the Head, and head off.

Though our time here was a mere three weeks, this war felt rather long.

I myself seem to have fought alone for a long time.

The forest disturbance story thus comes to an end.

* * *

Gabil was brought before the Lizardmen's Head, his father.

The moment the fighting ended, he was thrown into prison.

His was fed every morning and every evening, but no one had said anything.

This kind of lifestyle continued on for two weeks.

After all, he was a rebel. That much was true.

While he acted in what he believed was everyone's best interests, his foolishness almost annihilated the entire race.

It was his fault.

He had no excuses to say, nor any desire to come up with any.

He would probably face the death penalty. A fact he accepted. But...

Gelmudo who had betrayed him. Ignoring that fact, the Slime who had saved him.

A lowly monster. That's how he referred to the slime.

While that was not a mistake, it also was.

That Slime is special.

Unique and Named, a truly special monster.

If he could have one final wish, he's want to ask.
Why did you save me?
The mislead, worthless me. A complete idiot.
That thought was on his mind every day for two weeks.

He stood before his father.
The atmosphere heavy, they looked each other in teh eye.
A father who, as usual, did not show his emotion. Ah... death penalty, huh?
He agreed.
A leader cannot show weakness. He must uphold law at all cost.
So there's no way he could hate him.
He resolved himself to quietly accept his punishment.

「I will pass judgment! Gabil, you are exiled. You are forbidden to ever call yourself a Lizardman.
Further, you are forbidden to ever return. Leave! Show your face among us no longer!」

Eh?
What did he say?
His father's guards lead him by the arms outside the caves.
The Head threw him out.
And to the confused Gabil,

「Don't forget this! Don't lose it, okay?」

He was told, an something was thrown to him.
Along with his things, a long wrapped package. Just from the weight he understood. It was the Magic Weapon: Water Vortex Spear.
Tears falling from Gabil's eyes, he wanted to say something to his father.
But words wouldn't come out. He was an exile.
Filled with various emotions, he could only bow in gratitude.
And, without looking back, he continued onward.
To the city under construction he had once visited.

After walking a bit,

「Please wait a minute. Gabil-sama!」

Someone called out to him.
His 100 subordinates.

「Wha-what are you doing, idiots! I was exiled!」

「It doesn't matter to us! We follow Gabil-sama, if you are exiled, then so are we!」

「 「 「Yeah!!!」 」 」 」

They responded with a smile.

What fools they are;

This is no place to shed tears. Like my father, I must learn to act with dignity. , he thought.

「What will I do with you! Got it. Follow me!」

And thus he walked.

Filled with a different kind of self-confidence than before.

Gabil's group joined up with Rimuru a month later.

Forest Disturbance Arc

Chapter 44 – And thus we finished the city

Now that the war ended, we might as well return to our city.

Honestly, returning back with an extra two thousand or so followers is tiresome.

So, I'll leave the return march to Hakurou.

Souei has already returned to let everyone know about victory. We also need to set up some temporary housing for the newcomers.

After I sent him back, I sat down to decide who'd rush back with me.

Ranga can carry two back and Star Leader can carry another...

But they couldn't come to a consensus on who'd go.

Shion said, "I'm in charge of our lord's care!", and Benimaru mentioned something about defenses or what-not.

Gerudo also referred to his ability to carry things with his stomach, and asked to be included.

Honestly, though, I don't care who goes.

Wait a second! I just remembered that I can use 『Shadow Step』 as well.

After I decided to return this way, the debate suddenly stopped.

I was completely oblivious to dejected Ranga, who wanted to carry me, and disappointed Shion, who was hoping to ride with me.

「Well then, I'll be going on ahead!」

I declared, and left using 『Shadow Step』 .

Daaamn, this skill is convenient! It's like moving straight to the target through a different dimension.

Oh, and I fly through that plain using 〈Flight Magic〉 .

Feels like I'm moving really, really fast. In a blink of an eye I reach the city. Seems like this skill can plot a course not just to people and monsters, but also to locations I've previously visited.

I still can't fly especially fast using 〈Flight Magic〉 . However, even at

current speed, I can easily conclude that this is the best way to travel.
I am completely satisfied with the results of this trial run.
Ranga's group will probably arrive within 2~3 days.
Hakurou and the High Orcs will be here a month from now, at the soonest.
So before they arrive, I have to prepare a place for them to live.
While some small dilemmas are bound to arise, we've at least solved all the major problems.
For now, I just want to relax.

* * *

Then,
After everyone arrived on time and I divided up the responsibilities, things quieted down.
The city was quickly taking on shape.
The high orcs, who arrived in less than a month, quickly learned the appropriate skills from the Dwarfs and skilled Goblins.
According to Kaijin,

「With time, they just might become as good as the Dwarf Manufacturing Battalion.」

Is what he said.
Thus, having acquired new workers, we quickly rushed to finish all the previously neglected projects.

