

転生したら スライム だった件 ③

Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime

Story by Fuse, Illustration by Mitz Vah

伏瀬 イラスト
みつば



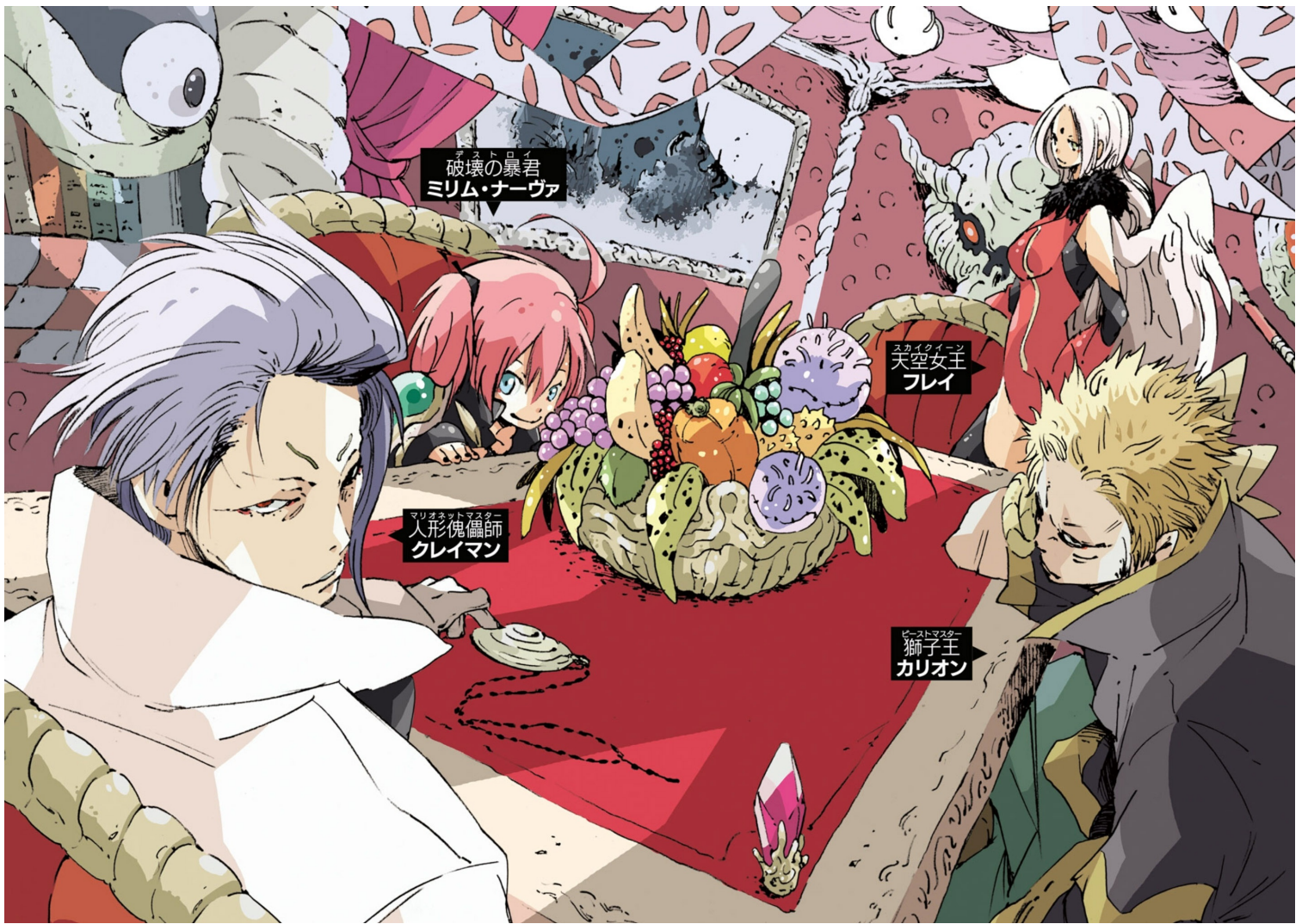
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初めまして！
ワタシは、魔王ミリム・ナーヴァだぞ。
お前がこの町で一番強そうだったから、
挨拶に来てやったのだ！



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Tensei Shitara Slime datta ken

Original Webnovel by Fuse

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Chapter 046: Clown's Team
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Chapter 052: Kuma Hana Team
Chapter 053: Clown's Team
Chapter 054: Kuma Hana Team
Chapter 055: Clown's Team
Chapter 056: Clown's Team
Chapter 057: Guro's Group
Chapter 058: Clown's Team
Chapter 059: Kuma Hana Team
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Especially so for this arc: the author separated this arc into two different light novels: volume 3 and volume 4. A lot of these images will not match the story.

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Tensei Shitara Slime datta ken

- Regarding Reincarnated to Slime -

Life in the Royal Capital Arc

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Chapter 45 – Those Who Observe

Upon reading the report from the espionage division, the Dwarf King Gazelle Dwargo fell into deep consideration.

The division, whom he asked to monitor that peculiar slime, has reported facts he could not ignore.

A city built for monsters.

Were they joking? He thought so for a second, but the spies never told jokes. They frankly delivered their report. And then, the unbelievable tale continued.

The orcs army had invaded.

The despondent state of the lizardmen.

The war ending due to the appearance of a mysterious army.

The army probably are the clansmen of the said slime.

Holding up the letter to a candle, he burned it.

And, closing his eyes, he tried to sort all the new information.

Currently, there were few casualties in the forest despite the rise in monsters' activity.

It has increased slightly since when Veldora was there, but is still similar to last years' statistics.

They had been expecting the number to double, at least.

So, someone is enforcing the order in the forest. Chances are, that someone has something to do with that slime.

And the orcs stopped their invasion.

Had they, for example, rushed into dwarfs' cities an insane number of people would have been killed.

It would be foolish to expect that the orcs would not have attacked the dwarfs.

But he can't just praise good luck and forget about the whole incident.

He must urgently meet the ones responsible. So the king quickly decided.

He definitely wanted to avoid making an enemy of them. Rather, he'd be happy if they could cooperate in the future.

Perhaps they should carefully start negotiating with them while ignoring the

deportation incident.

Or... perhaps they should resort to a more reliable method.

Having made his decision, the King began to move.

* * *

The four demon lords decided against independent action concerning the forest.

There was no problem in this regard.

However, they immediately started bickering when it came to who will monitor the situation.

With an appearance of a little girl, the Demon Lord Milim Nava had these thoughts. "If I leave it to these blockheads, they are bound to mess it all up!"

After all, she saw them as little but muscle-for-brain idiots.

Certainly this was just the time for the cool and wise Milim to take the stage!

The fact that she had thrown a table at Gelmudo moments prior completely escaped her.

In fact, the girl herself was one of those muscle-for-brain idiots.

Moreover,

She was the most short-tempered and simple among them; what the rest would consider common sense was completely lost on her.

The Harpy Queen and one of the Demon Lords Frey was bored.

Milim will just go on a rampage again, so sending her is out of the question.

Because the clean up would be a pain.

However, Frey could not work against her. Though they were both Demon Lords, there was a clear difference in power.

Frey's kind are called the rulers of the skies, and she herself is known as the Sky Queen.

It would be preposterous for her to lose against those who can't fly.

Their special ability 『Magic Jamming』 can cancel out 〈Flight Magic〉 spells. So those who cannot fly normally would fall to their death.

And although demon lords would probably survive even if they fell from high in the sky, they would be unable to land a single hit on her.

Those who can't fly can't threaten her.

However, Milim Nava doesn't fit in this category.

The girl is a Dragonoid. And the strongest queen. Her nickname – “Destroyer” is not just for show.

She doesn't use magic when flying.

Rather, she uses her own wings. Nor does she depend on magic during combat.

So Frey would be at complete disadvantage.

Truly her natural enemy.

So Frey was basically forced to go along with Milim's wishes.

She merely hoped to be able to continue this passiveness for the rest of the conference.

Hopefully all will end peacefully...

She thought, and let out a sigh.

Lycanthrope's “Lion King” Karion felt pretty good.

He had attended the conference to kill some time, but was able to see something interesting as a result.

I have to make those *oni* into my subordinates. He thought.

Harpy Queen Frey was probably not interested.

She probably just went along with Milim's wishes. As for Milim, she might be a short-tempered simpleton, but she is by no means stupid.

Expecting the disagreement to devolve into a vote, Karion brought friends who would support him.

What an impudent woman! He thought, looking at Milim.

What a narcissistic face she makes!

In the first place, who would have expected someone like Gelmudo to be able to stir four demon lords into motion.

That thought was brought up by the ghastly Demon Lord Clayman.

Gelmudo was his protege, and, upon receiving this request, immediately went to Clayman to seek advice.

Whatever you may think of him, Gelmudo was the type of person who would hide his true intentions behinds the language of a polite gentleman.

Now, Clayman and Milim, which was a more formidable foe...?

Battle strength wise, Milim hands down.

Karion probably couldn't defeat her by himself. The very thought angered him, but fighting her without analyzing her battle abilities ahead of time would most likely lead to a defeat.

On the other hand, if he properly prepared, he would certainly be her equal. No, maybe a bit better.

Clayman is probably weaker than the rest.

However!

This case is all about ingenuity. In other words, the easy to deceive Milim is out of the game.

Frey, being Milim's follower, is also out!

So the real foe is Clayman. That Karion was sure of.

So how should he proceed?

Karion was deep in thought planning his next step.

Clayman wore a gentleman's smile while observing the other three demon lords.

The one who introduced Gelmudo to the other demon lords was none other than him.

He also pulled some strings to get this all arranged.

Gelmudo had planned to get the demon lord's attention by presenting his magic items and armors, but that was bound to fail.

So Clayman had to arrange the meeting.

And he specifically called two demon lord simpletons here,

Fully expecting that the Harpy Queen Frey would also be brought along. Though Frey is careful and cunning, she seems to be uninterested in this incident.

So everything went according to plan.

Two demon lords who specialize in combat.

No matter how hard they think, they are simply not that bright.

Clayman can easily stall them.

Guiding the conversation the whole time, he even tried to get them on the topic of avenging Gelmudo.

With that thought, he had thought to say...

「Hey, just a thought, but how about we send our subordinates, one each? That way, I can also send one of my daughters?」

Frey declared with a somber expression.

The other three immediately stiffened.

“While I could reject the offer, I would not be able to substantiate the refusal.”

The three thought.

They would just have to accept it.

And after checking the other's expression, they nodded.

「*Fu, fuhaha!* I had just been planning to say the same myself!」

「How strange, I as well!」

「What to do if you took the words right out of my mouth... so it's decided?」

And thus, although each demon lord had intended differently, they decided to send a subordinate there.

In reality, they intended to...

Soon, Rimuru's village would be visited by three demons.

* * *

Three adventurers were walking in the woods.

Cabal, Elen, and Gido.

They came to the forest on a subjugation request.

And, by the request of their Guild Master, they also were to visit Rimuru's city.

To the adventurers, that city was heaven. And the *yakiniku* was delicious!

But by the time they returned, the village greatly changed and expanded.

Now, they could even have their equipment services and had a guest house prepared for them.

As presents, they brought spices and salt for the seasoning. Not for their sake, of course!

Patrolling the city is a hobgoblin-wolf combo; thanks to their speed they have been ensuring the safety of the area.

It's thanks to this city that the forest has gotten so much safer.

Moreover! You can get various rare ingredients from them for free!

Get this,

Parts of Poisonous Snake and Horned Deer! On a good day, you can even get the horn of an armorsaurus.

They could even use these to claim to have finished the guild's subjugation requests.

It is, of course, cheating, but that's only if you get caught.

Well, unfortunately, the Brumund's Free Guild's master Fuze, with whom they

are affiliated, is already suspecting them.

So they can't just suddenly bring back such trophies. Greed would only lead to their demise, so they decided to act with prudence.

And so,

They are once again going on a subjugation request in the forest! Merrily walking to Rimuru's city.

「But damn! The food is getting better and better!

Isn't Shuna-chan as good as the cooks in the royal capital?」

「Yeah! I'm usually a bit picky about food, but everything's great there!」

「Listen up, guys. We aren't going there to eat, you know!

We actually have a legitimate reason to go there this time, remember?」

「That's a stupid question!」

「Yeah! It's been two months since we last visited... plenty of time has passed!」

「Yes. It's been a while. But... have they finished the "Baths"?

I can't wait!」

「The Royal Capital also has those! I'd love to go to them someday!」

「The "World Travelers" have been demanding them for a long time, right?

I can see it becoming a habit though...」

「Right? So looking forward to it! But anyways...

Do you know, Gido. There is a wonderful system called "mix bathing" in this world.

Last time, Rimuru-danna passionately spoke about it.

"I'll make sure this city has it!" Rimuru-danna exclaimed.

Do you get it, Gido!

We have finally reached the promised land (where we can possibly enter the baths together with Shuna-sama and Shion-san)!」

「Wh-what did you say...!!!」

「... Hey, I don't mind you guys having fun by yourselves over there, but you're getting left behind.」

Thus they continued on. Aiming towards a yet unseen paradise!

And, during their journey, they would meet someone completely unexpected.

* * *

The Land of Farmas Kingdom's Count.

Bordering the Jura Forest, it considered the forest in its sphere of influence.

Patrolling the nearby villages was the count's frontier garrison.

They were appointed by Count Nidole Maigam himself, and established plenty of routes to quickly get to villages during an emergency.

Their Captain's name is Youmu.

Quick witted and tough, he has a toned body, darkened by the sun.

Neither tall, nor short.

He looked as if he never let his guard down. By no means ugly; rather, he has a pretty good face.

There are thirty people in their organization, but it has three captains.

Their fighting force is always separated into three groups, with one resting at base. So that in case of an emergency, they can move as soon as they hear of it.

Thus, although they have searched for an appropriate location for their base, none of the villages fit their needs.

Every one of them was built near the forest, creating a large distance between them.

Thus, even the closest village, on horseback with provision, was a day's worth away; for the further ones, you'd need to prepare a carriage.

The Count's city is by far the most separated and is a poor place for their base.

Moreover, the lifestyle in the villages could hardly be called pleasant, so the garrison didn't get the treatment they had wanted.

That led to growing discontent among his subordinates.

They have not received a large sum of war funds, and even if they had, they wouldn't be able to buy anything worth of note.

After all, they had to spend most of it just purchasing weapons and armors.

What had kept the soldiers away from mutiny was the fact that the villagers were truly thankful.

To ruffians and drunkards that the soldiers were, the villagers offered heartfelt hospitality.

The villagers understood that they were there to protect them against monsters which was true, and considering how honestly they were thanked every time, the soldiers decided to work hard for the villagers sake.

Also, because the monsters hadn't attacked as often as the Count had thought, there were no casualties among the garrison.

Not just deaths—there were no heavily injured among them either. More bitter grass soup today... thinking thus, Youmu brought his troops into the forest.

Not wide enough for a carriage, but a horse could traverse through it. The small twigs coming at them could easily be deflected with magic. If they had to take a carriage along, they'd have to go down the mountain highway route. That detour would cost them many days.

Hence the problem previously described.

At that time, they ran into a group of people walking in the forest. Adventurers from head to toe. Did they come on a subjugation request? He thought.

News from here sometimes reaches the cities and requests are not uncommon. While some adventurers are sent on behalf of the Ghost Researchers, who are attempting to learn thought transmission, if there was an actual subjugation request it would have been announced at every nearby city.

That is, to prevent multiple groups from fulfilling the same request. If they were aiming for a Giant Bear, then unfortunately the soldiers have already killed it.

From how they look, they seem rather capable.

Perhaps it would be smart to make acquaintance. With that thought, he called out,

「Hey! You guys. What are you doing out here?
If you came for a giant bear, you've wasted your time, you know!」

And when he did,

「Ah, no. Well, I guess subjugating a monster is one of the reasons?」
「Danna, what are you saying? Our objective is subjugation, isn't it?」
「Right! The official story! ... crap!」

They were too careless.

Youmu listened to their exchange while surrounding them with troops. Were they foreign spies? While he had no duty to capture them, he'd be troubled if they caused trouble.

Why would they be here if not on a request? He thought,

「I repeat, what are you doing here? Answer me!

If you don't, you might lose your lives!」

He didn't plan to kill them, but needed to intimidate them a bit.
Their exchange abruptly ended, and,

「The thing is, we are heading to a city...」

Their representative (?), a large man answered.
There is no city further in.
No doubt about it, they are suspicious... should I hand them over to the count?
But I really hate that guy. What to do...?

「No, really! A kind monster...」

「Hey! What are you doing revealing this!」

「Don't look at me! If they tell you: "don't come again," we'll go on without you, you know?」

They are too suspicious to ignore.
While looking at three bickering, Youmu decided.
He had to confirm their words.

「Where are you adventurers from? Answer!

Don't attempt to hide it.

These are the lands of Farmas Kingdom's Count, under the protection of the frontier garrison. I am their captain, Youmu!」

The three exchanged glances and seem to have given up.
While apprehending spies was not part of his duties, it was something he could do.
He couldn't leave them alone, after all.
The countries have agreed on not employing spies. However, whether any country has actually kept that promise is a different story.
Who knows what country they've come from, but only an idiot spy would pretend to be an adventurer.
Spies would normally take their lives if cornered, but these guys don't seem to plan on it.

Are they really adventurers? When he thought that,

「No, honestly! But, it's a monster's city...

You wouldn't believe that if we had told you, would you?」

「Besides, we don't want to cause trouble for Rimuru-san...」

「I'm not involved in this. The one who spilled the beans is you, Danna.
What would we do if we were banished from there?」

And again they began fighting.

Amazed, Youmu thought: could they perhaps not be lying?
If so, he had to check it out!

After restraining the three and throwing them on a horse, he had them show
the way.

To a city yet unseen.

And a monster who would play a large role in their lives.

ROUGH SKETCH



7/22/23



カリオン



7/21



Chapter 46 – A Country’s Name and Two Treaties

The city has gotten rather pretty.

“Behold the results of my hard work!” Isn’t something I can say, however.

But that aside,

I fussed over a few things: toilets, plumbing, insect repellents, and baths!

The first three we made in Japanese style. I also built window screens using spider thread.

At first, we had built the toilet seats out of wood, but that was no good.

Though that’s how the Japanese did it, its unbearable to maintain. It rots, you know.

So I turned to the dwarfs.

They’ve never failed at their task, so perhaps they could do something about the toilet problem.

『Thought Manipulation』 was very useful this time around. It is the evolved form of 『Thought Transmission』 but its use stayed pretty much the same.

So using it, I could easily transmit an image to them.

Drawing and explaining it would be have difficult, but sending them a mental image was not.

Even then however, when I showed them flush toilet system saying, “When you push the lever water flows down!”, reproducing it was impossible.

It could be made with high level water magic stones, which absorb water from the air, but they are very expensive.

Also, since they need to be frequently replaced, they are rarely used even for military objectives.

Honestly, only the very rich could afford to create this.

Since we don’t have the needed capital, we would do with what we have.

In any case, we can leave complex plumbing systems for later.

So for now, we supplied water to tubs in every household from which one can then draw water.

And, after filling the toilet bowl with water, you can then flush it down.

So Kaijin lived up to his reputation yet again.

Thus, I had strictly commanded the monsters to watch personal hygiene and

dental care.

I don't know whether monsters can develop dental problems, but there's no harm in making sure they don't.

According to Kaijin, adventurers tend to either befriend people who know 〈Cleaning Magic〉, or learn it themselves.

That way, they can avoid staying dirty during long trips.

Though mostly the high ranking ones concerned themselves with these things.

Now, about the insect repellent.

As you'd expect, the forest has a lot of bugs. Since you can't protect yourself against them, there's a chance of catching diseases they carry.

While that's not a problem for me, the Hobgoblins do get sick.

So, I tried to fix this problem.

I asked the dwarfs to create it, but they couldn't do it.

I guess we'd have to go and buy it in the human cities. Though we have no money.

I asked the three idiots to go get it, but this is what they said,

「Don't ask the impossible! It's super expensive!」

「Besides, we wouldn't know how much we'd need to buy to cover a whole city with!

You'd find that quantity only in the Royal Capital!」

「Rimuru-danna, can you imagine how hard it would be to transport?」

Is what they said.

I don't mind them coming over to hang out, but they should at least be of some use sometimes.

Moreover, they are getting too friendly with Shuna.

Often cooking together, buying her wares—trying to get closer to her.

And we even built them a house to stay in during their visits.

The monsters' birth rate dropped to to that of humans.

Thus, I'll need to figure out what to do about marriage soon.

I want Orc, Goblins, and Lizardmen to have the right to choose whomever they love.

It would be good if they produce stronger offspring.

But there is a problem: should I allow polygamy?

This might be especially helpful to women who have lost their husband. The *oni*, for example, can reproduce with any race, but choose not to.

All their magical energy gets absorbed in the process, and some have not been able to recover it.

As Benimaru said,

「But that isn't something Rimuru-sama should be concerned about, right? Many people have lost all their magical energy after naming monsters, and even Demon Lords generally avoid it, after all.」

Way to drop the bomb.

Hey, hey!!! How many do you think I've named by now! And you mention it now! Thank goodness it has been replenishing till now.

I'll have to be more careful about naming monsters from now on. Well... replenishing energy just seems to natural to me; call it an adult's intuition or something.

Anyways, it seems there are also two types of children produced by *oni*. *The first are created with but seed, the second is truly labored over.*

The former is made by combining some of one's magical power, and while they do inherit some abilities, they tend to be weaker. The latter you pour all your strength into.

But your life span shortens as a result.

「I'm fine alone! I'm not interested!」

It's personal.

By the way, it's different for women.

They can reject a seed they believe too weak. So if they were forced, that would mean that the partner was stronger; but if deception was involved, then they wouldn't bear a child.

They aren't allowed to bear children with just anyone.

And this is common among high ranking monsters and devils, it seems.

Goblins and other Demi-Humans, since they don't possess superb strength, are not much different than humans.

So far, we've had about 5~10 children born, and not more than 2 at a time.

In any case, in order to ensure that they leave offspring, I will allow polygamy.

However, only limited to widows!

And that's the rule I passed. I'll change it when needed.

Every new moon, we decided to hold a confession festival, and new couples would be given a home.

Singles would continue living in tenement housing.

Well, if they occupy some important post, they are free to live on their own.

That much doesn't bother me personally.

In the end, I won't be able to make sure everyone's satisfied, but there is a custom to accept my wishes in this city.

When interests clash, residents bicker, they come seeking my decision.

Well, the Elder Bunch also handles many of these, so my involvement can be said to be limited... to some degree.

Everyone is trying to be very considerate of me so they try to avoid causing trouble.

I was surprised at how cooperative the monsters really are.

When it comes to government, whether socialism or capitalism, both will eventually rot and fall apart.

A Land ruled by a truly just King. Where everyone is equal.

'Tis but a pipe dream. However...

I decided to aim for that dream.

I pray I will never fall into vice. Should I become truly depraved, I hope someone will end me.

That's what I thought while observing the Confession Festival.

Now that we've stabilized the life here and passed all (seemingly) necessary rules, I want to go and see how humans live.

Besides, I can now transform into a human; it's about time I go and learn from them.

Normally, those who have reincarnated into a different world make a big deal about meeting humans; I, however, have met very few so far.

The group outside of the Dwarfs' city, Shizu-san, the three idiots... and that's all?

Nor have I forgotten my original objective of meeting fellow World Travelers.

From Shizu-san's memories—her two students: Kagurazaka Yuuki and Sakaguchi Hinata.

I do want to meet the two of them, but Sakaguchi Hinata sounds like bad news.

There was also something that bothered me. Why did the kind Shizu-san allow Hinata to go on her own?

As her senpai, as a fellow Japanese, shouldn't she have seen her off? I must meet Hinata and confirm.

I have acquired some of the memories from targets I've consumed with 『Predator』, but certainly not all. Lingered memories are easier to acquire, I guess.

When I meet her, I should confirm what I know.

The three idiots have passed along my message to their Guild Master, and also looked after the letter I wrote.

That letter simply expresses my desire to meet him.

Though he's but a chief of a small country's Freedom Association branch, he is a Guild Master. He should have connections.

Hopefully I can get some benefits from meeting him.

If it goes over well, maybe he could even try to introduce me to the Grand Master Kagurazaka Yuuki.

Since things have calmed down around here, I can probably leave for a bit.

However, to do that there is something I lack.

Right! Money.

The three idiots were pretty poor, and didn't have much money on them. Not that I expected better of them.

I want to buy vegetable seeds, magic stones, handicraft, and whatever seems impressive.

I initially planned to sell some "Demon Steel", but decided against it.

The reason is simple. "Demon Steel" is too precious of a resource.

Since we use it in our weapons and armor, selling it would be almost sacrilegious.

It is also invaluable for production of mounted soldiers' weapons. Since it can change shape at will, it's useful for receiving and dealing various attacks, to say nothing of carrying it.

And while I do have a lot of it, it's not like it's an infinite amount. So let's hold off selling it until we can replenish our stock.

As for iron ore and such, we discovered some in the mountain's district, and are buying it off the high orcs.

So Kurobee and Kaijin are using it as a base to create weapons.

We also need a lot of magic stones for research. Those are created by the human Ghost Researchers and does not appear naturally.

They manufacture it from crystallized magic stones they extract from monsters. It also seems to require large factories, so is only done at the Freedom Association's headquarters.

Monsters sometimes drop crystallized magic stones; those are then collected at each individual branch and sent to the headquarters.

That's the system that they use. So when adventurers hunt monsters, they don't only do it to protect against damages but also to become rich.

A pretty good system, if you ask me.

Which means that if I want to acquire some magic stones, I have to buy them... So I ran into the money wall again.

Thus, how should I earn some money?

By myself I couldn't possibly make enough quick enough.

The same with selling—our fields don't produce nearly enough, and we probably couldn't sell them at a high enough price.

Weapons and armors are for our personal use, and those will not be sold.

So, do we have nothing to sell?

The thing is, we do! I had left a certain something to Gabil, after all.

Right! Hipokte grass!

So I called Gabil over,

「Gabil-kun, how is cultivation going?」

「Fufufu. I'm glad you asked! It's going well! Literally the fruits of our labour!」

He said, showing me their produce.

It's weed...

Silently, I aimed 『Black Lightning』 at him.

Well, he won't die from it. I've gotten good at adjusting the output.

「Guoo! What are you doing! Have I angered you somehow?!」

「Idiot! This is common weed! What the hell have you been cultivating!!!」

「Wh-what! I beg your pardon! I've been hurrying so I seem to have mixed things up!」

「"I've been hurrying" won't cut it! Seriously.

Watch what you are doing! Besides, it should be nearly impossible to grow weed in a cave with such high magic density!]

*In reality, even this exchange was planned.
We're actually steadily growing Hipokte grass.
Rather, teaching Gabil to distinguish between different types of grass is what was giving me trouble.
And this Gabil walks around the cave as if he owned the place, sometimes even referred to as its king.
The monsters inhabiting it also flee at the sight of him.
Some of his subordinates have recently been able to defeat the centipede alone, and now consider the cave as their territory.
It's actually really impressive. Not that I will say that to them, or offer any praise.
Gabil is the type to get carried away when praised and fail soon after. Just like me.
I understand because I am the same. They have been grown a lot of hipokte grass up until now.*

*I then called Kaijin over and showed him the hipokte grass.
And next to it, the medicine I made from processing it. Quality was appraised as very good.
I've always been able to produce quality medicine with it.
Then, I started the conversation.*

「Kaijin. If I sold this in a city, how much would I make?」

Kajin thought for a bit, and then replied,

*「Hmmm. Danna, that's a tough one. This medicine is too good.
It's effects are too good. It's impossibly good!」*

*And then I learned a few things from him.
That my medicine has the highest purity rating of 99%.
That normally, the limit is 98%, and even Dwarf masters have not been able to surpass it.
That even at 98%, it fetches a high price.
And so on.*

「So, if you tried selling this in a city...」

「You'd stand out too much!」

An answer came from the sky.

But my 『Magic Perception』 didn't sense anyone!

「It's been a while, Kajin! And, Slime. Does thou... do you remember me?」

While saying this, a person appeared from the sky saddled on a winged horse. A wonderful white steed with wings—a Pegasus. After landing, he jumped to the ground.

How could I forget... it's the dwarf King! Hero King Gazelle Dwargo himself.

「M-my lord! Why, eh, why would you be here?」

Eeeh!!! Did You sneak out of the castle?!」

Kaijin's opened his eyes so wide they seemed like they'd fall out.

Well, yeah, that's only natural. The King was alone... actually, no he brought an extra. He came with only two people!

Actually, haven't I seen the other one somewhere...

Huh! Isn't that Bester! The dwarf that tried to ensnare us... why would he be here?

「Fun! I slipped past a hundred guards of my own! They've been slacking. When I return I'll retrain them!」

「N-no... to have a King as their training partner...」

「Hmm? Kaijin, did you say something?」

「N-no! I said nothing at all!」

「Is that so? Okay, then!」

Speaking of things outside of my knowledge, the two continue their conversation.

How the hell did the king slip out?!

We decided to continue the conversation at a different place.

And not to a temporary one, but to a special building in the center. All the administrative duties are carried out in this building.

So we borrowed one of the conference rooms.

「So, King, what's all this about?」

Why did you bring Bester-dono along...]

「Oh! That's simple!

I selfishly decided to forbid your future reentry into the Dwarf Kingdom.

So I decided to come and see you instead.

As for Bester, he's also at fault for what had occurred, so I also exiled him.

But we can't have him lead a carefree life, now can we! So I brought him over.]

「...]

「"So I brought him over"! Did you really just say that?!

Do you, King, truly understand?

Are you planing to have Bester work here?]

「Hmm? You don't want him?]

「That's not the problem! Aren't you worried that his knowledge will be leaked to us?]

Kaijin said with a deadly serious face.

Though he's serious by nature, he's desperately pressing the King for answers.

In contrast to him, the King casually ignores his questions. The previous dignity is nowhere to be seen; this is probably his actual appearance, huh?

As for Bester, he looks completely lost.

「Leak... huh. When you guys left, isn't that exactly what you were doing! I've considered erasing you, you know?]

Suddenly the King turned serious

「King, that...]

「I'm serious! I decided against, it though. I try to avoid pointless effort.

I brought Bester over because I would like him to work here!]

Those words lit a flame in Bester's eyes.

「K-King!]

「Don't get this wrong, Bester. I had high expectations of you. That much is true.

I won't permit you to serve me, but you can work to your heart's content here.

That's all.]

「King! Wouldn't that mean that they would be learning all the dwarf skills for free?]

Kaijin had just gotten over that, though...

「Fun. “Is it fine” is all you guys say.

With you two here, this city will become the center of technological development.

Don't you understand?

The Dwarf Country, this King is interested in working together with you.

Get it?

The Dwarf Country, as of today, officially seeks to form a non-aggression treaty with you!

Also, before that. As an under the table deal, we want to form Mutual Technology Research Treaty.

That, however, must never be mentioned to anyone.

How about it? Will you accept these two treaties?」

He said with a serious face looking me straight in the eye.

A non aggression treaty and one to share technological advancements? What more could we ask for!

They are essentially recognizing as an official state.

「*So does that mean you are recognizing us a country with sovereign rights?」*

To my question,

「*Of course. It's an good offer, isn't it?*

Also, just out of curiosity, what is the name of this Country?」

Eh? A Name?

Kaijin and I exchanged glances,

「*Undecided as of yet...」*

「*Now that you mention it...」*

I had thought that about it once, though.

The Dwarf King had decided to stay the night with us.

If traveling on the Pegasus, he could return to the Dwarf Kingdom within a day. However, journeying by night is dangerous, so he decided to return the following day.

We had gathered an emergency council to decide the name of the country.

And thus we decided, we shall be known as the Monsters' City “Tempest”.

They had intended to call it Rimuru, but that was too embarrassing so I forbid it.

We comprised down to Tempest.

It's not like it's only my name, and it sounds alright.

That night, to commemorate the naming of the city, we threw a large party.

We have an abundance of food, and some pretty good cooks.

Seems like we've even been able to impress the King.

That's mainly because Shuna is just such an amazing cook.

For entertainment, we had a mock battle with the King.

He was grumbling about how he never gets to leave the castle and such. What a surprisingly open personality he has! At this rate we'll be calling each other by name soon...

But a mock battle is no good. Is what I thought. But he wouldn't listen.

Seems like he's planning something.

But I have no choice, I'll play along.

I transformed into my human form.

Since eating the Orc Disaster, my human form grew a bit.

I'm no longer a child, but a young girl. Around 150 cm in height. A bit more accomplished, maybe?

Taking wooden swords in hand, we face each other.

Hakurou observed the match, and called for it to start.

「Begin!」

That very moment, the King disappeared. Escaping my perception completely. Dangerous! The moment I thought that, the wooden sword I held was hit out of my hand.

The match was decided. I completely lost.

So this is the Dwarf King... the power of the hero king!

「Listen, Rimuru. From the very beginning you didn't notice me approaching from the sky, did you?

Though Magic Perception is a wonderful skill, but there are countless ways to slip outside of its sight.

I anticipated what perception method you would use, and slipped past it.

These are the basics of war! Concentrate harder. If you depend only on your abilities, you won't improve!」

So that's why he did this...

Satisfied, I thanked him.

「Thank you, Gazelle. Next time we meet, it won't be this easy!」

「Fun. So you say, youngster!」

After our match ended, the monsters' cheers filled the city.

They were very excited, to say the least.

Benimaru, Souei, and Shion also seemed like they wanted to say something—their faces were serious.

Hakurou nodded with a happy expression on his face.

I still have a long way to go. I finally learned that.

The banquet continued long into the night...

And the next day, the Dwarf King Gazelle Dwargo and I officially signed the two treaties.

History will know today as the day when the Monsters' City "Tempest" was officially created.

Chapter 47 A City's Specialty

Devil Grucius is a wolfman.

Valued for his excellent espionage abilities, he was assigned a secret mission by the Demon Lord Karion.

He was remembering his words,

「Observe them but take care to go unnoticed; if you see any other devils, extend the invitation to the *oni* before them!」

Devils other than himself? When he asked about that, Karion added,

「Clayman and Milim will be sending one of their subordinates there. Working together with them gives me the creeps, so do as I asked!」

He said, averting his gaze.

「Ah! Karion-sama! Why have you averted your gaze? Could they be such troublesome opponents?」

Upon hearing this question, Karion was confused for a second, but his confusion quickly turned into a broad grin.

「I see! You haven't heard of Milim, have you! Is that how it is... I see, I see! Alright! No problem, in that case. Regarding Milim's subordinate, or rather, the one who refers to oneself as her subordinate—do not go against her! As long as she stays happy, all is good! But I have complete trust in you!」

So he said.

Grucius was thinking about the question he ardently tried to dismiss.

“Milim” most likely refers to Demon Lord Milim Nava. A famous demon lord that even Grucius has heard of.

She is indeed strong. By strength alone, she would be a match for Karion-sama; the worst case scenario—she would surpass him.

Her personality can be described with four words: short tempered, haughty, cruel, and egoistic. Nothing good is ever said about her.

However, why should he fear her subordinate?

It has been only 100 years since Grucius became a devil. So, he naturally did not

know.

Not about Milim, at least—those rumors excluded.

Soon – when he reached the meeting place, to be precise – he quickly regretted his ignorance.

Devil Myulan was lamenting her misfortune.

Working with other Demon Lord's subordinates was bad enough. However, among them was Demon Lord Milim herself.

「I bear responsibility for that outcome...」

Demon Lord Clayman said,

「But I don't have any disposable pawns other than yourself.

Had I not lost Gelmudo, I would have sent him, but...

Nothing we can do about that, right? He went and died!」

No further discussion would be held on this topic.

Demon Lord Clayman.

Nicknamed Marionette Master. Someone who manipulates friends and subordinates like dolls.

For him, the aforementioned matter is set in stone.

And though Myulan was just called a disposable pawn, she lacked the willpower to retort.

She had no choice but to accept.