At the same time, we started transporting goods and equipment.
We dismantled the tents that were no longer in use, and sent them to the orc communities.
The goblins sent to them have been able to assert their leadership and have been helping establishing basic necessities.
The moment we began exchanging goods we also started establishing a solid system of exchange.
Though they ended up with, what we may call ancient, bartering system, the fact that they came up with it is in itself wonderful.
Besides, it's not like they are growing that many goods yet, so they can take all the time they need to learn these things.

There is very little variety right now; basically limited to growing a potato-like crop.

It can grow even in harsh environments.

It also has high nutritional value, and though you can't exactly call it luxury food you can certainly live off of it.

Thus, we spread the seeds among them and taught them how to grow it.

Perhaps in two years they could be self-sufficient? I surely hoped so...

Gerudo was very useful in transporting the seeds and tents.

As he claimed he could, he swallowed the disassembled tents and thus distributed them among the villages.

However, his success is largely thanks to the fact that he can now leap along with the star wolves during 『Shadow Step』 .

He seriously tried hard to learn it and became the first to succeed with it.

The rest went smoothly.

That is, the trip to the mountain district alone on foot would have taken him many months. Instead, he was able to make a round trip in a single day.

So we decided to put the skill to use and established a communications network between all the villages.

Basically-Postal Service.

For example, I can scribble some information on a wood block and have it circulated among the communities.

Though I must mention that only a few individuals here can read and write, and I'm rather afraid of sending a verbal message.

Who knows that it will become after being passed from village to village.

Hopefully they can learn letters. More so, since 『Telepathic Communication』 does not reach that far.

But that's for later.

Thus, we were able to establish some kind of connection between the many communities.

And I must not forget about a guy that showed up.

Gabil.

That idiot suddenly showed up in our city.

「*Iyaa... ha ha ha!* This Gabil has rushed over to become Your strength, Rimuru-dono!」

He brazenly stated.

「Kill him?」

Shion asked me with a serious face.

The kind of face that screams “serious!” and reads “absolutely serious!”
Gabil paled and,

「I got carried away! I’m sorry!

Please allow us to become Your subordinates, Rimuru-sama!

We will definitely prove ourselves useful!!!」

He immediately corrected himself falling into a *dogeza*.

Apparently, he was disowned (exiled?) by his father, and had no place to go.

So since he was just so pitiful, I decided to welcome him in.

Bet he’ll get carried away again right away, though.

Hmm? If I look closely, seems like the Head’s Guard Captain is also among them.

「Hmm? Captain-san, why are you here?」

When I asked him,

「I came to serve Souei-sama, whom I greatly admire!」

「What? So you didn’t come because you admired this Gabil!」

「I am different from the other muscle brains! That much is obvious!」

They started to quarrel among themselves.

The majority, it seems, came out of respect for Gabil, but there were a few from the guard squad as well.

Well, I don’t see a big problem with them wanting to serve Souei.

「If you want to serve Souei, go and talk to him. But do note—he’s a ninja. Will you be of any use to him? 」

「We shall! We are different from those naive idiots!」

「Wh-what did you say! Don’t underestimate me, little girl!」

Seems like they don't get along.

Probably the fact that one started a rebellion and the other captured them afterwards led to a grudge forming between them. In any case, I won't meddle in that.

Cause it's damn tiresome.

Oh, and I later learned that the little girl is Gabil's younger sister.

Since she's his relative, she's probably also little weird.

But her father is a wonderful guy...

「Well, since you'll be serving Souei, I guess you'll be called Souka.

The other four I'll name,

Touka, Saika, Nansou, and Hokusou!」

Flower endings for girls, and spear endings for boys. Of course, there is no greater meaning attached.

These five served in the Guard Squad. I'll leave them to Souei.

The moment I named them, they began to evolve.

Gabil observed this with great envy.

However, I cannot name Gabil. He already has a name.

「Are you jealous, Gabil-kun?

But you are already named "Gabil!"」

Gabil quickly looked at me.

And then, his body began to glow. Hmm? That's a sign of evolution...

The moment I thought that, a lot of magical energy suddenly left my body. Again?!

Seriously... But who could have thought I can overwrite names.

Well, chances are this happened by pure chance. The one who named him had died, and we were on the same wavelength or something like that? I don't know exactly why it happened, but the fact remains: I (re)named Gabil.

I had wanted him to reflect a bit more, but just thinking how haughty he'll become after evolving... damn it, now I'm scared!

While thinking these things, I entered Sleep Mode.

The following day, I named the other hundred lizardmen soldiers.
The names I assigned by picking letters of the alphabet.
20 names was my limit. Since they were high level monsters to begin with,
naming them takes uses up a lot of magical energy.
The whole process took five days.
Can't I just stop?
Somehow, I feel like I'm working harder than I ever did in my past life.
It's Gabil. It's all Gabil's fault.
Since that's clearly the truth, let's fire a magic bullet at him.