The demon lord named Milim she knew all too well.

So Demon Lord Clayman gave her one order.

Stall the other demon lords and find about their weaknesses!

Just that much.

Since Milim was involved in this case, any further activity would be impossible.

Myulan agreed.

Demon Lord Milim is by no means stupid. She is called short tempered and impudent, but that is not true.

Moreover, she possesses an abnormal perception, so fooling her would prove difficult.

Thus, it would be best to not try to slip anything past her.

But Myulan had no reason to be vigilant towards Milim's subordinate.

And yet she was still on her guard against Milim.

She understood why she should stay vigilant, Demon Lord Clayman had conveyed it to her a little while ago.

Chances are, Demon Lord Karion also knew.

The reason was,

「Oh, so you would be my comrades, huh? I am Demon Lord Karion's subordinate Grucius!」

「Pleased to meet you, I am Demon Lord Clayman's Myulan!」

「I'm Milim!」

Milim's subordinate was nowhere to be found.

That's how it was.

And thus, the three gathered at the rendezvous point.

* * *

The treaty between the Dwarf Kingdom and the Monsters' Country essentially testified bilateral cooperation.

The fact that their two representatives signed the treaty ascertains its validity. Could a treaty between two countries be established this easily? Since that exceeds my knowledge, I asked,

「Hmm? That's not a problem. Since I swear by the gods, spirits, and sacred ancestors, I cannot falsely sign.

And you aren't a human, are you?

Through the contract's authority, should you lie, you'd be erased, you know?」

and received such a nonsensical response. So, I asked 『Great Sage』 for an explanation.

Apparently, monsters can't lie. I was completely oblivious to that very important fact.

We cannot convey what we believe to be a lie. However, that does not mean we can't fool people.

Omitting facts, for example, or leading them to believe something by revealing only specific facts.

However, in case of contracts, lying through the aforementioned methods becomes essentially impossible.

Well, if you can talk yourself out of the lie then no problem; but if you publicly declare a lie, your existence will be erased.

It's a rule pertaining to every monster.

However, monsters born through birth are not always bound by this rule, and sometimes capable of telling lies.

Goblins can lie freely. On the other hand, high monsters and demons exemplify this rule, and are famous for being bound by contracts.

Demons don't tell lies. Although they are often called sly, they are actually a rather pure race.

And when people come to believe this they grow negligent, and a demon comes to snatch away their soul...

「Even though you're a monster, you didn't know this? Rimuru, aren't you strange...」

「I've been born not too long ago. I'm still in the process of learning?」

「Is that so... well, whatever. Please don't accidentally erase your entire country after I went to the trouble of recognizing it!

Your rule assures the safety of the entire forest. I beg you!」

「Well, we've just finished building this city, and we don't intend to lose it; so, we'll do our best!」

And thus, we signed the treaty into effect.

I still don't know all of this world's alphabet, but I can at least write my name. I learned that much when I was bored.

The moment I wrote my name, the document began to glow and split into two.

The paper, it seems, was made by the Ghost Researchers. To annul it, you would need to burn both of the copies at the same time.

However, as long as the other party is living, destroying the document is impossible. It would merely restore itself to how it was before.

We tried that once, and it was exactly as they said.

Thus the contract was complete. This contract should be kept between the two countries. And while openly declaring it is not a problem per se, it kind of defeats its purpose.

There is no need to let the world know about it.

The Dwarf King accepts his copy, pleased.

「I'll also leave this to you!」

He said, and took out a crystal as large as a fist.

When I accepted it,

「That's a communication crystal. Ask Bester about its installation. Use it in case of an emergency. And stay in good health!」

He explained, and saddled the Pegasus.

And, looking at Bester,

「Bester, you should research to your heart's content here!」

「King! This time, I will live up to your expectations!!!」

He said and nodded at the response.

「Farewell!」

He added, and flew off.

He suddenly came, and hurriedly left.

Just like a storm.

「Hey, Kaijin, is it okay for your country to have such a... free willed individual as a king?」

「Who knows... but, he's ruled for many hundreds of years, and has plenty of achievements, so it should be fine!

But never in my time in the court have I seen him move around so selfishly...」

「Oh well! I'm the last person who can criticize him!」

Right, I too am planning to run off to some human village.

I'm not planning to say something that will limit my ability to move around.

Leaving the conversation at that, we left the clearing.

The treaty documents I deposited into my stomach.

Since our defenses aren't perfect as of yet, having it stolen would make for a poor story.

“Would it reappear if I were to lose it?” is an experiment I will not conduct.

And thus, we successfully established a treaty with the Dwarf Kingdom.

Now then, it's about time I consider the lesson Gazelle taught me yesterday—

「Rimuru-dono, Kaijin-dono, I humbly beg your forgiveness! Would it be

possible for me to work here?」

Bester interrupted my thoughts.

Now that he mentions it, he did almost entrap us... I had completely forgotten.

「I'll be frank, can you follow my orders?

I forbid discrimination against any race of monsters! Are you okay with that?」

「Of course. I have reflected on my mistakes. In the first place, it has lead me to feel envious of Kaijin-dono...

I will not repeat that mistake!

I want to do continue my beloved research with all my strength; I would never betray that wish!」

「As for me, I would only benefit from an excellent researcher!

If anything were to happen, I'll take responsibility for him.

So, Rimuru-danna, please forgive him!」

Kaijin said so.

Well, rather than me, it would be you, Kaijin, who would be troubled...

「Well, if you're fine with it Kaijin, I have no complaints.

Pleased to have you, Bester!」

Thus, Bester became our new comrade.

And because he became our new comrade, we made a discovery which came to be our city's specialty.

* * *

Worst day ever.

How many sighs has the devil Grucius suppressed until now?

Remembering Demon Lord Karion's broad grin only evoked anger.

He knew, that bastard. Actually, no—I should have known myself. So he thought.

Worst day ever.

Who would have guessed that riding on his back would be a demon lord herself?

Worst day ever.

The moment they met,

「Hey, shorty. How dare you call yourself with a demon lord's name?

I won't tell your master, so name yourself at once!」

He had said.

And the second he said it, he was knocked unconscious.

Grucius lamented his misfortune.

In the first place, he had never seen the Demon Lord Milim.

Having beautiful, glossy blond hair tied in twin tails, and a short stature, anyone would mistake her for some random kid.

No one would expect her to be extremely strong.

Though she was making a really cute face, the moment he called her a shorty, her expression changed.

Her round eyes immediately turned sharp, and her lips twisted into a cruel smile.

Then, his consciousness faded.

After getting hit a second time, he was out cold; and that brings us to the present situation.

The other devil Myulan ignored him.

Worst day ever.

Grucius was reflecting. Not to judge a devil by their looks is common sense, so why did he commit such a grave error...

Myulan must have known.

Right before Grucius was hit he saw her eyes open wide, as if screaming: what the hell you saying, idiot?!

He would probably say the same thing had he known...

Worst day ever.

If only... if only he was told about this...

However, he was told not to go against whoever would call herself as Milim's subordinate.

But who would have thought that she wouldn't call herself a subordinate but openly name herself...?

Is Milim honest to a fault? No, it was too late to have such thoughts.

Since then, Grucius made sure to never judge a devil by their cover!

And, now.

He's in his wolf form, running through the forest.

Thanks to his regenerative abilities, he somehow endured.

After getting knocked around, he was then ordered to let her ride. Of course, he never even considered refusing.

Myulan is running by his side.

For the devils, this much wouldn't tire them at all.

And thus, the three came upon a certain city.

* * *

We've been busy continuing developing our restorative medicine.

Well, I doubt you can call trying to lower its performance "development", however.

Could we dilute a single restorative pill (98% purity) with ten times the amount of water to create a high class (60%) medicine?

We tried to so, but it proved impossible. It turned into low grade (20%) medicine.

If you used a high quality pill, the purity would only go up by 10%.

And then, Bester made an unexpected discovery.

He had wanted to see our hipokte grass farm, so I guided him to the Cave of the Seal.

He was scared of riding the star wolf at first, but quickly got used to it.

And thus, we entered the cave. Gabil welcomed us at the entrance and showed us in.

After observing our cultivation, Bester went to look at the underground lake.

「Rimuru-dono, hipokte grass can be cultivated due to the high magic energy density of this lake, right?

So what if we tried diluting the restorative pill not with normal water, but with this water?」

I see, we should test his theory at once!

And so we did. We were able to produce medium grade (40%) medicine.

Of course, with a high quality pill, the purity rose to 50%.

How wonderful. A great success.

We also tested just how much we could dilute it; from a single pill we could create 20 medium grade medicines.

Nodding to Kaijin, I gave him a high five.

We succeeded.

The first specialty of Monsters' City Tempest.

And that's how we made it.

Bester seemed like he was having a lot of fun handling the grass with Gabil. Perhaps they are rather compatible.

「Huh, aren't you chummy. Bester, how about we make you a room here?」

I had meant it as a joke, but

「Would you really?! To think that I would also be permitted to reside in this cave.

It has the perfect atmosphere for (mad) science experiments!」

He said, his eyes sparkling.

「Are you sure? There are B+ rank Centipedes around here, you know?」

「Hmph. No problem.

I may not look it, but I've indulged in sorcery, and am rather good at it!」

I looked at Kaijin, and he was shaking his head. A lie?

「As long as you don't regret it. We'll be preparing a room for you!」

「No problem, I said! Gabil-dono is here, after all!」

I see, if Gabil is here, Bester won't be attacked, huh.

Satisfied,

「Gabil, can I leave Bester to you?」

「Please do! I am here, and I will also assign two of my subordinates!」

How reliable he has gotten.

I still worry about him getting a big head, but I guess he was strong to begin with.

But he seems to have calmed down recently, and gets along with Bester pretty well, so I should just leave it to him.

And so, we had built Bester's research lab in the cave.

Gabil had two of his subordinates guard the room in the cave, and the result was actually rather pleasant.

If this is to become his lab, we probably don't need to include any life necessities. But, we do need to figure out how he will be making the trip to the cave all the time.

While I was thinking these things,

「Rimuru-dono, can I set up a magic circle here?
It would be difficult to create inside these doors, but it is possible outside.
Should I set it up?」

I had mentioned before that I want to have a magic circle at the place where I defeated the black snake.

A〈Transportation Magic System〉circle, to be precise. If you write two identical circles, you can move between them.

Well, I guess it wouldn't be inaccurate to say that I'm coming to like sorcery.

Kaijin was also surprised, hearing Bester explain this.

Thus, as long as monsters won't be appearing in the middle of our village, I decided to permit it.

Bester then drew a circle inside his house and another inside the cave. And thus, he solved the transportation problem.

But wow, transportation circles are convenient.

Of course, I had him immediately teach me.

And, after Gabil and the rest also learned it, we were able to move easily between the city and the cave.

Bester is an unexpectedly useful dwarf.

As for the guy himself, he was just engrossed fantasizing about all the research he will do.

Since I left some restorative pills and demon steel with him, he can continue researching those on his own.

I've also introduced him to Kurobee and Shuna, which started another long conversation.

Rather than politics, this guy is made for science.

He seemed very boring when he was obsessed with political power.

I guess it corrupts you.

But truly, people should be doing whatever they enjoy. As long as that doesn't cause trouble for others!

And so, after spending some time with Bester, he naturally became one of our comrades.

* * *

Ending his meditation, he opened his eyes.

In the middle of a dimly lit room of a high class inn, the Dwarf King sat. One that the Espionage Department's leader stayed at—using an alias, of course. The King laughed. It's been a long time since he's had such an interesting experience.

「King, are you in good health?」

Suddenly, a shadow appeared nearby.

He knew right away—it was one of his spies.

The fact that he slipped out of the palace and was now here probably caused a great commotion at the palace.

In the first place, he has a hundred people as his personal guard, for them to have let someone in or out undetected is simply preposterous.

They needed to be retrained, so the King thought.

「No problem!」

He answered briefly.

There could have been no problems. Then, though it's been a long time since he last used this skill, he used 『Spirit Possession』 on the spy.

And, let the Espionage Leader know,

(You will return to the Royal Capital, taking the Pegasus with you! Disappear into the shadows as you always do after that)

(Ay! As you command!)

A typical exchange.

His trusted confidant, Espionage Department's leader.

With a same face and the same body. A clone created by the Ghost Researchers.

That was a secret shared only between the two of them.

Unlike towards a stranger, the King could perfectly use 『Spirit Possession』 on this spy.

In case of some emergency, this was his trump card.

The Dwarf King Gazelle Dwargo was remembering yesterday's match with the slime.

That slime will become very strong...

Just with reaction speed alone he was able to receive my sword.

Gazelle did not intend to hit the sword out of Rimuru's hands. He intended to

land a hit on Rimuru's head.

And that hit, whether he fell behind with the attack or not, Rimuru was able to react to.

How amusing, he thought from the bottom of his heart.

What will become of this treaty, he did not know.

However...

Don't disappoint me, Slime Rimuru!

Gazelle felt the approaching end of the era of peace.

Chapter 48 - Demon Lords' Invasion

Demon Lord Milim Nava, Devil Grucius, and Devil Myulan observed the city Tempest from above while discussing their next move.

Devil Grucius sighed mentally.

After running without a moment of rest, they finally reached the city.

“What a terrible person Milim is! Any mistake while interacting with her could lead to a great disaster.” He believed this fact with his entire being.

So how should he converse with her from now...?

After staying with her for a while, he realized her complete lack of dishonesty. She is honest to an extreme.

Of course, monsters are not good with lies, but they are not as restrained as the world tends to believe.

While this doesn't apply to high ranking demons, most other monsters have no problem telling small lies.

And if such a monster also happens to omit the truth, they would have no problem conducting successful negotiations.

However, Demon Lord Milim probably hasn't even heard the word “negotiation”.

She boldly declares her demands and rampages if they are rejected. That's the kind of image she gives off.

Originally, Grucius had intended to observe the situation while hiding his identity as a high ranking devil.

However, Milim would never even consider such secrecy. She unfortunately believes that if you are working, there is no need to hide anything.

Now then, how should he proceed..?

What could he say to continue working on his own...?

Devil Grucius was desperately thinking of a way out.

Devil Myulan did not see any chance of this mission succeeding.

Because suddenly, they were plagued by Demon Lord Milim.

She is, after all, a demon lord who focused on strength, so her complete incompetency in espionage makes her a hindrance.

However, she can't just say that to her face...

And besides, since Demon Lord Clayman failed to hold her back in the first place, he has no right to complain! She thought.

Marionette Master, what a joke! Pushing this baggage of a demon lord on them and demanding secrecy! Impossible much?!

He should have lived up to his nickname and manipulated her despite the fact that she is a fellow demon lord.

Hiding her complaints in the dark corners of her mind, Myulan considered her next steps.

She noticed the identically troubled look on Grucius face, and they locked eyes for a second.

Perhaps it would be best for them to work together.

At the very least, unless they had Milim work independently, she would definitely impact their mission.

From what Demon Lord Clayman gathered, Demon Lord Karion intended to hire new subordinates.

Seems like a number of *oni* served the mysterious masked monster.

Karion probably hoped to win over the masked monster, or, in worst case scenario, try to lure away a few of its subordinates.

Since Grucius would probably be moving with this objective in mind, Myulan decided to offer her support.

She wouldn't be able to learn their weaknesses if nothing happened, that is.

Let Grucius do as he please and observe the situation. So she decided.

Couldn't expect much from Milim, after all; it's like throwing a boulder into a pond.

If the ripples are too great, the devils will also stand out.

Thus, Myulan decided her plan. Now, to realize it...

Milim observed the city that spread beneath her.

It is well made. The citizens all possess strong magical energy. All seem to be high ranking monsters.

The term High ranking monsters refers to those that have developed intelligence, and depends not on their strength. She understood the extent of their cooperation with a single glance.

Via her "Dragon Eye" she could measure each of their abilities.

How wonderful. Though it's hard to believe, but they are all named monsters.

Who could have named them all?!

She felt her amazement and astonishment overtake her.

She certainly could not replicate such a troublesome feat. Especially considering the chance that the energy you bestow on someone may never return to you.

Demon Lords like her tend to hate seeing their power disappear like that.

This time she only showed up to kill some time.

If she seriously made her move, not just Frey, but also Karion and Clayman would answer with great indignation.

Fending off both of them at once would be troublesome, she figured; not intending to lose, of course...

But she was truly glad that she had come.

The very fact that monsters built this city themselves was amusing.

The castle that Milim resides in, in comparison, was built by humans. Who worship her as some deity.

Her dominion's human villages were attacked by high magic beasts. And Milim, who just happened to be walking by, killed it; the humans seemed to have misunderstood her somehow.

And thus, the land became hers.

The other demon lords didn't complain, nor did Milim have any particular reason to complain.

This time as well, she didn't come searching for new subordinates. Rather, she came to kill some time and to later see Clayman and Karion's upset faces.

That's the only reason for her journey.

She had intended to let them have whoever once she finished teasing them, but...

For it to be like this!

The monsters living here were of such high quality. Their abilities so great.

And someone rules over them! How amusing!

Her simple mind has by now completely forgotten about Clayman and Karion.

She had found her target!

Someone who's magic energy rivaled that of a demon lord!

And thus, she made her move.

* * *

After deciding to sell medium grade medicine as the city's specialty, we continued researching towards mass production.

In order to produce some, I handed over some medicine that I had made myself. And then I got an idea, could the difference in purity be due to oxidization? That is, there is little between production through my skill and normal manufacturing.

The only difference is that one occurs in an oxygen rich environment whereas the other is inside me.

Bester listened seriously to my hypothesis.

It seems that this world knows of chemical elements. Though, included among the different types of magic, in opposition to spirit magic, it is called chemical elements magic.

I am personally not well versed in the concepts of magic, but Bester seemed to have understood my explanation.

"Is it affected by oxygen?" He said he'll consider my hypothesis.

In any case, I just mentioned whatever first came to mind, so it's not my fault if this is wrong.

Success is built upon many failures. A mistake can also be considered progress.

Since I'm only in charge of HR, I passed on this job to him with and left.

Kaijin is busy discussing something with Bester. They are so friendly right now that it is hard to believe their earlier animosity.

That's because their hobbies match. But this is for the best.

I returned to the city using a magic circle.

We set up the city's magic circle near the gates.

At the vacant lot near the guardhouse, to be precise. So that in a one in a million chance that monsters do pass through the circle, we can quickly deal with them.

Bester, however, insists that it is impossible.

That is, since you need to recite an incantation to transfer, it is impossible for monsters to use it.

So I'm probably just worrying too much. Just using something I know nothing about, albeit hesitantly.

I should learn magic soon...

Then, the moment I had intended to head over to Rigurdo's place to let him know about our success,

My 『Magic Perception』noticed a large mass of magical energy flying in our direction.

Dangerous! I made the split second decision and ran beyond the gate towards it. As expected, the lump changed direction mid-air and pursued me.

Extremely quickly, too.

Seems like we'll be meeting each other at the clearing outside the village. Good thing I didn't run into the village—spared the buildings from some unnecessary damage.

Steeling myself, I observed the opponent.

The distance between us shortened greatly with every passing moment. That much could be understood with eyes alone.

A beautiful girl. Blond hair tied into twin tails with a black Gothic dress covering her body.

Her appearance was that of a lovely human girl. The air around her, however, screamed the exact opposite...

The lump of magical energy, or rather, the girl landed right in front of me.

And frighteningly, she didn't cause a single ripple with her landing.

Though she was flying at such terrifying speed she was able to erase it completely before landing.

Could she perhaps manipulated the law of inertia itself?

Now, however, was not the time to consider such things.

「Pleased to meet you! I am the Demon Lord Milim Nava!
I came to greet the strongest being in this city!」

The beautiful demon lord told me.

A demon lord!

Why the hell would one of those show up now...

Shouldn't your subordinates or some four heavenly kings to show up before you!

I somehow managed to hold back that retort; good job, me.

However... how should I respond.

I am currently in my slime form, and I am not revealing any of my aura.

I've gotten pretty good at magic energy manipulation recently, so I can subconsciously prevent any leaks.

In other words, I should appear as some lowly slime to the ignorant eyes.

Whether I check with a clone or through 『Magic Perception』 I don't seem any different than a normal slime, that's how well I've hid my aura. Even then... I wonder how she saw through me.

「The pleasure is mine... I am the lord of the city, Rimuru. You seem to have seen through to my true strength, huh?」

Though perhaps the strongest one around here is actually Hakurou. Though I won't say that.

While observing her, I asked that question.

「*Fufun!* That kind of thing is simple for me. Using this eye, the dragon eye, I can see the target's magical energy even if they try to hide it! So no one can pretend to be weak before me!」

So eyes with analytical abilities? What an annoying opponent. Compared to my analysis, hers seems to be stronger. Her proficiency level is beyond question higher. This I can't win. If we fight, I might have to use all my skills and tactics just to create an opening. Her level is completely different from the pseudo-demon lord that Orc Disaster was.

「What amazing eyes, you have. Now, what would be the purpose of your greetings?」

Let's hear her intentions. Knowing your opponents goal is absolutely necessary, after all.

「*Mu?* Purpose... you say? Just to greet you, though?」

「...」

「...」

She's hopeless. I had intended to eloquently convince her to go back, but stumbled at the first step. Just a greeting, she says! I'm honestly at a loss here.

「Ah! Right, right, I remembered!
You, how about calling yourself a demon lord, and becoming one?」

She suddenly added.
The hell she saying...

「Eh? Why would I want to do such a troublesome thing?」

She was the one to be surprised now.

「Eh, I mean, a demon lord! Sounds cool, right? You long for it, right?」
「I don't?」

「... Eh?」

「Eh?」

Seems like there's a fundamental difference in our thought process.
We're just staring at each other faces without having our opinions reach the other. Well, a slime doesn't have a face, though.

「Well, then, let me ask. What's so good about becoming a demon lord?」
「Eh? That's... a bunch of strong people aim to fight you? It's fun, you know?」

「Nah... I have no need for that. Not interested.」

「EEHH? Then how do you enjoy your life?」

「In a bunch of ways... if I were to become a demon lord, are there other ways to have fun other than to fight?」

「Not really...」

「Then isn't it really boring?」

The moment I said that, Milim appeared as if she were struck by lightning, and looked as if she took serious damage.

She was bored, huh.

My words were so accurate that she can't say anything in response.

Any further conversation would prove meaningless.

I should take advantage of her shock to take my leave.

「Well then, since we got that out of the way, could I ask you to leave!」

I handled that pretty well, I thought...

「Wait! Y-you! You're doing something more fun than being a demon lord, aren't you!

No fair! No fair, no fair!!!

I'm mad. Teach me! I won't forgive you if you don't!」

I should be the angry one!

Just a brat! I had wanted to exclaim, but desperately held it back.

The opponent is a demon lord, angering her would be bad.

Rather, maybe if I treat her like a kid handling her will be so much easier.

At times like this, just have to be straight with her.

Let's imagine her as a relative's kid.

「I got it, I got it. I'll teach you!

But, I've got a condition.

From now on you'll call me Rimuru-san!」

「What? Don't screw with me! The other way around!

You should be calling me Milim-sama!」

「...」

「...」

「Alright, then I will call you Milim.

And you will call me Rimuru. How about it?」

「*Mu mu mu*... alright. Got it!

I allow you to call me Milim.

Be thankful! Only demon lords can call me that!」

「Ah, is that so. Then let's drop formalities from now on!」

Some sparks flew between us during the conversation,

But we seem to have settled on dropping formalities entirely between us.

「Okay, I'll guide you in, then. But don't go wandering on your own, okay?」

「Got it! Rimuru!」

「Good good! Aren't you obedient. Also, don't go rampaging in the city without my permission, okay? If you can promise me that, I'll consider you my friend!」

「That's easy! I promise, Rimuru!」

So far so good.

She's easier than I thought. Just like a kid who'd listen to anyone that would give them a candy.

Monsters have to keep their promises, right?

Should be fine then. Thinking that, I led Milim into the city.

* * *

Accompanied by a slime, Demon Lord Milim entered the city.
Devil Grucius saw it happen using “Far Sight”.
And bewildered by this fact,

「Hey, is Milim getting a head start on us?
After taming some lowly slime...」
「So it seems. But this is for the best.
We could never continue in secrecy with Milim around.」
「Right. Let’s just pretend we got rid of a bothersome person.」

They said nodding to each other.
If they moved together, they couldn’t imagine a scenario where their plan
wouldn’t go down the drain.
And now that this happened, they can move freely.



「So, what will we do? How are we going to infiltrate?」

「Yeah...」

While the two were busy considering this, Grucius's "Far Sight" picked up a human squad approaching the city.

「Yo, a human squad! Are they here on monster extermination?」

「Probably... but do they know that monsters built a city here?」

And looking at each other,

「Let's mix in with them?」

「That's a good idea. We'll disguise ourselves as humans and infiltrate the city!」

They decided.

As two high devils, they could easily transform into a human.

And after some light preparations, they mixed in with the squad moving towards the city.

The Monsters' City "Tempest",

And thus, the two were able to meet the human named Youmu.

Chapter 49 - Hurricane Milim

Devil Grucius and Myulan were walking in the forest disguised as humans. They expected to soon chance upon the human squad.

As any wolfman, Grucius's appearance differed little from a human when not transformed.

It's been five hundred years since Lycanthrope King Karion called himself a demon lord in search of power.

That was during a turbulent event where new demon lords replaced the old. Called the World War, this event would occur once every 500 years. And that's when it happened.

At the same time as Karion three other demon lords were born. Frey is one of those.

Considered the youngest, with least experience in the war, are Demon Lord Karion, and the last to be born, Demon Lord Leon Cromwell.

The six new demon lords were thus the members of the new generation.

The old generation, on the other hand, has survived over two such wars; their strength far surpassing the rest.

Therefore, most of the new generation demon lords strive to expand their power.

Karion being one of these, it is natural for him to seek strong individuals.

Grucius became a devil only a hundred years ago.

The life span of lycanthropes is not much different than that of humans. The only difference being their longer youth—lasting from 30~50 years.

In fact, when they start to grow old, their bodies began to quickly weaken and they tend to die within two weeks.

The King of the Beast Country Yuurazania Karion possessed great power from the day he was born.

He became a devil through his own power, and even evolved into a demon lord.

There is also a rumor that he exterminated a single demon lord himself, but whether that is true or not is open to debate.

Grucius did not possess enough power to evolve on his own; however, he did excel at stealth and combat.

But thanks to his abilities he gained a chance to evolve.

Through drinking the blood of the king.

The survival rate of this ceremony is only 10%. Being able to endure is in itself a mark of a hero.

Grucius endured this trial, like squeezing through the eye of a needle.

And thus, Grucius became the same species as his King, and acquired the same abilities and long lifespan.

Even now, a hundred years since his rebirth, his abilities have yet to wane.

Compared to Grucius, Myulan's circumstances are far more complicated.

She was originally a witch. Persecuted by humans, she was on the run around 300 years ago. After uncovering the secrets of evolution, she bestowed its benefits unto herself.

That is, she gained eternal youth.

As for why she is currently serving Demon Lord Clayman, that would be because of a deal they made.

Around 400 years ago, Clayman succeeded the previous demon lord.

The moment he did, he began hunting down named devil and monsters to steal their hearts.

Making them swear loyalty to him, he inscribed a curse onto their hearts, making them his eternal servants.

Myulan met the same fate.

Even though she gained the power of a devil after evolving, she was far weaker than Demon Lord Clayman; and so, after being defeated, she had the curse of servitude engraved on her heart.

As a result, her status did increase, but she could hardly be happy about it.

And since then, she became one of Clayman's marionettes.

She could understand devils like Gelmudo who yearned for their own servants.

Myulan was waiting for an opportunity. To dispel the curse and strike at Clayman.

Her long life, however, testified against such opportunity.

The difference in their abilities was too great.

So her servant life continued. She merely hoped to one day be released from the curse...

And so, until present day.

“The goal is information gathering; I will flawlessly complete the task!” She thought, thinking up a plan.

She would use whatever she could—whether it be Grucius or the human squad! Anything goes as long as it led to her release.

She had no choice but to abide Clayman’s wishes.

Since she was originally a human, turning into one was hardly any effort.

.

A man and a woman walked in front of Youmu’s group.

And they quickly joined his party.

Siblings, they said; an older sister and her brother. But extraordinary no matter how you looked at them.

Youmu observed the two, who were happily conversing with the rest of the garrison.

They were dressed in Empire’s clothing; with an appearance pleasing to the eye. While they weren’t particularly suspicious, if they possessed even a bit of strength they would certainly be able to walk through the forest.

Jura Forest’s monsters are not particularly strong individually. That is, that statement would be true if the monsters had not become active some time ago. Currently, entering the forest is truly dangerous. Traveling through the Dwarf Kingdom is far safer.

“They are indeed suspicious... can’t let my guard down around them.”

Youmu reasoned to himself.

There was nothing strange about their tale, and they opened themselves quickly to the rest of the garrison. At first glance, no problem, right?

However, his intuition said otherwise. And in such cases he should trust his gut. That’s the way of life that let Youmu live till this day.

“Well, they do seem capable, so let’s put them to use!”

He simply decided. Whatever their intentions were, Youmu would only have to make sure he used them himself in return.

There were simply too few people in the garrison, and only a few of them were particularly skillful.

So welcoming two strong individuals into their group would only benefit them.

The suspicious ones are the three captured adventurers.

He ordered them to lead the way to this mysterious city, and they don't show any signs of lying. Therefore, the city must truly exist.

They don't seem keen on escaping, so he had them untied.

The three, as well, have gotten friendly with the squad, and are boasting about their achievements.

Seems like they really are adventurers.

But because they came from a different country, he has never heard of them.

And being only at B rank, they aren't famous enough to be known outside their borders.

They are capable veterans, nonetheless.

「Oh, so there's a city ahead of here? One made by monsters?」

「Yeah, yeah! The first time we went there, they brought us *yakiniku*! It was delicious!」

「At that time we were pursued by a stampede of giant ants. My life was flashing before my eyes!」

「But as a result, we got to meet Rimuru-danna, so I'm happy that happened.」

「Who would Rimuru-danna be?」

「Ah, the head of the city! The city is mostly populated by hobgoblins.

And the one who rules them all is the slime Rimuru-danna!」

「What? A slime has followers?」

「Yeah! Rimuru is a very cute slime!」

「... actually, guys, are you sure we can reveal all of this? Keep me out of it, okay?」

「..., considering we are bringing them there, I don't see a reason to hide it.

In fact, wouldn't it be worse if they get the wrong idea and cause trouble?」

「Yeah... "Don't come back again!" If they say that, I'll cry...」

「We haven't even entered the baths yet...」

Whether due to carelessness or some ploy, they are answering any question you ask.

Youmu could not imagine any ulterior motive.

But the city was such a bizarre concept; how could it possibly exist?

For a delusion, however, it was far too detailed.

「Ah! We've reached it!」

The Thief Class Gido exclaimed.
Youmu stepped forward to confirm. Far ahead, under the shadows of trees, he could see a silhouette of a city's walls.
it was true. Yet that thought only increased his tension.
A city made by monsters. A concept difficult to quickly accept. But there it was.
Would he be greeted by snakes or demons...?
Youmu flashed a fearless smile and proceeded towards the city.

* * *

Showing Milim around the city,
Was a far harder task than I originally thought.
If you've ever brought a small kid to an amusement park you know how I feel.
If you look away for a second, she's gone. That's exactly what it's like.

「*Oii!* Didn't I tell you not take off running!」
「*Wahahahaha!* Over here! What's this?!」
「Listen! Just listen to what I'm saying!」
「*Wahahahaha!* What's wrong? I'm listening?」

No you aren't.
She was strangely excited, running around all over the place.
When she met Gabil a moment ago,

「Ooooh!!! A Dragonewt!
Wahahaha! Working hard?」
「Yeah! I am the Dragonewt Gabil!
Who would you be? Shorty!」

Buchi!

「Huh? Did you say something? Would you like to try dying once?」

She lightly kicked Gabil in the knee, and, after he lost his balance and fell, she drove her fist into his stomach.
Letting out a single "*Gofu!*", Gabil was on the brink of death.
H-heh, wait a second... didn't she promise not to rampage...?

「Listen, fool! I'm in a very good mood right now, so I'll let you off with this.
Don't ever look down on me again! Seriously, who's a shorty, who...」

She said. Any more and death, huh?
What a frightening girl Milim is! Or should I just call her plain scary?
To Gabil's good luck, he was carrying a test product restoration pill. Probably heading to Kurobee for a request.
But even with a medium grade pill, his body didn't completely heal.
Truly a fist that can one-shot anyone. She probably held herself back, too.
But now that it has come to this, I'm pretty sure the promise not to rampage no longer applies.

Gabil limped away.
With a benevolent nod, Milim waved him goodbye.
And as if nothing had happened,

「That guy is really sturdy! How about I strengthen him a bit more?」

Please don't ask me that. I thought.

「Nope, never! It's bad to bully the weak!」

「*Mu*? I see... bullying the weak is bad! I know that!」

「O-oh. If you knew that, then from now on...」

I could only ask that much.
That is, I don't have any way to stop her.
With her explosive temper, I can only pray that Gabil would be the only victim.

And like this I continued to show her around.
She observed the making of armor, and requested a set.
She observed the sewing of clothing, and became Goblins' dress up doll.
She observed the farming, and helped plow the fields. I've never seen someone plow a field that quickly.
And thus the day passed.

By the time the night came, everyone in the city has heard of the small despot.
Assembling the leaders in the dining hall, she introduced herself.

「I'm Milim Nava! It's a pleasure!」

That's what she said.

「Hmm? Isn't Milim a name of a demon lord?」

Having spent the day practicing with Benimaru, Souei, and Hakurou, Shion muttered that question.

「Haha, what the hell are you saying? There's no way a demon lord could be here!」

Benimaru laughed rejecting her question.
This is bad. At this rate, we'll have another Gabil-style tragedy.
I wanted to salvage the situation, but

「What kind of relationship do you have with Rimuru-sama? Have you become friends?」

Souei asked.
Milim, who seemed about to explode a moment ago, now fidgeted bashfully.
With her face bright red,

「Um, well... rather than friends... we're close friends!」
「Is that how it was, forgive my rudeness. I am Souei. I am Rimuru-sama's faithful servant. Please take care of me!」

As expected of Souei. Good looks and an eloquent tongue to match.
Actually, Milim-kun. Since when did we become close friends?

「Umm, since when are we close friends?」

I asked timidly,

「Eh? We aren't!?!」

A tear began to form in her eyes. Faster than the tear, however, energy began gathering in her fist!!!

「Just kidding! We're really close friends! Best friends for ever!」

I quickly added, evading danger.
Almost hit a landmine myself. Not letting a gabil happen again.

「I see! You're good at surprising people!」

She grinned broadly.
A simply fellow. Simple, but hard to deal with.
Carelessness is forbidden from now on. I thought, reaching a new step of

enlightenment.

Benimaru still hasn't realized the situation. Need to warn him later.

Unlike Souei, he doesn't understand a woman's heart at all. He's even worse at it than I am.

If he wasn't a handsome guy, he would surely be hated by everyone.

Stupid people always end up suffering.

The problem is, he won't survive suffering caused by Milim.

The conversation ended thus as food was brought out.

Milim happily began eating.

I, too, changed into my human form and removed the mask.

When Milim saw that,

「Ah! So you're the one who killed Gelmudo! I see!」

She said.

With a huge smile on her face.

The other people present reacted differently. They looked at me, pressing for an explanation.

I won't be able to fool them, it seems.

When dinner ended, Milim looked ready to fall asleep.

So I had Shuna escort her to a guest house. I wonder if she'll be complaining about the bed and such...

Saying something like: "Not a bed, I want tatami mat with a futon!"

Well, can't give her what we don't have. I'll just leave it to Shuna.

Then, I explained today's events to everyone.

「I see... That was truly a powerful hit I took.

I saw my father beckoning to me from heaven!」

「What? Seems like you're still out of it. Your father is still alive!」

「Ah! Right. How rude of me!」

Gabil's response aside, everyone else was surprised.

Well, duh. A demon lord had showed up.

「But, just as a note, I had her promise not to rampage, so we should be fine, right?」

When I asked,

「Actually, it's not like all monsters can't break promises, you know? While the Dwarf King did say a part of the truth, that isn't the whole of it.」

Kaijin replied.

Hakurou and the other *oni* nodded to this.

「Rimuru-sama, for example, I have no problem telling lies.」

「Me too. Actually, I'm pretty good at it!」

Souei and Benimaru added.

That means?

「In other words...」

According to their explanation, only monsters of spontaneous birth have trouble lying.

Those born of parents are not as restricted. Besides, what the Dwarf King was referring to was a case of “Pledge Magic on top of swearing upon your very existence”.

I shouldn't have ignored to inquire about it from the 『Great Sage』.

While the demons are truly restricted, the normal monsters aren't so.

Which is why...

「Milim can go lying all she want?」

「That's what it would mean...」

Hakurou nodded.

In that case, what should we do?

「However, she doesn't seem to intend to cause trouble, and, even if she did, we couldn't stop her, can we?」

I agreed with that analysis. Even with all of us working together, we'd fail.

「Right. Let's let her do what she wants, and if worst comes to worst, we'll have Rimuru-sama stop her. They are close friends, after all!」

「「「No objections!!!」」」

WHAT!!! Benimaru you bastard!

By the time I thought that it was already too late. My usual “leave it to others” policy seems to have come back to haunt me.

Can't be helped, I thought and let out a sigh.

And thus, everyone came to believe that I was in charge of supervising Demon Lord Milim.

So ended the first day of Hurricane Milim.

Chapter 50 - Frontier Garrison

The morning of the following day,

Started with great tribulations.

First thing in the morning I woke Milim up.

Her expression grumpy, I had her change to look presentable.

The new clothing she wore was the one she had requested yesterday, and it came out pretty well.

The Gothic Dress was probably difficult to move in, hence the reason for her request.



「Why does a demon lord need to wake up so early in the morning!」

She was grumbling haughtily, but her mood improved by breakfast.
Children really are simple.

While she was eating, I was busy thinking.

I don't particularly mind becoming her supervisor, but I want to go to a human city. So, should I bring her along?

I kind of have a bad feeling about doing that. No, let me rephrase... it's bound to lead to a disaster!

To bring such a dangerous child to a place she's never been before... well, it's not that I can't, it's that I won't.

But even so, leaving her here is bad for my heart.

While Milim is visiting I should probably abstain from leaving for human cities.

After we finished breakfast, I took Milim to the smithy.

I took on my human form and wore a mask; since, as a slime, I wouldn't be able to try out a weapon.

And once we reached it, I greeted Kurobee.

「Is the thing I asked for yesterday ready?」

「Oo! This one, right? Should be good for Milim-sama's personal use!」

He said, showing me the finished product.

Yesterday, he had measured the size of Milim's hands after being asked to make her something.

It's Dragon Knuckles!

The point of such gloves would be to prevent injury when punching barehanded and to increase the force of the blow... normally. That's not why we gave her the gloves.

No, our goal was the exact opposite. The light but dense "Demon Steel" is actually surrounded by a shock-absorbing material.

Right! When she equips this, her blow will be reduced to only 10% of its norm! And we used Demon Steel in hopes of attaching a regenerative effect to them. The best part of it all will be the decrease in her destructive power.

「Milim, try this on!」

I pass the dragon knuckles to Milim, who, clearly excited, happily accepts

them.

And she quickly puts them on.

She lightly throws some punches in the air.

「Oh! This is great! My hands feel really light!」

Alright, seems to be working. If her hands feel light, I guess her power should have decreased a bit.

And for myself, I took a newly developed sword.

The last one I had broke myself, so I had them repair it.

I had tried copying it myself, but even if it looked identical its performance was clearly different.

Seems copying an item is impossible when the creator's skills are too high.

Even if it looks the same, even if my appraising ability claims they are the same, there are nonetheless small differences.

I draw the sword to check. Amazing. Kurobee's ability is truly something.

I wish I could finally get a sword specialized for my use. Seems like they still need to work on that; I am not getting impatient, but I am looking forward to it.

Nodding, I put the sword back into the scabbard.

The moment Milim and I acquired our weapons, Rigurdo came running over. How well he runs...

「Rimuru-sama, this is where You were! An unknown group has come!」

From what he told me, we have an armed squad near the city.

Among them are the three adventurers.

Somehow, the three idiots managed bringing an armed group over.

Why are so many problems occurring now? Those idiots... so I thought, but,

「Well, let's go meet them.」

I said, and headed to the place where Rigurdo left them.

And as if it was the most natural thing in the world, Milim followed.

When I arrived I saw Rigur and the guards surrounding ten or so armed men.

They are all dressed similarly. However, their equipment seems rather poor, and their ability likewise.

Our equipment is worlds superior.

Nonetheless, among them are a man and a woman with clearly superior

equipment.

And not just their equipment—their skills also seem pretty high.

And of course, the three idiots. When they saw me,

「Oh! Rimuru-danna, it's been a while!」

「Howdy! We came to hang out!」

「It's been ages! Things happened... so there's more of us!」

They greeted me.

Things happened, huh. Seems like they are the cause of this “incident”,

「Yo. So, who might these people be?」

「About that...」

They explained the details.

During his introduction, the man named Youmu kept looking at us while on guard.

When the idiots finished,

「Pleased to make your acquaintance! Farmas Kingdom, Count's Domain, Frontier Garrison Captain Youmu's the name.

We heard that monsters built a city here so we came to check.

I heard the chief of the city is a slime, could I meet it?」

He greeted us thus.

「Ah, please pardon the belated introduction. I am the head of this city and its representative.

I am known as Rimuru Tempest.

Though I currently appear thus, I am, in fact, a slime!」

I responded.

「Is that how it was, pardon my rudeness.

Cabal had mentioned that “Rimuru” is the name of the head, but I was misled by you being called a slime, you see.

Your human transformation is simply marvelous!」

Whether flattery or not I don't know, but he seems intent on praising me. I wonder if monsters capable of human transformation are rare? Not that it matters right now.

「Be that as it may. Are monsters capable of transforming into humans rare? Actually, forget that question; what would be your business today?」

「Ah, about that...

Our goal was to confirm the report. There has never been a case of monsters building a city before, you see...

Moreover, should that report prove true, there's the possibility that you will pose a threat to our country.

Thus, considering that the city truly exists, we must confirm whether or not you could pose a threat to us.

Could we possibly impose upon you our presence?」

「I see. However, if we were intending on becoming your enemies and were such a terrifying city, how could we let you stay here?」

Upon hearing my retort, the man named Youmu scratched his head.

「Ah, damn it. I'll just tell you the truth.

Frankly, I didn't believe there was a city of monsters here. Now I know I was wrong.

And, according to these three adventurers, you've got really good living conditions around here.

Please allow our stay and the stationing of troops here!」

He said in one breath.

And to the three idiots,

「I apologize for doubting you!」

He deeply bowed his head in apology.

I had planned to observe him for a while, but maybe it's alright to consider him an honest guy.

「*Fufuuun!* Didn't we tell you!

Well, as long as you understand! It doesn't do to always suspect people!」

For some reason, Ellen proudly responded.

The other two were expressing their approval of her words or happiness at finally arriving.

Well, he doesn't seem like a bad guy, but approving their presence is a different matter.

「Regarding stationing your troops here: for what purpose?」

Youmu faced me and began explaining their situation.

Their unit was established by Farmas Kingdom's Count to protect the villages against monsters; they are composed of thirty members in three divisions. From where we stood, they could easily access the highway and nearby villages.

「Moreover, if we lay roads to the highway, we'd be saving time and establishing a trade route.

Of course, we will offer our labor towards that end!」

He ended with a proposal.

Even if it's possible to get here on horseback, the same is not true for carriages.

We hadn't cleared any trees in the direction of the highway.

We didn't want to stand out at the time; but that was before the earlier orc incident.

Now that the forest has begun to calm down we should think about opening a trade route.

So perhaps it might be a good idea to accept his proposal.

Since it's bad taste to continue such discussion on our feet, I guided everyone to the cafeteria.

Though our menu selection is still limited, it is nonetheless delicious.

Since we unfortunately are low on salt, pepper, and other seasoning, we can't offer any subtle spicing.

Or so I'd say if not for Shuna's godly cooking skills. That is, hers and that of her apprentice chefs Goblins.

The number of Goblins has been steadily increasing.

The security and order of the city is maintained by men while women take care of household matters and cooking.

Since they have their individual talents, they spread themselves among Cooking, Cleaning, Education, Sewing, Assistance, and other professions.

Their efficiency can be primarily attributed to Rigurdo's skill at governing.

After switching to the cafeteria we continued our discussion.

Amusingly, Milim sat next to me.

It's kind of cute how carefully she handles her dragon knuckles.

「By the way, Rimuru-danna, whose daughter would she be?」

Cabal went and asked.

Milim reacted to being called a daughter, but exercised self-restraint. Good word choice, Cabal.

Can't forget that this cafeteria has the bomb named Milim.

「Oh, a guest. A really important person, so treat her with utmost respect, okay?」

I warned them ahead of time.

If they ignore my warning, they'll have only themselves to blame. Not my problem then.

「I'm Milim. Please to meet you!」

Though Milim so simply introduced herself, let's not forget she is a cruel demon lord.

She is so adorable, however, that she certainly deceived them all...

But a man and a woman, whose equipment was much better than the rest, had a worried expression on their faces.

Actually, rather than expression, it's the air around them—it changed slightly.

They looked at Milim with complete disbelief.

Did they find her out? No, there's no way that would be true. So I thought until I looked closer at the two...

Huh? Why are two devils disguising themselves as humans among them? Yes, the two of them are devils.

A simple human transformation could not fool my 『Magic Perception』.

From what Youmu said, they joined them half way. Infiltration, is that it?

(Hey, two devils infiltrated the city, be on your guard!)

I announced using 『Thought Transmission』.

Well, it's fine as long as they don't do anything funny.

(Rimuru-sama, considering that they showed up at the same time as Demon Lord Milim, could they be connected somehow?)

(I am of the same opinion, Rimuru-sama. A ploy to make us lower our guard?)

(Nooooope! I wouldn't do something that annoying!!!)

Milim made her way into my 『Thought Transmission』 network. She seems to have figured out our frequency and forced her way in.

What an absurd thing to do.

Even if I make it sound so simple, make no mistake—it requires an absurdly high level of skill

(Hey you, did you just break into our network?!)

(*Fufun!* That kind of thing is easy for me!

But let bygones be bygones. Those two have no relation to me!!)

(But you know them?)

(... Eh? I.. I don't?)

(...)

(...)

(Well, whatever. Just stay on your guard, everyone!)

Though they aren't related, they are acquainted it seems.

No need to force her to say it if she doesn't want to. It's enough to know what we need to stay vigilant against.

While I was conversing thus, everyone was busy with self-introductions. And that seems to have ended a second ago.

「Now that everyone introduced themselves, let's get to the heart of the matter!」

The main question was whether to allow them to establish a base here; but, before that, they need to clarify something.

「I should be considering this a personal request of Youmu-san, shouldn't I?」

「Yes, that would be accurate. In fact, the country will not know of this.」

「Why?」

「Hmph. Though there's a bunch of reasons, frankly, I hate the feudal lord.

Our employer, Count Nidole Maidam, is no decent man.

The kind of guy who prioritizes personal benefit over that of the people.

He's greedy, and rough with his men.

Though he levies a heavy tax on the people in return for protection, the garrison sees none of it.

The worst kind of man.

Well, as someone who badmouths his employer, I am no decent man either.

In any case, as a result, we are severely understaffed.

If we set up a base here we could easily access the surrounding villages.

But, if we report this, he's bound to meddle with your city.

The clothing you produce is your specialty, right? It's worlds better than what his city produces, you know?

Well, this is considered neutral zone, so I can't imagine him moving independently, but...」

I see.

A greedy feudal lord. A common setting.

Yes, I wouldn't want to have to deal with such a gloomy character.

But considering how frankly Youmu explains all this, he must be serious.

He seriously wants to set up a base here. To earn my trust, he's speaking only the truth.

Our conversation continued.

After Rigurdo and the *oni* voiced their opinions, we passed our decision.

We decided to let them use a single empty house.

Of course, should they cause problems, we will immediately evict them.

Moreover, we'll be collecting money for their meals.

That we decided to include after hearing Kaijin's opinion.

A single night for a single person costs three silver coins. The average rate at a city for a sunny room is between 5~8 coins.

A single room at an inn could be as low as 3 coins. That includes a single simple meal.

Staying without a meal will cost between 1~2 coins.

The imperial capital would easily be five times as expensive.

By the way, a hundred silver coins is equal to a single gold one. I still have the twenty gold pieces I got from Kaidou.

By our standards, a single silver coin equals a thousand yen, and a single gold coin is a hundred thousand yen.

Though monetary value also depends on item costs and such; well, in any case, Kaidou seems to have spent a lot.

That's only expected considering the value of the medicine, however.

Well, it should be enough to kick-start our economy.

「Three coins is too high, please lower it slightly!」

Youmu began negotiating the cost.

「Hmph! Listen up, the room includes three meals a day, and a bath! If you have a problem, we'll lend you a storage house instead, how about it? There we'll charge a single silver coin, but no meals!」

Youmu pondered Kaijin's words, but gave up in the end. He probably remembered the meal he just ate. And thus, we lent out lodging to Farmas Kingdom's Count's Domain Garrison Guard led by Youmu. We also let them use the first floor of the guard house as their office. Youmu's group brought in their equipment there. Seems like they use a Magic Communicator type of thing that allows them to contact individual units. However, unfortunately, they can only speak for three minutes every hour. The magic cost is simply so high that so they can't supply enough. Thus it's mostly used to rely unit orders or for emergency situations. An expensive piece of equipment, they seem to only have six of those. That's also due to how cheap their employer is.

Including the two "newcomers", the human squad is composed of 32 people. From where they are located – well, here as of now – they can reach every village within a day. They've gotten much more efficient as a result, it seems. They've also gotten used to life here. After Youmu contacted them via the magic communicator, they all assembled here. A merry bunch they are.

「「「Please take care of us from now on!」」」

They all shouted.

「Our pleasure! However, should you cause any trouble, I can't guarantee your lives. So be careful, okay?」

I threw in a light threat in there. Though we're clearly monsters, they were on their guard only for the first few minutes. But let's not allow them to let their guard down so much that they cause a ruckus here. Though they seem like a bunch of good guys, so maybe I'm worrying too much.

As planned, I then introduced Youmu to Rigur.

After we explained how far our defense network spans, the frontier garrison decided to fill in the holes between us and the villages.

Since there's a lot of room to spare, a single unit can work on building a road. And the free high orc construction division will be sent to help them with that.

Thus, albeit very unexpectedly, Youmu's group became familiar with our city.

Chapter 51 - To the Human City

Two weeks have passed since we let Youmu's group in. The highway plan is continuing smoothly. Contrary to what you'd think, the frontier garrison members are rather hardworking. They've also gotten very friendly with the hobgoblin guardians. The city's monsters are dutifully upholding the rules, and are unexpectedly friendly towards the humans. I was expecting the guardians and the garrison to look down on each other due to monster-human animosity and all, but I guess I was wrong. Probably, since they used to be ruffians and hooligans, they are trying to change. As for Youmu, he might be the kind of person who attracts people. He has an aura of charisma about him. So even dividing up the responsibilities he was handed was quite smooth—whether or not his desire to cooperate with us affected his efficiency. We have goblin riders on guard and lookout duty around the city, but there's simply too many of them. Therefore, we decided to have ten riders support the frontier garrison when they answered distress calls. For the humans that assistance was something they wouldn't even dare to ask for, so they happily accepted. However, they insisted to return to the favor, so they decided to teach us formation tactics, sword skills, and other professions they knew. Among those was a rather popular survival skills that were bound to increase our food variety. While it wouldn't lead to abundance, it is something we can be grateful for. Thus our relationship kept improving.

And once we more or less came to trust each other, the garrison had a proposal... no, a favor to ask. They asked whether we could maintain their equipment. It seems the fact that our equipment is far superior to theirs has been bothering them.

「In the first place, it's plain cheating for monsters to use high level equipment!」

One of their members said, speaking on behalf of the entire group. Frankly, I agree. Since getting the Dwarfs' technological assistance we've been able to create equipment far above what I would consider ideal.

「*Fufun!* Well, hey. Dwarf armor is the best in the world!」

Kaijin merrily replied,

「No, no... that being so, why is even master Garm in this city? That I find strange!」

Cabal also expressed disbelief.

The elite among the dwarfs—Garm. Kaijin is also a master of his craft, and we also have the expert Kurobee.

Our city's smithy would easily match that of any capital city.

Moreover, we have Gabil bringing raw materials from the cave once in a while; so we have an abundance of high ranking ingredients.

If people learned of this, there would bound to be plenty of buyers; however, we don't plan to sell any.

There are still hobgoblins without a complete set of equipment. Our numbers are so large that we are having hard time meeting demand.

Even with Kurobee's copy skill – the one he got from 『Researcher』 - it takes a while to finish an item since its not accelerated by 『Great Sage』 like mine.

It's certainly faster than if making the item by hand, but he's still just a single person.

Thus, he's been employing artisan-wannabees from among the young men and women to become his disciples; and has been producing all items at the factories for them to see.

Perhaps one of these young ones may become a true artisan someday.

So, considering the possibility of future experts, Kurobee's current actions are for the best in the long term.

「Whatever, it's fine—your request! Ask me to look at your equipment any time I'm free!」

Kaijin lightly accepted.

He's probably planning on using them to have his students practice.

He might look like a big softy, but he's actually an extremely prudent old man.

「Uoooooooo! As expected of Kaijin-san! Look at him talk!」

「Oi oi, you sure?!」

「In that case, look at mine too!!!」

He was surrounded in other similar joyous shouts.

I guess I should feel relieved at his kindness.

Dosu, Zusha, Boko, Bokon!

That was the sound that accompanied our fall.

By "our fall" I mean mine, Benimaru's, Souei's, and Shion's.

「Wahahaha! You suck, you suck, you suck, you suck!!!」

Our opponent exclaimed while laughing loudly. Who? Demon Lord Milim of course.

We had a mock battle with her, four versus one, but that didn't go over well.

And she's even using her dragon knuckles. She always wears them. Once at mealtime I made her take them off causing her to sulk the rest of the day.

I shouldn't have? No, that was clearly a breach of etiquette.

I'm glad I had her wear them this time.

She should always wear them during practice. But that doesn't apply to mealtime.

As if receiving a lesson, I spar daily with Milim.

But she's so strong – to the point that it's funny! – that dueling her is out of the question. So, we decided on this four versus one.

Ridiculous power. A cheat-like ability. Bottomless stamina.

I'm glad we're not enemies.

We also had Hakurou spar with her once. Unfortunately, not even his attacks reach her. However he can put up a fight, which is impressive in itself.

The overwhelming power I felt from the Dwarf King, and the overwhelming power from Milim.

The difference between them is far too great. That much I understood after

being beaten down in succession here.

Had I, during the match with the dwarf king, used 『Great Sage』 battle mode, there's a chance I could have won.

But that kind of thing is meaningless before Milim. It's not a match of skill or trick.

There's various kinds of strength, huh...?

Thus thrice a day. As a result, we've all gotten much stronger compared to two weeks ago.

Hakurou observes the matches. He's perfected his skills, so he won't benefit much from these.

As for us, our skills were so lacking, that we managed to improve greatly these past two weeks.

「You've gotten pretty good! If Rimuru decided to become a demon lord now, I would be totally for it!」

Milim happily exclaimed.

I am not planning on becoming a demon lord!

Besides, we didn't even last twenty minutes today. Complete failures.

Even if I called myself a demon lord, I wouldn't live long enough to see it recorded.

Benimaru, Souei, and Shion return to practice after getting instructions from Hakurou.

What a lively bunch they are.

While watching them spar,

「By the way, Milim, why did you become a demon lord?」

I suddenly got curious and asked,

「Yeaaaah, about that... what was the reason again? There was a bunch of sad things and messed up things, right?」

「Why are you asking me?」

「No reason. Can't remember it well. It's been too long ago; I forgot!」

Milim looked as if she didn't want to remember the grief and horror.

「I see. Well, if you forgot, there's no need to remember!」

Though she looks like a child, she is an ancient demon lord.

From what I heard, the youngest of demon lords is at least 200 years old.

That would be my enemy Leon Cromwell. My prey.

There are other young demon lords; they are around five hundred years old and have experienced the great war.

Milim belongs to the old generation.

In other words, she's been living for an insane amount of time.

Chances are, she doesn't have many friends. She's been living for so long that she must have lost many good friends by now...

「Hey, do you have family or someone who worries about you? Is it okay to stay here without letting anyone know?」

Suddenly growing worried, I asked her.
When I did,

「Ah!!! I forgot. Right... I'll be right back!
Though this might take a while. But, I'll be gone for 2~3 years at the longest. I'll be back!」

She suddenly exclaimed.

「What? So suddenly. Hey. Right now?」
「Mu, yeah. Well, it's not like we won't meet again ! So I'm off!」

She said, and immediately changed into her Gothic Dress.
That's with the Dress Change magic—a very useful skill.
I would have asked her to teach me, but I can do that naturally myself, so there's no need.

It's usually recommended to people with lots of equipment. Though you have to learn〈Spacial Magic〉before this one, and it is far harder to learn.
After she finished changing, she looked at me with a smile,



「Well, be right back!」

She flew off after saying just a few words.

And without making a sound she flew away at a speed faster than the speed of sound.

She left as suddenly as she had arrived.

「Hmm? Has Milim-sama gone off somewhere?」

Shion asked.

「Yeah. She had remembered some unfinished business. She'll be back in 2~3 years at the latest, she said.」

「2~3 years? How easily she went on such an arduous journey, and for such a long time, no?」

「But, to someone with her lifespan, surely it's but 2~3 days?」

「I guess it is!」

「Maybe she's gone off to show off her clothing and dragon knuckles to her friends...」

Shion muttered that last line much to the approval of the other *oni*.

That just might be the case.

If she went showing off her gifts to her friends around the world, she might just need 2~3 years for that.

Though our imagination was probably just running wild imagining such a scene, we somehow became convinced that she is in fact out boasting to friends.

Solemn expressions don't suit Milim.

And now that she's gone, I'm feeling kind of lonely. We've gotten that close during these two measly weeks.

What a strange demon lord she is.

But there's no time to feel sorry for ourselves.

Her departure is also a chance.

We must go to a human village right now. After checking it out, if there are no problems, I'll take Milim there next time.

Previewing content is important before a public release.

The three idiots were planning to stay for two weeks, secretly gathering monster body parts.

They are using it to fulfill a subjugation request, aren't they? But are they allowed to cheat like that?

Well, it's not really my problem, but I'll have them buy my silence by guiding me to a human city.

「And so, you're showing the way.」

I said in response to their troubled expressions,

「We understand, danna!」

「We shall lead the way! Should we also stop by the royal capital on the way?」

「I know how to get around the back alleys, you know?」

They accepted.

I'll leave it to them.

I decided to leave in two days.

When I had gone to notify Rigurdo of the fact, I found out that he had already prepared the bags for departure. How diligent.

And after using the magic circle to get to the cave, I had Gabil show me to our medium grade medicine stash.

「Oh, Rimuru-sama! We have been waiting!」

「My, Rimuru-dono! I am ecstatic that you let me work in such a wonderful environment!」

While on our way there we ran into Bester's laboratory.

Unlike Kaijin who has to supervise lots of people, Bester can devote himself wholeheartedly to research.

So this must feel like heaven to him.

「You are eating properly, right? Not forgetting to sleep?」

I asked, worried.

「Of course. While the meals are not very diverse, they are very delicious.

So I never miss a meal.

As for sleep: I am frugal with it, but had a bed prepared here.

Besides, it's good for your body not to sleep for a while!」

No it's not...

I thought, but he's doing what he really likes. So I decided to leave him with a

“don’t over do it” line.

「Oh by the way, between Kurobee copying them and being produced here, which is more efficient?」

I asked,

「We are getting faster here.

Once we get more workers and proper equipment, we’ll be able to continue production without relying on Kurobee-dono.」

Is what he said.

Since it takes some time to grow Hipokte grass, we don’t need production speed to increase too much.

「In that case, should I have five people or so come as lab members?」

「Hmm... I need to teach them the basics too, so I’d like about ten. Since I want to be rearing successors as well, you see.」

Current production speed is three hours to dilute one pill. Kurobee can manage the same in a single hour.

I can make one immediately, but I refrain from doing so. They need to be able to make it without my involvement.

Thus, they’ll be able to manage without me in emergency situations.

However, they do currently focus on diluting my restorative pills to create twenty medium grade pills. Doing so, using 〈Membrane Creation〉, is Bester’s job.

Along that would be very difficult, so he has Gabil’s men help him. After evolving into Dragonewts they learned to use some simple magic, it seems.

If three people other than Bester learn to use it, the speed triples.

Working on a single pill every hour. In other words, they’ll be able to create twenty medium grade ones. So in a single 8 hour working day, they’ll add 160 pills to our stock.

An excellent production line we’ve made here.

If they fail at growing more, they’ll be stuck with other chores while Bester will continue his research. Which makes sense.

Approving of their plans, I left to let Rigurdo know.

Until now Bester has been working without sleep, producing more than eighty

pieces a day.

Probably preparing the city for the future. Taking 500 pieces from our stash, I deposited them into my stomach.

These I plan to sell in human city and purchase some magic stones.

We'll figure out the price with Kaijin later.

「Well then, continue as you have. As for Bester-dono, please do not overexert yourself!」

「Please leave it to me! I will work myself to the bone for you!」

「I'll leave the matter about ten people to you!」

They saw me off.

Afterwards, I went to see Kaijin to decide the lowest price we'd sell these at. Low quality medicine is called potions here and sells for about 3 silver coins a piece.

Which is actually pretty high. It's not hard to imagine one's earnings for the day being spent on medicine.

However, this medicine can treat 20% of most injuries and even grave ones.

In comparison, restorative magic such as 〈Heal〉 will only restore 10% of injuries and hard to use in emergency situations.

So our medicine is twice as effective. High grade medicine can restore 50%, but I digress. What should we set the price at?

「Listen, danna. Don't set the price twice as high. Sell no lower than 15 silver coins a piece.

This isn't something a beginner would buy. It's meant for B rank and above adventurers.

It's alright to raise the price even more! Aim to sell at about 20 silvers.」

Kaijin fervently explained.

As he says. This medicine is very useful, so we'd be in trouble if we set the price too low and get too large of an order.

If we don't make a profit we can't buy magic stones. So aiming for 20 silvers a piece is smart.

Perhaps I should also sell one or two of my personal pills.

After I acknowledged his words, we ended the meeting.

And thus finished our preparations.

The next day, I met up with the three idiots.
After finishing their preparations, the trio was waiting for me.
If we take the highway we'll run straight into Farmas Kingdom. The Count's domain that Youmu has spoken so much about.
And that would mean meeting the greedy count, so no thanks.
So, we'll be walking through the forest.
We are aiming for the small country Brumund.
To meet with Freedom Association's guild master and decide on a course of action.
A year has passed since I was reincarnated into this world.
And I am finally heading towards a human city.

ROUGH SKETCH



Chapter 52 - Journey

The Devil Myulan was relieved to finally be able to report. She had left her best friend and the violent Demon lord Milim behind in the city which they were to monitor, but, this was something completely outside of her expectations.

It surprised her that a weak little slime is the head of the city, furthermore, Milim's behavior was also something she couldn't understand.

The way a demon lord thinks is something an ordinary person will never understand.

Rather, isn't that particular Demon Lord a little, no, relatively eccentric?

On a cultural level, it seems the demon lord has made friends in the city they were monitoring.

What's more, the fact that the head of the town is a slime who can take on the form of a masked person was also being reported.

Just to be safe, the fact that Milim was staying in the city was not reported. I don't think she'll do anything that will violate the agreement between the demon lords.

But, considering the fact I can't understand what Milim is thinking, I must be very cautious.

We definitely cannot use magic in front of Milim.

I judged that communication magic or magic in general, will instantly be detected by Milim.

If she doesn't know my identity, there is a chance that she might not make a move.

These are the types of things you report.

「I see...I can use this. Good work, please continue to monitor them.」

Clayman said this happily, seemingly having come up with something. But this has nothing to do with Myulan.

As the garrison's Shaman, she is serving as an officer.

(Stupid humans. I'm a devil, and yet they don't suspect a thing.)

Although she looked down on them, talking to them for some time stirred up

strange emotions in her heart.

(I'll let it be for the time being. I wish to enjoy these moments for a little longer.)

She made such a wish subconsciously.

Thus, she went back to work without being too concerned.

The Demon Grucius, now a member of the frontier garrison, followed his platoon as they advanced into the forest.

For a beastman such as he, horse-riding was mere child's play.

As such, he naturally stood out in the team.

Even when he held back his true abilities, he couldn't possibly be inferior to humans.

Therefore, he was offered the role of vice captain for one of the three platoons. However, he refused stating that a newcomer should not hold such a position even after the platoon commander insisted.

Even though he drew some attention to himself, as long as he maintained his current situation, everything will be fine. That's what he believed.

However, what he is currently interested in is the group of goblin wolf riders that followed them.

The strangely evolved Star wolves and their riders the hobgoblins.

As if they were a skilled team, even their breathing is synchronized. This suggests a high level of proficiency .

Above all, The one known as Gobuta was the best amongst the hobgoblins.

Based on his intuition, the best course of action is to kill him on sight.

Grucius curled his tongue.

Originally, he was only planning to invite the Oni, but in this situation it's very likely there are many other talented individuals.

There are a total of 100 Goblin wolf riders, and every one of them have talents I want by all means.

Amongst them are captain Rigur and vice captain Gobuta.

These two have an overwhelming presence over the others.

There are also others, like the Dragonewts I see time to time. They will also become good warriors with some training.

The Orc Pioneers, they aren't much on their own, but truly shine when together in a group.

I heard they were led by an orc lord called Gerudo, but I haven't seen him around the city.

I heard he's always out transporting goods, but he's most likely a powerful individual.

(What do you know, I'll be darned! This city is crazy! If I make a move, all this war potential will be ours!)

In fact, when I look a closer look at the Oni, they're either my equal or even above me.

Even though he is the weakest amongst the servants of the Beast King, this is still clearly something abnormal.

Well, it's fine isn't it? It's more fun this way!

Having strong comrades is something good. Even if we failed, having powerful enemies is also desirable! That much is true.

We, the Beastmen, are a race that thrives in battle. Strong enemies are something that we welcomed.

Thus, while pondering about how he should invite them, he continued with his Frontier Garrison duties.

* * *

YAHHOO ——— Nice!

I am very satisfied with the feeling of spaciousness after such a long time.

When I was in the city, I had to pay attention to what I say, my mind feels like it's about to burst.

Thus, I left all the problems in the city to the two Oni.

But, Benimaru said this himself:

「Please leave everything regarding the city with us two Oni, we'll be able to accomplish anything!」

That's what he said. I'm sure he'll manage somehow.

Ranga has been on guard the whole time, but no signs of movements were spotted. Now it's Souei's turn to take over guard duty._

He who doesn't sleep, Souei.

By creating clones, he can get some sleep in shifts. Even though it's certainly a useful ability, I don't want to tell him that he must sleep.

From the looks of things, no one's showing their true colors.

To me, even though they don't seem to be related to Milim, they may be acquaintances.

Because this cannot be handled carelessly, we must monitor them carefully. Unfortunately, they don't seem to have made a move at all.

If that's the case, then all we can do is to continue to be vigilant. Since I can immediately return to the city with 『Shadow Step』, I decided to leave the city for a little while.

Or rather, I speculate that as soon as I'm gone, they're going to start making their move. Milim has also just left, so they must make their move now.

I was on alert whilst thinking about this, but after first day I went out of town nothing happened whatsoever.

After 3 days had passed, I'm starting to think that I may be overly worked up about things.

They also seem to be fairly strong.

“Leave it to me!”

And because he said that I entrusted him to lead the way.

After hearing that, I am now enjoying the spacious feeling after such a long time.

I'm taking this route because roads haven't been developed yet.

After getting off the streets, I followed the animal trail.

Is this really all right?

If that's not enough, we advanced through a variety of different routes.

However, there's a veteran here, so I left it to him.

Even though he has a tearful face, lets believe in him.

Besides, it's not like this is the first time he has come by here.

One moment later,

「Oi oi, we're not actually lost are we?」

I said that as a joke.

「Hahaha. There's no way we would have gotten lost here...」

His wording has become strange, everything is fine right?

Referring to the map in my mind, it seems we walked by here just now. I must be imagining things.

「Oi! This is no joke. You're lost, aren't you!」

The 3 looked at each other,

「「「WE'RE VERY SORRY!!!」」」

And they apologized.

Anyway, it seems that they have gotten lost trying to take a shortcut. Are these guys really professionals?

Well whatever.

I guided them back onto the road, the one they are familiar with.

We passed by a field of Illusion Flowers in full bloom, that might be the cause of us getting lost. I didn't tell them though.

「How could we have gotten lost in such a place.....」

「I may have lost a little self-confidence.....」

「I'm overwhelmed, If you professionals paid more respect to the road and followed it then maybe we would not have been lost.」

They looked a little pitiful, so I told them about the Illusion flowers.

「That's a B rank harvesting mission objective!, It's pretty difficult ya know!」

Ellen proclaimed enthusiastically.

In addition to being material for magic items, it's also quite a rare flower.

After a lot of trouble, we returned to pick some. We managed to pick 40, and divided it up to 10 per person. Perhaps, I can understand its uses by storing it in my stomach to analyze.

About a week's worth of time has passed, and we finally arrived at the exit of the forest.

Certainly, but I wonder how much less time would be wasted if I took out the number of days we spent being lost.

Well, there's no need for me to rush for this journey. Rather, long trips are much more fun.

Well, a slime's body can't get tired anyway, but I'll need to remain clean, so I asked Ellen to use〈Cleaning Magic〉.

Because Ellen used 〈Cleaning Magic〉, I learned it.

When I tried using it, my magic amplified the effects of the spell, cleaning everyone in the process. Thanks to that, the journey was more pleasant than usual.

Starting a fire was easy, and I stayed up all night as the night-watch.

「RIMURU SAN! LET'S ADVENTURE TOGETHER FOREVER!!!」

Ellen exclaimed this emotionally, but as usual, I declined.

If this was before I met anyone, that would have been a good idea, but I'm the head of a city now. I can leave the governing to the others, but I can't leave it uncared for.

Anyways, if someday my presence isn't needed anymore, I'll think about the offer then.

A thought suddenly crossed my mind-Even if I accepted, this will depend on whether or not she's still alive by that time.

I wonder is this how Milim feels? To make an important friend, only to out live them, would I choose loneliness instead?

I don't know.

The current me doesn't have enough experience to determine that.

.

I shook my sadness away, and we went towards the roads.

Our destination is the small country of Brumund. This particular country is so small that all the nobles are feudal lords of villages. It's really just a country which comprises of its royal capital.

I was being led by the trio to the city which housed Brumund's Freedom Association Branch.

However, the capital is the only large city and in the castle town lies the Brumund's Freedom Association Branch.

We have arrived in the first village earlier than expected, and the carriage left as scheduled.

We arrived at noon, and ate lunch at a restaurant.

Seems like the traffic is not congested as it is a small country, which is always nice.

「Hear me, I am the Mighty Axe, WAARGH~ and with a single swing, I killed this fellow!」

「Wow~ As expected of Biddo san!」

「Big Brother Biddo, this is a strong monster isn't it? You mean you killed it by yourself?」

「More or less, a single horned bear is no match for me!」

When we heard the conversation, we took a peek at the horned bear they were talking about.

The main subject of the story, the horned bear, made me almost spit out all the food in my mouth when I saw it.

It was only the horn of a horned rabbit embedded into the forehead of the bear, laid on the floor as if it was a monster's corpse.