「Wh-what are you doing?!」

He exclaimed in surprise,

「Practice!」

I responded.
He happily accepted that response. He really is an idiot. One that can
compete with Gobuta.
By the way, since it was pointless, I didn't fire a bullet at him.
Gabil evolved into a Dragonewt.
He's covered by dense scales which act like a multi-layer barrier.
Oh and speaking of strange, the appearance of dragonewts varies by
gender.
The men don't look much different than when they were lizardmen. They
sprouted dragon wings and horns, and are now covered in hard scales—just
that much.
Well, their dark-green color also changed to dark-purple.
On the other hand, the women have a human appearance. Rather beautiful,
actually.
Furthermore, they can also cover themselves with dragon scales, sprout
wings and horns at will.
They look like I would if I were to transform into a human and combine
myself with the black snake and giant bat.
Perhaps that black snake was a dragon species.
So, since Gabil's vices annoyed me to no end, I also wanted to check out his
defenses, and it's hard to check that by yourself, I fired a test shot at him. He

was unharmed.

I only shot a *normal* round, that he *normally* received... that should have been five times stronger than usual...

Well, maybe he's just so stupid he doesn't feel the pain, or, even worse, he inherited my pain resistance.

They do say that dinosaurs were dull to pain, so could he be a...

Now that they have evolved, what should we do about their housing?

If they need water, there's that river flowing nearby...

And it's a pain to make a village with only a hundred people.

There is that underground lake in the cave, but there's no fish and high magic energy density.

Well, since it's Gabil, he can handle that much, right?

They could also cultivate Hipokte grass while they are at it.

However, would sending them into the cave prove perilous to them?

The five guards I left to Souei.

Hopefully he can raise them into fine ninja and *kunoichi*.

Since I'm scared, I'll be sure to avoid their practices.

Gabil's group is the problematic one, however.

Even if I send them into the cave they probably won't become monster feed, but...

As Dragonewts, their fighting strength is B rank.

They should have no problem defeating most monsters in there, but the centipede could cause them some trouble.

But since they are experienced warriors and are carrying weapons they should be fine, right?

I shouldn't worry about Gabil either. His evolution placed him at rank A-.

He also obtained quite a lot of magical energy.

So maybe he'll end up as an A rank.

「Gabil, I want to leave harvesting Hipokte grass in the caves to you, how about it?」

When I asked,

「Please leave it to me! This Gabil will work himself to the bone for your sake!」

He casually responded.

I'll leave it to him.

Besides, if they start living there, they can also double as the cave's guards.

And so Gabil's group started harvesting hipokte grass in the caves.

I had some lingering worries, so I came to check, but they seem to be doing just fine.

And since they are constantly fighting, they are becoming stronger.

Right now, they can bring down a centipede with just the five of them.

How reassuring.

I should also send them new weapons. So I thought.

And thus, some time passed.

* * *

Two months have passed since I returned to the city.

Just as everyone was getting used to life here and production was going smoothly,

And the moment we finished the last house,

The goblins.

If I had to say, about eight thousand of them.

Showed up and knelt before me, saying

「If you may, please make us your servants as well!」

「 「We humbly beg you!!!」 」 」

They said falling prostrate before me.

I thought for a second.

If I refuse them, that may seed conflict later on.

Besides, I also strictly ordered not to discriminate against other races.

If I send them away that may set a precedent of discrimination.

Let's accept them. So I decided.

「Fine. But I will drive away anyone who's slacking, is that fine?」

「Of course!!!」

I accepted them lightly.
But little did I know that another struggle was soon upon me!
Again! My screams could be heard immediately after.

To say the least, I used numbers and thus created the Green Corps.
That was the moment the famous Green Corps was born. Along with the
Yellow Corps, they would be known as having no equal, the crux of my
force.

Right now, they were but dirty goblins.
And a month later, I finally finished naming them.
But this was not a complete tragedy. My total amount of magical energy has
increased.
I mean, I kept emptying time after time again, so it was bound to increase a
bit.
And thus, I finished naming the goblins.

By the time I finished naming them, we also finished constructing housing
for everyone.

I had the goblins stay in a boarding house for now, but that's certainly
better than camping out in a tent.

We had a system for drawing water, a well in every house, so it is a pretty
advanced city.

Having a flush toilet is also heavenly.

There is a need to carry the pumped out water to the toilet in a bucket, but
strong monsters don't particularly mind.

There are also those who don't excrete, though. Me included.

However, we can't have the city stinking.

That much I will not permit.

However, there are still many fields and animal farms that haven't seen
success.

I want to make sure this city grows in abundance.

I have finally acquired a land where I can live at peace.

Here are those who were with me at the time,

Oni – 6 people

Tempest Star Wolf – 1 member

Star Leader – 1 member
Star Wolves – 100 members
Goblin Riders – 100 people
Goblin King – 1 person
Goblin Lords – 8 people
Hobgoblins – 8,657 people

Orc King – 1 person
High Orcs – 1,984 people

Dragonewts – 106 people

And 4 dwarfs supporting us.
There are over ten thousand monsters inhabiting these lands.
And thus we finished the city.

END OF THE FOREST DISTURBANCE ARC



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