The bear is not a monster but rather, is classified as an animal, but it's hard to tell the difference.

Fortunately I have my analyze ability, without it, I wouldn't have been able to tell the difference.

A clear way to tell the difference is whether a "magic stone" drops or not. Even so, for an ordinary person that's simply just cruel because it's so rare.

Even if it didn't drop a "magic stone" due to it being an animal, who knows how many of them animals would have been killed before people realize that they are animals, not monsters.

Well, even though demonic energy seeps from monsters, it'll still be rather difficult to judge. In the end, due to the high level of my skill, I am able came up with this conclusion.

「Oi, the guys in that corner are all proud about that fake horned bear, aren't they just like ants?」

「Huh? A fake? You saw through the trick?!」

「Of course! It's the horn of a horned rabbit, welded on with magic.....」

「As expected, you saw through it?」

「No, Danna. That person's purpose is not to flaunt. If they took this over to the king, they may become this village's hero! They're doing this not to protect the village, but rather to fill their bellies and live in fancy inns.」

I see.

I understand the guild members' explanation. In short, they're scammers. The world has so many different kinds of scammers that it has become a profession. I was planning to leave after exposing them,

「Oi oi, wait a moment! You just accused me of being a fake! Making a fool out of me, I hope you're prepared for the consequences?」

I wonder, why do all the dumb ones have such good hearing. Furthermore, they even decided to pick a fight when I still idling...
You people even believed in such a fraud...

「Huh, isn't that Cabal-san.....」

「Ellen-san's also here!」

「Isn't that person over there Gido!」

After hearing these words, people flooded the dining room immediately

「Wha, what's this.....you three are terrible, you should have given me a shout out if you came back!」

「Who are you, have we met before?」

「Oh come on, I may look all rundown and tattered now, but it's me biddo! I was receiving guidance from you in the capital after picking a fight, it's me biddo!」

Well that was unexpected.

This group of 3 (idiots), are unexpectedly famous.

They seem acquainted with the fraud to a certain degree, but the other people seem to respect the three.

It's rather strange that they don't seem all that happy even though they're being respected.

But, the biggest surprise to me was the fact these 3 are actually famous adventurers.

They are mainly famous for their sudden rise in prominence recently.

.....Even so, it's because they have brought along monsters from my town with them during missions, that's why they were able to perform so significantly well...

I looked at the 3, and they looked away in a panic.

I'll not press them on this matter.

That's probably something they don't want to mention to the people here.

Even so, even if I don't touch the matter, it's still there.

「Do you get it now?」

「「「OF COURSE!!! WE'LL GUIDE YOU TO THE CAPITAL! EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!!!」」」

Then it's all good.

The trip ended smoothly even after such a thing happened.

Thus, we arrived at the royal capital of the small country of Burmund.

Chapter 53 - Freedom Association

We proceeded into Brumund's Royal Capital.

The city appears old but sturdy.

The pedestrians appeared bright and cheerful with no gloominess in sight.

Probably due to the fact that there is no visible damage from powerful monsters or other threats.

And as you'd expect from such a remote country, there were many people geared up.

Based on my appraisal ability, most armors and weapons used are of inferior quality. Similarly, they also seemed rather weak.

However, smelling the air of a downtown area after so long was pretty exciting.

Buying some roasted meat on a stick, we continued onward.

I have no idea what meat this is, but it's strangely delicious.

Actually, I can analyze the meat to find out where it came from, but I won't do that. I have something else that needs to be analyzed.

The sauce. This sauce could come in handy for research. Though it is unfair to the chef, eating something lets me learn its recipe.

So I made a mental note of the required ingredients for this meal.

I am advancing further in, guided by the trio, with a specific store in mind.

Magic Tool Store.

Normal tool stores and magic tool stores are very different than what people from my world would imagine.

When adventurers, for example, refer to "tool stores" they typically mean magic ones.

And it is one of these magic tool stores – I'll simply call it tool store from now on – that was our destination.

To learn current market prices.

I am planning to sell medium grade medicine today. However, even if I want to sell it at 15 silvers a piece, I need to first know the price of low grade medicine.

I also want to know if there is any product made from Illusion Flowers, or something related to them.

If we turn them in to the guild, we can make ten silvers per bouquet.

Though you'd think you could make a lot of money this way, but going into the forest to search for this elusive flower often proves pointless, so most people abstain.

So if you're planning on becoming a permanent harvesting adventurer, you shouldn't expect to become rich quick.

Thus, usually people find them while adventuring somewhere and come to sell them; the buyer then collects them and turns them over to whoever requests. Which would mean that harvesting requests tend to stick around for years. It's a lengthy process.

And since I have lots of such medical plants and flowers, I'd want to know their current prices.

So, we entered the store.

A peculiar smell filled the room and the store itself gave off a queer aura.

A store you'd expect to be run by some elderly witch.

Actually, the owner looks just like that.

I looked around, quickly evaluating the goods. Sadly, I didn't see any rare items.

Low grade potions are in stock, and at a higher price.

Why? Simple: the neighboring Farmas Kingdom has stopped allowing goods to come from the Dwarf Kingdom.

Though I guess I over exaggerated; they are merely preventing any goods that could be used by the military to reach here.

And since high quality potions no longer arrive from the Dwarf Kingdom, they have no choice but to sell the inferior stuff made by the local pharmacists.

Besides, since they are making things by boiling medical herbs found in forests and caves, the medicine they produce is naturally inferior.

Hmm? Do I smell an opportunity...?

At the moment, low grade potion [Quality: Normal, Effect: 20%] is sold for 2 silver coin.

In comparison, abysmal potion [Quality: Low, Effect 15%] is sold for 1 silver coin.

So even a small change in effect can lead to such a drastic change in price. I guess considering that it could save your life, people are rarely stingy with medicine.

And with such shortage of material, adventurers who come across medical herbs will quickly find a buyer even if their guild doesn't accept it.

It's always in demand, it seems.

Next, Illusion Flowers.

From this flower you can make Hallucinogens and Bewitching Perfume.

The effects of these items are,

Hallucinogens: Used to amplify ⟨Hypnotism-type Magic⟩. Taking it normally will induce hallucinations. Leads to addiction.

Bewitching Perfume: Amplifies the effects of ⟨Hypnotism-type Magic⟩ by up to 30%. Increases resistance to ⟨Hypnotism-type Magic⟩ by up to 30%.

That would be for quality item, of course; normal one would increase the effects by only 20%.

What is amplified? The success rate of the skill, the extent of control, and the duration. It is an item coveted by most practitioners of this type of magic.

However, addiction is bad. It's probably similar to our world's hallucinogens.

Though I doubt they sell it to just anybody.

By the way, while I was analyzing the poison, I happened to have acquired some resistance to it. At this rate, I might get a new skill soon.

If I harvest and analyze some more poisonous plants, of course. Eating the plant would be a bad idea, but I wouldn't get poisoned if I absorbed it into my stomach.

So, I can't die from poison. And since I wouldn't get food poisoning either, I taste tested most dishes during the trip.

But I digress.

The effects of these items is easy to dispel, but surely they cost a lot?

「Haah? Hallucinogens and Bewitching Perfume? You can't get such amazing items here.

Rather than in a small country like ours, you should be looking elsewhere!」

The store's granny told me.

Did she think that I was ridiculing her?

Chances are the fact that she has even heard of such medicines is impressive.

In fact, the medicine sold here is made by her. She's pretty learned, it seems.

「Ah, my bad. The thing is, I happen to have gotten my hands on some of those, but aren't sure if it's actually the real deal.

I even borrowed a gold coin to buy it, so I'm curious!」

I said, trying to deceive her.

「What did you say? Show me. I'll check it for you.

I won't charge you, so rest easy!」

The granny replied.

Since she asked, I had no choice but to take out a small bag with a hallucinogen I made prior.

I have quite a few more bags like this. The hallucinogen is fine like sugar, but red in color.

The granny took it from my hands and used 〈Identification Magic〉 on it.

「Oh my! It's real! Aren't you lucky.

With this much, you can easily make 2 golds coins.

But production and sales of this item is forbidden to amateurs.

It can only be sold by magicians with a special license, so beware!

If you want to pawn it, however, I'd be happy to buy it from you for two gold coins!」

She said, surprised.

Turning a bouquet in to the guild would earn you 10 silvers. Whereas processing it would yield you 2 gold coins. That's 20 times higher.

Moreover, you can also make some Bewitching Perfume from it. All you need is to dilute the extract with water.

So this is another product that will sell well; I'm glad we picked it.

I mean, I knew magic items were expensive, but for them to be so expensive!

Well, it's my profit, so I don't complain.

But now that she had evaluated it for me, I can't just leave without buying anything.

Doesn't she have any good items...?

Seeing a complete lack of rare items, I started searching for anything I might need.

And then I found it, 『Dummy's Guide! Easy to understand 〈Elemental Magic〉 theories!』 – a magic book titled thus.

Seems like its a part of a popular publication, but to think that it is even sold out here?

Well, I can read some, and even simply reading letters is practice. So let's buy the book.

「Aha. So, little girl, you're aspiring to be a magician?

That's a beginner's book.

Kids who want to enroll in an academy study from this book.

But you know, you can't become a magician just from reading this book, are you sure you want to buy it?」

A magic academy! How wonderful. I want to go check it out someday.

Someday, I'll use 『Great Sage』 to get all the magic in the world...

「Yeah, no problem. How much is it?」

「Child, your face is pretty but you've got the tongue of a middle-aged man...

Ah, well. Unfortunately, it isn't cheap. Magic is a rich-man's hobby.

The masses, without connections or something, can never learn magic.

Just this book costs a single gold coin; too much, right?」

I wonder... since I'm wearing the mask, is the granny guessing by my voice?

I don't really care, either way. Maybe I should change my voice to seem older...?

Well, it's too late now. And since it's a pain, I'll leave it as is for now.

Since I'm around 150 cm tall right now, should I claim to be a young boy?

It's been a year since I was born, but my soul is at least 38 years old; in other words, it's hard to figure out my age. In any case, I'm a child at heart.

So if I look young, that isn't a problem.

An enigmatic boy wearing a mask. Don't fret, there's plenty of delusional idiots calling themselves heroes and demon lords, so I'd fit right in.

So let's introduce myself thus from now on.

Magic is for the rich, huh. There's probably plenty among them that are incapable of learning magic, too.

A single gold coin is about a hundred thousand yen.

Though they do seem to have a printing press, I wonder why there's so few printed books?

「No problem. I'll buy the book for 1 gold. However, I wonder why it's so expensive?」

「Ah, that's simple. Magic books, you see, can only be written down by hand.

Though the Ghost Researchers have the copying machine, it rejects magic

manuscripts.

So, any magic book on the market has been written by hand.

By the way, this book I wrote myself when I was younger, so please take care of it!」

「I see. I didn't know, so thank you. I'll treat it with care.」

I said, handing over a single gold coin. Transaction complete.

「Doesn't look it, but she's rich, huh... but still a child, right? What are parents doing handing their kids this much money...」

She grumbled to herself, while handing over the book.

Magic books are handwritten, so I should expect them to be expensive.

From now on, whether I stop by the magic academy or another royal capital, I will buy every magic book in sight! So I decided.

The trio have also purchased whatever they came for. Well, so I say, but they only came to restock on potions and other herbs, so they've been waiting for me.

After thanking the owner, I left the store. It was a time well spent.

After leaving the store, I stop the trio.

「You guys... you understand, right?」
「「「.....」」」

The trio each handed me 10 Illusion Flower bouquets.

And to each I handed a gold coin. Thus I have 16 gold coins left; so lots more to spend.

I'd much rather process the Illusion Flowers myself. It would be wasteful to hand them over to the guild.

During my conversation with the trio, they looked as if they wanted to ask something.

「Wait a minute! Rimuru-san, when had you processed the Illusion Flowers? Actually, it's considered really difficult to do! There have been people who died from the poisonous gasses that the plants let out!」

I see. So it really was such a dangerous plant. I guess the price is fitting.

「*Fufufu*. Processing such a weed is simple for someone like I!」

「No fair! I can't even do it...」

「As expected of danna. I wouldn't be surprised at anything now.」

「Me too. Danna is someone who can do anything.」

Three jealous idiots.

But other than Ellen, the other two have already accepted the facts.

And, considering that we have researched the cost as desired, we headed for the Freedom Association.

We reached Brumund's Freedom Association Branch.

The guild was at the end of road leading out of the commercial district where the magic store was.

It's a stately building made of stone.

The Dwarf Kingdom often dug down into the stone, so most buildings were at most 3 floors tall.

The Lizardmen would make use of windows designated with magic to light their houses, but this is different. It depends on natural light.

So I was under the impression that people didn't build high-rise houses in this world. Well, whether you can consider 5 stories "high-rise" is a different story.

When we entered, I noticed that they are somehow regulating the temperature; it was pleasant inside.

While I actually can't feel the change in temperature due to my resistances, I could tell the difference using heat detection ability.

I guess they are keeping the temperature constant with magic. Surprisingly advanced, I must say.

I had thought that the world travelers kept the world relatively primitive, but I guess they've been trying to develop it in a direction different than ours.

Maybe if there were no monsters or demon lords, this world would be a true magic society.

However, it can also be said that all the current knowledge has been researched to counter monsters.

Since the demon lords exercised restraint, the humans bought them off by handing over fertile land; so when power shifts in favor of humans, an invasion into their realms is a legitimate possibility.

That thought has been preached by the Western Saints Church, I heard. True, monsters are stronger right now; but no one knows what the future will hold. I guess I need to implement some real foreign policy to protect the rights of my city.

I'm glad I came here.

By seeing a human city, by learning something about humans, I can better prepare against possible future threats.

Thus, I decided to see more and more things.

Now then, I shouldn't stand in the doorway.

I was guided further in by the trio. The inside reminded me of a municipal building's reception room.

There's a desk like one you'd see at an airport—where you surrender your baggage, with a plate that reads: Sales Counter.

All in all, there are three counters separated from each other.

The Sales Counter I just mentioned.

Counter for visitors and other general users.

Counter specific for adventurers.

The room is separated into these three sectors.

The sales counter is exactly what it sounds like; items that you found or went to obtain on request are brought over here.

The general counter is used by beginners and Freedom Association members who live in the city. That's where you go to register or retire from the guild.

The adventurer's counter can only be used by authorized adventurers.

An adventurer is a Freedom Association member who either goes foraging, subjugating, or hunting on request. Some take on different types of tasks, but most people still refer to them by the generic term—adventurer.

Furthermore, an adventurer is someone who has to have some basic combat ability.

For example, there's a specialized division called the Magicians Guild. To be affiliated with them, you need to be able to use some kind of magic; however, affiliation with them does not guarantee usefulness to the Freedom Association.

It's no good if all you can do is use some magic. Only after you have lived by foraging, subjugating, or hunting are you recognized as an adventurer.

So, what are the merits to becoming an adventurer?

While every Freedom Association Branch is affiliated with a specific country, its members are able to change countries easily.

Leaving the city or even crossing the border is far easier for an adventurer. Of course, this may not apply during wartime, but this allows for greater mobility. In other words, compared to people with clear allegiances, Guild Members are able to freely select a country where they want to live. Well, not like there's a big difference other than the tax you'd have to pay.

The origin of the name "Freedom Association" comes from adventurers who wanted to be able to freely move between countries.

Well, even so, there's not that many people who constantly switch countries. This was explained to me by the three idiots on our way to the counters. After receiving this explanation, we proceeded to the back.

「Hey, we're leading our guest to the backrooms, so let us pass.」

「Ah, Cabal-san. You have returned. Who might this be?」

「Yeah, Guild Master's guest. Treat him with respect, please.」

After that exchange, we were let through.

And in the background,

「Cabal-san is so cool~!」

「Ellen-san is so gorgeous... Always so beautiful!」

「Fools! To not understand Gido-san's greatness...」

「「「But, who is that kid? Why treat her with respect?」」」

I heard the people in the background say this, but couldn't really understand them.

Why are the three idiots idolized here? Even in the first village we stopped by they were famous.

We stopped in front of a room in the back. The room was guarded by two soldiers, who opened the door on Cabal's signal.

In the middle of the room is a magic circle.

Similar to the one that Bester drew. One that allows travel both ways.

I was guided to the magic circle, and used it to teleport.

It can be used to travel up to the fourth floor; the fifth floor is accessible via a different circle.

To prevent infiltration from spies and such. How prudent.

Now that I think about it, there are no windows passed the fourth floor.

Probably to prevent break-in.

The magic circle to the fifth floor lies directly beyond the guild master's room.

We entered the room.

「Welcome, “One who commands monsters”!

I am this Branch's Guild Master Fuze.」

A short man with a vigilant face extended his greetings.

I see, he definitely fits the description of a Guild Master.

He's plenty strong and seems rather capable. But if anything, it's the aura about him.

He seems to be a rather gutsy individual.

「I am Rimuru Tempest. Ruler of the new Monster Country “Tempest” of the Jura Forest. Pleased to make your acquaintance.」

After finishing our introductions, we started our questioning.

Since our meeting lasted long into the night, I decided to stay in one of the Freedom Association's rooms.

P.S. Sadly, although I had plenty of money left and finally arrived at a human city, I couldn't venture into a new “frontier” for now.

Chapter 54 - Business ~ The Start of a Trade

The meeting continued until late last night.
It can't be helped since I arrived late.
Well, we were suppose to meet today, but apparently the noble wanted to meet me no matter what.
We exchanged information briefly during yesterday's meeting.
Mainly, I heard about the towns and countries of humans.
I also learned about the Free Association, they even said they would introduce me to their leader Yuki Kagurazaka at their headquarters.
However, something felt amiss.
I heard the freedom association's headquarters is located in the royal capital, but there're a lot of royal capitals.
There's the large neighboring Farmas Kingdom, and the terrifyingly strong neighboring kingdom of the Sorcery Dynasty of Sarion.
Even a small kingdom such as Brumund has a royal capital. In fact, we're in it right now.
So in which country is the Freedom Association Headquarters located in?
The clusters of countries around the Great Jura forest joined together and formed the council.
Therefore, the gathering of councilors must be in an easily accessible location, and its headquarters is now set in the Ingracia Kingdom.
In terms of strength, the one boasting the strongest power amongst those that joined the council is the Farmas Kingdom. But due to the developed transportation system in the ingracia Kingdom, it became the heart of all the kingdoms instead.
That's the most likely reason why the Farmas Kingdom and the Ingracia Kingdom are on bad terms.
However, there's also another reason why the Ingracia Kingdom was selected.
The Ingracia Kingdom is the only kingdom not directly next to the Great Jura forest. Therefore, it's less susceptible to monster attacks, granting it the blessing of being safe.
The Freedom Association's headquarters will be located in the country which is

blessed with safety and has advanced transportation networks.

That much is obvious.

That means, when they said the royal Capital they were referring to the royal Capital of the Ingracia Kingdom.

Another feature of the countries within the council is that fact they're all countries that follow the Church.

In other words, the kingdoms surrounding the Great Jura Forest are within the Sphere of influence of the church.

Commerce and religion are the two main pillars that support the bonds between kingdoms.

Each country votes for a councilor, and all of the councilors embody equality due to their religion. I heard there's a system where important decisions are discussed and decided in the council.

Surprisingly, this system is quite similar to the United Nations from my previous life.

Councilor election methods differ from country to country, but the majority of the councilors elected are from the royal family.

By the way, the Sorcery Dynasty of Sarion doesn't have a national religion.

The king claims to be a descendant of god, and forbids all other religions. Thus, they were rejected from being a part of the council, making them a isolated superpower.

But I heard that they do have commercial relations with the other kingdom, most likely because it is a superpower.

Anyway.

I heard that the Freedom Association's headquarters is located in the center of the Ingracia Kingdom.

So if I want to meet Yuuki Kagurazaka I'll have to visit the Ingracia Kingdom.

Apparently, they were willing to write a letter, introducing me to him. But in exchange, I was told to meet Baron Beruyado, a noble of this nation.

Of course I agreed to the terms, and am currently riding towards my destination on a horse carriage with my current partner.

I parted with the three (idiots) last night.

「Please, let's keep in touch!」

「As I thought, let's adventure together forever.....」

「It sure will get lonely without you. Lets play together again in Tempest!」

Saying these words, they departed unwillingly.

But, that's their own problem.

I, for one, don't feel anything at the moment.

Strangely, I don't feel lonely at all.

While I was thinking of such things, the carriage came to a halt.

It appears we have arrived.

.

It is a district lined with beautiful structures.

Feeling composed, Fuse guided me towards a building, slightly smaller compared to the others.

「By the way, is it fine that I don't know anything about the honorific etiquette and manners of nobility?」

「Hm? Ah.... That's right, that's going to be troublesome.....」

Is everything going to be alright?

About Fuse's old man, I heard he's going to be quite the handful.

Yesterday, Fuse asked about the current situation of the Great Jura Forest.

After that, he asked about Shizu's and whether do I know about Veldora.

When it came to Veldora, I played the fool and feigned ignorance.

As for the situation in the Great Jura Forest, I said our town was doing well in its own way while being as vague as possible.

Naturally, I was asked to explain my subjugation of the local monsters, in detail.

I understood that even they wanted to know the reason as to why there was so little damage caused by the monsters.

As for Shizu San's story, it was kind of hard to talk about it, much less explain it.

In the end, I stopped explaining when it reached a certain promise with Shizu san.

Fuze,

「I see..... I'm counting on you」

After muttering that, nothing more was spoken.

Shizu San, renowned as the "Explosive Monarch, seemed to have been an A rank adventure that belonged to the headquarters.

At the headquarters, she worked hard as an instructor, but she probably realized that her death drew near. Refusing to be confined in the headquarters, she suddenly disappeared.

And that's how the story goes, but, thanks to her, I was able to make many new friends.

I trusted Fuze and came all this way, but is it really alright? With all these etiquette and formality, this is going to be one troublesome talk. While worrying about such things, I then entered the building. After entering the building, an old man who introduced himself as the butler guided us. Anyway, there are also maids here, which is always nice. I remember going to maid cafes in my previous life. Just sitting down cost thousands of Yen, it's a complete rip-off. This factor makes qualifying this as a good memory a problem. However, this is a different world. A guy like me can see the difference in quality when compared to the genuine thing. There are only fake old maids in real life! Guided by the butler, we entered a room. There're even more doors in the room. The Butler knocked on one of the doors. There was a reply,

「Enter!」

Honestly, these kinds of exchanges are just annoying. Going straight through a magic circle, the interior is completely different. Once inside, a tall slim man who looked like he was very hardworking with a parsimonious beard and silted eyes, greeted me.

「You have arrived. My name is Baron Beloard, I am one of Brumund's ministers, pleased to be your acquaintance.」

The other party has greeted me before I managed to give my greetings.

「Nice to meet you. My name is Rimuru Tempest.

I am a monster, but I wish to form amicable relations with humans.

I may be ignorant when it comes to manners and etiquette, but I hope you can

overlook that.」

I returned the greeting and shook hands with him.

This place's practices are quite similar to my previous life.

「Do be at ease. I am but a landless baron.

It's fine even without the formality.

Now then, the time we have isn't infinite. Let's talk briefly.

I'll get straight to the point. About your town, Tempest, I would like to form a cooperative relation with there.

We propose to cooperate to support adventurers on their adventure and assist them when they're having problems facing powerful monsters.

I only ask these 2 points of you.」

Well well.

To summarize what he said, since Brumund is a small country without much national power, their counter-measures against monsters are insufficient.

They somehow cooperated with the Freedom Association, but the freedom association can't be their only means of defense against monsters.

Fortunately, there aren't any major damage caused by monsters to date, but in preparation for the future, they wished to form bilateral relations with Tempest.

Assistance for adventurers, that's a topic that Fuse touched upon yesterday.

He's probably thinking that in order for the adventurers to succeed, and to reduce the threat the forest poses, I'll need to provide necessities such as beds and supplies for those working in the forest.

However, his partner is a country of monsters, I wonder why did he approach and trusted us so easily?

That's something to worry about.

「Indeed...What benefits will I gain if I accept this? Rather than a collaborative relationship, don't you think this is only one-sided?」

Of course, we'll also try to guarantee certain benefits to there. We'll legitimize your identity as a nation.

In other words, you, and your country "Tempest", we promise to recognize it as a legitimate nation of monsters.

We have even obtained permission from the King of Brumund.

If your side cooperates with us, we'll recognize you guys as a nation, and promise

decent correspondence.]

In other words, we'll mutually stay vigilant about monsters and help each other in times of emergencies.

Either way, we're supposed to be on guard, but with this, we would not have to worry about Brumund.

We will notify and help each other when faced with assaults by powerful monsters.

I don't think there'll any problems.

If we accept this offer, we'll be recognized as a legitimate country, this doesn't seem like a bad deal.

Well, I'll admit it though, the council that was previously mentioned may not necessarily acknowledge this, as Brumund is the only country in the council that does.

Still, getting the approval of two countries, after the Dwarven kingdom is a major achievement.

「Very well, I will accept this offer.」

After I said this, the atmosphere felt significantly less tense than before. I will probably have been cornered if it were to continue anyway.

「I see, that's great. Now then, this is the certificate of approval from the king of Brumund.

And this is proof that it is a legitimate document.」

While saying this, he took out a stamp from his pocket.

The stamp emitted light in response to the spirit pledge magic, this shows that it is indeed a legitimate document from the king.

My skill 「Analyze」 also show the same results.

Unexpectedly, contractual relationship frauds can't be performed in this world.

Compared to my previous life, such procedures are much more simplified.

This really helped me since I don't have to take my time to meet the king directly.

Besides, they probably aren't going to allow the king to meet a monster.

It also simplified the process in that aspect as well.

And with my signature on the treaty, the treaty between Brumund and Tempest has been established.

During this event, a third party bears witness that the transaction is carried out justly.

After that, we made a few arrangements, and conducted another meeting in going into details of the treaty.

And for the first time, I remembered about the flaws of the contracts in this world.

「So, in the event where we have to move a force through the forest, we'll be counting on your cooperation.」

That's what he said.

A force. This isn't something related to monsters. Because we were to cooperate during emergencies, that also includes when the nation is being attacked.

For example, the eastern empire.

I were deceived! How dare you deceive me!

GUO———!!! I wanted to faint in agony. Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot Idiot. Stupid me!

I remembered that sweet talk.

If you think about it from Brumund's side, they now have a reason to get me to cooperate even without my consent.

Look at the trio (idiots), I can't even chase away adventurers.

If we were to get the country's approval, there's no need for that.

But there's a reason he daringly says that.

Brumund was really afraid that the eastern empire will invade through the forest.

In preparation for when that happens, they probably wanted me to become the buffer state.

Certainly, he didn't lie. If we're having problems, he'll also come help. After all, it's our turn next.

Even if the empire does ignore us, we're going to have to send in reinforcements from Brumund.

Anyway, we have been successfully deceived.

「You noticed? You are certainly quick. However, you have already signed the treaty, so when the time comes, we're counting on you!」

With a grin, I was laughed at with a beaming smile.

Baron Beloard.

A man who handles work very well.

That sly old dog of a noble, tricking people like me is probably like taking candy from a baby.

Tsk. It can't be helped, I'll let it slip for now...

Strangely, I don't feel angry even after I've been deceived.

Apart from the shallow feeling of regret, I feel like praising the adversary. Ah~ I've been had! Kind of moment.

Well, this is also a form of experience. I'll think about it when the empire does move.

And again, you can't let your guard down around humans.

Monsters are unexpectedly straightforward.

I made a vow in my heart that from now on, when negotiating with humans, I'll have to think more deeply before making any decisions.

.

It's not fun to be deceived.

Even after all the trouble, I still benefited from the experience.

I took out a medium healing potion, and placed it on the table.

「This is?」

Baron Beloard questioned,

「It's a recovery potion made in my town. I wanted to sell it in the local markets.」

I answered.

Fuse and Beloard held the potion in their hand and examined at it.

Fuse can definitely perform analytical magic.

「What is this! T-this isn't some cheap stuff sold in the town. U—mu, this is a high class goods similar to those sold in the royal Capital. The Pharnas Kingdom taxes it when they distribute it, but it doesn't come into these markets... just how many do you have?」

I told them that I currently have 500.

If they're willing to buy on a regular basis, I can probably supply them 2000~3000 monthly if I take it out of the storage.

In this country, adventures are at the front lines, and there's a demand for the potions.

There's a branch of the Freedom Association at the Pharnas kingdom, but adventurers that affiliated with them are few.

There are several reasons, the biggest reason being that there's a trend of looking down upon adventurers.

However, it's also a fact that adventurers tend to be generous with their money. And, they also help thin the number of demons.

Due to this reason, there have been recent desperate attempts of trying to attract adventurers, but there aren't any results to show.

That's why, goods like high quality recovery potions are vital, luring adventurers while imposing high taxes on dwarf-made weapons? I've thought about it this much.

If it's armor, a bit of adjustment is all it needs.

We might even be able to sell off the gear of monsters.

If that's the case, people will be eager to buy it.

At the very least, if I sell a product I will be able to attain some profit.

Hopefully, I will be able to make up for my previous blunder.

We were introduced to the merchant Garde-Myourmiles.

I left the office of Baron Beloard, and proceeded to visit the merchant Garde-Myourmiles.

At the corner of the shopping street, there was a large store called the Miles Firm.

The chairman of the shopping street seems to be the owner of the store.

He has joined the Freedom Association Merchant Guild, but is a formal Brumund merchant with the country's permission.

It's quite rare for a person to have the license of both the country and the Freedom Association.

I was told that Garde-Myourmiles was one of the rare individuals.

「Weeeelco...?! *Ahem*, Welcome, please come here Danna, what kind of order do you have today?」

I came with Fuse today, and I replied with a humble bow.

When you think about it, this old man Fuse is also an authoritative figure in this

kingdom.

「Today I came to introduce this person. Show Respect! I must return since I still have some errands, please excuse my rudeness.」

「This person, what kind of person is it?」

「In short, a state guest. I'm leaving it to you!」

Saying these parting words, fuse left.

I've been left behind after being referred to as a state guest. How should I act if I got lost?

Well, it's fine I guess.

「My name is Rimuru, please take care of me! I came to make a business transaction, and my product is this.」

Thus we started negotiating.

As expected of the merchant Myourmiles. He quickly appraised the good to ascertain its value.

Negotiations began.

.....

.....

...

At the end, I decided to sell them here, it was decided that the price will be 22 silver coins each.

And the retail price set here was 25 silver coins.

After telling him the location of our town, he plans to go stock up.

If Myourmiles is going to buy more, then the selling price at tempest is 20 silver coins.

In addition, due to the matter of assisting adventurers, it was decided that the selling price to adventurers at tempest will also be 22 silver coins.

In this fashion, we shook hands with each other, and signed the contract.

This time without any fine prints, we were able to form a satisfactory agreement with each other.

「But Danna, I can't use a horse-drawn carriage to arrive at Danna's town. If it's restocking on recovery potions, I can manage it somehow, but it's going to

be rather inconvenient...」

Of course that's something we must discuss.

It would have been nice if I established a highway.

「I understand. Then I'll build a highway that connects Tempest to Burmund.」

「Eh? NANI?!」

「You'll be able to use a carriage if I made a road right?」

I think it'll take two months for a horse carriage to finish the journey. If we cut down some trees we'll be able to make a direct path.

Although, I think it's going to take six months to finish. Is that fine?」

「Of course! I also want to see the 500 you're selling too!」

Myourmiles answered while smiling Ear-to-ear whilst rubbing his hands together.

The highway towards the dwarf kingdom is complete. Now, we'll move on and establish a highway that connects towards Brumund.

This way, trade between Tempest and Brumund has supposedly started.

When the highway that connects Tempest and Brumund is completed, the merchants of Brumund will have no need to go through the Farmas Kingdom to reach the Dwarf Kingdom.

And thus, tempest is becoming the new center of trade routes.

Chapter 55 - Adventurer Registration

There's only one thing to do now that we signed the contract.
Right—celebrate.

I couldn't venture into the unseen lands yesterday, but today is different.

「Myormiles-kun. Do you have any plans after this?」
「*Fufufufu, danna* also enjoys it, huh. This Myormiles has the perfect shop in mind!」

「*Hoho!* But, are you aware that I have high standards for these things?」

「Please leave it to me! I am completely certain that you shall be pleased!」

And thus we spend the night drinking.

I dare say! What a blissful day!

And like that for a week.

I'm still in the care of Myormiles' establishment.

Of course, I'm not just messing around the whole day.

Using 『Shadow Step』 I went to let Rigurdo know about our arrangement with the Brumund Kingdom, and to order Bester to mass produce medicine, among other things.

I also didn't forget to order Kaijin and Gerudo to lay a road all the way here.

And, to have them prepare lodging space for adventurers who would eventually show up and train people to repair armor and weapons.

Though we just finished one construction spree, everyone seemed eager to start another.

After giving out orders, I would come back and spend the night drinking; that's how busily I spent every day.

Upon receiving my orders the city livened up with action.

It should be fine to leave it to them. At this rate, they should finish the road within the next two months.

The money I made from selling medium grade medicine (high potions) totaled 110 gold coins. Combined with what I already had, I currently have 126.

I gave 100 to Myormiles so that he'd deliver vegetable sprouts and seeds, and spices of every kind to our city. But I still have 26 left.

Since that's quite a large sum I planned to splurge to my heart's content, but there was nothing I wanted to buy.

The week's worth of drinking was covered by Myormiles.

He probably intended to ensure favorable relations considering our future joint endeavors.

So he really let me have my way. In other words, I received the best treatment imaginable.

Myormiles is definitely a useful man.

And that's how I became friends with this merchant.

But I'm not letting my guard down.

Myormiles is softening people up with a smile on his face. That's the mark of a true merchant.

He also lends out money at the highest interest rate, and I've seen many potential customers visit him daily.

But it seems that he doesn't meet these people personally; rather, he leaves it to his store attendants.

As expected of a licensed merchant, he has many ways of making profit.

There's also some nobles who come to him to borrow some money.

Debt is a frightening thing. It can always be used.

Well, since both parties intend to benefit, betrayal is unlikely. Merchants first and foremost consider both party's profit. Rather than relying on a poor alliance it's better to establish trustworthiness.

This whole week I've been trying to ascertain his character with intention of confirming viability of future cooperation.

Signed the contract and arranged future deliveries.

I guess it's time to set off on a journey.

I let Myormiles know my intentions.

「Thanks for the past week. I'll come to hang out again!」

「*Danna*... I'll be waiting for your return! Please, please, come again!」

「Yeah. In two months I'll send a group to guard and lead you to my city.

They'll come in my name, so you'll know it's them. I leave it to you.」

「Understood!」

We parted after this exchange.

The attendants and other customers were surprised at his humility. I didn't understand why at first, but after thinking for a moment it made sense: shop owner who normally acts arrogantly suddenly acts so humble to a child—certainly a bizarre scene. Maybe I should have changed into my adult form during our conversation. Well, too late now. And so, I left the shop.

After leaving I headed straight for the Freedom Association. They already wrote an introduction letter to Kagurazaka Yuuki. Of course, I'm planning on going to get it, but I also need to finally get an ID in this world. The country has promised to recognize my person, so I'll be registering at the guild. Otherwise, I'd have to go from country to country demanding identification every time I visited, and that would be pain. If I register as an adventurer, I would be recognized not by a single country but by every country that cooperates with the Association. After registering, unless some troubles come up, I should probably make my way towards the Ingrasia Kingdom.

Without delay, I lined up to the receptionist. They seem pretty free at noon, so I quickly got to see somebody.

「Registration, please.」
「Little girl, isn't it a bit too soon for you?」

The receptionist lady softly rebuked my request. That's to be expected, considering my appearance. It's still a pain, though.

「I don't mind, there's no problem.」

After I said so the receptionist lady reluctantly handed me the registration form.

I filled in the form she gave me.

Name, age, specialty, birthplace, and such.

Seems like I need to fill in only what I know.

So I only filled in the name and identified myself as a swordsman.

With that, I finished filling in the form. Next, I would need to decide which guild to join.

You can join more than one, so it's not something to fret about.

I decided on the Subjugation Division.

「Little girl, that's a dangerous one. Are you sure?」

The worried receptionist said, but I told her not to mind it.

I wondered if she'd give up, but

「In that case, let's hold a trial.

If you leave the city gates, the lowest rank is not F, it's E.

So, I can't recognize you without a trial first.

What will you do? It's alright to give up, you know?」

Just joining the Freedom Association would make you an F rank. To join Combat Specialized Divisions, however, you would need to be at least E rank, huh?

I see.

「In that case, please put me to a test.」

I decided to accept the trial.

As long as it's not a written test, there shouldn't be a problem.

The receptionist lady stood up and went inside. Then, she brought a man.

He'll probably oversee the test.

「You are being tested, huh? Whatever. Come at me.」

He said, and had us move to another building.

The bored adventurers who saw this began to murmur among themselves.

「*Oi oi*, that small child isn't planning on testing, right?

That's too ridiculous!」

「Wanna bet on whether she passes or not?」

「Stop it, the outcome is clear!」

「But, she did have a strange sword on her hip. Never seen one like that before!」

「Seemed pretty skillful too...」

They whispered to each other.

Since there's little to kill time with, they probably jump on the opportunity to

discuss these kinds of things.

In the end, they wandered after us to observe.

The test was held in a building as large as a gymnasium.

The test to move onto the next rank is also held here. You can't take requests without an appropriate rank, so you can take the test at any time.

For that purpose, a proctor from every guild is always present.

But since proctors are sometimes relied upon in times of need, they are mostly hired from among rank A-adventurers retired from military service.

Similarly, the man in front of me, albeit young, is missing a leg.

He probably lost it performing his duties and became a proctor instead.

「I'll say this ahead of time. If you pass, you become E rank, and are allowed to subsequently challenge D and C rank, and above.

However, if you fail, you have to first earn 100 F-points before testing again.

Do you understand?」

F-points are obtained from F rank requests.

Rewards and points differ between different levels of requests. In short, you get rewarded for your skill.

Doing the same thing over and over, after all, only troubles everybody.

「No problem.」

I answered, and the proctor nodded in return.

And, pointing at the ground,

「The test will be conducted within a magic circle. Enter it. After you finish your preparations, we begin.」

Where he pointed lay a twenty meter in diameter magic circle.

I entered it. At the same time, a dome like barrier was erected.

Some people were excitedly looking this way.

「I'm ready!」

I shouted.

「Alright. In that case, defeat the opponent before you!」

The proctor said, and poured magic into the circle.

Summoning magic.

And a single hound appeared before me.

It's often used to practice. But, that's all there is to it.

Faster than the dog could growl, and maybe even faster than it could show fear of me.

I decapitated it in a single slash.

「Yo. Defeated, next one please!」

I was welcomed by silence.

「A-amazing...」

I heard that whisper.

The proctor for the first time showed confusion.

「You... weren't a beginner?」

「No, I never said I was, did I? In any case, I want to quickly become A ranked!」

「Sorry, you can only test up to B here; B+ rank and above are conducted at the headquarters only.

So, what now? Will you test up to B?」

「Is that so... Got it! In that case, I'll go up to B, please.」

It's a pain, so let's get it over with.

Since I'm heading there anyways, I might as well take every test up until then. Nodding at my words, and after having regained his composure, the proctor summons the next opponent.

D → Hound Wolf

C → Giant Bear

C+ → Giant Bat

I'm smoothly cutting through every foe he summons.

The audience is now silent, observing my fight. Chances are, they are simply glued to the scene before them.

In any case, I've been able to cut down my opponents with a single slash thus far.

I laughed when a giant bat appeared. How many years has it been since it first attacked me!

And after defeating it, I was already up to rank C+.

The next one is rank B.

「Superb. To think you were so skilled...

B rank monster is strong. Are you ready?」

「No problem. Please send it in!」

Thus, the last enemy was summoned.

A demon with four wriggling arms. Named: Lesser Demon.

That's the first time I've seen a demon race. I kind of want to eat it and obtain its abilities.

「That monster is a lesser demon! Physical attacks won't work against it.

Now, what will you do? You should give up now! Wounds from this thing might just kill you!」

The proctor exclaimed, somewhat excited.

He's probably just bitter that I've defeated all the enemies so easily up until now.

But what should I do? I don't really want to show my skills or magic.

While I was pondering this, the lesser demon's eyes flashed red, and he started chanting magic.

Then, he fired four fire balls at me. As expected of a B rank monster. Truly amazing.

I easily dodge the attack, feeling them gaudily explode against the barrier behind me.

However, did the three idiots really defeat this thing alone?

「Hey, isn't a lesser demon something you challenge with a team?」

「Yeah. I was just thinking that.」

「Hey, hey. Defeating that alone is impossible. That's like a rank B+ test!」

I heard such exclamations.

If I look closely at the proctor, his eyes are bloodshot.

Hmph. I guess some hazing is to be expected. Whatever.

Physical attacks aren't really effective. It's only half corporeal, after all. A demon race, it seems, is an ethereal being that possesses intelligence and obtains a body.

The lesser demon was annoyed at the fact that I kept dodging its attacks, so it came at me with its four arms.

I could simply eat it.

I have no choice, let's envelop the sword with magic. A magic sword.

Like I always do, I bring out a bit of my aura; and, I carefully infuse some into the sword as if not to be revealed as a monster.

Now, all I need is to slash at it.

The lesser demon was cut in half by my sword, turned into rubbish, and disappeared.

「Yo. The end? Is that good enough for B rank?」

The audience was silent for a moment, but...

「Amazing~!!! Girl, you're so cool!」

「Take your mask off and show us your face for a second!」

「You perverts! Don't mind them and form a party with us!」

And other similar grand statements resounded throughout the hall. What a ruckus.

The proctor also seemed to have calmed down or something, saying

「Wonderful! You pass! You pass with flying colors.」

He shook my hand.

He probably completely forgot the hazing a moment ago. Not that I care.

And, ignoring the requests from the audience, I proceeded back into the main building to finish the formalities.

I was recognized as a B rank adventurer and received the appropriate card.

Name: Rimuru

Rank: B

Specialty: Sword

Division: Subjugation

That's what the card reads. It seems they didn't include the sections I left blank.

Alright. I can now call myself an adventurer.

I received the card and said my thanks.

The receptionist lady now treated me different. Though she previously treated me as a child, she now acted with respect befitting another adult.

As expected of a professional. She's quick to rectify her behavior.

Leaving them behind, I proceeded to impose on Fuze. I had someone lead the way.

We went through the magic circle, and knocked on the door.

When I entered, Fuze turned to me and exclaimed,

「*Oi oi*, you're standing out too much!

To cut a lesser demon with a sword... don't you know how to hold back!

A magic sword, right? Even enchanters can't use that much power, so you've done it now!」

「Hmm? Did I cause a problem? Actually, if you were looking then you should have stopped it!」

「Seriously... I didn't even have the time to...

It's fine. Magic swords have been introduced by "World Travelers" and are experimental right now.

So, there's few people who use one.

We're planning to make it our trump card against monsters, so users are selected by invitation only.

I'll silence the proctor, but be more careful from now on!」

Infusing magic into a sword – though you'd expect it to be a common technique – it's actually really difficult.

Well, if there weren't people watching, I'd just eat it.

Though I pay it no mind, it seems that I have many high grade skills. So having selected this one on a whim, I stood out too much.

Not like I'm planning to fight in front of everybody from now on.

But I should be more mindful from now on.

「Thanks. I'll be more careful from now on. And, I'm off!」

「Right! Pass my regards to the headquarters. And be careful!」

After thanking Fuze and picking up my introduction letter, I left the Freedom Association.

I got a Guild Card as my identification, and earned money for my travel expenses.

Arranged support for my city, and even formed diplomatic relationships with a country.

Not bad for a first outing.

If possible, I would rather not fight against humans. Forming a friendly

relationship and cooperating with them from now on would be best.

And thus ended my stay in Brumund.

Next on my list is Ingrasia Kingdom's Royal Capital.

To meet Freedom Association Headquarter's Grand Master Kagurazaka Yuuki.

I thus resumed my journey to meet a fellow world traveler.

Chapter 56 – Ingrasia Kingdom

The journey to Ingrasia Kingdom proceeded without incident. I summoned Ranga, and had him assume a smaller form. He also has fur armor equipped, so there shouldn't be any problems if humans see him. That is, he currently looks like a slightly bigger black wolf. Though the road we traveled by was unpaved, it was still considered a highway, so we did see some mounted soldiers. Few monsters spawn around here, and there's little magic in the air. We didn't see any powerful monsters. However, the roads were infested, in some sense. Robbers and highwaymen, those petty types were all over them. But we didn't even run into them. Well, I guess that's to be expected. What kind of being could catch up with Ranga's pace? And it's not like we're running at neck-break pace; we're proceeding leisurely, but still at least 60 km per hour. Far faster than any horse carriage. Thus, the journey proceeded smoothly, and we arrived to Ingrasia Royal City in merely two days.

The scale of the city was surprising. Sure, it's plenty wide, but there's also a large wall surrounding the city. Two gates lead into it, and there's no way in except for the two gates. It's baffling to think just how much money and time was needed to construct this. We entered the city and marveled at the sight. Many tall structures filled the city, but that much we expected; however, the scale of the buildings was incomparable those in Brumund. Most were at least five stories high. The city was full of brick and wood buildings. But more than anything, it was the strict city planning and the white castle in the middle of the city that made me wonder. A large lake occupied the center of the city, and a castle was built in the middle of it.

Four bridges extend from the castle and connect to the city's main roads. This solemn piece of architecture properly conveyed the country's military strength.

In short, all I thought was: amazing!

From the perspective of defense, every important junction has knights monitoring public order.

You'd have to be pretty desperate to even attempt a criminal act.

As expected of a city planned ahead of time by the Council.

I mean, just think of the consequences if some foreign prince ran into trouble here. To prevent such occurrences, the city has perfected its defense.

Thanks to the guild card I was able to quickly pass through one of the gates; normally, one has to undergo three different identity checks to be permitted access.

At the first step, they check your identification documents. If you successfully pass this check, you have to go through a thorough body search.

Then, line up in another line.

Each point is heavily protected, and the lines are far longer than the one in the Dwarf Kingdom.

In other words, I'm truly happy that I had the guild ID.

By the way, even if there are any problems during your second check, you could go on to the third, but you'd be treated as a criminal from then on.

You'd basically be treated in a way that will discourage you from trying to enter. But still, there are many people trying to gain entrance. And so, extremely long lines stretch in front of the inspectors.

This all proves just how beguiling this city is to foreigners.

I proceed onward impressed.

As for Ranga, he's entered my shadow from the moment we reached the royal capital.

What? You thought I would just bring him here in the open?

Of course not. Wolves don't belong in cities. Even I have that much common sense. Don't worry.

And so, after having hidden Ranga in my shadow and spent half a day in line, we finally entered the city.

What's amazing is more than its appearance.

I was able to see a wonderful display of their advanced culture.

I saw many large gymnasium styled buildings that are used for concerts.

Busy squares are home to performers and theaters. There's also lots of advertisements for performances.

I don't know if paper is just that cheap here, but you see flyers thrown away on the streets.

Truly a metropolis.

I was finally able to smell the air of busy capital after such a long time.

No way! I thought in surprise, looking at glass buildings.

Behind the glass you could see products being sold, like the store windows of our world.

Actually, I guess that's exactly what they are.

The only difference would be that the main products on display are armors and weapons.

The stores that specialized in dresses and such were located closer to the castle—in the high class district.

But those are not stores intended for the masses.

You'd have to be pretty rich just to live inside the city walls, but housing near the castle is certainly limited only to the nobles.

And that's a sign of wealth disparity.

Well, that's just how it is. Isn't it natural to treat those that contribute more to taxes better?

Thus, after wandering around the city for a bit, I started looking for an inn.

The city is separated into four large districts.

The merchant's district, the sightseeing district, the production district, and the residential district.

Separated by the castle in the center, a circular city.

And easy to understand.

So, I proceeded to the sightseeing district.

As I thought, I quickly found a section dedicated to inns. There was also a bar in the back.

That got me excited. However, that was not my goal today.

Unfortunately, I abstained from festivities, and reserved a room in the inn.

The sightseeing district is near the walls, with various attractions lined up in

the streets. There's also quite a few street vendors.

Closer to the center is a large building intended for diplomats and conferences. There's also a school inside, it seems.

Of the four sections of this district, it is the most heavily guarded.

And close to this section stands the Freedom Association's main headquarters. I didn't know where it was at first, so I had asked a knight for directions.

「Which one do you have business in? The closest one is straight that way.」

He said, pointing.

In that direction stood a large gaudy building.

Next to it, was a building affiliated with the Western Saint's Church. A Saint Cross symbol stood proudly on the top.

「Next to that church?」

「Right, the gaudy one. Even a little girl like you wouldn't get lost getting to it.」

That's how I learned the way. The Freedom Association seems to have another building, but I'll head to the nearest one first.

It's a pretty large building, that can be seen from far away.

Thus, after securing a place at the inn, I had come to the Freedom Association's Headquarters.

Right now I have no business with the church. Actually, as an atheist, I'd prefer to stay away from the church my whole life.

Moreover, the church considers monsters its natural enemy. So I'd rather not appear before it.

But who would have expected it to stand so close to the Freedom Association. Well, as long as I don't reveal any of my aura they shouldn't recognize me for who I am.

Not that there's any use worrying about it. If they find out, we'll figure out the next step then.

The entryway to the Association is covered in glass. Must have cost a lot.

Frankly, I hadn't expected to see glass doors in this world. Just what you'd expect from "World Travelers".

They seemed to have achieved the impossible through pure will. I guess my own efforts have been lacking thus far.

What you permit happens, and what you don't permit doesn't happen.

Rather than saying what you can or can't do, simply doing it is important.

Let's remember that.

And, when I had thought to enter, I felt a presence staring at me.

The doors opened by themselves.

Seriously! A sensor detects human presence and opens the door. What a useless example of intricate technology.

I'm surprised they went this far. Considering that the church next door is opened by hand.

"Why is it different. It's next door!" I couldn't fathom the reason for the difference.

When I entered I felt a gaze fall upon me.

A lady by the door said,

「Welcome! For what purpose have you visited us today?」

Just like in a hotel. The headquarters are too influenced by them.

「Ah, I wish to meet with the Grand Master. I have an introductory letter.」

I said, and handed her the document.

「Allow me to verify it. Please wait in this room.」

She guided me to a waiting room.

The Headquarters are really impressive. The moment I sat on the sofa another attendant brought me tea.

They really leave nothing to be desired.

I suddenly got curious, so I asked,

「Hey, security seems pretty lax around here; can just anyone waltz in like this?」

「Oh, this must be your first time to the headquarters.

Only adventurers of B rank and above can enter it.

The entrance scans your guild card, so people without a proper identification cannot enter.

Those below B rank, C+ and below have to use the building near the entrance to the city.」

So she explained.

I see, so the sensor also had that purpose.

And the other building the knight had mentioned must be that one, huh.

So outsiders don't know about the necessary rank requirements.

I probably would have been sent here after presenting the letter, but I'm glad I stopped by here first.

Ranking up to B was also the correct decision.

While I was thinking this, I heard a knock on the door.

A door opened and in stepped a man.

Black hair and black eyes, the appearance of a youth.

A rather good face, blessed with a truly youthful appearance.

He could easily introduce himself as a high school student.

「Pleased to meet you, I am Kagurazaka Yuuki,

The Grand Master of the Freedom Association.

I'm looking forward to our conversation, Rimuru-san. I'll listen intently!」

He said, flashing bright smile.

An easy to befriend young lad. That's how I met Kagurazaka Yuuki.

* * *

Paaaaan!

The door flew open, and Milim entered.

That was the norm, so Frey didn't react much.

In the first place, the large mass of energy that was rapidly approaching her could only be Milim.

When Milim entered, she happily exclaimed with a wide smile,

「Yahoo, Frey! What wonderful weather we have today!」

She was combing her beautiful blond hair with her hand. Her hands adorned with an unfamiliar item.

Not a ring. Something enveloping four of her fingers, with dragon images as decorations.

It fit naturally around her small hands.

「Hmm.... did I come too early?」

She said, fanning her face.

Since when is she bothered with the heat...?

「Ara, Milim. It's been a while. You seem in a good mood today. Did something good happen?」

「Nnn, does it show on my face? Look at this!」

She said, showing the dragon knuckles on her hands. Proudly laughing “Fufun!” Frey could only sigh to herself.

「Ara, my! They suit you quite well. Where'd you get them?」

After deciding to praise her, Frey asked that question. While fidgeting in embarrassment, Milim said,

「Want to know? Should I tell you... should I... Hmm... what should I do...」

And similar pointless lines. How annoying. Frey, who had known Milim for a while now, could only think that.

「Ara, aren't “we” friends? You can tell me, can't you?」

Upon hearing these words, Milim's eyes opened wide.

「Right! We are friends! Alright. I'll tell you. The thing is...!」

And thus Frey heard from Milim about the monsters' city. Constantly bragging and showing off the clothing she got. Frey could not hide her surprise at the sight of such a merry Milim. Once Milim finished telling the story once,

「Right, right. Milim, as “friends”, I have a present I want to give you. Will you accept it?」

Frey said, and beckoned her attendant. The attendant brought it in. Lying on a purple cloth, a beautiful jewel. And this beautiful jewel was embedded inside a stunning pendant. Any person who saw it would recognize its astounding value.

「Hmm? This is the present? Is it okay for me to accept it? Even if I do, I won't be giving you the dragon

knuckles!」

Milim said, with a wry smile.

「Don't worry, Milim. It's proof of our friendship. A "friend's" gift, as I said. Will you wear it for me?」

Frey said with a soft smile.

"I will!" Milim exclaimed with a brilliant smile.

〈Incantation: Preparing Demon Marionette... success.〉

At that moment, Milim's smiling face went rigid.

Something flashed in her eyes, but her consciousness was already gone.

The dragon knuckles slid right off her hands.

Seeing this reaction, Frey sighed in relief.

「It's done, Clayman. Is this fine?」

She said to a dark, empty corner of the room.

From where you'd think no one could be a single man emerged.

Demon Lord Clayman. One called the Marionette Master.

「*Kukuku*. Well done, Frey. I have now acquired the strongest doll!

Kuuuuhahahahahaha!!! You've looked down on me as a young demon lord, but to have fallen for such a petty trick... how pitiful, Milim!」

With a sinister smile, Clayman struck Milim across the face.

Her plump cheeks turned red and her lip split.

Milim, who was normally clothed in many defense barriers, did not have much defense right now.

A normal girl, no, even lower than a human; it's natural for her to be hurt by a demon lord's attack.

Kuahahahaha! While loudly laughing, Clayman continued his onslaught.

「*Shouldn't you stop now?*」

「*Hmph, it's not a spell that would disappear with a little damage!*

Considering her arrogant attitude, surely you've got a grudge or two against her?

Isn't that why you agreed to this plan? No?

If so, then don't hold back. She can't resist anymore.

Well, she is pointlessly sturdy, and we can just keep healing her when she breaks!]

His eyes bloodshot, Clayman kicked Milim into the air.

Contrary to Clayman, Frey was calmly observing.

「Hey, Clayman. You don't know, but Milim has an automatic defense mode, you see?

We call it "Rampage" where she uses abilities beyond her body's limit.

So if you want to die, be my guest, but don't involve me in your side. Got it?]

Clayman regained his composure upon hearing these words.

「Tch. What a joke of a demon lord. What's with the oldest demon lord.

Looking down on us.

Whatever. If I use her, I can improve my standing among the demon lords.

Frey, you're my accomplice. So don't go thinking you can betray me now!]

「Ara? Weren't we supposed to be equals?]

「Fool! I'm the one who came up with the plan! You've already become one of my pieces.

You don't want to die by Milim's hands right now, do you?

Kuhahaha! Now that I obtained Milim, you can't reject me any longer!]

Frey made an unpleasant face upon hearing his words.

You are the Sky Queen, the ruler of the skies, no? You wish for Milim to disappear and I can make it happen!

She agreed to the plan because of those words.

As she somehow learned that Milim is weak to the word "friend",

「I understand.]

「Good. Just don't try to betray me.

What, you aren't like Milim—I won't order you around. Just ask a few favors here and there!]

While continuing his laughter, Clayman said.

Now, he has assembled three demon lords beneath him. A power that their council can no longer ignore.

At the very least, he's far surpassed the other young demon lords.

Milim and Frey. By controlling these two, he could perhaps even force the others to follow.

Then, even the old generation would come to fear him.

He'll rule them all!

After all, he's the marionette master! He'll lead them all under that name.

The next one on the list is Demon Lord Karion. After that, the next would be...

Clayman was busy planning.

Frey coldly observed this.

On the floor, Milim's dragon knuckles emitted a faint light.

But there was no light in Milim's eyes.

The dragon knuckles glowed in vain.

Chapter 57 - To Learn Magic

Kagurazaka Yuuki was an openhearted good guy.
His age should be in the second half of the 20s, but his look is still like a high school student.

I heard the reason; it was due to some kind of curse.

When he comes to this world, it seems he didn't acquire any unique skill or unique abilities, only his physical abilities that grow abnormally.

[Well~, I give up.

Actually, I noticed something was strange after five years have passed.....]

He says that while laughing and scratching his head.

Thanks to that, I heard he never had a date with women before. Actually, he is a fellow who possesses a good impression.

[Well, is that so?! That's disappointing!

Ha ha ha. Eventually it'll turn better!]

I'm comforting him sincerely.

[By the way, Rimuru-san, are you a Monster?

But how could you pass the barrier of the Association headquarters?]

[N? Ah, I'm a Monster. My true identity is slime. This trivia, please conceal it!]

[No, no! That's not just a trivia!

Not that. Why did you made such city for monsters?]

[Eh? No, there are enough monsters to establish a city, is it unusual?]

[No..... Although from what I heard there's no other like.....]

[Is that so?]

[That's right.]

We stare at each other for a while.

Well, whatever.

For now I decided to get along with the Leader of Association (Grand Master). It is to discourage the city's image as a suspicious monsters city, for now let's talk about the truth.

Come to think about it, Shizu-san is aware of my true identity from the air I carry.

I think she's an amazing person.

Usually, there is no one that will think a person from another world would reincarnate as a slime.

[Actually, I'm a "Space Alien"....]

[What are you trying to say? You?

Rather, it's the first time I heard space alien since coming here!

By any chance.....]

[Damn, I was exposed!

So, my true identity is a mysterious hero that fights after doing Transformation (Form Change)! Kamen Racer!]

pose! Or as close as I could do, (TL: Nice!)

[How nostalgic! Kamen Racer, I was watching it too!

So, as I thought, Rimuru-san you're.... a Japanese, right!]

Fufu.

After I tell some material that only fellow countrymen could understand, it's a bull's eye.

In case, he doesn't know the story, at that time I will think about something else.

After that, we talk about various things together.

Things that happen after coming to this world, Shizu-san's final moments.

Living in this world, Magic.

The topics from the world on the other side. Such like endings and final episodes of Manga and Anime, he leans his body forward and really get into it.

[Master! From this point, please instruct me by all means!] (ED: us? Haven't read 55 & 56) (TL: Sorry after checking the raw, it's me not us)

[Fu Fu Fu. It's difficult. The anime you really want to know is already completed!

Of course, on those matters the great I won't make any mistakes, I will restrain on what should not be said. (TL: Should I write it as "I will not give unnecessary spoiler")

It's a gentleman's etiquette!!!]

[Ha ha~~~!!! By all means, of course!]

His desperation comes out.

In the middle of the conversation, the secretary onee-san entered the room

with tea,

She opened her eyes in shock and almost dropped the tray.

As expected, the prank has probably ended.

Well, He can't read the continuation of his favorite manga, so it's natural for him to be interested.

Among them, some had reached its conclusion, but most of them didn't advanced that much.

Some of them were interesting but some were awful.

That's what I expected from him, Japanese "World Traveler" that has knowledge after living in this world for 10 years.

Of course, the serious talks begin now.

The previous one is only casual talk.

[Rimuru-san, the reason you came to the Royal Capital, is not only to meet me, your fellow countrymen, right?

Is your goal to "Return"?)

Return.

I'm thinking about it. However, I gave up on it.

Because I'm already dead. However, for young people such as them, returning might be their goal.

[Are you able to do that?]

Regarding this question, the response that comes was silence.

It's not an easy thing to do.

If it is an easy thing to do, they would already return a long time ago. I already thought that.

[It's like a one way road. This world is like a half material world.....]

And, I understood the explanation he gives.

It's simple; the previous world was a full material world, because there is no magic power on Earth.

Spirits, demons, fairies, monsters can exist because there are magic power in this world.

Therefore, you can easily go down, but it's impossible to climb up.
Once your body became half material, you can't turn back easily into your full material body.

[However, there is a way.

From the legend in the material world (Earth) about demon and devil, if some conditions are met, it is possible to travel between worlds.]

The talks had been finished.

Well, it is what is called steps in a research.

For that goal, I guess I would like to continue hearing the progression of the research.

[Well, if I'm able to live carefree, then that's enough.

The town had been finished, and it's enjoyable to be together with my companion.

To converse with fellow countrymen is one of the biggest reason I come to this Royal Capital.

But there's actually another purpose besides it, and that's.....]

The other purposes were.

To buy magic stones and inspecting the Royal Capital. To measure the degree of civilization, those visits are that important.

However, the most important purpose I had not forgotten.

That is, to learn magic!

[Well, there were several purposes.

It's good to talk with you, after this I want to visit the Library.]

When I said that,

[Ah, I see. So, it's Magic right? That sure is nice...

I also want to learn some of it, however for some reason I can't use it.

I think it might be because the change in my body's nature.

Magic, would be a man's special romance.....]

This person, it seems that he is also the kind of person who understood a man's romance.

As expected, since it exists he wants to be able to use it.

[I see.How long do you intend to stay at the Royal Capital?]

[N? I had thought to stay for about 1 month.

Now then, I wonder if I can learn magic by that time.]

[If that's so, can't you stay for about 3 months?]

Hearing the explanation, it seems there is lack of school teacher in the Royal Capital.

There is a lot of impertinent student, so it's impossible for the B rank adventurer in the Royal Capital.

When the new school term begins, the new A Rank is scheduled to arrive and take up the position of the teacher. So, there is a need to entrust the position for 3 months until then.

There is no reason to hurry, even if I may accept it somehow...

While thinking about this,

[Teacher's dormitory, 3 meals a day, and salary of 10 silver coins a day. Also! How about additional free pass to the Royal Capital library?]

[Of course, I will take it! You would do the same if I'm in trouble!]

[[[Ha ha ha ha ha ha!]]]

We shook each other's hand while smiling; I got a job at the Royal Capital.

I bid farewell to Yuuki, finishing the formalities in one day, and I was told to go to the dormitory tomorrow.

The talk immediately ended, there were no problems either and thus the move to the dormitory finished.

Well, though I experience the Royal Capital Inn service only for 1 night, the service there was quite satisfying.

The two included meals are delicious. As expected, the seasoning is also used abundantly.

Even though the Inn that I resided at is cheap, they also provide a large public bath. And it's wonderful too.

In the country, it's seldom to see a local Inn with Bath service.

However, if you want to stay for 3 months, living in the dormitory is more convenient. Thus the move to the dormitory is immediately finished.

Even if I regret nothing, 4 silver coins a day is quite high.

The salary of 10 Silver coins will be given on the working days, there won't be any on holiday.

Though it was expected for the Royal Capital to have high living expense, there is no problem to save money.

But work is for tomorrow, today is for visiting the library.

There is a restriction to enter the room with Magic Books.

But when I present the Adventurer identification card, I can enter the room without any problems. They seem to keep what they had promised to me when I take up the teacher job.

Even though the Library is located in the Royal Capital, it is not the Royal Library. The Royal Library is located inside the Castle.

As those are in Royal family possession, only Court Magician can access it.

In every country the library seems to hold the Country's secret magic, so it was difficult for a foreigner to visit it.

But it doesn't mean that this Library worth is low. They are not.

The Library, where I stand now, exhibited the secret arts that the adventurers had collected. The Ancient Magic that the Freedom Association adventurers found is also collected at this place.

It can be said, that it is possible that this Library had a worth that is equal to the other countries Royal Library.

It's wonderful.

Coming to this Royal Capital early like this is like being blessed with good fortune.

Even though this is a favor from Yuuki, surely it's mainly because of my good behavior.

I immediately check the magic books.

If you read it straight, the books amount is such that it seems to be impossible to read all of them in someone's lifetime.

To everyone in the world who studies diligently, Forgive Me!

After apologizing in my heart, I read it quickly with 『Great Sage』.

For someone nearby who sees me, it seems to them that I only take a book in my

hand for a while and then return them to the shelves. Actually, just by holding it in my hand, the book goes inside my body.

So! I copy it completely.

Simultaneous utilization of 『Great Sage』 and 『Gluttony』 abilities, high speed copy of the magic books that I hold in my hands.

I am postponing checking the content of the book for a later time.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to be able to use magic just by copying the books.

But, taking and copying it, I'm able to make the index of the magic books I want.

After this, it's necessary for me to study it one by one. For that reason, I took and copied the books one after another without seeing the title.

Even with the copying speed, it's taking a whole day, I'm only able to take a tenth portion of all the books here.

It seems for now on, I'm going to come to the Library frequently in my break time and day off.

Thus, my day off passed. However, there was no regret.

For my goal to learn magic, it's just a trivial thing to do.

Well, it's the first day of the job.

Still this is a bit difficult job, I understood that after experiencing it at the first day taking the position.

Rather than a teacher, I became an Instructor. Because there isn't anyone capable to fill the vacant position Shizu-san left. My job is to become the substitution.

Yuuki's jobs are not only as the Leader of Freedom Association (Grand Master), but also to manage the Freedom Academy as its Executive Director.

He was the Chairman too. The person in question says that it's just a honorary position, but it's still an important position.

After coming to this world for 10 years, he develops the Freedom Association, running an academy. In one sense, he is the representative of all the adventurers.

This academy had also referred as an institution to nurture the association's member.

Moreover, each class is separate just like in the Association,

Thus, they are divided just like how the Association. However, the teaching is shared between multiple classes. (ED: Guro outright didn't translate this line. Yep, this line is hard. Tlc plz.) TL: Sorry must slip my mind on this line! Tehee : p) The position I take is the vacant homeroom teacher of the special class. Alias, S class.

But it's seem the class's member is still at the age of elementary grade student. It says the former homeroom teacher is the "Demon Teacher", Izawa Shizue. It's Shizu-san!

She's the hero whose nickname is "Explosive Monarch". So the teachers succeeding her pale in comparison to her.

The previous teachers, due to the severe interaction with the students, they are all defeated, I hear they immediately run away from the academy. (ED: Yep, this line is kind of weird)

When I was giving my greetings in the staff room, I was told that by the other teachers.

[No, even for someone who looks like a child, I think you still had trouble with those problem children.....

Even if you are a B rank adventurer.....

Well, you had recommendation from the chairman, please quickly report if it seems impossible for you.]

The principal worries too much.

They are just kids! Hahaha. Or so what I think.....

[Chee~~se! From this day, yours new homeroom teacher is....,]

In the place I stood and greeting them friendly, a flaming sword flying towards me.

I become panicked and managed to avoid it

[Ken-chan, Cool~~~!!!]

[Is that, a special move? You perfected it!?!]

[However, it's still lacking. It should not be easily avoided!]

Noisy children.

I will end up split and charred black if I didn't avoid it.

Ey, calm down will ya. The class'll be destroy'd if ya went ta rampage!

I retort in pseudo Kansaiben.

I already want to gone home.

This place is another world, if a teacher exhibit violence will it be considered a corporal punishment?

In front of me are 5 human children.

This is a gathering of problem children.

Alias, S class. A special class that is composed only by World Travelers.

Yuuki sheltered the children from every corner of the world.

They are still kid of elementary grade student, but their abilities is terrifying high.

Honestly, he is toying with me.

I thought they were docile, But towards me they are staring with their eyes full with hostility.

For three months after this, can I take care of these guys.....?

The depressing feeling from a long time ago is coming back.



ROUGH SKETCH



70エ・オパール



ゲイル



剣也



Chapter 58 - The Summoned *those who are called heroes*

The children directed a hostile gaze at me.
Filled with pure hatred.
It made me feel really out of place.
What in the world could cause them to harbor so much hostility towards a new instructor?
Five children.

Misaki Kenya: Male, 8 years old
Sekiguchi Ryouta: Male, 8 years old
Gale Gibson: Male, 9 years old
Alice Rondo: Female, 7 years old
Chloe O'Bell: Female, 8 years old

None of them are older than 10.
I look them over while confirming the notes I picked up in the staff room.
They've been picked up from all over the world. Each one was called a monster.
Each country has requested a subjugation for them, but the adventurers took custody of them instead.
That's what the documents said, but something is bothering me.
Why are their ages so similar? And, they've all been picked up in various circumstances from countries surrounding the Jura Forest?
Moreover, within three years of each other? There might be something going on.
They seem to have grown very attached to Shizu-san. Other than her, they only listen to Yuuki's words.
Well, unless you see them for yourself you wouldn't know how mischievous this bunch really is.

「Yo, what's with the sudden aggression, brats!
I (*Ore-sama*) will be your instructor from now on; the name's Rimuru.
I'm not as nice as Shizu-san, so prepare yourselves!」

I thought to start with a greeting, but...

「Shut up! You won't deceive us!」

「Right, right! Even if we listen, you'll just kill us anyways!」

「What did you do with Shizu-san! Did you kill her too?!」

「Yeah, we won't trust an adult!」

「You'll just dispose of us, saying that we're good for nothing, right?」

Hmm? What's with their response?

This is not at the level of classroom disruption. They are not just bratty—that's real killing intent right there.

I mean, how did they even think that we're trying to kill them, or that we killed Shizu san?

There's something else at work here.

That day, we couldn't continue the lesson.

I don't know their circumstances, so I can't just force my will on them.

So, that day ended with just a greeting.

「K-Ken-chan... are you okay?」

「Stay away! That mask wearing instructor... what the hell was that!」

「Hey! Calm down, calm down, okay!!!」

I could hear them making noise beyond the door, but I paid it no mind.

I only allowed another member to introduce themselves. Ranga, I mean.

He's probably observing the class instead of me. How pleasant.

But the kids who clearly lack the will to solve the problems he handed out, seem keen on playing around.

So the fact that today's lesson became Self-Study is something I could not have prevented.

So, leaving the rest to Ranga, I decided to visit Yuuki.

Inside the Freedom Association Chief's room.

Yuuki and I are holding a discussion while sitting on the sofa.

A pleasant aroma drifts from cup of tea before us.

I continue the conversation.

「So... please tell me the kids' circumstances.」

I get straight to the point.

Yuuki looked me straight in the eye, and after thinking for a bit,

「Rimuru-san, let me ask you a question...

How much do you know about Sakaguchi Hinata?」

What's that about? Did something happen between Hinata and the kids?

「Not much. She's a fellow Japanese.

And that she remembers things quickly—so Shizu-san said...」

Hmph, he nodded in response,

「In that case, how about the difference between “Summoned” and “World Travelers”?」

Now that he mentions it, I don't know much about them either.

They are guaranteed to possess a unique skill. And, the summoning success rate is low.

Also, they have a curse carved into their souls.

I told him that much.

「Yes. That matches everything that we have learned about them. You know a lot, don't you...

Anyways.

Summoning requires very definite circumstances to be prepared as to allow you to summon a person with powerful abilities.

Someone whose will is especially strong.

Now then, what about summoning conducted under incomplete conditions?」

Yuuki's following explanation made me feel sick.

The success rate with thirty magicians chanting summoning magic over the period of three days is a less than 0.03%.

Moreover, a magician who has used summoning magic, cannot use it during a set interval.

The rest period ranges from 33 to 88 years. Usually, the time is used to prepare the environment to better the chances of the summoning.

Now, what would happen if you ignored these rules?

If you do, there are less requirements to conduct the summoning and you can continuously summon.

According to what Yuuki said, summoning conducted thus usually results in children being summoned.

Children with strong souls or abundant magic are forced over here. Without

being granted the ability befitting them...

Without a unique skill, the abundant magical energy causes their bodies to implode.

They are fried alive by the powers they possess.

「Eh? Wait a minute, then are those kids?」

「... At the moment, the record is three years..

That is the lifespan of those improperly summoned.

And, those kids have been summoned like that...

Failing to become heroes.」

「Wha... Huh? Heroes? Why would...

Were they forced into this by Sakaguchi Hinata?」

Yuuki does not answer.

However, his silence only confirms my suspicions.

「The church is seeking a new hope, a new power.

The wish of all humans—light. Humanity’s messiah, the “Hero”!

I have secretly investigated many facilities and broke the children out...」

「What... the hell...」

「I have not found a way to prevent their deaths.

Children under the age of ten are no exception—if they do not possess a unique skill, they will surely die...」

「Aren’t the summoners bothered by the loss? Aren’t these “failures” dissuading them or something?」

「They calmly summon more and more. Since they can just continue doing so, they don’t care. That’s probably what they are thinking...」

「Are you kidding me? Why have you allowed the church to continue existing?」

「The church... the Western Saint’s Church is influential.

Surrounding the Jura Forest, other than the Heretic Country Sarion, every country is a devout follower of the church.

Do you understand? That’s not a power we can defeat even with the Government’s support.

There’s also believers among my associates.

If we make the church our enemy, the Association would fight with itself!」

Yuuki said, his expression pained and powerless.

Nor could I add anything. To think that those lively kids will...
And that's why they met me with hostility and hatred.

「Hey. Why did you have me meet the kids? Why did you tell me all this?」
「... Why, indeed? Maybe I wanted to see if you could come up with a way to save them.

I don't have anyone in the world I could rely upon. I've already lost Shizu-san.
If you hadn't noticed, I wouldn't have told you anything.
So why did you notice?」

Damn it.

If I hadn't noticed, I could have sent them on their way merrily.
Now that I have, how can I be merry? What a bad joke...

「Isn't it dangerous to have the school so close to a church?」
「*Fufu*. On the contrary, it's the safest place. You've heard the expression: it's darkest under the lamppost?
So, what will you do? Will you quit?」

I looked Yuuki straight in the eye.
And loudly declared,

「I will not quit, and will proceed as I wish from now on. Any complaints?」

Yuuki nodded.
And,

「I leave them to you. If you can, please save those children...!」

He said, lowering his head.
No need to tell me.
That's another task Shizu-san had left behind. I'll see it through.
And, chances are, this whole conversation was planned by Shizu-san ahead of time.
Just a stray thought.

I leave the Freedom Association building and return to the classroom.
Now, now. Can't greet them with a gloomy face.
I'll do what I can. That's all I've been doing thus far.
Shizu-san depended on me, Yuuki asked this of me, all I can do is to answer their

hopes.

* * *

That was the worst day in history for the Beast Kingdom Yuurazia.

Demon Lord Karion nervously looked into the skies above.

A huge lump of magical energy was rapidly approaching.

Without even trying to hide her aura—Demon Lord Milim.

(Hey, hey, is this for real...)

She's clearly intent on fighting and aiming for this country.

A fight with a serious Milim Nava. I guess this could also be called an opportunity.

Karion did not believe himself to be superior; in fact, he thought Milim to be stronger.

However.

(It's more fun winning against a stronger opponent!)

His blood boiled and his heart beat happily.

The strongest, Demon Lord Milim. A senior Demon Lord, unlike her appearance, she deserves the awe.

He could face that Demon Lord. To say he was excited would be an understatement.

He had once asked his parents when he was but a child.

About the tyranny of the Dragon Princess.

Was that fairy tale based on Milim or some other model? This is what his parents said.

A dragon princess's anger can erase a country!

Never fight against a dragon princess!

What rubbish.

Though the military of the Beast Kingdom Yuuzaria is not particularly large, half of its population belong to a warrior race.

By no means inferior to any other country.

Moreover, he himself had evolved into a Demon Lord. There was no one he had to fear!

He headed to the sacred mountain behind the castle; and, while preparing himself, he planned to ambush Milim there.

His followers—devils and retainers, knelt before him, waiting for instructions.

「Listen! We only have one foe. Demon Lord Milim Nava!
Against a demon lord, if you devils fight together, you can put up a proper fight.
But I will go myself!

As for you, erect a barrier and protect the people! Believe me, I shall win!!!」

「「「Ay!!!」」」

Hearing their battle cry, he could feel their excitement.
Today, he had the chance to prove himself the strongest!
(I didn't hate her personality. We could have become good friends... what a shame!)
At this point, her reasons did not matter.
For him, only the fight mattered. Not that his prudence would have changed the outcome in the slightest...

Slowly, he rose to the skies using 〈Flight Magic〉.
Reaching Milim, he began the fight without a word.
First, a quick test.
Punch her with all his power. However, her body covered in many defensive barriers, the attack did not reach her.
He summoned the *Hyakko-seiryuu* lance, and felt his strength grow exponentially.
Letting out a small breath, he combined his fighting spirit with his aura.
And released an onslaught of slashes at Milim. Each slash was followed by an air bullet which violently assaulted Milim.
However...
Though the bullets have broken through a number of barriers, they were unable to hurt her body.
Moreover, each of the slashes was caught by her demon sword “Evil God”.
It didn't suit her at all, that long, curved, single-edged blade.
The sword was dyed in a pale blue light.
How many demon lords has this famous sword slain?
Tch! Karion distanced himself from Milim and regained his posture.
He had not looked down on her at all, but she far surpassed his expectations.
He had not used every ounce of his power, but Milim also seemed bottomless.

Nor was she an opponent he could fight conflicted.

He decided to go all out. Unfortunately, she seemed barely unconscious, as if she was being controlled by someone.

That, however, didn't matter to Karion.

(I had wanted to fight the real you, not some puppet! But, even so, I will not lose!)

He unleashed his abilities.

Began assuming first his devil, then his demon lord form.

He is, after all, known as the Beast King, a lion lycanthrope.

Thus, he began transforming. Into a beast devil.

And thus his true form, Demon Lord "Lion King" Karion, had appeared.

Covered in a silver fur, his muscles bulged.

On his lion head a Vermillion Bird crown shone bright. And that body was clad in Black Tortoise armor.

The neighboring countries all specialized in warfare. So, for the sake of fighting for the dominance of the skies, large eagle-like wings were attached to his back.

Seeing that appearance a small light briefly flashed in Milim's eyes, and Karion had not missed it.

Or maybe he had only imagined it.

「Now, then, Milim. It's a shame, but now that you have seen this appearance, I'll have you permanently disappear, okay?

It's a shame, but goodbye!!!」

He screamed, and concentrated all his fighting spirit into the *Hyakko-seiryuu* lance.

If they had been on the ground, the earth would split from the force of his power and his surroundings would grind into dust.

Not that the air remained unaffected. The energy he had emitted set the air itself on fire.

Beast roar!!!

This roar releases one's magical energy at the opponent.

All his energy was focused on the tip of the lance, yet it remained undamaged.

Had he fired it on the ground, everything in the direction of the attack would be inadvertently erased; it is "Beast King" Karion's sure-kill technique.

Normally, its power would not wane in the slightest for the first 100 meters. And, the actual range of the attack could go well past 2 kilometers. Thus, the long range makes this a skill that is best used against multiple opponents, but it can be regulated to be concentrated on a single one. This would be the first time he will use Beast Roar against a single opponent, but he could hardly imagine anyone being able to withstand it.

He will go all out.

Magical energy rapidly escaped his body. He could hardly sustain the flight magic.

However, that was a small price to pay for this attack.

Normally, he'd have to use it two or three times to become this tired; but, today he couldn't be so reserved.

His opponent was covered in many high level barriers.

Taking a deep, and while falling towards the ground,

Zuzzza!!!

He dodged the return fire.

Blood trickled down from his back, but he closed the wound with spirit alone.

He looked up at her.

However, he didn't want to see her, nor believe that such a thing could be possible.

A being who has so far exceeded his expectations.

Dragon wings spread wide, her blond hair fluttered in the wind.

And, though it was not there before, a beautiful crimson horn now adorned her forehead.

Her light Gothic dress has changed into jet black armor

(Ah... so this would be her real battle attire, huh...)

Though Karion was now exhausted, his opponent was unhurt.

"What a joke. Cut me some slack." He was now experiencing a bizarre feeling—wanting to cry and laugh at the same time.

「Well done! That was fun!

As thanks, I'll show you this!!!」



Milim spoke for the first time.
However, it was a monotone voice devoid of her personality.
Karion nonetheless felt impending doom from her words.
“I don’t want you to show me anything!” He screamed in his heart.
Using thought transmission he conveyed an order to his subordinates.
One word: run!!!
And, with the remained of his strength, he ran as fast as he could.
He felt it deep in his bones: if he stayed, he would die.

The dragon’s pupils dilated, and she stretched her wings.
Milim roared!

Dragon Nova!!!

Its brightness easily surpassed that of the stars.
The bright pellets that rained upon the earth erased not just the castle, but the mountain behind it.
The sound of destruction far surpassed the audible range of one’s ears, so the shockwave heralded it instead.
Those touched by the light disappeared without being able to offer any resistance.
The strongest magic.
And one of the reasons that Milim has for so long reigned supreme.

Impossible...
Luckily, Karion was able to escape receiving a direct hit, so he survived.
But *that* is Milim.
A demon lord you should never fight against. Nicknamed “Destruction” itself.
Now, Karion agreed with his parents’ words.
You can’t fight against that. It’s dimension different from everyone else.
However...

「But, she...」
「She..? *Ara?* What could possibly be wrong? Would you enlighten me?」

He felt a blade press against his neck.
And the presence of a single woman.
The supreme ruler of the skies—Sky Queen Frey.

「Tch. Frey, you too?」

「*Ara?* What about me? You'll have lots of time to tell me...」

And so, Karion consciousness faded into darkness...

Chapter 59 - The Church Moved

The Devil Grucius was patrolling around the forest when a sudden incoming telepathic communication confused him.

「Hm? Is something wrong?」

Several of his teammates from the frontier garrison who were worried about him asked him simultaneously.

These good-hearted fellows, not doubting that I'm a devil. Unaware about it himself, Grucius sees the illusion of real companions in them.

「Nothing, I'm fine」

I replied thus, and they were relieved.

Nothing's wrong whatsoever, that's outrageous.

I am now receiving the contents of the telepathic communication.

(Grucius! It's an emergency. When the time comes, act in accordance to your judgement! We are currently at war. I'll contact you again when we win. Until then, you're free!)

There's no doubt, something's happening.

This is the first time I've heard panic in demon Karion's voice. Just who is his opponent?

It was irritating and I can't think of anything.

What should I do? He told me to make my own decisions, but I can't think of any measures.

After that I tried to telepathically communicate just in case, but nothing came out of it. |

Grucius's heart was gradually filled with anxiety while paying attention in order to prevent his teammates from realizing his unrest.

* * *

The face of demon lord Clayman was filled joy after receiving the report.

Karion was the one who tried to persuade Milim, but it somehow ended up as a battle.

That's good. Indeed, there are few demon lords that will still be merciful after

being annoyed.

According to the report, Milim triumphed over Karion with overwhelming combat prowess, and even blew away the royal castle, Morotomo.

Rapporteur Frey said so while elegantly drinking tea.

The other devils apart from Frey, who were spies, all reported the same thing. There's no doubt.

Demon lord Karion is dead. Even a strong demon lord such as Karion was no problem if you have "Absolute power" (Milim Nava) in your hands.

The 10 great demon lords who ruled over Makai.

Among them, 3 individuals including myself grouped as 1, now, 1 member has disappeared.

Moreover, to have tried to threaten the absolute strongest, the last moments of the demon lord Karion will be good publicity.

「Kukuku, everything is going on smoothly, just as planned.」

「Ara? Is that so? I am glad that I was of use.」

Frey stood up and gave words of agreement without having ulterior motives.

「I'll be going back, but what about Milim? From the looks of the battle, any devil trying to settle the matter will be ripped to shreds?」

Tsk. With a frown on her face, Frey looked at Clayman.

「It will probably be fine for you to take care of it. After all, you and her are friends right? I entrust it to you, please accept it. If my castle is destroyed, I wouldn't be able to bear it.」

Hearing such words, Frey goes 「Yare, yare」 while shaking her head.

「Even though I don't want my house to be destroyed? Well, it's useless no matter what I say right?」

「It's great you understand. You may go!」

That attitude shows that he doesn't even treat Frey as an equal anymore, but rather a subordinate under his rule.

Frey didn't show any signs of discomfort in her expression, she sent a piercing gaze at Clayman and left.

A smile appeared on Clayman's face after making sure that Frey left.

Everything is going well.

Everything is going according to the plan of “that person”.

Unlike a prophecy, things don't always go as predicted, but progress is smoothly made.

In the original plan, the Orc lord was designated as the new demon lord. The reason for backing this plan was in order to manipulate the said demon lord. Since our interest met, we both decided to work together. Even if the plan fails, there are no losses.

But then, a suspicious monster appeared, and it created a monster town. As soon as this was known, the plan was modified to utilize the town.

To use our common interest as bait, using the monsters in that town as bait. The bait was bit, and luckily the one who bit it was the strongest demon lord.

Clayman started his plan, first, by intercepting a multi-layered barrier.

Then, as usual, he carries out his periodic report.

A trustworthy partner.

He has sworn his allegiance to the true master.....

* * *

Ever since Myulan joined the Frontier Garrison, every day was an extremely busy day.

Just because she took up the duty of a shaman, doesn't mean she'd be any less busy. Sometimes an individual curious about the dark arts would come along, and she would teach them.

If they were simple curses, she could teach them. Before she became a devil she was originally a witch. Teaching curses used by humans is a simple task.

What she was busy with was as a staff officer, another one of her positions.

In the first place, asking a newcomer to take up the position as the staff officer is not a good idea...

(To put trust in a devil, these people are overly good-natured!)

That's probably the impression she had if she were to put it in words.

Giving commands for the platoon to meet up in the monster's city, and reporting to the captain. She's been handling all that.

To think of her as irresponsible is virtually impossible.

Even so, in the midst of all the discomfort, there were also a lot of thoughts.

After interacting with people for a while, long-forgotten feelings started to

resurface.

And,

「Myulan, is it fine? Please tell me your response soon!」

Said by a man courting her, she looked back at Youmu.

From the start, I felt his gaze when I infiltrated the Frontier garrison.

I was on alert whether we were discovered, but Grucius said he didn't feel anything.

What is happening? When I was thinking about that, Youmu gazed over here.

When our eyes met, he looked away in embarrassment.

But recently, not only his attitude but even his words contain hints of courtship.

He said,

「I love you. Please date me! You will definitely be happy, I promise! 」

ED: That's not a hint XD

He threw a straight ball.

Even though he usually has a frivolous attitude, he was actually serious. He hasn't made any moves until now.

The times when I was just a young girl, which would have been 700 years ago. I can't remember much from back then, I don't have any memories of interacting with other people.

To be honest, the experience called love is something that girl has no experience with whatsoever.

There was more joy than anxiety. Moreover...

(He said he promises happiness...

Even though my heart is held in the hands of Clayman. I can't, No it can't!

Besides.....

How could a human fall in love with me?)

In the end, she postponed the reply.

I refuse! Her reasons tell her so, but for some reason she couldn't muster the courage to say it.

She's been a devil for 400 years, but this is the first time she felt such insecurity.

In such a state, Myulan was contacted by Clayman.

For the devil Myulan, Clayman isn't the target of her loyalty.

If it's possible she wouldn't hesitate to pull off a dirty trick. However, against that sly demon lord, such a chance will probably never appear.

The last time she reported, she remembered that Clayman was in a strangely good mood, and felt uncomfortable.

He probably came up with something devious, she thought.

Unfortunately, she has no countermeasures. It's not something she can openly go up against.

Even if someone is feeling unhappy, there is no way for them to save themselves.

Having unpleasant feelings about this is natural.

And suddenly she received contact.

(You appear healthy. Thanks to the information you bought, everything is going smoothly here. Good job. Even though I have been keeping your heart for you, I think I might return it soon.)

A sudden offer.

Myulan suddenly felt exhilarated. But panicking wouldn't do.

Her opponent is a Demon lord. To even trick those working under him without shame, he is certainly the wicked Marionette Master.

(Wow! Thank you very much!)

That would be the safe answer.

(There's no need for you to be cautious. What? I just have one last thing I want you to do. Until then, keep enjoying your leisurely life. Now then, see ya)

She was spoken to without being able to reply, and the connection was cut. Is this a trap? There's no way to confirm it.

Doing what she has done so far, she simply followed orders.

However, if I really was released.....

(I wonder would I have accepted him?)

With a uneasy feeling in her chest, Myulan resumed and acted as if nothing has happened.

* * *

Sakaguchi Hinata awakened from her light nap in a sleepy state.

Diligently serving her, Nicolas had brought her a cup of coffee.

「Oh, have you awakened?」

Cardinal Nicolas Spertus.

He is the man who sits at the pinnacle of the western religion, the sacred, inviolable, confidant pope of the holy kingdom Ruberios.

To Hinata, that man is as faithful as a tamed puppy.

They shared a bed yesterday, and even allowed him to be her companion overnight.

Without getting tired, she looked at him who licked her body clean.

TN Note:...that's what the translations are saying... It's turning into an ero novel.

(Really, just like a dog...)

That was what Hinata thought.

He worships Hinata, as if she was a goddess or a saint. An idiotic man, Hinata thought.

(Even I would excrete after I eat. After a year, it's natural for me to age. It's not like my body would remain beautiful forever. All this man is looking at is a mere fantasy)

He desires her body. It's cheap. Even though I don't think this body is worth that much, he can do whatever he wants with it.

To her, her body is merely a mean of winning somebody other. There are no other values.

Of course, that girl also has carnal desires. She's not sexually frigid. Even so, what then?

Only a few man I like is allowed to do as they wish to my body. However, men I hate will not be forgiven if they do the same.

That means,

(In the end, I don't dislike Nicolas, is that it?)

The reality is that people around her can't understand her.

「Now, breakfast is ready. What would you like to eat?」

Sweets were suddenly brought fourth.

Nicolas, preparing and carrying out breakfast for someone else, that is something nobody could possibly imagine.

Because anybody who knew Nicolas would describe him has an arrogant

egotistical, cold-blooded man with the mask of a saint.

「Ah, I got it. Thank you」

When Hinata calls out casually, Nicolas nods his head with glee.

And the two had breakfast.

After a long time, the meal tasted delicious.

「Oh yes. I had something to report to you, this is something a spy brought earlier. 」

After finishing their meal and being relaxed, Nicolas talked to Hinata.

It can't be helped if he want to gain her favor.

Hinata, while combing her prized black hair left and right with her comb, stared at Nicolas.

Picking up her circular glasses off the table and putting them on,

「Let's hear it.」

She asked briefly.

Inside there is the beauty amongst beauties who held was the captain of the “Knights guard division working directly under the pope”.

On her the usual calm, cold expression.

The time to relax has come to an end.

Nicolas began sharing his information.

About the turbulence of the monsters within the Great Jura forest, and the monsters building a town.

In addition, certain countries had already started trading with the monsters, that was what information were shared.

「What did you say? These monsters overturned the churches' religious belief that monsters are common enemies of mankind.....」

Hinata mutters, to which Nicolas nods.

「That's right, what will you do? 」

「Fumu... That's right...」

Hinata is in deep though.

Crushing them is easy. However, it is human nature to leave them alone if there

are no problems.

At the very least, as long as they are crushed before they make contact with humans, everything will be over.

「We can only wait and see now. However, investigate the war potential of that town, and ensure this is a force we can crush! As the church, we cannot move unless there is a request from somewhere. Well, if nothing turns up we can simply force one out...」

TN Note: I've already lost count how many fantasy novels have a human supremacy religion as their main antagonist...

Thus a conclusion was made.

After hearing this remark, Nicolas nodded.

「Let someone check it out!

We'll mobilize the "Blood Shadow" of the church! 」

The Blood Shadow is a fallen knight. With high combat prowess, he was a serial killer who murdered commoners.

To god, the church and pope, there are a number of extremist who sworn allegiance.

However, his abilities are top-notch, not someone the church could just simply disposed of.

To Hinata who had a strong sense of disgust, the head is a funny existence. For the rationalist Hinata, god's blind acceptance was a symbol of stupidity.

It was ironic considering Hinata's position as God's guardian of justice.

「Is that so? Then, I'm leaving it to you. It's best if you don't forget about the church's discipline. 」

This isn't the stage to take action.

I leave the information gathering to you. Besides, there might be something to gain from this.

That's what she decided.

As a result, the bloodthirsty mad hound was released.

Chapter 60 - A bit sudden, but let's have a test

The inside of the classroom was silent.
So silent, in fact, that you can hear the students swallow saliva.
Ranga ran up to me while waiving his tail.

「Alright, kids, have you been working hard?」

Though I faced them with a bright smile, they did not return it.
Of course, if I consider things from their perspective, it makes more sense—they just might think of me as just some bastard to kill.
However, this world follows the survival of the fittest principle.
There's only one thing you can hate—your own weakness.

「Okay! Kids, you seem to have things to say, so let's have a test!」

I so declared.

「Wha-! How did it turn into that!」

「A t-test?」

「Ueee!!!」

They responded with loud criticism.
Yep. Tests are hated in just about every world.

「Hey, don't worry! It's not like I don't get what you're saying.
But listen,
What will happen from now on is absolutely necessary for you!」

「Why?! We'll just kick the bucket sooner or later!

There's no point to studying, is there?!」

「R-right... all the teachers until now have been bringing us toys or picture books telling us to have fun...」

「We haven't studied from the moment we have come here...」

「I... want to read... more picture books...」

「.....」

All they do is complain.
However, they lack yesterday's "vigor". Did they tire themselves out picking on

Ranga?

Well, I guess the fact that they even responded to my words is admirable enough.

But, this is necessary to them. Unfortunately, I cannot compromise on this.

「Alright. I understand your point.

But, the test (game) that we'll play from now on will help you kids... you brats get to vent some anger. It should be fun.

In a second, you will have a mock battle with me.

The rules are simple. You can go all out and use anything you want. Should you bring me down, you win.

If I am still on the run after twenty minutes, I win. Simple?」

「Just that?」

「Yeah. We'll have the test inside this room. I'll erect a barrier, so no one can get out.

Those observing also cannot help.

Do you understand the rules? If you do, then decide who goes first!」

A simple mock battle.

I am not planning on attacking at all. I just want to verify their abilities.

If they are incapable of acquiring a unique skill, I wouldn't know of another method to consume the terrible power in their bodies.

According to my analysis, their magical energy, as compared to monsters, would have them A ranked at least.

Though adventurers rely on fighting strength to decide their ranks, monsters tend to judge by power alone.

I was at first surprised to see B rank adventurers whose magical energy is hardly C ranked.

I only learned of this after having become an adventurer myself.

Normal monsters do not concern themselves with skill proficiency, so they were usually evaluated based only on raw abilities. Of course, there are plenty of monsters that do hone their skills...

So generally speaking, these kids are A ranked.

If they can properly use their abilities, they should be formidable opponents...

They finally decided the order.

With an eager face, Misaki Kenya is coming at me.

He's just an eight year old troublemaker. Is he the leader of these brats?

「Hey! I can use the sword, right?」

Impudent little...!

「Go ahead. And brat, when you lose, I'll have you address me politely from then on!」

「Hmph! I won't lose to a lousy adult. I've only lost against Shizu-san!」

「Heeeeh. How about you leave the self praise for after you win?」

Thus we were ready for the match.

I'll have the children keep time. I acquired a sand watch the other day, and showed the kids how to use it.

Now then, shall we start?

「B-begin!」

Kenya moved on Alice's command.

He moves well for an elementary school student. Actually, he's defeated adults before..

Not that it'll have any effect on me...

「Go for it Ken-chan—!!!」

「Don't lose!」

Hearing their encouragement, Kenya redoubled his efforts.

He desperately tried to land a hit on me, but I avoided them with room to spare—without a need to predict.

After ten minutes, with tears in his eyes, he started shooting fire at me.

Hmph. What a pathetic flame that was.

It would be hard to compare it to the flame I use, so I'll just say that the flame was really weak.

An A rank monster, using all his strength to create a fireball, can easily surpass a temperature of 1,000 degrees...

But this is even weaker than Ellen's fire ball attack.

Inferior to magic used by a B rank adventurer.

He definitely learned it by watching, so this would be poor representation of his real abilities, right?

「Hey, you're focusing too much on the flame. Try shooting out a ball of pure energy」

「Shut up! Shizu-san used this skill, and it was powerful!
I won't listen to what the likes of you have to say!!!」

What an arrogant brat.

In the end, he ignored my advice, and, when the twentieth minute passed, I was declared the victor.

「Alright, that's enough! Address me properly as *sensei* from now on!
Who's next? Come at me!!!」

Dropping his shoulders, and visibly depressed, Kenya rejoined the kids.
Well, I'd be in for a shock if I had lost to a brat who hadn't even turned ten.

Next one up was Chloe O'Bell.

An eight year old girl with a rare hair color. It was black with silver mixed, ever seen anything like it?

Anyways, she was a beautiful girl with an interesting hair color. I wonder if she's part Japanese?

She has this Eastern-Western vibe.

So, shall we begin? If looked from afar, people would see a middle-school kid bullying a little girl.

Even so, this test is crucial! I'm acting all cool and all, but if I really lose... what a bad joke that would be.

「Kurocchi, don't push yourself!!!」

「Don't hurt yourself, Kuro-chan!」

(TL Note: Chloe in Japanese is written Kuroe, hence the nickname Kuro)

Most of the the kids' said "Don't hurt yourself!" rather than "Do your best!"
I guess that's just how it is.

The signal was already given, and the match had begun.

Though there was a five minute intermission, I chose not to take a break. Even so, I was not tired in the slightest.

All I've been doing is dodging, so it was an easy win.

Now, Chloe, what kind of attack will she show me?

I wonder if she just likes books, but she's got one on her right now.

Is that it? Is she planning on hitting my head with it or throwing it at me? Will she suddenly say “This is not a book, it’s a blunt weapon!” ... Nah, probably not.

While I was thinking this foolishness.

「“In an eternal flowing stream, bind my foe (Water Prison)”」

Uoo! Suddenly, water appeared at my feet. According to 『Heat Perception』 it’s real water.

Magic! What an amazing child. Let me guess, a genius?

While I was feeling impressed, the water continued to rage and enveloped me in a bubble.

When I tried poking it, it stretched out a bit.

I wonder if she is fixated on accelerating this skill—making it something akin to my water blade.

Wonderful. But, what will she do now?

「This magic’s next step is to fill the bubble with water!

If you accept defeat, I will let you go. If you don’t, you will die!」

So young but so dreadful!

Kenya was so much cuter in comparison. But a skill of this level... yeah...

「Yup, that’s some amazing magic. But it won’t have any effect on me.

But this magic is superior. Make sure to continue practicing later!」

I said, while stroking her head.

Prison? That kind of thing is pointless in the face of 『Cloning』.

Frankly, that skill is the strongest among extra skills. It’s so amazing that it is nearly a unique skill.

Besides, to me who has various resistances against temperature attacks, her attack is pointless. And I’ve had that resistance since I was born.

Chloe sat down in shock. Her face red, with tears falling from her eyes.

Forgive me, I’m not pulling any punches here. To you brats who looked down on me I have to show an overwhelming difference in strength.

Chloe lost her will to fight, so I won.

Chloe was touching the spot on her head that I stroked earlier while smiling for some reason.

Let's continue!

The next opponent was Gale Gibson.

The oldest among them—9 years old. Brown hair and a large build with well defined features. Definitely a pretty boy.

When he grows up, his looks won't lose even against famous actors!

Let's crush him! ... of course I had no such thought.

I am an adult, so I'll be a fair opponent.

Gale, without a trick or tactic in mind, fired a single shot at me.

After watching the other two's attempt, he probably reevaluated me a bit.

He fired a round that would certainly kill any other teacher.

Without a question, he put every ounce of his power into that shot. That was a good decision.

But, unfortunately, to a wrong opponent. That kind of attack could never reach me.

As when it did, 『Gluttony』 absorbed it.

「What was that! That's cheating!」

Yes. Yes it is. I completely agree.

「Listen up, adults are cheaters. We'll win no matter what trick we have to use! That's the kind of beings adults are!」

Thought that might have been a little immature of me to use against a child, it's not the time to be picking methods.

I mean, I could have just repelled it, but I felt that there was a chance it would create a hole in the barrier.

And though I was given free reign over them I shouldn't go around destroying the classroom.

So, I chose the method that would prevent any possible casualty.

In the end, even this was troublesome.

Gale, embittered by this, gathered energy into his fists and attacked me.

What a child. At this point, he has no chance of victory.

He ended up just as Kenya did, and so it was my victory.

Sekiguchi Ryouta is a timid child.

Always friendly with Kenya, supporting him from behind.

Claimed to be the strong Kenya's partner. There's no special meaning attached

to that, they are just being kids.

But, as for his power...

「Ryouta, avenge me!」

The moment he heard these words, his eye color changed.

This ability is similar to Shion's 『Battle Maniac』. His speed and power more than doubled. And, his magic energy and fighting spirit enveloped his body.

What a wonderful example of battle transformation. The only minus would be the fact that he is unconscious.

And it's a great demerit at that—to lose one's composure in the midst of battle.

Its effectiveness depends on the opponent. I mean, maybe 『Battle Maniac』 is a common skill, but against high level opponents it's not even a gamble.

You are certain to lose.

His movements are good, so maybe if his opponent wasn't me, he could put up a fight.

But... too bad!

I easily evaded him for twenty minutes.

The last one was the girl Alice Rondo.

The youngest—7 years old. Her hair blond and straight, reaching to her shoulders.

With a face that could be described to belong to a doll, she is certainly a beauty.

Unlike the adult-like Chloe, she is, apparently, a tomboy.

Now, what kind of ability will she show me.

Alice threw the doll she held in her hands in the air, and

「Go— Bear-san!!!」

She called out.

Huh? While I was thinking that, a bear suddenly started attacking me.

And its attacks were pretty strong.

Her power is called Golem Master.

If this is the power she can draw out from some stuffed animal, what kind of beast will she call forth from a specialized weapon doll...

Her power just might be strongest among the five.

Well... I was able to keep running the whole time, so no problem.

I hadn't expected the strongest power to be saved for last, so I'm glad I was able to save face.

When she summoned ten of them I almost snapped and burned the whole place to the ground. But, I held it in and focused on running away.

I thought that if I burned them I'd have to console her afterwards.

Anyways, thus the five have come to know my power.

The abilities they possess are as described.

There's a great mismatch between what you'd expect from them and what actually is there. Why have their skills developed in such weird ways, you might ask?

Probably, these are the skills that they have desired from the bottom of their hearts.

So, my only choices are either to have them acquire a unique skill or search for some other method.

Within the next three months, their powers will go wild causing their bodies to collapse.

A drastic measure, but I was able to confirm their status.

And, I found that using all of one's power is the best method to stall the collapse.

Each time they release the excess energy they extend the deadline by a little bit.

Now, as for the actual treatment...

「Now, as this test has shown you, I'm strong!

And this strong "I" will promise you: I will save you.

I swear on this mask, I will find a solution!」

So I declared to the children.

They all diligently listened to my words.

First, I was successful at getting their attention. After all, if you don't put your mind to it, you aren't actually listening.

Somehow – perhaps they just feel obligated – I got them to listen.

「Umm, is that mask, Shizu-sensei's?」

Suddenly, Alice timidly asked.

「It is. Shizu-san entrusted it to me.

And, other than entrusting the mask to me, she entrusted you bunch as well.」

So I answered. Though the mask's appearance has changed slightly, she was able to notice.

She nodded with satisfaction at my response.

Seems like some of her worries were dispelled.

However... now that she mentioned the mask...

Some memory appeared in my mind.

What Shizu-san left me...

Hmm? It was to hit Demon Lord Leon.

But could Shizu-san have planned to defeat a Demon Lord?

Wait a second... Shizu-san came over here when she was 10, right?

So why did he save her?

Let's think about it. Though I don't know the details, I feel like there's a hint buried in these memories.

Besides, it seems strange that Shizu-san would just abandon the kids to pursue her own goals.

Perhaps punching Leon and saving the kids was one and the same task?

In that case, Demon Lord Leon must know of a way to save the kids.

He had saved her once before, after all...

In that case, what is the method?

Along with Great Sage, we're busy considering these things.

And, as always, Great Sage did not fail my expectations.

Had Demon Lord Leon saved Shizu-san intentionally or by accident? The answer...

«Solution. The chance that Demon Lord Leon saved Izawa Shizue intentionally is about 74%.

However, this percentage is a mere prediction, and is thus meaningless.

Also, regarding the way to save the children...»

I was not mistaken.

「Listen up, I will absolutely save you. We'll prepare for this starting tomorrow. Believe in me! I will not let you, whom Shizu-san entrusted to me, die!」

Unlike my previous words, this time I was confident.

The children, likewise, responded seriously,

「「「Please, *sensei*!!!」」」

Sensei, huh.

What a pleasant word. Leave it to me.

Now, for the first time, I approved of the children.

I will save them.

So I swore to myself.

Chapter 61 - The First Dungeon Conquest

Well, we're now going to a place called 『Dwelling of the Spirit』 that's located in the Ulg Nature Park in Ulgrasia Republic.

It's already been one and a half months since I became a Teacher.

Of course I had a purpose for coming here, but it's really hard to take these children outside for travelling.

We have been studying in this classroom all this time.

With the reason that they didn't know how far the church's influence are, the Academy did not give us permission to go outside.

Certainly, there is a church next to it. It can be said that this is the main reason. However, children should go outside and play around, not spending their time locked up in an Academy.

Hearing about this from the children, Shizu-san tried to bring them outside but it was rejected.

Somehow, it seems they are trying too much in trying to confine the children, am I underestimating the church way too much?

Anyway, I'm doing what I believe is the right thing to do.

And thus, I'm taking the children outside.

First of all, I made the children memorize <Transfer Magic>.

Normally, it's impossible even in one year to understand it. It's necessary to understand both of the structure of the magic formation and to have the knowledge of the meaning on the system's crest.

This magic is far more advanced than <Space-Based Magic>, it really is cruel to make children that haven't even hit 10 year old to learn it.

But, they might not be able to do it even if they took 3 years; perhaps there is no need to have them memorize the theory and such.

Although it's unfair, on such occasion, it's time for the skill to shine.

With my 『Shapeshifter』 abilities, I can embed my knowledge and fused it into the children.

Actually I think it's unfair, but there's no need to be picky about one's appearances anymore.

Next, I summons Ranga's subordinate, with their transforming ability, I make

them take the form of the children.

I also made myself a clone and then the preparation is completed.

Even if I had thought that there might be problem to those who opposed with them going outside, I still chose to do it.

I had discussed it with Yuuki for several times, but he think it's too dangerous and our opinion clashed.

It would be great if I had succeed in persuading him, but sadly it's all in vain. I can persuade him slowly if there is time, but putting me aside, the children don't have much time left.

『Great Sage』 had predict that at the earliest, the children had a time limit of 3 months.

There is no time for a leisure discussion.

I'm forcing myself to learn <Transfer Magic> to bring the children outside.

Why learn <Transfer Magic>?

The reason is simple. There is no need to search for the lodging while we travel, so the church won't be alerted by it.

Moreover, until we reach our destination, there is no need to enter Ulgrasia Republic personally and we can go straight to Ulg Nature Park.

Me and Ranga will take the children, and then we will travel rapidly.

Before School lunchtime arrives, using the installed Magic Formation for <Transfer Magic> we will have already returned to the classroom.

After eating the lunch, we'll then use the <Transfer Magic>and resume our travel from where we left.

The purpose for making the children use magic is to have them use their magic power. (ED: 魔素=Magic power?) (TL: yes, magic power or should I use magic essence? 魔= Magic, Demon, Evil 素=source, basis, material, foundation.

Mamoto already used several times in this novel.)

If a Grand Magic is used we can postpone their breakdown for a while. The children agreed without complaining.

How should I say it? Their first trip cause them great excitements.

They are scared at first, but after they accustomed to the high-speed movement of me and Ranga, they enjoyed it with a great smile.

At the beginning, there was someone who's peed at my back. Who would think such thing can happen?

Geez... To protect their honor, they deliberately didn't said a single word. While various small things happens, we finally arrived at the 『Dwelling of the Spirit』 at last.

Ulgrasia Republic is very different from the nations surrounding Jura Forest. It's not under the influence of the Western Saint's Church, also, this small nation is not a member of the Council.

They receive the Divine Protection of Spirit of Wisdom. (TL: 精霊の恵と加護 Seirei no E to Kago)(ED:Takami no kago, anyone?). This is the nation who conducts trade with Sorcery Dynasty of Sarion.

While there is no restriction for going in and out of the nation, there are relatively few criminals in that nation.

The reason is straightforward. This nation's people are all <Spirit-Based Magic> user.

<Spirit-Based Magic> more or less can be divided into two main categories.

The first is <Spirit Magic>.

This category has a lot offensive spell that is similar to <Chemical Element Magic>.

It's borrowing the power of the spirit when using it. It requires Magic power as compensation.

There's no need to chant in <Spirit Magic> spells, everyone can use it if they are connected with the spirits they contracted with. However, to be recognizance by the spirits, it was necessary to be liked by them.

In this nation, there are many person that is liked by the spirits that exist inside the nation.

Therefore, they are holding the contract's ceremony when someone reaches the age of 10 years old, if there's a person who is unable to make contract with the spirits, that person will be driven out from the nation when reaching 20 years old.

Losing their qualification as a citizen. However, because there're many kinds of spirits, a person that is unable to contract with the spirits are rare.

The second is <Spirit Summoning>.

In this category, it was necessary to be contracted with a powerful spirit.

However, to do the summoning a chant is required, though it's easier than the

other type of magic.

To that extent, there are no need to compare the power. <Spirit Magic> only borrowed a portion of the spirit's power, while with <Spirit Summoning> it's possible to use the power of the spirit itself.

Besides its power, it surpassed it in all other area.

Thus, the power of borrowing is no match for the real thing.

It's very difficult for a user of <Spirit Magic> to win against an opponent who uses <Spirit Summoning>.

Even if the opponent has bad affinity against the other side, he would be able to turn over the disadvantage with <Spirit Summoning>.

Sorcery Dynasty of Sarion, a nation where the representative chanting magic, <Chemical Element-Based Magic> is the mainstream magic, contrary with Ulgrasia Republic where the contract magic, that is <Spirit-Based Magic> is the mainstream magic.

For these reasons, because there are a lot of exchange between them, and there is the background that works together in competition, and develops each other's. (TL: Not sure if this mean they had magic research agreement or just spying each other)(ED: だからこそ、交流も盛んであり、お互いの文明を切磋琢磨して発展させている背景があるのだ。Need TLC)

And so, we come to this place with an objective.

That is of course, Spirit Summoning.

I had raised a hypothesis.

And that is, Regarding the situation of the Flame Giant (Ifrit) that Shizu-san fusion with, having its magic power rampage would somehow prevented causing body decay.

Is it high rank spirit magic to control Ifrit, or is it because of the Unique Skill 『Shapeshifter』 that the Fusion was able to be done?

In any case, the key is to use with a spirit.

A sentient spirit are few in number, and it's called a high rank spirit.

In this city, there are two places to contract a spirit.

First is in a place where the citizens conduct their contract that is on an altar in the middle of the city. But this place has a rare chance of a High Rank Spirit to be summoned

For the user of High Rank Spirit Magic, to conduct <Spirit Summoning> contract,

it is necessary to go to the other place.

That is, the 『Dwelling of the Spirit』.

It's a labyrinth that stretched in the underground or maybe in the air. The only door to enter is located in Ulg Nature Park.

The door is embedded on a big rock, and beyond the door is a different dimension. (TL: That's explain why the labyrinth is said to be in the air)

But, our purpose is to contract a High Rank Spirit, so there is no other choice for us than to keep going.

We take preparation to rest for one night.

From beyond this door, it is doubtful if we can use <Transfer Magic> to return.

Although I had a hunch it won't be impossible.

Anyway, the Magic Formation in the Park was installed in such way to not draw any attention. At the worst, if the inside is suspicious it is still possible to use it to escape, although I doubt whether it would be useful or not. Just for an insurance though. (TL: Rimuru is as paranoid careful as ever.)

And then,

[Are the preparation finish? We might not return once we enter. Are your guys ready?]

In response to my question.

[Of course!]

[It's all right!]

And so on. Several answers come.

There, there. There is no need to be afraid. Lately, they begun to put their trust into me, the feelings they harbor toward me is different compared from before. Transforming into a black wolf, I instant-kill any monsters that get on our way, that might be what gain their trust.

Then, let resume the travel.

Regarding that place, I obtained some information about it when I was searching for information in the library.

Unfortunately, although it accurately tell the location, it's not written what kind of monsters that are going to appear on the inside.

It only said that there would be a trial, I don't know what kind of danger we'll face....

Can Me and Ranga protect the children? There is a slight feeling of unease. If it's not good, I might temporarily withdraw and call Benimaru and others. Anyway, we went inside and proceed carefully.

The inside, even though the sunlight did not able to reach inside, it's still full with bright lights.

Just in case, I turn off the 『Magic Perception』, it seems the vision is alright. There's also no problem with the atmosphere. The children can enter without any problem.

With all members inside, we proceed with caution.

I assign Ranga as the bodyguard of the children.

Rather than a labyrinth, it's a straight path....

We advanced carefully.

.....

.....

....

I'm thankful for the mind mapping,

I can go on straight path, there are many traps installed here that can disturb someone's sense of direction.

Looking behind, the road that was illuminated by the lamp-like mechanism is now hidden by the shadow.

Looking at front, the path once hidden by light now become visible.

I see. It really is a labyrinth.

Using normal person sense of direction, perhaps it's possible to become lost.

This is somehow become quite frightening.

"Oh Well. Well. My. Oh My."

"Found It Out. Out Find It."

"Oh. Ah. Oh. Ah. Oh. Ah"

"*chatterchuckle*giggle**"

All of sudden I hear the Spirit voice in my mind.

A really strong mind voice. No, maybe this is Mind communication (Telepathy)?

"Oh Foolish Visitors!"

“Become More In Dread!”

“Become More In Fear!”

What a selfish words.

The children are restlessly looking at their surroundings.

Chloe and Alice didn't release their hand from my clothes.

However, even the timid Yotarou drew his sword as if to protect the girls.

The 3 boys had been given swords a while ago.

It was something that I copied, a sword made from pure demon steel with, it transformed into a shape that's suitable for them. (TL: I think the sword is custom made by Rimuru for the children)(ED: The sword transform according to their need, remember Rimuru's romance several chapters back?)(TL: Demon steel also can mean magic steel, your preferences?)

It's fortunate that there are circumstances to warrant their need before, however...

“Good! Good!”

“More in Fear!”

“If Not, It Boring!”

Fumu.

We arrived at a certain room. To make noise as they please, however, it's annoying.

[Hey. Are you the one living in this place? Well then, are you the Spirits perchance?

We have a purpose for coming here. We had business with the High Rank Spirit. So if it possible can we ask guidance from you?]

Just in case, I asked.

Now, what kind of reaction they will show?

“Ahahahahaha!”

“Ufufufufufufu!”

“This Is Interesting! More Interesting Than Surprise! More Interesting Than Fear!”

“Nice! Nice!”

“I Tell You! However! However!”

“In front!”

A light extend at the end of passage.

It's just like an invitation. Well, there is nothing other than to accept.

When we advance at the passage, there is a great hall.

And the middle of it, there was a Giant.

“Now, let's begin the trial!!!”

The giant's eyes shone red.

Suddenly I start wondering, why the eyes of suspicious monsters always shining red? Well, whatever.

[Hey, can you hear me? If I defeat the Giant, will the trial end?]

“That's right!”

“Well.”

“Just like that!”

Then, it's easy.

I let Ranga protect the children, only I'm alone that went ahead.

“Oh! Oh! Oh my?”

“Doing it alone?”

“Overconfident is dangerous, you know?”

Are you guys worrying about me? Well, it will be okay.

I analyzed the giant in front of me.

Name : Spirit's Protector Colossus (Temporary)

Material : Magic Steel

Ability : Over Rank A

Magic power : Over Rank A

Phew! I almost blown away. (ED: As in shocked? ぶ！ 吹きそうになった。)
I'm naming it without any permission, its ability are dangerous
A Magic Doll (Golem) made from Magic Steel, with a height of 3 meter.
It had a massive figure. Perhaps its weight is about 30 metric ton.
To put it simply, if someone receives its physical attack they will receive tremendous damage.

Even if there is Physical Attack Resistance, it has no meaning if you get crushed.
While still observing it and see what it will do, the giant's silhouette blurred.
Well, I still see it, but... It's movement is as fast as a master swordsman.
This is... This is a very dangerous enemy.
Its speed and its weight. If it hits, it definitely will cause a more disastrous damage than a traffic accident.

Geez, is this really a trial? Are they trying to kill me? No doubt it.

[Hey, Hey!!! What is this thing?
You guys, are not testing me! You are trying to kill me instead!]

So I shouted,

*"chatterchuckle*giggle*"*
"Well, that's so, that's right!"
"Can you win? Can you win?"

.....Really? What are those guys really want.
Th, this is, are those guys' retards?
I'm really mad inside, but it's gone when I see how childish they are.
No good! No good!
In front of the children, I must act like a gentleman.

It's no good if I lose my reason and succumb to rage, that's my teaching position.
Well, the cool me has never been recklessly angry, this is something I'm aware of.
Heeheefuu, heeheefuu.
I steady my breath and took a stance with some leeway.
Heck, even without getting serious, it's alright if I don't get hit!

It's quite fast, but I'm faster than that thing. I am a guy who can disappear as fast as the speed of sound.

Well, maybe 『Black Lightning』 won't be effective against it. Because, it's made of metal. The electric current might travel to the ground and neutralized.

With the magic I learnt, there was none that works. Water Blade and Fire Ball is useless.

Also, slicing it with sword is out of question. Even if it possible to cut it, the sword might break and it's troublesome so I won't do it.

A lump of Magic Steel, I wish you can pardon me from doing such thing. The Magic Puppet (Golem) has the highest hardness yet agile, it means it had few weaknesses, so troublesome!

Then, shall I burn it to ashes....?

[Hey, I allow you guys to apologize, but you guys are not apologizing, so it's fine if I destroy it right?]

“Aha ha ha ha ha!”

“Interesting, it's so amusing!”

“Bluffing! Bluffing!”

“Nice, Nice. It's sound good!”

“If you can do it, then show it!”

Fu ~.

I am an adult. So it's alright.

I won't get angry by such impudent telepathy.

I don't have any vein, so the vein that appears in my head is just part of my imaginations.

Well, I get the permission now.

Good bye! Magic Puppet (Golem). If possible, I want to bring you back as my toy....

[Misaoitoayabakujin! (Binding Formation of Bewitching Strings)] 『操糸妖縛陣！』

(TL: if anyone have a better one please comment)(ED: Just for lulz, Mystical Virgin Binding Threads)(TL:Nice.)

My 『Sticky Steel Thread』's power was different from before, I already strengthened it.

I'm infusing it with magical energy, so now it's possible for it to endure weight over 1000 ton.

The thread binds the Magic Puppet (Golem) completely, now its movement was completely stopped.

Then, I'm concentrating, and shoot the Black Flame Prison (Hell Flare) towards it.

If you normally shoot it, there was no need to really concentrate. However, to make the range specifically small, it was necessary to concentrate to control the enormous amount of magic power (Energy).

With support of 『Great Sage』, it's now possible to reduce the size of the Black Flame Prison (Hell Flare).

It's still not possible for Benimaru to use it like this, the attack completely enveloped the Magic Puppet (Golem) in its sphere shape (Dome) with diameter of 5 m.

So loud! A thunderous sound sounded; the dome disappears while leaving nothing remaining on its traces.

Perhaps, inside the dome, the flame prison burns everything to nothingness with its high temperatures that reach several hundred million degrees. (TL: Rimuru-san, that's overkill you know!)(ED: So does your grammar & translation mistakes *snicker*)(TL: All right, I hang myself then, Minna-san. Sayonara)

Even with my Heat Attack Resistance, it's not possible for me to be unaffected by it. A person that can endure such attack might not exist.

The downside of this attack was, if the opponent's not restricted, it's easy thing to avoid the attack. Because it takes some time to cast it

Oh well, it's nice because it succeed well this time.

If possible, I don't really want to show this trump card.

“No way!!!”

“Unbelievable!”

“Only one hit.....”

It's what I heard from the chaotic telepathy.

Apparently, they have put all their confidence on the Magic Puppet (Golem). Of

course they are.

The children mouths are wide open, they are dumbfounded.

It seems the shock is really great. Therefore, I don't want to show it.

Anyway.

Their attitude that underestimates me is gone. I hope they prepare themselves.

It's now time for the punishment.

Chapter 62 - A Spirit is...

After vaporizing the golem I flashed an evil smile.

Ku ku ku. Now we can continue the conversation on our terms.

「Now then, if you don't want to be scorched to death, how about you come on out?

I know exactly where you are all hiding, you know?」

I know the general direction but not the exact location.

I'd much rather they come out of their own volition.

In response to my words, in great panic,

「Yes! Yes, yes, yes!!!

As You have commanded, though greatly embarrassed, we appear before you!!!
」

And, with dragonfly wings growing from their backs, tiny and cute girls (?) came flying out.

They were no longer than 30 cm in height. Not midgets, but the kind of fairy you'd hear about in a fairy tale.

At the front of the group lined up girls dressed in dazzling dresses with many frills; behind them, another group was dressed in rather plain dress.

Overall, they dressed in darker colors.

「Ta-daa! I am one of the ten gweat~...」

She bit her tongue.

Should I make fun of her? It seems that she's gotten so used to telepathy that she forgot how to talk.

「..... are you okay?」

She held up her hand in response,

「I am one of the ten great demon lords! Ramiris of the Labyrinth!!!
Cease thou haughty actions! Show humility!!!」

She happily said,

*While proudly showing off her none-existent chest. Why do I feel so pissed off...
First, let's chop her.*

「Uhyou!!! Wha-what was that for! You'll give me a heart attack!!!」

She complained after dodging with her small body.

Horrible, right~? Right~?

Should we kill it? Kill it?

But, but, but, but, it killed the golem, right?

Impossible. Impossible. We'll be killed!

How noisy.

My head was filled with their chatter.

「Besides, you are cheating! Why aren't you affected by 『Thought Manipulation』!

It's been too long since we last met someone like you!!!」

Isn't she furious.

I see, so the strange anger I feel towards them is due to me resisting their 『Thought Manipulation』 right?

*However, there's no way anyone among these fairies (brats) is a demon lord.
Are they still messing with me?*

「Hey, next time you lie come up with a more believable one.

There's no way anyone among you brats is a demon lord!」

「Don't call us brats! Seriously, how rude. What else am I, if not a demon lord!」

「Huh? An idiot? Anyways, speaking of demon lords, you know how stupid your claim sounds in comparison to my friend Milim?

Compared to her, you guys are... pathetic?」

「Stupid!

Stupidstupidstupidstupid!!! You are so stupid~!!!!!!」

The spirit named Ramiris loudly shouted and then stopped to catch her breath.

And,

「Listen here.

When you say Milim, surely you refer to that unreasonable demon lord Milim.

The one that solves everything through brute force.

To compare that unreasonable brute to the beautiful I, aren't you just being rude?

Hey, I'll be troubled if you can't understand that much!]

Her words full of indignation.

And,

「Besides, aren't you a strange one yourself?

What was that? Did you have to suddenly use that dangerous skill!

How many special skills must you possess to use that hell flare?

Please don't be so unreasonable.

Ah, whatever.

I'm not even surprised that you're that Milim's acquaintance; I believe you.

So, believe me as well!]

Somehow, she might not be lying after all.

Well, you know? They look pretty harmless up close.

And, they actually listen when you sit down to talk to them.

For some reason, I was preparing the snacks.

If I am the guest, why are our roles reversed?

Not that I care.

The kids have gotten friendly with the fairies and are happily munching on some snacks together. With a satisfied smile.

In the first place, the golem that freaked us out was meant to be shown after we have had our fun.

In fact, they didn't intend to kill us or hurt us.

Which is why,

「Aaaah... and we we had just finished making it from all those parts...」

She complained begrudgingly.

Nothing can be done about it now. If I don't kill it, it'll kill me—so I thought back then...

「Do you know just how efficient it was?

Earth Spirits manipulated the weight,

Water spirits moved each individual joint,

*Fire spirits provided its power,
Wind spirits regulated the temperature.
Combination of many chemical elements. It was the epitome of the genius of
the Ghost Researchers... 』*

*She's surprisingly persistent.
If I knew it was going to end up like this, I would have eaten it and made a copy.
Though I don't know if I could have done so...
But, genius of the Ghost Researchers? Does that have anything to do with
Kaijin's story—the one about the "Magic Soldiers" plan the dwarfs had
undertaken with the elves?*

*「Hey, are you talking about the magic soldiers that the dwarfs and elves have
been researching together?」*

「Bingo, bingoooo!!!

*How did you know! It went wild after they failed to use the heart—the Spirit
Magic Circuits!*

So, we picked up the shell that they threw out!

Does that make us... geniuses? Are we that amazing?」

*Annoying, but, yes, amazing.
But, we are talking about Ghost Researchers who employ the power of ghosts,
and fairies who are probably an existence close to that of ghosts—in other
words, I can accept their proficiency in regards to this question.
Anyways, to summarize Ramiris' story: people tried to manipulate the power of
ghosts to create a golem.
Filling its body with magical energy as if blood, and pumping it with oil to make
it move. And to control its weight with magic.
But it proved nonsensical.
I mean, its magic supply would be cut off if it just jumped five meters away.
However, were it made usable, it would become a terrifying weapon.
Though Ramiris is an idiot, I guess she is amazing.*

*「Alright, I understand your awesomeness.
Now, I have a request to this awesome you!」*

I declared.

*Then, I explained the children's circumstances.
Without hiding anything; truth and only the truth. The children listened intently.*

*「I see, I see~
I remembered. There was a guy who came here to try some things out.
Leon, it was Leon-chan!
He had not become a demon lord back then.
Well, I could have taken him out with a single punch! No question! Seriously...」*

*That's a lie.
I mean, it's not a case where she is averting her eyes—they are just spinning out of control.*

*I listen to her story.
One day, a young Leon showed up here.
Ramiris' 『Though Manipulation』 had no effect.
In fact, she was controlled in stead.
For Ramiris, who was only proficient in 〈Illusion Magic〉 of the 〈Spirit Magic〉 archive, there was nothing else she could do.*

*「Besides, just as it happened with you, once illusion magic failed it was game over!
I had not more cards to play, you know?
This adorable Ramiris had no other plan.
So, I planned to have the Golem become my arms and legs...
And silence the demon lords who constantly ridiculed...」*

*She's complaining again.
Not completely disheartened, but certainly holding a grudge.
Well, she then went out and lost to the not-yet-demon lord Leon, and had to help him out.
It seems he was researching things—knowledge on how to summon ghosts.
Without a single clue, he had managed to summon a high level fire spirit out of pure anger and then sent him away.
The fairies were dumbfounded when he told them.*

*「And then, he had this absurd request. To summon World Travelers, special individuals from other worlds!
Stop asking for the impossible. Are you an idiot!*

He looked about to cry when I said that...

No! Really, he started crying!

Yeah. I am not exaggerating in the slightest.

Pathetic~!!!

A crybaby but so cheeky! Idiot!!!]

Why's she getting excited all on her own?

Is this a demon lord? Thank goodness. Had the first demon lord I met been this, I would consider them a miserable existence.

But, is she going to be fine? If someone learns of her malicious gossip, she'll be erased, no...?

I mean I can easily squash her.

「Hey...

You are thinking something rude right now, aren't you?」

「No, not at all?」

Though she's looking at me with suspicion, let's not forget that she's an idiot. She's easy to fool.

By the way, the conversation got side tracked.

The point is, I want to have high ranked spirits stop the children's collapse. Though I can't expect much from this idiot, I still decided to ask.

「Well, in that case, I was wondering whether a spirit could stop the body's breakdown.

What do you think?」

Her expression became serious.

She looked at the children—at each of their faces.

She could make a face like that? One truly unbecoming of a demon lord—filled with love.

「Um. You know, while I am a demon lord, I am also the saints' guide.

I bestow divine protection on heroes.

So worry not! I am fair.

I, this person before you, preserved the balance of the entire world!」

So? What's the point?

While I was thinking that, she turned to face me,

「Alright. I will help with the summoning. We'll summon the best spirits there are!」

She so declared.

Thus, I was taught about spirits by Ramiris.

A spirit is...

“In nothingness power finds its fill.

That is a holy spirit. The great holy spirit is the source of power.

Among these, light and darkness, the two great spirits.

Who came to exist at the same moment as the world.

But, the world was without form, a ephemeral existence.

Light and shadow, darkness and the light. Two existences that shall never interweave.

One day, the great spirit time was born.

The child of light and darkness.

And thus the world began to move.

The moving world spun, without purpose, around itself.

Inside the flowing currents of life and death,

Earth, Water, Fire, Wind, and Sky—these five great spirits were born.

And since then, these were the great eight spirits.

Until the light consumes the world, erasing darkness,

Until a new spirit is born, erasing all.

Life and death.

Heralding the coming end of the world...”

Is what she said.

「In other words, first the holy spirit had existed, and it gave birth to the other eight!」

Splendid... right? For a myth, it surprisingly lacks gods.

Perhaps this is the truth of this world.

By the way, great spirits did not have ego—they were masses of energy.

The Fire Spirit was just an excess fragment of the entire mass.

Like a monster, this fragment gained self awareness.

And this self-aware fragment of pure energy thus became a monster.

In a few words—paranormal phenomena is what it is. Not that I understand, or want to understand.

But, I do get what she wants us to do.

The point is,

「Create another fragment, is that it?」

Ramiris nods.

To give birth to a new spirit. If not that, then call forth an existing one.

Not an easy task.

Since they are capable of thought, it will be difficult to make a spirit obey.

Moreover, I don't know whether the kids can handle it.

Even so.

We have no choice but to try.

Either we summon a spirit that can fix our problems, or one that possesses the kids.

We'll solve that problem when we get there.

I look at the kids.

They are all staring at me with a serious expression.

「Okay?」

「「「Yeah!」」」

A stupid question.

All that's left is to have some faith and try it out.

Chapter 63 - Children and Spirits

We moved to a different place.

To the deepest room in the labyrinth—the oracle room.

Prior to arriving through to this room we first passed a large empty room before it.

A path that is one meter wide and twenty meters long leads from this room to a five meter in diameter circular scaffold.

What the scaffold is made of I do not know; it looks as if its spreading through the room.

「Okay? Step on top of that floor and call out to a spirit!」

「What should we say?」

「Whatever you like, really. Help me! Or, Let's play!

An interested spirit will definitely appear before you」

「... will they really come?」

「They will! *Sensei*, they will, right?」

「Will they?」

The children look at me with a worried face.

Well, I think it will be fine. If no spirits show, I'll make them appear.

「...Hey, you! You're making a scary face!」

「Hmm? No problem, no problem.

Hey, brats! Don't worry. It'll work out!」

If they don't show up, all I need to do is call them out myself.

While I wouldn't mind spirits capable of thinking to appear—we could talk to them in that case, I would prefer non-sentient ones.

That is, in that case they could obey me without hesitation.

「Since I'm coming along.」

「... Well, I guess that's fine. Doesn't matter to me how many people go, but it is narrow. So, since you're coming, it's probably best to bring one child at a time.」

Hmph. It's probably also a good idea to summon a spirit for each one of them. Why? There might be some grown-up negotiations involved.

But anything goes as long as we can avoid negotiating with our fists...

「Alright! One person at a time will go. Who's first?」

Then, we decided the order.

First will be the eldest Gale.

Then Alice.

Followed by Kenya and Ryouta.

And concluded with Chloe.

They did quarrel about it, but in the end were satisfied with this order.

Let's get this over with.

A tranquil room.

Without a sound to be heard, enveloped by a dim light.

Only our footsteps reverberated throughout it.

「Sensei, if anything happens to me, please take care of them.」

Don't be so formal.

He's too tense. Without a word, I rub his head.

We have reached the circular room.

It's designed with an optical illusion that makes you feel as if you are falling.

But, 『Magic Perception』 clearly sees a scaffold in there. Transparent glass?

Acrylic fibers or something?

I step onto it while a little surprised.

But Gale is trembling in fear,

「Don't worry, there's a platform here. If anything happens, I'll save you.」

I said, having long resolved myself.

Timidly and carefully,

He proceeds into the center

「Okay, there's fine! I'm looking forward to the phrase you choose!」

Ramiris told him.

And after she tapped his head, he closed his eyes and began to pray.

Kneeling, as if praying to the gods.

I crossed my arms while observing this.

After some time has passed, drops of light began to fall from the sky.

Like snow.

And, before us on the altar a single person... no, a single spirit appeared.

Gale noticed this and continued to pray.

Good job! It's a success.

A non-sentient mass of natural energy. Appearing like a mass of magical energy, but a mere counterfeit.

Will it be able to acquire an ego? Like Veldora's cave, this place is filled with natural energy.

If it's not self-aware it will probably disperse, then come together again to give birth to a new spirit.

Then, without any hesitation, I ate the spirit.

「Gale, continue praying!」

「Wh-what was that! You... what have you done?!」

「Ramiris, shut up for a second. I've got a plan.」

Calmly, I call forth 『Great Sage』

After reading my intentions, it began the calculation. And after completing them, it began transforming the spirit.

«Announcement. Transformation of the spirit using 『Great Sage』 has been completed.

The contents are now mostly of 『Earth Attribute Abilities』

Furthermore, after analyzing flame giant Ifrit, a pseudo-human personality has been created.

Corrective ability from the unique skill 『Great Sage』 has been added.

Will you bestow this power on Gale Gibson? [YES]/[NO]»

I place my hand on Gale's head, select YES, and grant him the power.

Through this, the contract with the spirit will be completed within a single moment.

After analyzing Gale's condition I confirmed that the rampaging magical energy was now at peace.

Of course, his aggregate energy is still far higher than that of normal children.

That is the result of spiritual energy and magical energy offsetting each other.

Now, as he continues to grow he will probably be able to acquire many abilities.

“Surgery was successful!” I thought in my mind, and shook hands with the

『Great Sage』 - mentally, of course.

I mean, I haven't ever seen what it looks like and have no idea if it even has a form.

「Yup, all done! Good job!」

I say to Gale.

Doesn't look like he was in pain or anything; he just quickly looked up at me. I gave a big nod.

「You're okay now. The collapse has stopped, I guarantee it!」

With a face full of tears,

「Sensei, thank you very much!!!」

He bowed.

While hiding my embarrassment I patted his head, and so we rejoined the other kids.

Everyone was very happy to find out that we had succeeded. But, we have just begun.

It's meaningless unless everyone is saved.

「Steel yourselves. We'll celebrate when everyone is saved!」

They were reminded by my words and nodded.

Let's move on to the second one.

Next was Alice.

She said that she was scared walking down the path, so I carried her instead.

Chloe and Alice seemed to be bickering about something before, but it's probably just children's dispute.

Without a care in the world, I picked Alice up and proceeded towards the room. I hope things go just as good this time.

Under my watchful eye, Alice bowed down to pray. Holding her hands together tightly, holding onto her skirt.

After waiting for a while, light began to fall from the sky just as before.

The moment the spirit appeared on the Altar, I ate it.

Ramiris looked as if she had something to say, but I completely ignored her.

I've gotten used to this the second time around.

«Announcement. Transformation of the spirit using『Great Sage』has been completed.

The contents are now mostly of『Sky Attribute Abilities』

Furthermore, after analyzing flame giant Ifrit, a pseudo-human personality has been created.

Corrective ability from the unique skill 『Great Sage』 has been added.

Due to excellent affinity, it has fused with 『Shadow Step』 and evolved into 『Spatial Transfer』.

Will you bestow this power on Alice O’Bell? [YES]/[NO] »

Seems like my ability has evolved after coming in contact with a spirit. What an unexpected occurrence.

I granted the ability to Alice.

Oh by the way, 『Barrier』 has changed into Spacial Barrier, but I cannot give it to Alice. I wonder if her affinity with it is just bad or something?

Well, it’s a skill she can just acquire on her own someday.

「Alice, well done! You’re fine now!」

I held her up in my arms and said.

She smiled widely and kissed me on the cheek.

Oi oi, what a precocious child. I mean, should I even be happy to be popular with seven year olds?

Nah, I’m happy.

Just remember—I’m a gentleman, not some perverted lolicon.

「Thanks!」

She bowed in thanks, and we returned to the rest of the group.

The moment I put her down she began to quarrel with the furious Chloe, but I guess that just shows how close they are.

I returned to the circular room with Kenya.

Now I feel confident. Things are going smoothly.

Just three left. In worst case scenario, I had planned to summon the spirits myself and grant them to children, but there was no need for that.

But, I am glad there’s only three left. Transforming the spirits takes up a surprising amount of energy.

I should be able to manage three more.

The moment Kenya started praying – I mean, he hasn't even closed his eyes yet – light began falling from the sky.

What? That's a mass of energy far larger than the ones that appeared for the other two.

And there stood a human shaped spirit—a boy.

「Yo! How's life? I'm good.

I felt like coming over, so I did!」

And extended a casual greeting.

「Ah, ahhhhh!!! You, why did you just come to someone's house uninvited!」

Ramiris, her eyes wide, asked that of the child spirit.

Seems like they know each other.

「Yo, who's that?」

To my question, without waiting for Ramiris' introduction,

「*O~su!* I am the spirit of light!

Unlike that depressing and fallen descendant of darkness spirit, I am a pure spirit!」

He said.

After thus introducing ourselves we continued the discussion.

Kenya, in a panic, was staring at us. Stop it, already.

After listening to our story, and perhaps maybe because Kenya had a good disposition towards light...

「So, I decided to help Kenya!」

Is how it happened.

Generally, light and darkness spirits have the highest social standing, and are the highest grade of spirits.

Seems like he's also capable of bestowing divine protection onto heroes. In the first place, Ramiris and him are supposed to do that together, but that rarely happens.

「The last time we blessed a hero together was... what? Two thousand years

ago?」

Is what he said.

After Ramiris got really bored and decided to become an evil spirit, bestowing divine protection became his job.

A pointless discussion, but it seems that Ramiris has inherited her “self” from previous generations.

She used to reign as the queen of fairies, but after reaching the pinnacle of power beyond which she could not progress she decided to split herself.

And to each one of these clone-children she gave a sense of self.

Thus, when they would grow up they could perhaps surpass the original. The flaw being—their weakness during childhood.

A race that continuously strove to grow out of weakness.

Among all the demon lords, only she possesses such hereditary abilities.

Random outbursts of anger are expected from the selfish Ramiris, but their relationship can be described in only one word—terrible.

Doesn't it seem like most of demon lords are selfish? Can't say that all of them are like that, but so far...

「So, until Ken-chan grows up, I'll be protecting you.

Maybe, Ken-chan, you can even become a hero!」

Saying so, and without waiting for permission, he entered Kenya.

Much too quickly Kenya's body completely stabilized.

「Sensei...」

「Hmm? It's okay. All according to plan!」

Whose plan! I retort to myself; just remember, me: if you let it get to you, you lose.

Things are going smoothly.

Though Kenya seemed to doubt my words he did believe the fact that his condition stabilized.

After returning to the rest of the group he explained the situation himself.

Somehow, he seems to have matured a bit.

Next would be Ryouta.

What spirit would the weak willed Ryouta summon? It'd be bad if he doesn't

appear, I worry.

Just as previously, he bowed to pray before the altar.

He walked down the narrow path by himself. Seemed spirited enough.

Now, what will happen?

Immediately, an emerald light fell from the sky drawing thousands of helices.

Before anything strange could happen, I ate it.

According to the analysis it's water and wind. A two-element spirit! You've done well, Ryouta.

The rest is up to 『Great Sage』.

«Announcement. Transformation of the spirit using 『Great Sage』 has been completed.

The contents are now mostly of 『Heat Manipulation Ability』 and 『Transformation Ability』

Furthermore, after analyzing flame giant Ifrit, a pseudo-human personality has been created.

Corrective ability from the unique skill 『Great Sage』 has been added.

Due to excellent affinity, it has fused with 『Cloning』.

Attempted to evolve into 『Quantum Manipulation』. Failed.

Will you bestow this power on Sekiguchi Ryouta? [YES]/[NO] »

Cloning is something that is very difficult to use without 『Great Sage』 support. So even if I grant it to him he probably won't be able to use it. Well, whatever. On that note, 『Quantum Manipulation』 huh? I have no idea what such a skill could do.

In the first place, can it teach me the basic concepts of the skill? I'd be happy if it could! If I investigated its concepts I might be able to replicate its effects.

Unlike the system of this world that people ardently study—magic, my abilities are far more unreasonable.

That is, if I explain the concept behind a skill in depth to the 『Great Sage』 it could create a system to make it usable; well, what's impossible is impossible, however.

Perhaps that's why the evolution had failed.

In any case, I was able to successfully bestow the spirit onto Ryouta.

And so, only one person left.

The last person, Chloe was very afraid to walk there, so I carried her over.
She was very happy.

Seems like she lied about her fear.

「Umm, *sensei*,.. I... I I-love you!!!」

Red to her ears she so told me.

I also like her. If she chooses, of course, to say the same after eight... no ten years.

I wish I had such a problem in my past life...

A pitiful existence, not a day together with a girlfriend, a pitiful man.

However, as a result I was able to acquire the wonderful 『Great Sage』 skill. So it's a fair trade... probably not.

But how nice. Children are so honest.

That's something they can only do when they are in school.

Well, past middle school they are often too embarrassed to say anything though.

But it was never too late for me. I mean, if something never even started, it can't be too late.

But let's forget about me for a second. Unfortunately, I became a little flustered upon hearing her words.

Now, what kind of spirit will she summon.

She's the last one. Not a time for failure.

Like everyone else, she bowed to pray.

That's when things started to change.

Should I call it that...? For example, something did fall from the sky.

An oppressive aura, and a beautiful girl with silver-black hair.

It had the vitality unbecoming a spirit.

Is she some astral existence? Abandoned her flesh and lives as a mass of energy.

Rather than a spirit, she radiates some form of soul energy. At this rate, she will dissipate.

To prevent her dissipation, she either needs something to bind her soul, or to reincarnate into some body.

Without a body, we'd need to create some system for keeping her here.

Which isn't simple even for a high level spirit...

That girl (?)... celestial maiden suddenly saw me and grabbed on to me. And

locked her lips around mine.

Unfortunately, as a ghost, she has no texture. A real shame.

Such a beautiful girl, even if she was a ghost... I would never! I mean, what's going on?!

The celestial maiden, with a look full of disappointment, moved to touch Chloe.

「Stop!!! I won't let you! I won't let you do as you please!」

Suddenly, Ramiris held up both of her hands, prepared for combat.

Unlike her usual frivolous appearance, her eyes were completely serious this time.

A black light covered her hands which she shot out at Chloe. I jumped in front of Chloe to protect her, and it absorbed into my body.

〈Annihilation〉 magic of instant death... It's hard to believe, but she seriously intended to kill her.

「H-hey! What was that for!」

「Shut up!!! She's dangerous! Don't you see?!」

「I don't?! What's dangerous?」

While we were busy arguing, the celestial maiden overlapped with Chloe and disappeared.

Quickly, I verify Chloe's status. The collapse has stopped.

No problem, right...?

「Ooooo! *Mou!* Too late. I give up... I don't even care anymore!」

Puffing her cheeks, Ramiris shouted.

No idea what just happened.

「That's why I'm asking... what was that?」

Ramiris did not respond to my question.

Chloe opened her eyes and appeared completely oblivious to our worries.

When I asked her again,

「I don't know! I have absolutely no idea,

But, that was probably something born in the future.

Something that came from the future, and not a spirit.

Did she possess that girl to give birth to herself?

Ahh..... I don't know!!!

But, that was something truly powerful.

If that is born in the future, it'll cause many problems.

That's the first time I've seen such a being. That... maybe that was the spirit of time...」

Hmph.

Don't look at me. I gave up trying to understand.

Well, whatever. Chloe is perfectly fine.

It's pointless to consider the future we have no control over right now.

「Good for you, Chloe! You too were able to avoid danger!」

I said, lifting her up in the air.

Chloe smiled happily.

Ramiris, looking at us, could only sigh.

「Well, I guess it's fine. There was nothing more I could do since the moment it possessed the girl...」

She said, and turned away from us.

「I think everything will be fine. Chloe is fine and all.

By the way, thanks. Thanks to you, the children are safe!」

When we returned to the group I thanked Ramiris.

The children showered her in thanks.

「Ba! That's enough, already!」

Her face red, she tried to shake off the embarrassment.

This is a demon lord... what's the world coming to?

The other fairies flew next to Ramiris creating a beautiful sight.

In order to bless the children who avoided that dreaded fate...

To light the fire of happiness in their hearts.

And naturally, a smile formed on the kids' faces.

And so, I was able to save the kids.

Chapter 64 - Last days in the Royal Capital

Now that I can rest in peace with regards to the children's health, I decided that it was time for us to return.

When I told Ramiris that we were leaving and turned to do so,

「Wait! Heeeey, wait!」

She grabbed and pulled me by the collar.

Being strangled feels pretty nasty. Even if I don't need to breathe, it is not a pleasant feeling.

「What? Picking a fight?」

「Am not! I helped you so shouldn't you show your gratitude somehow?

Of course, you appreciation is thanks enough? But as a fellow person...?」

「Ah, my bad. I'm not a person after all! So... I'm off!」

I quickly retorted.

「Uwaaaaa~, wait, wait!

Hey, you know, we're in trouble!

'Cause you destroyed the golem we lost our guardian!

Look at us, we're all kids here! Really weak, you know?

THE-RE-FORE! We're in trouble! Can't you do something about that?」

「.....」

Hmph.

What a pain. I could simply say "you reap what you sow" but it is true that I was the one to break it.

Why did I have to vaporize it without a trace... Well, I guess it is true that I went too far there.

Even though demonic steel is excellent against demonic abilities, it, as every other metal, has a melting point.

So it's not a surprise that it melted.

In the first place, I did think that with 『Great Sage』-sensei, I would be fine regardless; and that's how it turned out.

I really should have dropped the output a bit...

Now then, in place of the golem...

I could compensate them with demonic steel, but I feel that would be a waste. Just imagining how much I would need to give to make a golem that size makes me dizzy.

Hmph...

Should I make a human sized doll and have the spirits possess it?

«Solution. Verified command Create: Golem. Creation possible. Abilities can be added through a spirit or a demon. The outward appearance will be according to your imagination. Please decide on a summoning target when creating the golem.»

Way to go『Great Sage』.

Seems like it pulled the appropriate spell from thousands of magic archives in an instant.

A relatively simple magic. Summoning magic I first saw during the adventurer exam and have been analyzing it ever since.

So, all I need to decide is whether to use a demon or a spirit.

A spirit, as the previous cases have shown, tend to without a personality.

So a demon? Frankly, though their name makes them sound like a backstabbing bunch, they aren't like that at all.

Thanks to the summoning contract they cannot betray the summoner. Well, as long as it is reasonable.

Any request beyond the original contract annuls it. Such an act testifies that the parties involved are not satisfied with each other

But I guess it's wrong to label demons as evil just because they are demons.

So, let's make a golem using demonic steel and summon us a demon.

Frankly, I should be able to make an item far stronger than any A-ranked monster around.

「I got it, I got it. You're noisy, Rami-chan.

Listen up, I'll make you a guardian, so no more complains.

As compensation, teach me a bit about the Ghost Researchers later on!

Grandpa Kaijin in my city is deeply curious about them.

He was working on the Ghost Researcher golem before!」

「That's no problem, I'll tell you about them any time! What kind of golem will

you make?」

「Hmm? Ah, a stronger one than the one I defeated...」

「Seriously?! You... you are so nice!」

「I... guess. Oh, I'll make it, but you can't use it for evil deeds or anything?

I'll place a master lock on it so that it's only usable for your defense!」

「Okay, okay! No problem! But we can play around with it in here, right?」

「Hmm? Ah... as long as its in here. But don't go causing trouble, okay?

And by the way, according to my (Great Sage's) predictions, it'll turn out really powerful!

If handled poorly there will be victims, okay?」

I said, and began preparations.

I took out demon steel from my stomach and stacked them up.

Having swam around in my magical energy for a long time, the steel is of excellent quality.

The children, interested, crowded around to watch.

「He—, where did you pull that from... I don't even know anymore...!」

Ramiris started to say something but gave up half-way.

By the looks of it, she gave up not just on the conversation...

When I was pleased with the items I took out, I got to work.

Spreading my arms I began to chant a spell.

Considering that there is an altar up ahead, this may prove dangerous so I had the kids step back.

So only Ramiris is standing behind me.

Now then, I hope it succeeds, but I'll be happy as long as it doesn't rampage.

I've used up quite a lot of power to alter the spirits.

In an answer to my chant, a magic circle began to form on the floor. Oh and I don't really need the chant, I just felt it matched the atmosphere.

From withing the magic circle a Greater Demon appeared.

Kneeling before me, facing the ground,

「Have you called me, my great master!」

It said.

A Greater Demon.

I don't know if there are individual differences between them, but it's far more muscular than the lesser demon.

Its skin is black, garbed in expensive clothing. Unknown gender. From both sides of its head, horns protrude.

By the way, do demons even have muscles? Ah, whatever.

「Yup. I have called none other than you.

I want you to possess the golem I will make.

Payment is my magical energy. The length of the contract is...」

I look at Ramiris for an answer,

「A hundred years! In a hundred years I will finally grow up!」

Is what she said.

「Length of the contract is 100 years.

Afterwards, you can keep the body or throw it away. How about it?」

Had I said something like “Defeat the one before you!”, the contract would have been annulled. Anyways, what a troublesome thing the length of the contract is!

When nearby, I'll have to refill his magical energy supply, and make sure he doesn't try to reincarnate.

And as long as I watch over this being, I cannot summon another.... well, there is a way around that rule.

But for now, I need him to protect the fairies here.

So let's explain to him his duties.

「That much is simple, my great master! And I have already received the payment.」

Huh? The energy I used in summoning is enough?

Well, he did take quite a bit already. But I have plenty to go around.

In any case, it seems like slowly summoning him was a good idea. As a result, he shows due respect.

Had I offered little energy in the process it might have tried to kill me—but that kind of thing can be fixed with a proper contract.

Just to be safe, let's make sure we properly summon things and make proper contracts.

Well, the contract portion aside, all that's left is the golem.

I start working on the demonic steel.

A doll necessarily uses spherical joints. That much cannot be avoided. But surprisingly, it's coming out just as I had imagined it.

In my previous life, I was jealous of my friends who could make figurines from scratch. Unfortunately, the best the clumsy I could do was put together a model. However, I have changed!

Thanks to 『Great Sage』's correction, it's coming out just as I had imagined.

“Whatcha doing?” Ramiris peeked over my shoulder, and started making noise.

「Wha! What! This is amazing! What skill!

You are seriously amazing you know! Can you really make such a thing move?」

She was very excited. But even I, the creator, believed I could make it with such precision.

Chances are, the fact that I am using pure demonic steel allowed me to shape it as I wanted.

The greater demon looking from afar, upon realizing that it is his body in the making, showed a face of pleasant surprise.

Probably... I can't read demon's expressions well.

「Wonderful, as expected of my master.

Honestly, in order to move the golem all that is needed is to direct magical energy into the joints.

Should that be done, the golem will move. What a wonderful body has been made for me!」

Since he's happy, I guess the body fits.

After taking the demon's and Ramiris' requests into consideration, I finished the golem.

I made the face look like the mask I always wear; the golem was as large as a human.

180cm tall to be precise.

For the large Greater Demon it must have seemed tiny, but I guess that wasn't a problem.

Thus, I successfully finished the golem.

The Greater Demon was able to possess it without any problem.

By the way, the melting point for most rare resources is around 5,000 degrees. Demonic Steel can withstand temperatures up to 9,900 degrees. Furthermore, it can regenerate—in a word, it's superb. So honestly, destroying this golem will prove really difficult.

「How do you feel?」

「Yes. Wonderful... my overall strength has risen.

Compared to incarnating into a monster or a human, the raw power aside, defensive abilities are far superior.

How wonderful!!! This is an amazing body!!!」

He reported after verifying the body's abilities.

In order to stay in this world a demon needs a body; animals and monsters are often used to that end.

Instead, I gave him a magically created doll, but that doesn't seem to have caused any problem. Perhaps he recognized it as a monster.

After thoroughly investigating the body, he faced me on his knees, and

「I hope to prove my usefulness to You with this body!

After I have protected the fairies for a hundred years, please allow me to serve under you!」

He suddenly said.

A hundred years from now... will I be alive then or not, I myself don't know.

「Would I even be alive then?」

「*Hahaha*, what a good joke! What could a mere hundred years do to someone of your caliber, my master?

If you only promise me this, I will never bother you with another payment!」

That being said, just how long is my lifespan?

I haven't thought much about that... ah, whatever.

However, he seems very attached.

Am I am predisposed to be loved by monsters or something? Now then... a name...

I don't have much energy remaining. Judging by previous cases, a high ranking monster will absorb a lot of energy.

And this is a Great Demon, and a high ranking one among them.

If anything, he's at least rank A-, but with a body he's definitely at least A rank. So, considering all the demonic steel I used to create the body, he's way over rank A.

Ah... should be fine, right? I still have over 40% left, after all.

「Alright! In that case, you shall be known as Beretta from now on! I accept your loyalty! Your first job will be to guard the Ramiries and the fairies for a hundred years.

I expect your best effort!」

I bestowed upon him such a name. His beautiful form reminded me of the famous weapon. And then my energy was sucked out. But this time, I had endured it. Barely above empty. This guy, managed to absorb 30% by himself... That's a lot. And after being named by me, he started to evolve. Seems like the time until evolution starts has also gotten shorter. He first formed into a circle, but then chest, head, hips, arms, and legs formed, along with a face. Looking just like a human. A gender-less human. His expression was now hidden behind a mask and, instead of the black skin, long black hair now adorned his body. The skin was pale, and bloodless. As to be expected from a doll. As the transformation began to stop, clothing appeared. The eye slits on the mask glowed crimson. Seems like the evolution has ended. Now, I wonder what abilities it had inherited from me? Its appearance has become very human-like. Seems like the body was perfected along with the evolution.

And what a beautiful body it had become. But, the expression that was hidden by the mask was not of a sympathetic being, but a doll of destruction. Only death would await those who have seen his expression. To all, other than the master, of course.

Beretta stood up, and once again bowed deeply before me.

「My great master. I am the Ark Doll Beretta.

Who lives and breathes to fulfill your will!」

And, after bowing again, he turned to Ramiris.

「As commanded by my master, I shall protect thee.」

He declared.

Ramiris, as if overwhelmed by his presence, nodded timidly.

「Ah, yeah! I'll be in your care! Do protect us!」



After regaining her composure, she so said.
So, yeah? I guess that's a good enough substitute for the golem.
At least twice as strong.
This much should satisfy Ramiris' request.
But it seems I have gotten carried away and used more demonic steel than I had intended.
When making it, I kept debating about this and that, and ended up overusing the ingredients.
So remember, I went through the trouble to make you, so you better be useful!

The children have fallen asleep while I was making the doll.
They lived in tension and fear that has now been suddenly released.
They held well up until now, and can finally relax.
So, they are sleeping happily, using Ranga as a pillow. And if I think about it, though I don't need sleep, the children certainly do.
As they say, you sleep well, you grow well.
So let's wait until the children wake up. Until they do, I'll also rest up.

.

Thus, after creating a guardian for the fairies, we left the 『Spiritual Dwelling』 behind.
The children have obtained a spirit, their bodies have stabilized—all problems solved.
Or so I thought...

As per Yuuki's request, three months have passed.
I have many times discussed the children's future with him.
We have considered having Tempest take custody of them, but figured they need a better learning environment.
Besides, they are currently in a school with many excellent lecturers. It's also a place where they can study magic.
Moreover, they themselves have chosen to study here. They had thought that I'd be staying with them, so they cried when I told them about my departure.
"I'll come visit you for graduation!" I promised them.
Of course, we'll throw a party.
Though living next to the church may restrict their freedom, as they are now,

they'll easily deceive the church.

The magical power no longer leaks, and has stabilized around normal levels. Nor will people with analyzing abilities be able to discover them.

I had asked Yuuki about that once.

「At least, three years from now, when they think the children dead and buried, they should be safe」

If they stay patient for three years they'll be able to depart on their own. For now, as long as they cover their faces with a mask, there shouldn't be any problems.

Yuuki has many times asked me how I had saved them, but I decided not to tell him.

To him, the children seem as nothing more than normal civilians. And that's as it should be.

Their power is currently being balance by spiritual energy; when that balances out, they might acquire their own unique skill.

Unless other problems appear, they probably don't need to know about that. Besides, they might not even acquire one. So I didn't tell the kids about this.

Ending the matter with the children thus, I spent the rest of the time having fun.

Having a picnic for example, or hanging around with the three idiots.

My sales are also going well, and when I had visited Myormiles, in the middle of the second month here, he warmly welcomed me.

Thanks to my evolved ability 『Spatial Travel』 I can immediately transfer to a place I had visited before. It is far faster than shadow step.

And using the gold I received from him, I bought some Magic Stones from Yuuki. Thus, our research will see some real progress soon.

So doing this and that, the three months in the Royal Capital passed.

On the day I set off for home, I left the crying children and the Royal Capital behind.

It felt short, but I lived quite a while in the human city.

Though the incident with the children was troublesome, I was able to bond with them as a result.

I had never thought that I, who had become a slime, could befriend children like

them.

And I made a fortune with the sales.

I had once returned to the city to see lots of adventurers crowding our streets. So everything is going well.

... No, everything was going too well.

In this world, jealousy and envy, the feelings of a loser, creep into one's heart when you least expect it.

I had planned to live without every feeling such emotions.

However, if you make a mistake in data, you will inevitably come to a wrong conclusion. As 『Great Sage』 says, if the question is wrong, the answer will also be wrong.

If Tempest is prospering, there are people who can make money off of it failing. I had thought that I understood that fact, but hardly did I know how much I underestimated them.

And the result...

「I have been searching for you, Rimuru-san!」

When I had left the Royal Capital, a voice called out to me.

One of the people working for Youmu, the devil Grucius.

He was struggling to catch his breath, having run all the way here non-stop.

By the looks of it, something has happened.

「What's wrong?」

To my question,

「The Farmas Kingdom... has sent troops towards Tempest!」

The worst case scenario unfolded before me.

“Happy events are often accompanied by terrible ones” is that it? Even so, this is the worst possible scenario.

I had immediately decided to return to Tempest.

「Will you come with me?」

When I asked, as if something had happened to Youmu's group, Grucius gladly took me up on the offer.

I began rapid transfer.

Thus, together with Grucius, we tried transferring to Tempest.

.....

.....

...

Since being born into this world as a slime, I have lived as I had always wanted.
Meet and speak with some World Travelers.

While I was busy fulfilling trivial desire, a great storm loomed over my city.
So even though I succeeded, I had also failed.

As a civilian that I was, I hardly had any practice in predicting the political
machinations of countries—hence the result.

The gears of fate spun nefariously, leading me closer to my fate.

The era of peace has now passed, and the time of war has begun.

End of the Life in the Royal Capital Arc

PRESENT STATUS

ミリム・ナーヴァ

Milim Nava



種族 Race ドラゴノイド
竜魔人

加護 Protection Unknown

称号 Title デストロイ
破壊の暴君
真なる魔王
最古の魔王

魔法 Magic Unknown

スキル Skill Unknown

技? Normal パンチ……岩をも砕くぞ!

キック……生意気な奴を黙らせるのだ。

ミリムアイ……『竜眼』どんな隠し事も見逃さない!
※超高性能。『鑑定解析』『魔力測定』その他の能力を併せ持つ。

ミリムイヤー……『竜耳』どんな悪口も聞き逃さない!

必殺技 Special ドラゴ・バスター
竜星拡散爆……ミリムが手加減を覚えた事で、威力を低めて精度を高めた攻撃方法の一つ。より強大な威力の技もあるとの事。

耐性 Tolerance Unknown

最古の魔王の石柱(ひとり)。魔王の中でも別格であり、圧倒的強者である。

PRESENT STATUS

ラミス

Ramiris

種族 Race ———— ピクシー
妖精族

加護 Protection ———— Unknown

称号 Title ———— ラビリンス
迷宮妖精
妖精女王
精霊女王(元)

魔法 Magic ———— 精霊魔法……全種

固有スキル Peculiar Skill ———— 迷宮創造

必殺技 Special ———— 48の必殺技……本人談の為、未確認

耐性 Tolerance ———— Unknown



十大魔王の中で最弱を誇るが、かなりの大物。本気で固有スキル『迷宮創造』を駆使すれば、大概の敵に戦わずして勝利する事も可能であろう。

PRESENT STATUS

ベレッタ

Beretta

種族 Race アークドール
魔将人形

加護 Protection 迷宮の加護

称号 Title ラミリスの守護者

魔法 Magic 元素魔法
精霊魔法

スキル Skill Unknown

耐性 Tolerance 状態異常無効
自然影響耐性 精神攻撃耐性
聖魔攻撃耐性 物理攻撃耐性



ラミリスの壊れたゴーレムの代わりとして、リムルが悪乗りで作成した。^{グレーターデーモン}上位悪魔を受肉させた事で、悪魔系魔法にも精通している。リムルの“名付け”により^{グレーターデーモン}上位悪魔としても進化して、高い知性と戦闘能力を有している。

Volume 3 & 4 Images

Volume 3

転生したら スライム だった件 ③

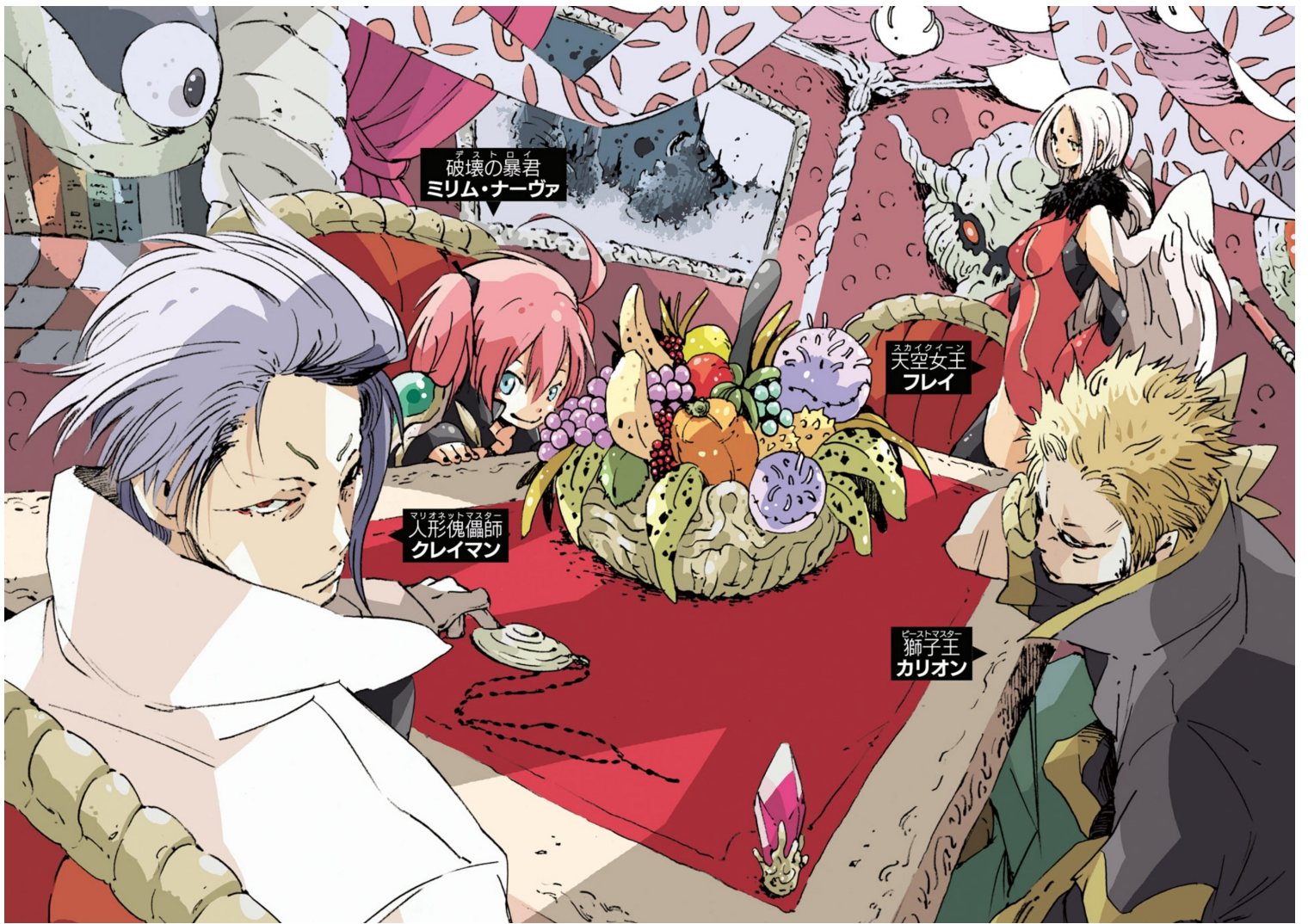
Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime


Story by Fuse, Illustration by Mitz Vah

伏瀬

イラスト
みつば







初めまして！
ワタシは、魔王ミリム・ナーヴァだぞ。
お前がこの町で一番強そうだったから、
挨拶に来てやったのだ！

ROUGH SKETCH



7/22/23



カリオン



7/21























ROUGH SKETCH



PRESENT STATUS

暴風大妖渦

(カリュブデイス)

Charybdis



種族
Race 精神生命体

加護
Protection 暴風の紋章

称号
Title ヴェルドラの申し子

魔法
Magic なし

必殺技
Special テンペストスケイル
暴風の乱鱗雨

エクストラスキル
Extra Skill 重力操作 魔力感知 魔力妨害 超速再生

耐性
Tolerance 痛覚無効 物理攻撃耐性 麻痺耐性

ヴェルドラの申し子にして、巨大な一つ目の竜。ヴェルドラの魔素溜まりから発生した。リムルと同様、ヴェルドラの眷属とも呼べる魔物。確固とした自我を持たず、破壊の意思に従い行動する。

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竜魔人

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破壊の暴君
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最古の魔王の石柱(ひとり)。魔王の中でも別格であり、圧倒的強者である。

転生したら スライム だった件 4

Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime

Story by Fuse, Illustration by Mitz Vah

伏瀬 イラスト / みつばー





Story by Fuse, Illustration by Mita Vah
伏瀬 イースト / みつばー

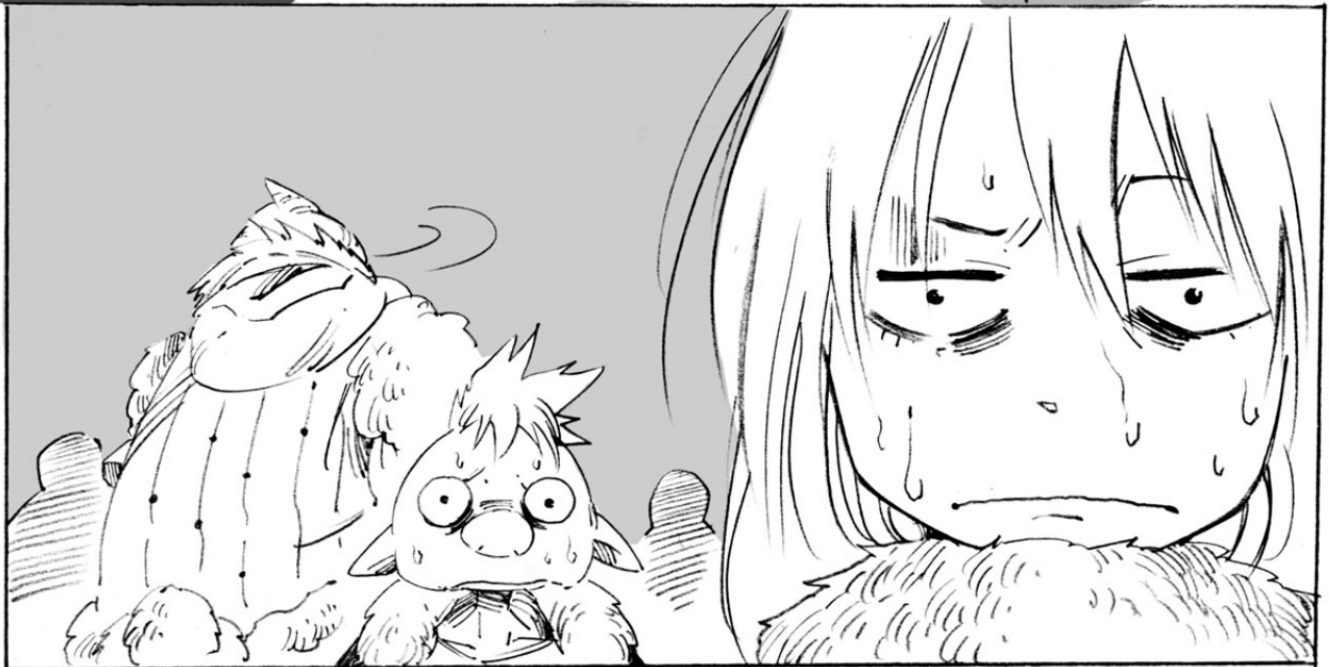
**転生したら
スライム
だった件** ④
Regarding
Reincarnated to Slime











ROUGH SKETCH



70エ・オパール

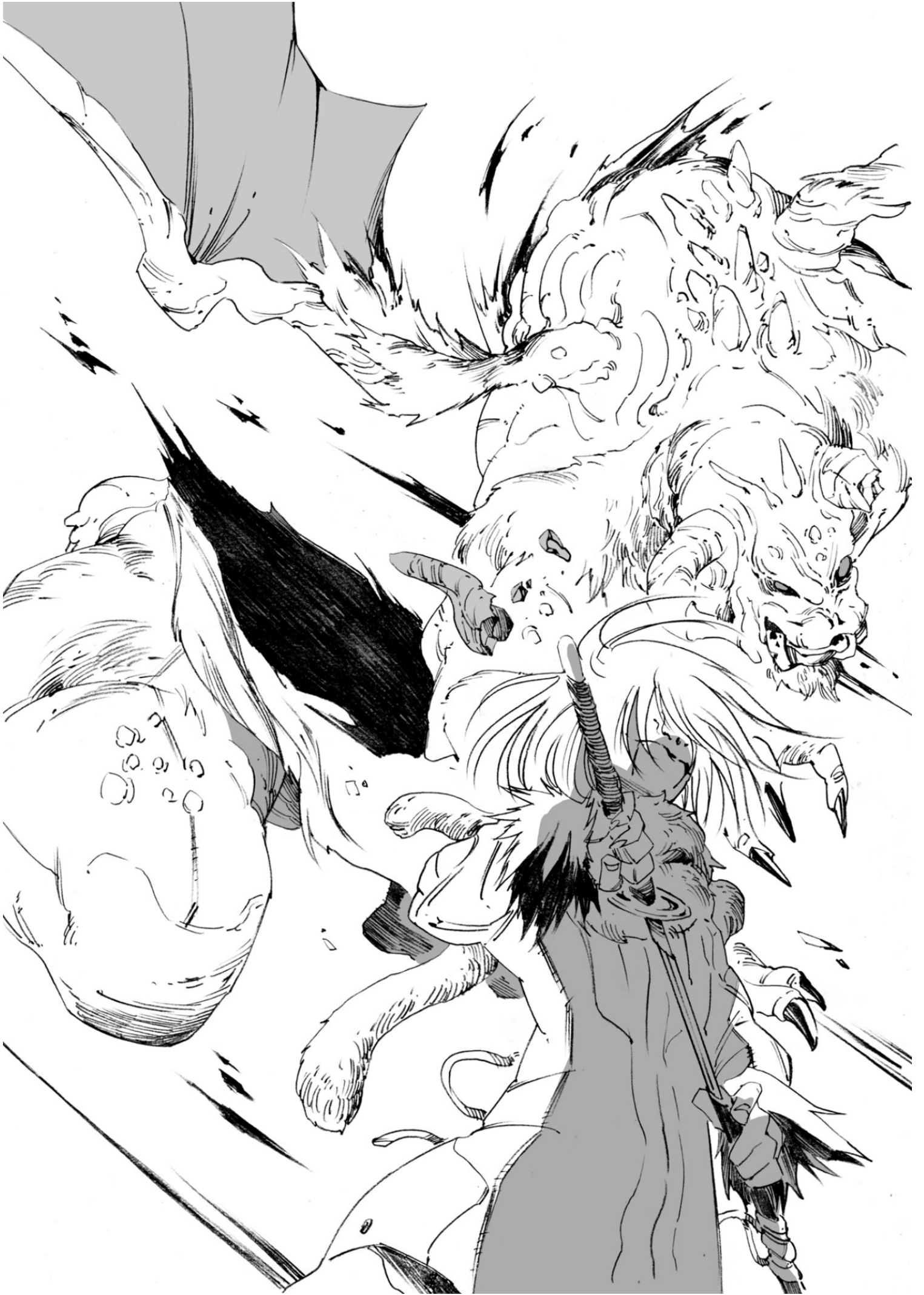


ゲイル



剣也



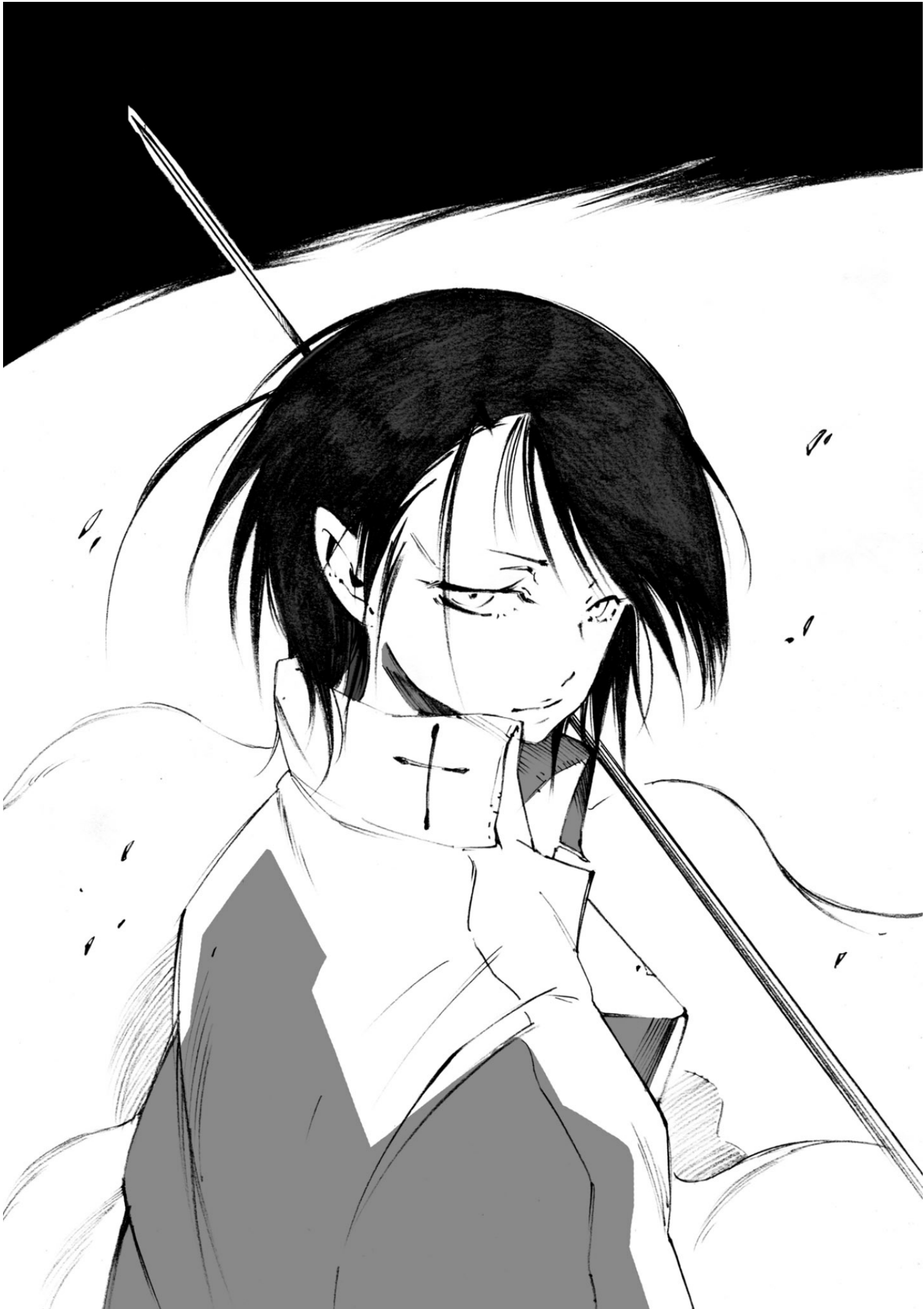












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称号 Title ———— ラビリンス
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必殺技 Special ———— 48の必殺技……本人談の為、未確認

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魔将人形

加護 Protection ———— 迷宮の加護

称号 Title ———— ラミリスの守護者

魔法 Magic ———— **元素魔法**
精霊魔法

スキル Skill ———— Unknown

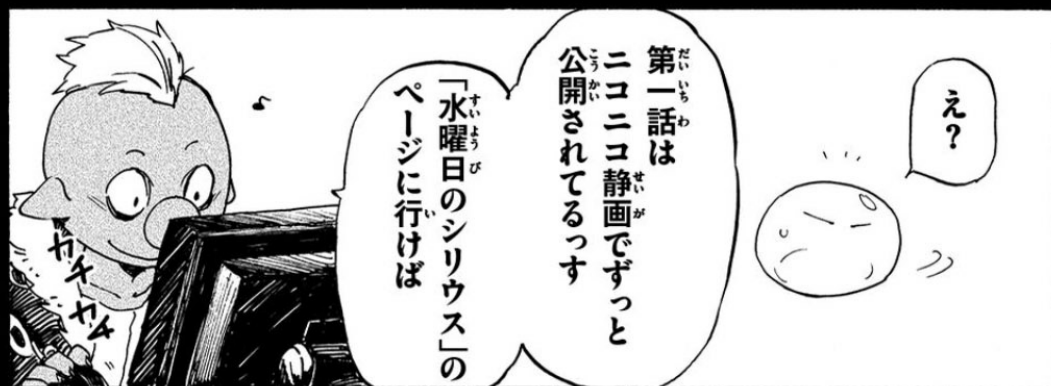
耐性 Tolerance ———— **状態異常無効**
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ゴブタのくせに

画 川上泰樹



「水曜日のシリウス」

http://seiga.nicovideo.jp/manga/official/w_sirius/